



Newsletter



Chairman's Column

December 4th Meeting

Tonight we welcome you all to the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. As last year winners Guildford & Reading's team have organised the questions with Christopher Davey as Question Master. Tonight's teams: IWA Guildford & Reading, IWA Salisbury, Southampton Canal Society and the newcomers the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Devizes branch.

As is now traditional, thank you all for bringing along a variety of food to share, this finishes off the evening very well.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 8th 2015

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 pictures during the evening to enter. One picture only to do with the waterways.

As before we hope to accommodate any format. David Doulton has offered again the use of his digital projector. Please contact Peter Oates if you have any questions about an unusual format.

SCS Christmas/ New Year Lunch

This will be on Saturday 10th January 2015 at a new venue: Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ. This year the cost is £22 per person. At this evening's meeting, Angela Rose has the Booking List and Menu Choice. Please see her if you're interested. For those of you unable to be at the meeting, a copy of the menu is available on the Society website at www.sotoncs.org.uk/archive/pdf/SCS-Lunch-Menu-Jan-2015.pdf

2015 Programme

Please look at the Waterways Diary for details of talks and speakers for next year's programme for the first three months.

November Meeting

We all enjoyed the Day Star's yearly visit and their very interesting production of "A Bad Penny". Thank you to Pete, Jane and George for their company again.

The evening was well supported by 51 members and friends. Thank you all for your help and the wonderful American Supper.

October Meeting

Members might like to know that our speaker at the October meeting, Geoff Watts who talked about "Memories of the Great War", has donated his SCS fee to the British Legion.

Seasonal Greeting to all our Members

We now have reached the end of our 2014 programme and, as is usual at this time of year, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Alan Rose

RCR loses offices in fireworks fire

A massive fire at a Staffordshire fireworks company on 30 October gutted the adjacent offices of River Canal Rescue, destroying all stock and membership documents.

RCR Managing Director Stephanie Horton was in the office at the time of the explosions, which blasted outside her front door. She managed to escape and was treated for smoke inhalation.

"Although we've lost everything and our emergency lines are down, our database is up and run-

ning and callouts will continue to be answered. Boat owners in need of assistance can contact us on 01785 785680. Our business continuity plans ensure we're able to help those who need us - we'll do our best to keep things running smoothly"

The blaze at the premises on the Baswich Industrial Estate, Tilcon Avenue, Stafford took around three hours to bring under control and at its peak, was tackled by a team of 50 fire fighters.

<http://www.canalboat.co.uk/news/> 31 Oct 2014

In this issue

Chairman's Column.....	1
Bits and Pieces	1
RCR loses offices in fireworks fire ..	1
Waterways Events	2, 4
From Southampton to Ely in the Fens 1973	3 - 4
Latest on Dogmersfield Landslip ...	4

Bits and Pieces

Boat fire claims life

A man died in a canal boat fire on the Kennet and Avon Canal near Marsh Farm, Hilperton, Trowbridge on Tuesday 25 November.

It is thought that the unidentified male was in his late 40s and that his 45ft wide-beam boat was alight for some time. A dog walker called fire services at 7.19am and tried to help rescue the man but it is understood that the windows were too hot to touch.

Fire fighters quickly found the man and removed him from the boat but he was confirmed dead at the scene.

A spokesman for Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service said the fire is believed to be accidental and the investigation is focusing on the wood burning stove and confirmed that a dog was found dead on the boat.

Boat licence increases

Following a series of above-inflation rises which had been agreed before the changeover from British Waterways, the Canal and River Trust pledged in 2012 that increases would be pegged back to the retail price index for the following three years. 2015-16 is the second of those three years, and the 1.6 percent rise is based on the retail price index for July 2014.

**A Merry Christmas &
Fruitful New Year
to all our Readers**

Waterways Events

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.

OS grid references and/or postcodes are shown (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.

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 4 Dec 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Waterways Quiz organised by last year's winners - IWA Guildford & Reading. To be followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 11 Dec 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas Dinner. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Wed 17 Dec 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug" by Richard Thomas. He will talk about Cory tug General VIII, which moved refuse lighters for between Wandsworth and Mucking in Essex and the effects of the closure of the dumping ground at Mucking in 2010. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 18 Dec 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Coal from Camerton Part 1" by Mike Chapman. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sun 21 Dec 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk around Camerton led by Mike Chapman. Meet at the bottom of Red Hill, Camerton BA2 0PD (ST683578).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 8 Jan 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Our members' annual "Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 10 Jan 2015	Southampton CS	Christmas / New year Lunch. Further details see page 1. Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ. Booking essential.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 15 Jan 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	To be announced. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 15 Jan 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Coal from Camerton Part 2" by Mike Chapman. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sun 18 Jan 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk from Camerton to Radford Mill led by Mike Chapman. Meet at the bottom of Red Hill, Camerton BA2 0PD (ST683578).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 20 Jan 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"The Wilts & Berks Restoration" by Brian Stovold. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation (inc K&A members) £2.50 to help with expenses.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 21 Jan 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	John Gibson - "The National Trust and the Wey Navigations". John, manager of the Wey, will talk about the history of the Wey Navigations and the half century since the Trust's acquisition of the Navigations in 1964. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Wed 28 Jan 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"The Wey Navigations" by John Gibson. Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury RG14 5AS (SU472671). Free entry. Car parking £1.00.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Mon 2 Feb 2015 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	The proprietor of Wilderness Boats, Ian Graham will give a talk. Church Hall, United Reform Church, Wood Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7BD (SU065826).	Cheryll Yeowell: 01793 812708 Email: cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk Web: http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/
Thu 5 Feb 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The River Lee from Luton to Old Ford Lock, London" with Richard Thomas. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sun 15 Feb 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Special visit - venue TBA. Led by Mike Chapman. Further details from Mike.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 17 Feb 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"The whole length of the K&A" - Nick Channer. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation (inc K&A members) £2.50 to help with expenses.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 18 Feb 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Restoration of the Cotswold Canals" by Liz Payne, vice-chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust who will describe restoration to date and current progress along the canals. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Feb 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	To be announced. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 19 Feb 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening - Restoration Update by Derrick Hunt. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Wed 25 Feb 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"The Wilts & Berks Restoration" by Brian Stovold. Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury RG14 5AS (SU472671). Free entry. Car parking £1.00.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Thu 5 Mar 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Evelyn's War" with Tim Coghlan. The wartime diary of Evelyn Hunt, an "Idle Woman" which gives a fascinating daily insight into the life on the canals and on the Home Front. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com



Continued on page 4

From Southampton to Ely in the Fens 1973

Our member Laurie Pearce has sent in the following piece about his experience travelling to the IWA National Rally held at Ely on the River Great Ouse in 1973. Thank you for sharing this Laurie.

At long last the moment had arrived. For weeks beforehand my odd moments had been spent improving the interior of the boat, an 18ft Callum Craft, mainly from the culinary point of view of course, but as far as I was concerned, a means to an end! Extra shelves for foodstuffs, a rack over the cooker for heating plates, or even drying socks, but not I would add at the same time!

We were going to the IWA Rally of Boats at Ely in Cambridgeshire and it was to be included in our two weeks summer holiday. Having never cruised Fenland before, it was a great opportunity to combine the two. We were not quite so ambitious as some of our Society fellow members who were going all the way by water. But in any case, my free weekends are few and far between and also it is not possible to lock up our boat when left in some obscure mooring for a couple of weeks to fend for itself for the simple reason it has no door!!

We decided to trail 'Bittern' to Oundle on the River Nene and this would mean a trip of 64 miles to Ely. We would have to negotiate about a dozen devilish Nene locks which I am ashamed to say I can muster no enthusiasm for! I should imagine that the bargemen of the Nene would make Charles Atlas look like a seven stone weakling after a trip from the Wash to Northampton winding those guillotine gates up and down. A good job for ex-barrel organ grinders! [Most if not all of the guillotine gates are now wound by electric power - Ed]

We left Southampton at 07.30hrs on Sunday. Amazingly, we were flashing through Blisworth at 11.00am (the village not the tunnel) with 'Bittern' hanging on grimly on the trailer behind. By noon we had reached Oundle and a few minutes later Oundle Marina where we found every courtesy extended by the proprietors, who hadn't tried to cram as many boats in as possible.

We had heard from Joan and John Read at Braunston (fellow Society members) that they should reach Oundle in their 'Mayfly' by Sunday mid-day or thereabouts and this we were looking forward to. They were to leave a message for us if they had gone through earlier. However, no Joan and John or message and at 3pm we decided to potter on, leaving a message at the Marina that we would be mooring up about 7pm.

We slid out of the hole in the bank which serves as the entrance and exit for the Marina, turned left and were on our way. Almost at once, we were confronted by a hated Nene lock. I felt like an initiate to canal cruising. Where do I put the key to unlock the mechanism? What type of windlass do I use?

As if by magic, a Thames type slipper stern launch slid gracefully alongside us and the occupants attacked the guillotine gates with great gusto. I hovered in the background and watched points although I did offer to give a few turns on the fixed windlass handle attached to the gates which requires about 150 turns to get the gate down and another 150 turns to get the thing up again. It seemed like 1500 to me!!

An hour later we were still encircling Oundle church spire. It

reminded me of Napton windmill on the Oxford Canal: you can't seem to get rid of it! The Nene twists and turns and the scenery improves as you head down river. It is very easy to take the wrong turning and finish up on some millowner's waterwheel or shoot the rapids of his mill stream! [The navigable channel is today much easier to follow now that signs have been erected - Ed]

There seemed to be a great number of churches standing in fields and one wondered where the congregations came from! Fotheringay Church in particular was strikingly beautiful and the low stone bridge with its five arches which crossed the river was equally attractive. Puzzle: which arch do we go through? We must have chosen the right one because we came out the other side alright!

Four hours after leaving Oundle we tied up above Elton Lock, a most picturesque setting, deep water alongside the bank, a beautiful old mill and a lovely summer's evening. A few fishermen passed us, including one who had passed us earlier on and who conveyed his

feelings about boats without even moving his mouth! Rupert, the dog, leapt ashore and enjoyed all the local smells whilst we prepared a nice cold chicken salad followed by fresh fruit and cream from the home refrigerator that morning. After all, it wouldn't have kept until the next day even in our Osokool cabinet!

Sitting in the cockpit before turning in, a large bat paid us a fleeting visit and swallows were active over the water. A large moth took up residence in the cavity behind the steering wheel and it remains to be seen whether he remains in our company for the entire trip. Sleep came quickly that night and remained with us until 8am next morning. Even Rupert didn't

stir!

Next morning, although the weather forecast was not good, it was misty and heralded a hot day. We ignored the weatherman and sure enough we had one of our hottest days! A leisurely preparation of breakfast which made the locals throw their noses in all directions looking for the bacon and egg source, after which we spent every few minutes looking upstream for signs of 'Mayfly'. They arrived at 11am after engine trouble had delayed them.

After greetings all round, we entered Elton Lock and commenced the day's journey. Elton Lock was quite deep and with a foot of water pouring over the top gates, excitement was tense as we raised the guillotine gate. I nearly tore my arms from their sockets trying to hold the boat behind ours from ramming our outboard engine and terminating our journey. The gate raised, we all swept majestically out and headed for the next lock four miles distant.

Many of the locks have mills adjacent, regrettably not now in use, but in most cases still in a reasonable state of preservation. I looked through the broken windows of one at Elton and there were still sacks of grain lying around, mostly with holes in them: a veritable Shangri-la for our rodent population. I saw a dormouse sitting quite happily and then he suddenly disappeared.

We stopped below Wansford Lock by the attractive stone bridge and had a glass of Joan and John's homemade beer and a snack lunch. Then on to Peterborough through some very attractive stretches of

(Continued on page 4)



Laurie's boat 'Bittern' seen here on the Kennet & Canal near Newbury.
Photo: © Laurie Pearce

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 are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Events) at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184. Contact the Secretary for further information.

This Newsletter is normally published during the first week of each month in time for the Society's meeting.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.
Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.
Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Aelred Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7DA.
Tel: 01794 651350. Email: aelred.d@virgin.net

Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH.
Tel: 01327 341798. Email: scs@sotoncs.org.uk

Society Website: <http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

Boating to Ely

(Continued from page 3)

river not unlike some parts of the Thames and through more "unattractive" locks. About two miles before Peterborough, we passed a bout of moorings belonging to the Peterborough Yacht Club. There were all types of craft there including one or two sea-going craft.

Peterborough has constructed a beautiful riverside park along the Nene with plenty of mooring rings. As the moorings are adjacent to the shops, we rushed into the town only to find that the shops closed at 5.30pm. However, a friendly supermarket proprietor re-opened his doors and allowed us to purchase a loaf after hearing my pathetic story about starving boaters! Peterborough would have made an excellent overnight mooring but one has become so used to

hooligans and vandals in these popular places that we decided to move on through Stanground Lock and into the Middle Level for the night.

We turned right off the Nene and were bade wait a while for the lock keeper to have his tea, apparently he had been very busy with boats going to the Rally and the time was now 7.30pm. This lock was quite small and 'Mayfly' and 'Bittern', being first in the small queue which had now formed, were the first through. There was only about 19 inches of water over the cill which caused trouble for quite a number of boats with a deeper draught but we were OK and were soon on our way through the "drains" of the Fens.

This tale will be continued next month, when these intrepid boaters will traverse waterways that are not navigable today.

Latest on Dogmersfield Landslip

For many months during 2014, Hampshire County Council officers have been consulting with the landowner of the surrounding land and his representatives on a plan for how the slip will be repaired and the costs divided. The process has been somewhat complex and lengthy because a large portion of the slip is on private land adjoining the canal. However an agreement has now been struck.

The landowner has cleared the off-side bank of the remaining trees and has graded the bank to a shallower slope.

We are pleased to hear that work on the first of a two-phase repair has now commenced, with the adjoining landowner's contractor now

on site – they will be cutting back the broken towpath and reconstructing the slipped towpath-side slope with free draining material. The second phase, to be undertaken by contractors working for HCC, will provide piled support for the bank on both sides, along with dredging the channel back to its original profile.

As far as we know, the second phase is due to start early in the New Year and is still scheduled for completion by Easter 2015. The towpath will necessarily have to remain closed until all the works are completed. However, the canal remains open to navigation until further notice. A closure until Easter is expected to start in January.

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/headline/>

Waterways Events

Continued from page 2

Tue 17 Mar 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Branch AGM followed by speaker (to be announced). The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation (inc K&A members) £2.50 to help with expenses.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 18 Mar 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The History and Restoration of the famous Crofton Beam Engines" by Jon Wills. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Mar 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	To be announced. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Wed 25 Mar 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	Branch AGM followed by "The History of Newbury Wharf" by local historian David Peacock. Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury RG14 5AS (SU472671). Free entry. Car parking £1.00.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com