

Newsletter

Issue 377

December 2003

Chairman's Column

Annual Inter-Society Quiz: Welcome to our Visitors

Welcome to all those participating in the 2003 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz, which the Society is pleased to host again. Invitations to field teams were sent out to many canal societies and IWA Branches in our region but, unfortunately, we were only able to attract two other teams. Never mind, it's the quality rather than the quantity that counts so we are delighted to welcome back our regular supporters, the IWA Solent & Arun Branch and the IWA Salisbury Group, who will be fighting against our own Society team to wrest the trophy from our grasp.

This year's Quizmaster is Jon Sims and I would like to thank him for stepping into the breach at a very late stage.

As always, the Quiz will be followed by an American Supper.

Skittles Evening

A second very successful Society Skittles Evening was held at 'The Kings Head' in Hursley on Friday 28 November. It was another sell-out though, regrettably, Gill and I were unable to attend. Many thanks to Angela Faull for organising the event. I understand that Angela is planning to organise a similar evening in the Spring so watch this space for details.

Refreshments Rota

Volunteers are still wanted to assist with providing the refreshments at our monthly meetings so please don't forget to give your names and available dates to Angela Faull as soon as possible. I know Angela will be inundated with offers of help so please remember to keep in an orderly queue.

Membership Records and Subscriptions

I understand that there are still a few outstanding subscriptions for the current year and our Membership Secretary hasn't yet been able to finalise our membership database because she has not received back all the completed forms (which were printed in the Newsletter earlier in the year). If you think you may fit either of these categories, can you please contact Laura Sturrock as soon as possible.

Name Badges

Yes, I know members have heard all about this proposed initiative before! However, following a discussion at our last Committee meeting we will now be going ahead with this idea. We will be printing off, on self-adhesive labels, the names of those members who regularly attend our monthly meetings, and they will be available at a table at the back of the hall. I would be grateful if everyone could wear their 'badge' to enable members to identify each other.

January Meeting

Just a final reminder that our January meeting has been re-scheduled for the 8th, when we will be able to enjoy our annual Members Photographic Evening. Please see details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

2004 Programme

We are well on with the booking of speakers and other events for 2004. See inside this Newsletter for more information.

A Happy Christmas to Our Members

As we come to the end of yet another successful year for the Society, it gives me the greatest pleasure to wish all Society members a **Very Happy Christmas and New Year.**

Paul Herbert



A very Merry Christmas
And
A Happy New Year
to all our readers



November Meeting

John Fletcher, IWA National Chairman

I was delighted to see so many members and guests at our November meeting when we welcomed John and Margaret Fletcher to Southampton. Over 50 people attended and audiences of that size are now becoming a regular feature of our monthly meetings. This obviously bodes well for the Society and its standing in the waterways movement.

Prior to the meeting, John and Margaret were invited to a working supper at 'The Clump' with representatives of both the Society and the IWA Solent & Arun Branch. This gave us all a very good opportunity to talk about waterways issues of mutual concern.

In my introduction and welcome to John at the beginning of the meeting I was able to explain that not only would he be speaking to the Southampton

John's talk covered so much ground that it is not possible to give any more than a flavour in this write-up. He gave us his background, both in the medical industry in which he had worked and also in the waterways movement. He described his 'experiences' with members of the Royal Family including Prince Charles (and he referred to his visit to the Prince of Wales residence at Highgrove) and the Queen during her visit to Scotland to 'open' the Falkirk Wheel.

He then turned to political influence on the waterways and referred to the Prime Minister's awareness of canals, together with various other leading politicians, ministers and senior civic servants.

John then referred to the recent re-organisation within British Waterways, its future strategies and financing. He also commented on the current 5 yearly review of IWAAC and its possible future roles.

What many in the audience found rather surprising, considering John's position as National Chairman of the IWA, was the lack of any reference of substance to the IWA itself and its future policies and strategies.

At the end of John's presentation there was a fairly robust question and answer session which could have gone on and on...but reluctantly I had to draw the evening to a close.

John spoke very well, throughout the meeting, without using notes. It is not many speakers able to do that.

I know that John and Margaret enjoyed their visit to Southampton and went back home to Bolton with a much better knowledge and appreciation of Southampton Canal Society. Thanks to them both for coming to see us and sharing their experiences.

Paul Herbert



John Fletcher receiving cheque from Paul Herbert for WRG's "The Right Tool for the Right Job" appeal

Canal Society but also to members of the IWA Solent & Arun Branch, the IWA Salisbury Group, various Boating Clubs and the Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs.

To start off his presentation John reminded us of the various IWA Chairmen who had visited the Canal Society and he described their individual characteristics and how they had done things at the IWA. It was obvious that he had done his homework because he didn't leave anybody out.

WATERWAYS DIARY

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Hopefully you can find something to interest you.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to supply further details of that event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 4 Dec 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23 Dec 2003	Wey & Arun CT	Santa Cruises on Wey & Arun Canal (see elsewhere in this newsletter)	WACT Office: 01403 752403
13, 14, 20, 21, 23, 24 Dec 2003	Kenet & Avon CT	Santa Cruises on "Rose of Hungerford" depart from Hungerford Wharf at 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m	Tel. for Booking 01488 683389
13, 14, 20, 21, 23 Dec 2003	Kenet & Avon CT	Santa Cruises on Kenavon Venture depart from Devizes Wharf at 11.00am. Booking essential.	Booking form 01380 729489
17 Dec 2003	Kenet & Avon CT	Mother's and Toddler's trips on "Rose of Hungerford" depart from Hungerford Wharf at 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.	Tel. for Booking 01488 683389
Wed 17 Dec 2003 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Archive Films of Transport, etc - Frank Banfield. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Thu 8 Jan 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening. NB this is second Thursday of the month!	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 15 Jan 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Venturing into Germany. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 15 Jan 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	The Severn Princess Restoration Project. Civic Hall, Wootton Bassett	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 18 Jan 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Fosseway. Meet at Radstock Museum	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 28 Jan 2004 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT	K & A Update - Michael Goodenough. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 30 Jan 2004	Kenet & Avon CT	Jan Flanagan & Doug Small -Wilts & Berks. Canal Trust. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Thu 5 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) British Waterways - who will be talking about the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link, the Cotswolds Canals and, probably, the Droitwich Canals.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 14 Feb 2004 7.30pm	Kenet & Avon CT	Talk on the French Canals by Brian Poulton at Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sun 15 Feb 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Radstock and Kilmersdon. Meet at Radstock Museum	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Thu 19 Feb 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Crofton Pumping Engines. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Wed 25 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT	'Frosts, Freezes and Fairs' - Ian Currie. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 27 Feb 2004	Kenet & Avon CT	Swan Lifeline. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Thu 4 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Eric and Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 13 Mar 2004 7.30pm	Kenet & Avon CT	Quiz Evening - Bring your own Bottle. Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sun 21 Mar 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Combe Hay Locks and Caisson Site. Meet at The Avenue, Combe Down	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 31 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT	Richard Thomas - 'The Stort Navigation'. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 1 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 18 Apr 2004	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stroudwater Canal: Easington to M5. Meeting arrangements TBA	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Wed 21 Apr 2004 8pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - David Barrie (Chairman of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society). Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Wed 28 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT	Brian Eighteen - 'Watermills on the Thames' + Branch AGM. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting a week early).	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 1 May - Mon 3 May	Southampton CS	Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365 PaulLHerbert@aol.com
Sun 16 May 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Thames & Severn Canal; Daneway to Chalford. Meeting arrangements TBA	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freereserve.co.uk
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: 01243 670786

SANTA CRUISES

on the
Wey & Arun Canal



Sat 13th December
Sun 14th December
Sat 20th December
Sun 21st December
Mon 22nd December
Tue 23rd December

Take your family on a 45 minute cruise on this popular restored section of the Wey & Arun Canal in the heart of the Sussex countryside, with the added treat of meeting Father Christmas!

Hourly from 11am
Last trip 3pm

Re-live history with the excitement of going through a restored lock!

Departs next to the
Onslow Arms on
the B2133 in
Loxwood

Children will receive a gift from Santa, while adults can enjoy mince pies and mulled wine, to help celebrate Christmas.

Enquiries and bookings:
The Granary
Fritchfold Farm, Loxwood
West Sussex RH14 0RH

All for only £6 each!

Call 01403 752403 now to reserve your seats.
(Credit card facility available)

Phone: 01403 752403
Fax: 01403 753991

**The Wey & Arun
Canal Trust**

Restoring
London's Lost Route
to the Sea



Chichester Canal

The waterway contractors Land & Water commenced a dredging contract on the Chichester Canal on 13th November, to clear the central silted up section of the canal. This section largely comprised a reed bed across the full width of the canal. An IWA work party undertook preparatory work clearing brambles from an adjacent hedge during the previous week. Chichester Ship Canal Trust (formerly Chichester Canal Society) hopes to have a canal watercourse through this section before next spring.

The two road bridges then remain as the main obstructions to re-opening the canal, although other necessary works include lock repairs and new gates.

Another positive development has been the recent meetings of officers and members of the County Council on a central committee called the Chichester Ship Canal Master Plan. The Council is now looking seriously at the need to raise the first road bridge at Donnington.

IWA Bulletin December 2003

Our Programme for 2004

It is appreciated that our Editor, Peter Oates, includes advance details of our programme in each Newsletter, but I thought members might be interested to read this brief piece about our forthcoming programme.

We start off the year with our Members' Photographic Evening in January.

At our February meeting we will welcome Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) at British Waterways, who will be talking to us about the proposed Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway, the restoration of the Cotswold Canals and, it is hoped, the restoration of the Droitwich Canals.

In March Eric and Sue Lewis will be presenting 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s' (a programme given to the IWA Salisbury Group last month).

Sometime in March/April we will be able to enjoy another Skittles Evening.

Our speaker in early April will be John Finch of the IWA East Anglia Branch who will be telling us all about the Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigations.

Moving on to late April (in effect our May meeting), we have invited back, by popular demand, the

celebrated photographer, Dennis Bright, whose programme that evening will be 'A Haven for Wildlife' which will tell the story of birds and mammals of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve.

From May 1-3, those who are able to get to Flecknoe/Braunston can enjoy the Society's third Annual Boat Gathering.

We then move onto our August meeting (to be held on 29 July) which is the provisional date for our 2004 Annual General Meeting.

A number of our members will be attending the Cutweb Internet Boating Club at Napton Top Lock in September and I am sure that many others will be assisting on the IWA Stand at the Southampton International Boat Show, also that month.

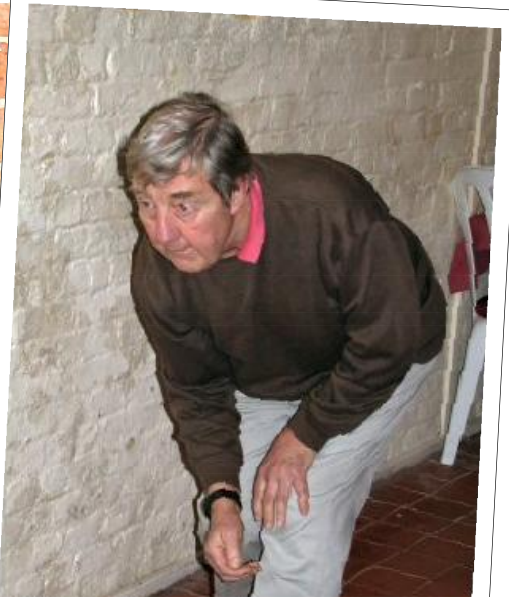
'Day-Star Theatre' has been booked for our October meeting and then, to come full circle, I expect we will be hosting the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper in December.

There are a number of other speakers and events in the pipeline so watch the 'Forthcoming Society Events' in future Newsletters for details.

Paul Herbert

SOCIETY SKITTLES EVENING

Kings Arms, Hursley - 28 November 2003



SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

Meetings:

1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton

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Brian Evans.

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FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

4th December 2003 - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper

8th January 2004 - Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening. NB this is **second** Thursday of the month!

5th February 2004 - Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) British Waterways, will be talking about the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link, the Cotswolds Canals and, probably, the Droitwich Canals.

4th March 2004 - Eric and Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'

1st April 2004 - The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch

29th April 2004 - 'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting a week early).

1st - 3rd May 2004 - Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston

Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening

The meeting on the 8th January will be our annual Members' Slides Evening. This will give everyone the opportunity to show some pictures - even those who feel they might not have enough of interest to make up a whole evening's show. If you can put together up to a maximum of around a dozen pictures (even just one or two) that you feel will entertain / educate / amuse your fellow members, look them out for this evening.

We have the facility to project prints (up to 7" x 5") onto the screen as well as transparencies. So if you don't take slides, you too will be able to show something of waterways interest as well.

Again, like the last couple of years, the evening will also incorporate a photographic competition. To be held just before the tea interval, this competition is open to all members - you don't have to be showing other slides / prints during the evening. What we're looking for is **one** picture which can be anything to do (even loosely) with the waterways. The competition will be judged by all those present at the meeting.

And as an incentive to enter, there will be a mystery prize given to the winner.

So don't be shy, this is YOUR opportunity to show others your interest in waterways, what you've done or where you went and what you saw on holiday.

Please note the meeting is being held on the **SECOND** Thursday of the month to avoid the effects of New Year's Day!!

VISIT THE FALKIRK WHEEL

19th - 22nd April 2004

Staying at the

Park Lodge Hotel, Falkirk
(A member of the Best Western Group)

3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast
En-suite rooms with TV and tea/coffee making facilities

Trip by boat on the Falkirk Wheel
Day excursion to Edinburgh

£165.00 Inc.

Single Supplement £30.00
Insurance cost £8 per person

Travelling on a Skills Club Class no smoking coach with seat belts, air conditioning and toilet/handwash facilities.

Hot & Cold drinks available.

Visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia
Possible boat trip on the Union or the Forth and Clyde Canals
(Optional extras)
Deposit: £25.00

Enquiries to : Sheila Smith: Tel 0115 938 4129