



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

December 3rd Meeting

Tonight we welcome you all to the annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. As last years winners Southampton Canal Society's team have organised for Peter Oates to be Question Master with Laura Sturrock as the scorer.

Tonight's teams include IWA Guildford & Reading, IWA Salisbury, Southampton Canal Society. Unfortunately, the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Devizes branch are unable to come along this year. In their place let us give a warm welcome to the Basingstoke Canal Society, led by their chairman Philip Riley.

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 7th January 2016

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 Photograph 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 by using the new system installed in the Hall.

SCS New Year Lunch

This will be on Saturday 16th January at Keats Restaurant , Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO15 9BQ. This year the cost is £22 per person. At this evening's meeting, Angela Rose has the Booking List and Menu Choices. Please see her if you are interested. A copy of the menu can be found on page together with a note from our Treasurer, Aelred.

November Meeting

We all enjoyed the Day-Star's yearly visit and their very amusing, and true to life scenarios of cruising life and being around on the canals. Computer problems in the Rose household mean no report is available about the performance. However, thank you Pete and Jane for your company once again.

Seasonal Greetings to all our Members

We now have reached the end of our 2015 programme and, as usual at this time of year, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Alan Rose

Ground-breaking agreement with Natural England

A ground-breaking agreement with Natural England sets sail a new way of working to improve the environment of our inland waterways.

Meeting on the banks of the Pocklington Canal, the focal point of an ambitious £460,000 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England chief executive James Cross and the Trust's chief executive Richard Parry will sign a Memorandum of Understanding, cementing their mutual collaboration to protect England's canals and

make them more accessible to the public.

The Pocklington HLF bid - to be submitted in November by the Trust, supported by NE and partners, will enhance and protect the special wildlife of the canal making it more accessible to visitors.

Local volunteers and campaigners

Forty years ago the canal had declined into

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New Book

I would like to tell readers of a new book published by the Historic Narrow Boat Club telling the story of *The Birmingham Canal Navigations 1950-1977 as seen through the lens of Philip Weaver* (ISBN 978-0-9927321-1-0).

The book is divided into 6 chapters each covering a canal route within the BCN. Each chapter starts with a map detailing the route and the location of each of the 154 photographs. Each image has a concise description describing its location and historical significance. Commercial carrying was in decline at this period but industrial archaeologists as well as canal enthusiasts should find plenty of interest.

This book, modestly priced at £12, can be ordered from Clair Butler of the Club shop at Waterwinch, 24 Grindley Brook, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 4QJ at £13.50 to include postage and packing.

Oh, nearly forgot, I drew the maps.

Peter Oates



A Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 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 3 Dec 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. The traditional American Supper will finish off the evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). See also Chairman's Column on the front page.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Mon 7 Dec 2015 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"The Somersetshire Coal Canal (A Pictorial Journey)" by Roger Halse. The Ballroom, The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, SN4 7AQ (. Entry £2.00.	Cheryll Yeowell: 01793 812708 Email: cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk Web: http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar
Thu 10 Dec 2015 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
Thu 10 Dec 2015 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Christmas Quiz with seasonal refreshments. Quiz set by Tim Wheeldon. Entry £10 for team of four, to cover quiz prizes and refreshments. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Sat 12 Dec 2015 11.00am - 3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Public Maintenance Open Day. Tour the Engine House, view the winter maintenance in progress and chat to the volunteers involved. Free but donation appreciated. Crofton Pumping Station, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 (not always manned). Web: http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/index.html
Wed 16 Dec 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Trail Boat Festivals on Isolated Waterways around Britain" by Ron & Myra Glover who detail the trailing of craft around Britain since the mid-1970s and attending festivals on waterways narrow boats can't reach. 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 17 Dec 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	**Change of Event** . Social Evening. "Work Parties on the K&A" by Derrick Hunt. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). See map at http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/RWMCmap.gif	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 20 Dec 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Clandown. Meet at Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, Somerset BA3 3EP (ST689549). See map at http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/RadstockMuseum.gif	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 7 Jan 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' annual "Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 16 Jan 2016 12.30pm	Southampton CS	Christmas / New Year Lunch. Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232). Booking essential. Further details see pages 1 and 4.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sun 17 Jan 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: The Tynning and Woodborough Basin.. Meet at Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, Somerset BA3 3EP (ST689549). See map at http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/RadstockMuseum.gif	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 19 Jan 2016 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Transport in West Berkshire" - David Peacock. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 20 Jan 2016 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The History of Heathrow Airport" by Nick Pollard who will talk about the beginnings of Heathrow after WW2 and bring the story up to date with all the developments over the years. . 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 21 Jan 2016 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	TBC. 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 21 Jan 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "Adits" by Mike Chapman. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). See map at http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/RWMCmap.gif	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat 23 Jan 2016 11.00am - 3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Public Maintenance Open Day. Tour the Engine House, view the winter maintenance in progress and chat to the volunteers involved. Free but donation appreciated. Crofton Pumping Station, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 (not always manned). Web: http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/index.html
Thu 4 Feb 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Cockleshell Heroes" Roger and Sandra Downton's recreation of Operation Frankton the daring wartime mission. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 11 Feb 2016 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	"Idle Women" by Vince Williams about the women working on the canals in WW2. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Tue 16 Feb 2016 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Canals of Paris" - Jon Willis (of Crofton fame). Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.

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Boaters win Thames licence case

Boats which are moored on marinas off the Thames and never go out onto the river are not required to be registered (licensed) with the Environment Agency, a court has ruled.

In the latest round of a disagreement going back 11 years, the Agency argued that although its request to extend its jurisdiction in 2004 to cover 'adjacent waters' (including marinas) was turned down by the Secretary of State, the 1932 Thames Conservancy Act already gave the EA the powers to insist that boats on these waters needed to be registered.

A group of 22 boaters based at Penton Hook and Thames & Kennet marinas pleaded not guilty when the EA brought charges for keeping unregistered craft. The judge dismissed the case, saying that if the 1932 Act had applied, then the EA would not have needed to apply for these powers in 2004. She criticised the Agency's attempt to

extend powers "by the back door" and called it "repugnant" to do so without new legislation.

This important judgement may have significant implications for many other boaters in similar circumstances who have been forced to pay up to avoid criminal prosecution.

The judge had already dismissed the case against the defendants at an earlier hearing on November 2. The defendants moor their boats in private marinas adjacent to the River Thames and do not accept the Environment Agency's claim that these private waters form part of the river for registration purposes. Registration would cost each boater around £1000 every year. They do not use the facilities provided by the Agency as the navigation authority and maintain that the EA has no jurisdiction within the private marinas.

The EA has said that it may appeal against the decision.

<http://www.canalboat.co.uk/> 20 Nov 2015 and

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/> 19 Nov 2015

Ground-breaking agreement with Natural England

(Continued from page 1)

abandonment and disrepair, only narrowly escaping fate as a dumping ground for treated sewage sludge. Thanks to the work of local volunteers and campaigners it was saved from its fate, and is now almost completely protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Designated for its rare aquatic plants, breeding birds and outstanding variety of dragonfly and damselfly, it is a success story we hope to replicate across the canal network – as we work with Natural England to encourage communities to take a more active role in canal management.

Richard Parry said: "Our network of canals and rivers is home to some of the nations most important and well-loved wildlife and that in turn makes them special places for people to escape to.

"This agreement will make it quicker and easier for us to improve our waterways for those visiting and living nearby whilst using our collective expertise to protect some of our most cherished, and in

some cases, vulnerable species.

Natural England will now begin the process of exploring an organisational licence for the Trust, which will allow the movement of protected species such as water voles, bats, badgers and native crayfish during routine canal maintenance works.

Organisational licences are awarded on the basis of 'earned recognition' – in this case recognising the expertise and competence of the Trust in understanding how to avoid, mitigate and compensate for impacts on protected species.

They have the dual function of ensuring that protected species remain safeguarded, whilst saving the time and money associated with applying for an individual licence every time one is required. We currently hold a similar licence to handle floating water plantain. Organisational licences form part of Natural England's efforts to cut red tape and create a more efficient organisation.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 6 Nov 2016

New lock gates for the Kennet & Avon

A project has begun to remove and replace four multi-tonne lock gates from the Kennet & Avon Canal near Reading.

CRT's engineers will drain the water from Southcote Lock before craning the gates out. New made-to-measure gates will then be installed, each weighing three tonnes.

The project will cost approximately £130,000 and work is due to be completed by the end of December.

Built in 1723 by famed Newbury engineer John Hore, Southcote Lock is an important landmark in Berkshire's waterway history. After falling into disrepair, the lock was closed in 1952, before being lovingly restored along with the rest of the Kennet & Avon Canal by teams of

volunteers throughout the 1970s.

Mark Evans, waterway manager at the Canal & River Trust said: "We're really pleased to be getting these gates replaced. Lock gates generally only last about 25 years, so they were due to be sorted, and will make a big difference to boaters coming on to the canal from the River Thames.

"The Kennet & Avon Canal is a beautiful waterway, and is more popular now than perhaps any time in living memory. This is a great example of the type of work that needs to be done to keep it in top condition so that everyone can continue to enjoy it."

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 12 Nov 2015

£720k repairs start on Kennet & Avon bridge

A £720,000 project to complete essential repairs to Seend Wharf Bridge over the Kennet & Avon Canal has begun.

The work involves repairing cracks, strengthening the bridge arch and abutments, and fixing sections of the canal wall below the water level.

The work will take just under four months to complete, with navigation along the canal set to resume on 11 March, and the road due to reopen in mid-April. Diversions for road and towpath users will be signposted.

New lock gates

The project forms part of a £45 million programme of winter maintenance works on the country's canals and rivers, which will also

include replacing multi-tonne lock gates at historic Seend Lock in the new year.

Mark Evans, waterway manager at the Canal & River Trust said: "The repairs we're doing to Seend Wharf Bridge are absolutely essential. I know that closing the bridge over Christmas is going to be annoying for people, but safety comes first and we're at the stage where putting this off isn't an option.

"We really appreciate people's patience while we get this done, and we'll do everything we can to keep people in the loop and update them on how the work is going."

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 25 Nov 2015

New Year Lunch

We need to tell Keats Restaurant before the day how many people are attending, and their menu choices. Below, Angela has listed the menu choices for you to make your selection. Angela or I will be pleased to take your choices from the menu at the December or January meeting, or send an email to either of us at the contact address at the back of the Newsletter. You still need to do this even if you have previously registered with me your interest in attending. I will not be collecting the money for this event. All those attending will pay the restaurant directly on the day.

Aelred Derbyshire, Hon Treasurer

Keats Restaurant

Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ

Southampton Canal Society Menu

16th January 2016 - meet around 12.30pm

January Luncheon £22.00

Starters

Crespelle Alla Keats

Baked Pancakes filled with Spinach and Ham, Creamy Sauce

Soup of the Day

Heritage Tomato Salad

Laverstock Park Buffalo Mozzarella, Basil Oil Dressed Leaves

Crab & Fennel Arancini

Fried risotto Balls, Panko Breadcrumbs & Lobster Sauce

Smoked Mackerel Tian

Crème Fraiche, Horseradish, Cucumber,
Celery & Russet Apples, Dressed Winter Leaves

Keats Paté

Flacks Manor Ale Chutney

Main Courses

Blade of Hampshire Beef

Honey roasted Root Vegetables & Caramelised Shallots,
Horseradish Mashed Potatoes, Madeira & Thyme Sauce

Fresh Fish of the Day

Roasted Pepper, Fennel & Tomato Ragu,
Green Vegetables & Parmentier Potatoes, Cream & Chive Butter Sauce

Hampshire Loin of Pork & Crackling

Red Cabbage, Bacon & Sultanas, Bramley Apple,
Mustard & Sage Mashed Potatoes, Cider Sauce

Hampshire Venison Tart

Puff Pastry, Crisp Pancetta, Hampshire Venison Haunch, Pate & Mushroom Duxelle,
Red Cabbage, Bacon & Sultanas, Roast Potatoes & Juniper Berry & Red Wine Sauce

Winter Tart (V)

Wild Mushroom, Chestnut, Cranberry & Feta Cheese Tart

Selection of Homemade Desserts

To Include

Freshly Ground Coffee & Chocolates & Mints

K&A gets £2m upgrade

A £2 MILLION programme of winter improvements to the Kennet & Avon Canal was on the agenda this month when the annual meeting of the Canal & River Trust's Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership took place.

As well as discussing the maintenance programme for the 200-year old canal which includes replacing and repairing lock gates, bridges and embankments, the meeting set out the future plans for the waterway

including boosting jobs and tourism, promoting healthy lifestyles, improving accessibility and increasing education opportunities around the waterway.

The Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership, made up of local volunteers, is already delivering the three-year plan with a range of projects aimed at improving waterways and encouraging more people out onto their nearest canal or river.

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/news/> 23 Nov 2015

Open lock paddle damages Kennet & Avon Canal

A lock paddle left open on the Kennet & Avon Canal in Devizes has caused hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage to the historic waterway, after the weight of water released caused an embankment to collapse.

The damage was caused after the paddles of Kennet Lock – at the peak of the famous Caen Hill flight – were left open overnight, allowing water from the 15 mile pound between Devizes and Wootton Rivers to overwhelm the iconic locks, washing away a significant part of the towpath outside the town.

Staff from the Canal & River Trust – the charity that looks after the canal – were onsite this morning [Monday 26 October] to assess the damage, and initial estimates suggest the repair bill could run into six figures.

Huge repair bill

Mark Evans, waterway manager at the Canal & River Trust, said: “We don’t know if this was carelessness or deliberate vandalism, but either way we’re going to be left with a huge repair bill to contend with. As we’re a charity we’ve got finite resources, and this means we can do less of what we need to do on the rest of the canal.

“It really couldn’t have happened in a worse spot – the pound above Kennet Lock is the longest on the whole canal, so we’re talking about a lot of water rushing down the Caen Hill flight, which has caused the damage.



Kennet & Avon Canal towpath near Devizes

“The Kennet & Avon Canal is over 200 years old, and needs constant maintenance to keep it going, so to have such significant damage to deal with on top of that is very disheartening.

“At the end of the day, it’s our heritage, and is enjoyed more than ever by the communities around it, but if we don’t take care of it, we’ll lose it. Please, please don’t let this kind of mindlessness cost us such a valuable part of the landscape.”

If anyone has any information on this incident, please contact the Canal & River Trust on 0303 0404040.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 26 Oct 2015

Bridge repairs will affect Thames traffic

THE historic Grade II listed bridge over the River Thames at Radcot, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire, was damaged by a lorry which went into its western wall earlier this year, and both road and river transport will be affected when the repairs are carried out.

Reconstruction work is expected to start on November 16, the date classed as being the end of the boating season. When the work takes place, the length of the River Thames affected will be that between Radcot and Grafton Locks.

Radcot bridge, as a strategic crossing point of the Thames, has been the scene of action in battles at many stages in English history.

To the south-west of the bridge, archaeological remains were found which are believed to be fortifications from the time when there was

a struggle for supremacy between King Stephen I and Mathilda, his successor in the mid-12th century.

Radcot was a strategic crossing point during the Civil War when the area around Faringdon was frequently changing hands between the Royalist and Parliamentary troops. A ‘fierce battle’ there ended in victory for the Parliamentarians in November 1645.

In World War II the river and its crossings were again of importance, and a string of bunkers or pill-boxes were constructed at a series of points along the river bank. Evidence has been found of the importance of the river here in even earlier times, and it is suggested that a wooden bridge existed at this point in the times of the Romans in Britain.

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/news/> 29 Oct 2015

Waterways Events

Continued from page 2

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Wed 17 Feb 2016 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	“Barging on North East Waterways” by Nick Grundy who will talk about the waterways of North East England in the mid-1970s when he spent much time exploring them. Nick also did a number of trips as crew on a 300 ton commercial barge carrying cargoes. 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 Feb 2016 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	TBC. 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 18 Feb 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. “The History of Clay Pipes” by Marek Lewcun. The Radstock Working Mens’ Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). See map at http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/RWVMCmap.gif	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat 20 Feb 2016 11.00am - 3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Public Maintenance Open Day. Tour the Engine House, view the winter maintenance in progress and chat to the volunteers involved. Free but donation appreciated. Crofton Pumping Station, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 (not always manned). Web: http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/index.html
Sun 21 Feb 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - South Stoke and Twinhoe. Meet at Twinhoe Lane, Midford., BA2 7DG (ST760605) See map at www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/Midford.gif	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 3 Mar 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	“Sonia Rolt and other Idle Women” with Tim Coghlan. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

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: aelred41@sky.com

Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 8 Field View, Braunston, Daventry, Northants, NN11 7JS.
Tel: 01788 890102. Email: scs@sotoncs.org.uk

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

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

Immortalised in stone



Pete had a stonemason's business in Winchester and also in Romsey known as Vokes and Beck. This firm was often engaged in renovation work on Romsey Abbey. In the 1960s they were required to do extensive work on the south side of the Abbey which involved renewing the parapet and the corbels. Without his knowledge one of his masons carved a new corbel showing the head of his boss Pete Wheble.

If anyone wishes to find the corbel of Pete – it is up to the right of the South Door.

Pictured above: Peter Wheble, earlier this year, shortly before his 96th birthday. (Photo: <http://romseys.wix.com/romseyabbeycorbels>)

Annegret Evans recently sent me the following email about Peter Wheble that I feel sure that other members will find interesting. Thanks, Annegret.

Two of our early members of the SCS were Margaret and Peter Wheble. (Pete and Margaret were great friends of Laurie and Joan Pearce and went cruising together in their boats. Pete Wheble and Laurie Pearce are still in touch.)

Whenever we had early working parties, Pete was our bonfire specialist and we all knew that he was in the working party by the size of the fires! Brian reckons that Pete could set fire to wet wood!



Pictures of Peter's corbel ©Brian Evans

New Thames Bridge

Mayor of Reading Councillor Sarah Hacker played an inaugural game of Pooh Sticks after opening the new £5.9 million pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Thames on 30th September. Crowds gathered in Christchurch Meadows just before 10am to witness the opening of the new suspension bridge over the river - the first new bridge over the Thames in Reading in almost 90 years. In fact, the official opening party was beaten by a woman dog walker whose dogs strayed on to the bridge from the southern side before she could catch them.

The new bridge is a unique structure - 123 metres long which not only provides a new north south route for walkers and cyclists - and electric wheelchairs - from Caversham to Norman Place and Reading Station but may even become a "destination in its own right".

<http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/local-news/>

