

## Chairman's Column

### December Meeting

Once again our Society is hosting the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. It is always a pleasure to welcome the participating teams. As reigning champions, IWA Salisbury have organised the Quiz and provided the Quiz Master.

Tonight's teams: IWA Guildford & Reading, IWA Solent & Arun, Southampton Canal Society and IWA Salisbury. Thanks also to Eric Lewis for engraving and polishing the Trophy.

As tradition the evening will finish off with an American Supper.

### January Meeting

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011 we will be holding our Members' Photographic Evening and Competition.

This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain/ amuse/ educate your fellow members.

Just before the tea interval, entries for the Photographic

Competition will be shown, you don't have to be showing other picture during the evening to enter. One picture only, to do with the waterways.

As before we hope to accommodate any format. Please contact Peter Oates if you have any questions about this.

### 2011 Programme

Please look at the Waterways Diary page for details of speakers for next year's programme up to March.

### Society Skittles Evening

Another very successful event was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November. A report on this evening can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Again, our thanks go to Maureen Greenham for organising an excellent evening.

### Seasonal Greeting to all our Members

We have now reached the end of our 2010 programme and, as is usual at this time of year, I wish all our Members a very **Happy Christmas and New Year.**

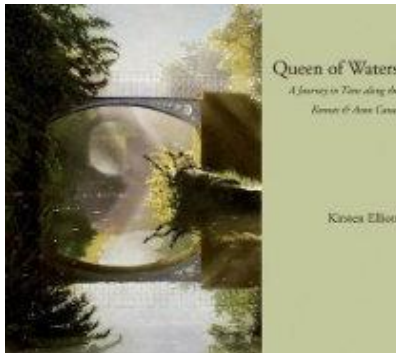
*Alan Rose*

## New book celebrates K&A Canal's 200 years

A new book on the Kennet & Avon Canal is to be published on the 28th December, 200 years to the day after the opening of the canal that allowed boats to travel from Bristol to Reading.

When the Kennet & Avon Canal opened on 28 December 1810 it really was 'the wonder of its age'. A broad waterway built across southern England as a trade route between the country's two greatest ports — London and Bristol — and the countryside through which it passed would never be the same.

Yet only 30 years after it was completed, Brunel's Great Western Railway opened and robbed it of much of its traffic. Trade on the canal declined and after decades of neglect came ultimate dereliction for the



canal.

The K&A lay like a sleeping princess, weed-choked and silent, its locks and bridges crumbling — but there were people determined to keep it alive and thanks to their effort it became the Queen of Waters — the title of a new book to be published in December by Kirsten Elliott, subtitled "A journey in Time along the Kennet & Avon Canal".

In the year celebrating the bicentenary of the first cargo travelling from Bristol to Reading — and twenty years on from the grand reopening by the Queen — this new book pays tribute to the canal that refused to die.

**Queen of Waters: A Journey in Time Along the Kennet and Avon Canal** by Kirsten Elliott. 216pp  
Price: £20.00

## New bridge for the Wilts & Berks Canal

An historic steel bridge that was destined for the scrapyards will get a new lease of life thanks to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.

Mendip District Council donated the historic Bailey Bridge to the W&BCT because it is being replaced by a new £200,000 bridge that will be opened in January 2011.

The bridge had spanned the river in Frome since 1986 - but it had to be closed to traffic in 2006 for safety reasons.

The bridge has been taken to Semington where it will be renovated by Trust members and the parts will be used to build a slightly shorter-span farm crossing on the new canal link from the Kennet & Avon Canal at Semington to the River Avon in Melksham.

Mike Lee the W&B Canal Trust Director of Engineering said, "I worked with the contractors to make sure the

bridge was dismantled very carefully so that all reusable parts were saved for renovation although, unfortunately, all of the decking and the stringers that support it had to be scrapped." He continued, "Although we planned how the bridge was to be removed very carefully it was still nerve-wracking to see the structure being lifted out gently by the crane."

WBCT Chairman, John Laverick said, "The Melksham Link project is a key part of our restoration plans and the bridge will be put to good use.

"Many people who use the canal enjoy the connections with our great industrial heritage so we will include interpretative signs on the towpath to highlight the historic significance of this type of bridge. It is an honour to have this historic structure as part of our waterway."

<http://kacanalimes.blogspot.com> 21 November 2010

## November Meeting The Gunpowder Plot - Richard Thomas

Our members were pleased to welcome back Richard Thomas and his wife Celia. Richard is connected with the former Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey, where he was asked in 2005, to put together an illustrated talk, looking at the background of the "Powder Treason".

James I, when crowned, agreed to view the Catholics favourably, but as we know the church interfered with running the country.

The wealthy Catesby, Percy and ten other conspirators including their "old" school friend Guido Fawkes, laid the plot. How did they manage to conceal many drums of black powder in rented rooms under the "House of Lords"? Many other influential people were drawn in to finance the plot, and, to help with the eventual escape.

Lord Salisbury had his spies everywhere and Guido Fawkes was arrested, tortured and thrown into The Tower of London. Others

took flight, riding 3 days up country, taking food and horses from the grand estates of Warwickshire. Catesby was shot at Holbeech House, Worcestershire. With others rounded up, they were brought back to London to be interrogated, found guilty of treason and finally, ten weeks later, hung drawn and quartered.

The presentation was excellent with old Maps and letters. A fire in the House of Lords in 1834 destroyed any chance of evidence which, with today's modern technology, would have been able to confirm some of the truth of this 405 year old story.

The Catesby family home is at Ashby St Ledgers, Northampton just off the A361. We recently discovered this lovely village on our way to the Crick Boat Show.

*Angela Rose*

## Society Skittles Evening



Another successful and enjoyable Society Skittles Evening was held at The Phoenix in Twyford on Friday 19 November. As always, we were able to attract a good crowd of members and guests (thirty in all).

We are grateful to Maureen Greenham for organising the whole event which followed the format of the competition held earlier in the year, that is no teams, just individual 'girls' and 'boys'. Things were going quite well until Maureen announced that in the final round we would have to turn our backs on the skittles and bowl between our legs (not always a pretty sight!!!). The ladies competition was won by Maureen (who else) and the men's by Keith McKeown, who were awarded their prizes. Many congratulations to them. There were also booby prizes but I am too much of a gentleman to tell you who won those!

Maureen had organised the usual raffle – many thanks to those who donated the prizes.

It was a great evening, and all appeared to enjoy the food laid on by The Phoenix. Please keep your eye on the Newsletter for the announcement of the next Skittles Evening.

Above left: Members enjoying their evening.

Above right: Keith McKeown receives the men's prize.

Right: Maureen Green and Alan Rose laugh over a tin of chocolates.



*Paul Herbert*

## SCS Christmas/New Year Lunch

Maureen Greenham says that the Christmas/New Year lunch, which is to be held at The Blue Hayes on Saturday 15 January, is now fully booked. She asks, "Please make your choices from the menu at the next meeting and pay your deposit or full payment then." If you are unable to get to the December meeting, please contact Maureen as soon as possible either by telephone 02380 406951 or email [maureen.greenham@talktalk.net](mailto:maureen.greenham@talktalk.net)

# Waterways Diary

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

| Time                                | Organiser             | Details   | Contact   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Thu 2 Dec 2010<br/>7.45pm</b>    | <b>Southampton CS</b> | <b>Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184). Questions set by Salisbury IWA.</b>  | <b>Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>  |
| Wed 15 Dec 2010<br>8.00pm           | Surrey & Hampshire CS | "The Somersetshire Coal Canal" with Patrick Moss. The talk explores the history of the canal's twin main lines, the surviving lengths of the canal and the hopes for the future. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).   | David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> |
| Thu 16 Dec 2010<br>7.30pm           | Somersetshire Coal CS | "The Weigh-House" by Roger Halse. Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)  | Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: <a href="mailto:lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk">lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk</a>  |
| Sun 19 Dec 2010<br>10.00am          | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - Stony Littleton and the Aqueduct. Meet: Shoscombe Community Centre. (ST717564?)  | Mike Chapman 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>   |
| <b>Thu 6 Jan 2011<br/>7.45pm</b>    | <b>Southampton CS</b> | <b>Members' Photographic Evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>  | <b>Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>  |
| <b>Sat 15 Jan 2011</b>              | <b>Southampton CS</b> | <b>SCS Christmas/New Year Lunch will be held at The Blue Hayes. Please see page 2</b>   | <b>Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951 Email: <a href="mailto:maureen.greenham@talktalk.net">maureen.greenham@talktalk.net</a></b>   |
| Sun 16 Jan 2011<br>10.00am          | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - Combe Down and the Railway Tunnels (3 miles and hilly). Meet: Bear Flat at junction of Wellsway with Bloomfield Road, Bath, BA2 2AA. (ST745637)  | Mike Chapman 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>   |
| Wed 19 Jan 2011<br>8.00pm           | Surrey & Hampshire CS | Liam D'Arcy Brown - "The Grand Canal of China." Liam will present an illustrated talk on the fabric and history of the canal and people who live and work upon it. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).   | David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> |
| Thu 20 Jan 2011<br>7.30pm           | IWA Salisbury Group   | "I didn't know Australia had any canals" is a response most members of the Australian Canal Society get. Martin Smith from the ACS will give a brief account of Australian's canal/waterway history from its inception with a community service project to the expansion of Sydney Airport. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3AR (SU182274). | Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841   |
| Thu 20 Jan 2011<br>7.30pm           | Somersetshire Coal CS | "The Archaeology of Combe Hay" by Richard Hignett. Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)   | Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: <a href="mailto:lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk">lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk</a>  |
| Wed 26 Jan 2011<br>7.45pm           | Kennet & Avon CT      | "K&A Reminiscences" by Bill Fisher. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)   | Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net">GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net</a>   |
| Fri 28 Jan 2011<br>7.30 for 8.00 pm | Kennet & Avon CT      | "The Museum of Berkshire Aviation, Woodley" with Jean and Ken Fostekew. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 for room hire and tea/coffee.   | John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Thu 3 Feb 2011<br/>7.45pm</b>    | <b>Southampton CS</b> | <b>Alan &amp; Jane Inder's presentation on the "Talylyn Railway". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>  | <b>Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>  |
| Wed 16 Feb 2011<br>8.00pm           | Surrey & Hampshire CS | Roger Squires - "The Suez Canal - Past and Present." Roger recently cruised through the Suez Canal on a northbound daylight convoy. He will share this experience with us and also tell us about the canal's history. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).  | David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> |
| Wed 23 Feb 2011<br>7.45pm           | Kennet & Avon CT      | "Crossing Germany from West to East" by Ron and Myra Glover. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)  | Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net">GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net</a>   |
| Fri 25 Feb 2011<br>7.30 for 8.00 pm | Kennet & Avon CT      | "Malta" - Ian Clay & Peter Drew-Clifton. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 to cover room hire and tea / coffee.   | John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Thu 3 Mar 2011<br/>7.45pm</b>    | <b>Southampton CS</b> | <b>"Horsham to Littlehampton in 100 years" with Tony Pratt, including a short update on the Wey &amp; Arun Canal Trust progress. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>   | <b>Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>  |
| Thu 16 Mar 2011<br>8.00pm           | Surrey & Hampshire CS | "The Hidden Avon" with Roger Clay from the Stratford and Warwick Trust, will talk about the River Avon above Stratford-upon-Avon up to Warwick and the proposed restoration scheme. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).  | David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> |
| Sun 19 Dec 2010<br>1.00pm           | Friends of Purton     | Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett. Tour fee £3.50 per person. Approx 2 hours weather permitting. Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (SO692044).  | Paul Barnett: 07833 143231 Email: <a href="mailto:barnadillo@aol.com">barnadillo@aol.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.friendsofpurton.org.uk">www.friendsofpurton.org.uk</a>                |
| Every Sat & Sun until 5 Dec 2010    | Pendon Museum         | "Coal, Corn and Stone - a look at the Canal in the Vale - history and restoration." Exhibition about the Wilts & Berks Canal. Pendon Museum, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. OX14 4QD (SU542935). Weekends: 2.00 to 5.30pm.  | Tel: 01865 407365 Email: <a href="mailto:info@pendonmuseum.com">info@pendonmuseum.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.pendonmuseum.com">www.pendonmuseum.com</a>                               |



