



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

Annual Inter-Society Quiz: Welcome to our Visitors

The Society is pleased to host the popular Inter-Society Waterways Quiz once again and I would like to welcome the participating teams. As has become traditional in recent years, the 2004 contest will be between teams representing IWA Solent & Arun Branch, IWA Salisbury Group, and Southampton Canal Society. This year's quizmaster will be Chris Davey, who has participated in the Quiz, as a team member, on many occasions. Many thanks to Chris for all his hard work in devising the questions.

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

Membership Subscriptions

I believe there are a few subscriptions still outstanding for the current year. If you think you may be one of those who have overlooked this, perhaps you could contact Laura Sturrock (details elsewhere in this Newsletter) as soon as possible.

January Meeting

A reminder that our popular Members Photographic Evening and Competition takes place on 6 January. Please see details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Members' Photographic Evening and Competition

The meeting on the 6th 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.

2005 Programme

As members are no doubt aware, speakers have already been booked up to and including April 2005. More information on that programme appears inside this Newsletter. Following on from the success of our recent outing to Gales Brewery at Horndean and the Chichester Canal, other possible events are being considered. These will be publicised in the Newsletter in due course.

Refreshments Rota

Many thanks to those volunteers who have assisted with the provision of refreshments at our monthly meetings during the past year. Your help is very much appreciated. At the time of writing we do not have any volunteers from March 2005 onwards. Gill would be pleased to receive your offers of assistance as soon as possible.

A Happy Christmas to our Members

As we come to the end of 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

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.



November Meeting The Thames Creeks – David Pearce

As Members will be aware, Roger Squires was booked to speak to us about The Thames Creeks at our November meeting. However, due to his holiday arrangements being brought forward by his tour operator, he was no longer available, but he kindly arranged for his friend, and Southampton Canal Society member, David Pearce, to step into his shoes for the evening. We are grateful to Roger for making those alternative arrangements and to David, of course, for helping him and us out. David has excellent credentials for giving us such a talk because, apart from being Chairman of the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs, he is Commodore of the St Pancras Cruising Club and has much experience of cruising London's waterways, including many of the tidal creeks.

Using Roger's slides, David took us on a voyage of adventure and exploration of a number of twisting and turning creeks and waterways. As he explained, as these are tidal you have to judge the tides very carefully or otherwise one can get 'marooned' as these creeks dry out at low tide – or you can experience other problems, when the tide is high and it may not be possible to navigate under some of the bridges

because of lack of air draught! So, with careful planning, you need to judge the tides just right and then dash up to the end of navigation, and then dash back to the Thames again, before the water level drops.

David took us up the Dartford & Crayford Navigation; Barking Creek and the Ilford Navigation; Deptford Creek; Bow Creek; the River Wandle (Wandsworth); Brentford Creek; and the Bow Back Rivers. On the way he slipped into the vast water area of the Royal Docks with their 'mega' entrance locks, where we sailed past the City of London Airport, the Excel Exhibition Centre (the new site for the London Boat Show) and saw the new 'Transporter Bridge'.

The majority of those present at our meeting have never seen any of these waterways, let alone cruised them, so I would like to thank Roger and David for letting us share their experiences.

It is hoped that we will be able to entice Roger Squires to visit us sometime in the not too distant future.

Paul Herbert

Our Programme for 2005

Whilst Peter Oates includes advance details of our programme in each Newsletter, I thought it might be useful to provide more information about our forthcoming programme.

We tend to start of each calendar year with the Society Members' Photographic Evening & Competition and 2005 will be no exception.

In February we are pleased to welcome back Society members Ron and Myra Glover who have spoken to the Society on a number of occasions about their extensive

travels through Europe on their boat 'Elsa'. Their talk in the new year will be 'Venturing into Germany'.

Another duo of experienced waterways travellers and Society members, Eric and Sue Lewis, will be presenting 'Little & Large in the North West' at our March meeting. They have given many presentations to the Society over the years and this particular event will cover their travels on board their narrow boat 'Remus' on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, Manchester Ship Canal, River

Weaver plus many other journeys.

In April we are delighted to host a presentation by Cliff Penny on the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal – its history and restoration. This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable talk about a waterway which is unfamiliar to most of us.

A number of other speakers and events are in the pipeline, including further social activities and outings, so watch this space for further details.

Paul Herbert

Dorset & Somerset Canal

In May this year, excavations were carried out on the supposed remains of James Fussell's trial Balance Lock near Mells on the Dorset & Somerset Canal.

Work on this canal started in 1796 on a branch to join the town of Frome with part of the Somerset coalfield. To overcome a height difference of around 250ft, James Fussell proposed constructing a number of "Balance Locks" which were in effect a type of lift. The first was started in 1798 and evidently was completed in about 1800.

It took the form of two masonry lock chambers, both

20 feet deep, divided by a central buttress. Boats would be floated into watertight caissons which were built inside the lock chambers and were hauled up and down on a chain like a giant pair of scales. Trials proved successful and building of five others was started to the east. However, money ran out while the lifts were still being built and 1¼ miles of the Frome Branch were still unfinished.

The excavation found substantial remains of one of the chambers and it is hoped to uncover the second at the beginning of May 2005. In the meantime there is an opportunity to visit the site (on private land) on Sunday 16 January 2005 (see Waterway Diary).

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 2 Dec 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 4 Dec 2004 6.00pm	Kenet & Avon CT	Peter Atwill, the canal padre, based on "Gospel Belle", will be conducting a carol service accompanied by the Salvation Army band at Dundas Aqueduct.	Michael Davis: 01225 448576
Thu 9 Dec 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas meal at the Fox & Goose, Coombe Bissett.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Wed 15 Dec 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Update on the Kenet & Avon Canal - Peter Crawford. Pavilion in the Recreation Ground in Station Road, Chobham, Surrey.	Arthur Dungate: 01252 622101. Email: arthurdungate@onetel.com
Thu 6 Jan 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Photographic Evening and Competition. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 16 Jan 2005 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Fussells Trial Balance Lock Site. Meet in Mells, between The Talbot and Bus Stop (please don't obstruct road near the Talbot!) - see page 2.	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066. Email: derrick@carlingcott7.freeserve.co.uk
Wed 19 Jan 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The Restoration of Cobham Mill - Paul Bryant. Pavilion in the Recreation Ground in Station Road, Chobham, Surrey.	Arthur Dungate: 01252 622101. Email: arthurdungate@onetel.com
Thu 20 Jan 2005 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch	'Venturing into Germany, the Rhine, Main and Neckar' with Ron & Myra Glover. Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Wed 26 Jan 2005 7.30pm(?)	Kenet & Avon CT	David Saady will speak on "Have Boat will Travel". At Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 28 Jan 2005 7.30pm(?)	Kenet & Avon CT	Dick Allen speaking to us about a narrow boat trip down the Rhine and back. New venue at Turnhams Farm Hall, Little Heath Road, Tilehurst, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297. Email: pj.Crawford@virgin.net
Thu 3 Feb 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Venturing into Germany' with Ron & Myra Glover. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 5 Feb 2005 7.30pm	Kenet & Avon CT and Devizes Boat Club	'Russian Canal Trip' - talk by Ron Smith. At Devizes Wharf.	Roger Hollands: 01249-650952. Email: rd.hollands@tiscali.co.uk
Wed 16 Feb 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	President 195? - Richard Thomas. Talk about the steam powered narrow boat. Pavilion in the Recreation Ground in Station Road, Chobham, Surrey.	Arthur Dungate: 01252 622101. Email: arthurdungate@onetel.com
Thu 17 Feb 2005 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch	Severn Area Rescue Association - Dave Walker. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina, Saltford, near Bath.	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 20 Feb 2005 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Pumping Engine Adit, Combe Hay. Meet The Avenue, Combe Hay. Chance to explore the surface features which led to the discovery of the underground adit.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 23 Feb 2005 7.30pm(?)	Kenet & Avon CT	Talk on the Devizes Westminster Canoe race by Stuart Fisher, Editor and Publisher of Canoeist Magazine.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Tue 1 Mar 2005 7.30pm	Bath & Bristol branches of the Kenet & Avon and Wilts & Berks CTs	A broad review of the prospective canal scene in the South West in the 21st Century. It is hoped that we will be joined by other canal societies. Speakers will be Ian Jarvis, General Manager, and John Laverick, Operations Manager, of British Waterways South West. At the Saltford Village Hall, near Bath.	Michael Davis: 01225 448576
Thu 3 Mar 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Eric and Sue Lewis on "Little & Large in the North West." Huddersfield Narrow, Manchester Ship Canal, River Weaver. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 16 Mar 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'Cruises around the country' - Eric Lewis who will illustrate a variety of cruises on different boats around the country in a logical sequence and show where significant changes have taken place over the years.	David Millett: 01252 617364
Sun 20 Mar 2005 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - William Smith & Combe Down. Meet Shaft Road, Combe Down.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Sat 2 Apr 2005 7.30pm	Kenet & Avon CT	Devizes Branch AGM followed by talk on Antarctica Cruise by Alan West. At Devizes Wharf.	Roger Hollands: 01249-650952. Email: rd.hollands@tiscali.co.uk
Thu 7 Apr 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal with Cliff Penny. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 20 Apr 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Barging through Eastern Germany with Robin Higgs. The Society's own Vice President returns with another of his holiday travels. This one showing his cruise through Eastern Europe on his friend's barge.	David Millett: 01252 617364

Continued on page 4

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:

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

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford,
Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.
Email: PaulLHerbert@aol.com

Secretary:

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Southampton,
SO40 2SS. Tel: 023 8086 0384
E-mail: sue.eric.lewis@ukonline.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire,
SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
Email: laura.@whitenap.plus.com

Committee:

Martin Cripps,
Peter Oates,
Paul Taylor,
David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire,
SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

<http://www.whitenap.plus.com>

English Channel

Laurie Pearce spotted the following item in a recent edition of the Daily Mail. Laurie says he remembers James Griffin as a young lad when he used to hire a boat from the Wyvern Shipping Co many years ago. Thanks for spotting it, Laurie.

QUESTION Has anyone ever crossed the English Channel in a canal-going narrow boat?

Further to earlier answers, I took my specially built sea-going narrow boat Ocean Princess to sea both this year and last year to raise awareness of the proposed new Bedford to Milton Keynes Canal.

In August 2003, the crew and I took Ocean Princess from Leighton Buzzard down the Grand Union Canal to London and, via the Thames Estuary and Channel, called in at Newhaven, Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight and Falmouth before entering the North Atlantic and visiting the Isles of Scilly. We returned around Land's End and the Bristol Channel to Bristol and back to Leighton Buzzard via the Inland Waterways - a total of 650 nautical miles at sea.

This July we took Ocean Princess to Inverness by way of the inland waterways to Liverpool, then down the Mersey and across the Irish Sea to Northern Ireland, before crossing to the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland, then to Inverness via the Crinan Canal, Western Isles and Caledonian Canal. The return journey also included the Isle of Man and Anglesey - 850 miles at sea.

James Griffin, Wyvern Shipping Co, Linslade, Beds



Waterways Diary 2004 - 2005 (continued from page 3)

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sat 27 Nov to Fri 24 Dec 2004	Chichester Ship CT	Father Christmas Boat Trips from Chichester Basin. Adults & Children £7.00. Advanced booking absolutely essential.	Alison Slaney: 01243 536933 from 18 Oct 2004 from 9.00am to 7.00pm
Sat 4 to Thu 23 Dec 2004	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Christmas Canal Cruises from Canal Visitor Centre, Mytchett. Booking Essential - books open October 1st!	BCA: 01252 370073
Sat 11 to Fri 24 Dec 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	'Rose of Hungerford' - One and a half hour trips from Hungerford Wharf with hot mince pie and a glass of sherry or wine for adults. Present for the children. Everyone meets Santa. Bookings only on Sats.	Richard and Diana: 01488 683389
Dec 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	'Kenavon Venture' - One hour Santa Trips from Devizes Wharf. Adults £4 including a glass of mulled wine. Child £4 including a present from Santa. Booking essential.	01380 729489
Sat 11 to Sun 12, Sat 18 to Wed 22 Dec 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Santa Cruises on the Wey & Arun Canal £6 (hourly from 11am to 3pm). From Onslow Arms on B2133 in Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 26 Dec 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Boxing Day Cruises. Departures at 12am, 1pm & 2pm. From Onslow Arms on B2133 in Loxwood	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
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.freeserve.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
All year	Chichester Ship CT	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: Jenny Pine 01243 670786 Enquiries: 01243 771363