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Editor's Musings

As editor of this newsletter, I have always sought to interest, inform and entertain readers. The next issue will be my 250th as editor since September 1995.

It would be gratifying if **YOU** were to send me (not just for the next issue) news items, articles, notes, reminiscences, holiday memories, letters, photos, forthcoming events or indeed anything (preferably waterways related) that might be of interest to our readers. These can be of personal, local, national or even world-wide importance.

It may be easiest to send me submissions via email but I can accept most other methods. If you don't feel confident about your writing style, I can always knock it into shape if you wish. I will endeavour to use all pieces I feel to be of interest and have room for.

Please include your contact details so that I can clarify any doubtful points - my details are on the back page. It will make my life easier if submissions can be made as early as possible (at least a week) before the date of publication (usually the Monday before a meeting). Don't forget that this is your Society's newsletter - your help is needed to keep it interesting!

Peter Oates

Chairman's Column**December 7th Meeting**

Tonight, we welcome you all to the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz.

As last year winners, IWA Salisbury have organised the quiz, with a completely different approach. Myra Glover will be MC and Quiz Master. She will be assisted by Eric Lewis and Colin Davies. Sue Lewis will be scorer, Ron Glover the judge and as technical producer Dave Thomas.

Tonight's teams include IWA Guildford & Reading, IWA Salisbury, Southampton Canal Society and a team from the Basingstoke Canal Society.

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

A selection of Waterways books has been acquired and will be brought along for sale this evening. If anyone is interested any funds raised will go into our Society.

January Meeting

On 4th January 2018, 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. Just one picture only and to do with the waterways.

As before we hope to accommodate any format to include slides and photographs

SCS New Year Luncheon

This will be on Saturday 13th January 2018 at **Keats Restaurant**, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ.

This year the cost is £25 per person. At the meeting this evening (December), Angela Rose has the Booking List and Menu Choices. No rush the Final menu choices do not have to be in until after our January Meeting. A copy of the menu can be found in this newsletter and [here](#) on the Society website.

2018 Programme

Details of our talks and speakers for next year's programme up to April 2018 can be found in the Waterways Diary on page 2.

Seasonal Greeting to all our Members

We now have reached the end of our 2017 programme and, as is usual at this time of year, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

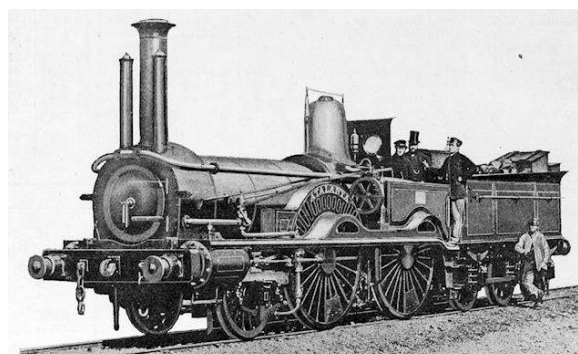
Alan Rose

The Andover Canal

Recently, the *Towpath Talk* newspaper started a series of articles that aim to delve into the 120-year archive of *The Railway Magazine* for an in-depth look at the relationship between Britain's railways and canals.

The first article in the series, published in the October issue, was about the Andover Canal which ran from that town to Redbridge near the head of Southampton Water.

However, these articles can only be read using a free app for your mobile device - either Apple, Android or Kindle Fire. Using the app, you'll find the same range of other news and features as in the paper version of the newspaper, absolutely free every month. Back issues of the newspaper since April 2017 can also be viewed.



The Atalanta, No 157, a Beattie's Patent Locomotive was built in 1859 by London & South Western Railway and used on the Andover & Redbridge Railway

The app may be downloaded free via the [Towpath Telegraph website](#).

Details of the Andover Canal can also be found on the Society website [here](#).



*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to All our Readers and Friends*



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	Venue	Contact
Sat 2 Dec 2017 10.00am-3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Winter Works Open Day. Visitors can see and hear about the winter maintenance programme in action and the work behind the scenes. Entry is free with refreshments available in return for a donation.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Mon 4 Dec 2017 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT (Royal Wootton Bassett Branch)	Kingfishers. Talk on Kingfishers by Alan Willis.	The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AQ (SU068826).	Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310 Email: jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk
Thu 7 Dec 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. IWA Salisbury Group as last year's winning team (again) will be organising the Quiz and the evening is hosted by SCS. The traditional American Supper will finish off the evening.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 14 Dec 2017 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 14 Dec 2017 7.30pm-10.00pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	Canal and Railway films from the collection of our member David Mitchell. All welcome.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ (ST678674).	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812 Email: harman@lampeter99.plus.co.uk
Wed 20 Dec 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Wildlife along the Canal" - Dave Williams and Kathryn Killner will give an overview of habitats along the canal and then in particular how to spot signs of otters, water voles and dormice, amongst other species.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 4 Jan 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Photographic Evening and Competition. This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain, amuse, educate your fellow members.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 13 Jan 2018 12.30pm(?)	Southampton CS	SCS New Year Luncheon. See Chairman's Column on page 1. Cost: £25.00. Booking essential by Thursday 4 January 2018.	Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Wed 17 Jan 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Thames Tidal Defences" - Nathan Ellis provides an introduction to the past, present and future of the Thames Barrier and its associated Gates, tidal Walls and Embankments.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 18 Jan 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Working as a Coastal Ranger. Chris Marshall is a Coastal Ranger working in areas and with communities along Southampton Water and the Solent.	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
Sun 21 Jan 2018 12.30-4.00pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	Social A revival of the Branch Annual Informal Sunday Lunch. Three course lunch with coffee or tea - £25 per head. Members and guests from other branches very welcome.	The Bristol Golf Club, Blackhorse Lane, Almondsbury, BS10 7TP (ST584816) (off the B4055 close to J17 of the M5)	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812 Email: harman@lampeter99.plus.co.uk
Thu 1 Feb 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	4000 Locks and Counting - a talk by Tony Fry about his canal cruising experiences (including recent trips on the Erewash and Montgomery canals)	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Mon 5 Feb 2018 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT (Royal Wootton Bassett Branch)	Waterway Recovery Group by George Eycott.	The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AQ (SU068826).	Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310 Email: jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk
Thu 8 Feb 2018 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	Australia's Murray River A talk by Rob Dean who has cruised this massive river (1,240 miles long!) with his wife.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ (ST678674).	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812 Email: harman@lampeter99.plus.co.uk
Thu 15 Feb 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Dundas Aqueduct and the Somerset Coal Canal. Tim Wheeldon will give a two part illustrated talk. First a look at the Dundas Aqueduct on the K&A Canal and then the story of the redevelopment of the first quarter mile of the derelict Somerset Coal Canal.	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 21 Feb 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Exploring the Caledonian Canal" with Dr Roger Squires who will discuss Telford's masterpiece. A ship canal across Scotland using the natural fault line of the Great Glen and its series of fresh water lochs.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Lack of space has limited the length of this list but further events until mid-April can be found on the Society website: www.sotoncs.org.uk

November Meeting

The Last Run – Day-Star Theatre.

Reminiscing -Yes there was eighteen boats on the wharf working the brick run, plus Parker Quality Teas brought in from India they were stored in that warehouse up the arm too.

Albert, Annie and daughter Valerie had run their NB "Himalaya" for the Parker family since 1948, running down to collect the tea from the London docks – then back up the Grand Union to unload into the warehouse up the arm.

Inevitably Valerie fell in love with Jimmy Parker and at sixteen they ran away never to meet her family again. Valerie wrote to her parents, but her mother never opened them, it was a disgrace for the family. Albert and Annie took on a young lad to help run the boat he often heard Albert saying, "Misty morning, time to be moving on."

Some years later the same lad, now a retired journalist, visited the area with a journalist friend to reminisce over his time on the boat. So much had changed, he knew that the "Himalaya" had been converted into an hotel boat in the late 50's at Braunston, now with all mod cons – some boatmen called them metal boxes.

The man, out of habit always had his old windlass handy as he wandered off to see what is happening along the bank, industrial heritage he called it. No fast mountain bikes or fishermen with long roach poles in his day, as he stepped over a rod.

In the meantime, his lady friend was being nosey and started talking to a council official to learn that the site of the derelict arm was earmarked for a marina, to include a tea shop and leisure centre. He was being very cagey realising that too much info had been said, waving the compulsory purchase order in his hand. Journalists thrive on any information. (Jane enjoys playing her part).

The retired journalist is looking around an old section of the arm and meets an elderly lady wearing a gabardine mac. "Kettle's on, if you want a cup of tea," she asks. "Oh were 's the tea strainer?" His reply on a string around your neck. She wanders off muttering that Jimmy is waiting.

He notices that the lady lives in an old wreck of a boat. A little later they meet and the same question of a cup of tea is offered, and the missing tea strainer. She talks of her life in India living on a tea plantation with her husband Jimmy. It appears that Jimmy died 20 years ago. Valerie moved back to the canals to search and find the NB "Himalaya". How good it was to remember her other life.

The finale involves the building of the marina and museum, now the Red Sky Arm. Valerie finds out about the last run - written in a book - and she also found the letters. And finally, the kettle boils.

A very enjoyable story line. Our thanks to Pete and Jane – 2 actors – 6 characters.

A very entertaining evening and thank you for supporting "Day-Star Theatre".

Angela Rose



At this meeting, veteran Society stalwarts Brian Evans and Eva Drinkwater (our oldest member) cut the cake celebrating the Society's Jubilee Year.

New Year Luncheon Menu



13th January Saturday 2018

3 Course Luncheon Menu

Canal Club

Starters

Melon & Mango Cocktail

Sweet Potato Crab & Salmon Fishcake, Citrus Aioli

Keats Pate, Tomato & Chilli Chutney

Crespelle alla Keats, Baked Pancakes, Spinach and Ham, Creamy Sauce

Soup of the Day

Main Courses

6 Hour Confit Shoulder of Lamb, Pea Puree & Madeira Sauce

Oven Roasted Cod Fillet, Lemon & Herb Risotto, Lobster Sauce

Venison Haunch Casserole, Shallots, Mushrooms, Bacon & Red Wine Sauce

Keats Classic Lasagne Verdi

Mushroom & Taleggio Cheese Pithivier, Parmesan & Basil, Tomato Ragu (V)

All Dishes served with Seasonal Vegetables & Potatoes

A Selection of Homemade Desserts

Freshly Ground Coffee, Infusions & Chocolates

Subscriptions for 2017 – 2018

When I was preparing the half-year accounts for a recent Committee meeting I noticed that I didn't have a record of subscription payment from some members. Subscriptions normally fall due from 1 April each year, but this year we didn't meet in May or June, so it may have slipped your memory. If you're not sure, please check with me at the next meeting. Thanks.

Aelred Derbyshire, Hon. Treasurer

Society in the News

Annegret Evans wrote the following in an email to your editor:

A few months ago we were asked by Amelia Hamson of Canal Boating Times to supply a 1500 word article and photographs about the Society for their paper. Annemarie took on the task and you can see the article and photos in the December issue on pages 46 and 47.

Those near canal shops / marinas may well be able to pick up a paper copy of this free newspaper or it can be found on the internet at <http://www.crickboatingtimes.com/reader.html?site=cricktimes&issue=2017-12>. In case anyone is interested a photograph of Stanton with Laura Sturrock steering appeared on page 27 of the November issue: <http://www.crickboatingtimes.com/reader.html?site=cricktimes&issue=2017-11>

Memories - Old and New



This month Annemarie tells of her early canal experiences in a canal oriented family and then alters course a bit to tell of her present watery experiences.

Southampton Canal Society has always been a part of my life. It was founded two years before I was born. Childhood memories are of friendly people at the meeting hall, day trips on boats and to pumping

stations, and committee meetings at home where the posher plates would come out amid the smell of percolating coffee.

I've been informed my first visit to a waterway was when I was eight weeks old and attended the 1969 IWA National Rally in Birmingham. Mum and I spent most of the day, which was dreary with some rain, on the narrowboat "Venta Belgarum", owned by a Southampton Canal Society member from Winchester, while Dad worked on the sales stand. Then there was a day trip to Newbury Lock before a two week holiday in October 1971.

My parents hired the narrowboat *Jade* from the Bijou Line and we set off from Penkridge Wharf in Penkridge, Staffordshire, along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, the Shropshire Union Canal, the Middlewich Branch, Trent and Mersey Canal, up the Macclesfield Canal to Bosley Locks, along the Trent and Mersey Canal to Rugeley before returning to Penkridge.

At the Armitage Tunnel on the Trent and Mersey Canal, work was being carried out to build a new road bridge over the canal the former crossing. The tunnel was later broken open. We must have been among the last boats to use the tunnel.



Annemarie & Andrew on Jade in 1971

Aboard the *Jade*, I apparently was stropky with my five year old brother Andrew over who should man the water pump. My parents initially would stop the boat every afternoon for my nap, until they realized that I snoozed just as well with the put-put-put of the motor. But while the SCS played a ubiquitous role in my formative years, let's just say you wouldn't want me on your quiz team.

So, I hope you'll give me some leeway in the run-up to Christmas to expand the canals theme to a strait – the Lamma Strait in the South China Sea - which I cross on my daily commute and is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

My usual mode of transport is the wood and iron ferry that carries about 120 people on two decks.

The Chuen Kee ferry has been plying this 23 minute route for the past 50 years. As I'm getting ready at home, I can look out on the bay and see the ferry come round the corner from the fish farms and seafood restaurants of neighbouring village Sok Kwu Wan and across to my village of Mo Tat Wan, where I've lived looking out across to Hong Kong Island for the past 13 years.

The best way to travel is sitting on the deck in front of the driver as the boat travels from the village to Aberdeen fish market on the south of Hong Kong Island. Huge container ships pass at regular



Left: Chuen Kee ferry leaving Aberdeen Harbour. Right: My view across from over The Bay restaurant in Mo Tat Wan village on Lamma Island across to Hong Kong Island.

intervals - Maersk, Orient Overseas Container Line, Mitsui O S K - all carrying thousands of 20 foot containers that stretch up like an extra building. Sometimes our boat will idle and let a ship pass, and then the driver guns the engine and we pass over in the wake of passing ship, occasionally seeing tiny figures on the bridge.

I love Aberdeen harbour – it's situated near a

waterfall where British mariners would pick up fresh water decades before Hong Kong became a British colony in 1842. It's packed full of fishing trawlers and row boats that bustle around – some clearing debris from the water, another with an old lady in a straw round hat gutting and de-scaling fish ready for them to be hung up and dried in the sun with salt. One sampan that I haven't seen for a while used to come alongside the ferry as we were about to leave for home. Steam would rise from a cauldron of veg and noodles, which the vendor would scoop into a dish and pass up. Food tastes good out in the open off a sampan.

The back of the ferry is filled with items needed in the village. This can be boxes of beer tins, or baskets of vegetables taken to the restaurants. It can be someone's fridge, a cupboard or big blue plastic containers filled with water with fish flapping about inside.

When I first moved to Mo Tat Wan from a tower block on Hong Kong Island, I ordered two sampans to cart all my furniture and white goods – they'd take it in turns to moor up at the fire boat pier before we headed out across to the island. Two sampans and all my worldly goods.

The ferry has been my commute for 13 years. The schedule begins at 6am – when the half-asleep schoolchildren board with their backpacks, along with any teachers. Mrs Chan, my octogenarian neighbour, goes in to deliver her homegrown vegetables and get the best and early fish and shrimps at the market.

When the ferries finish at 10.50pm, then you can ring ahead for a sampan. For many years, I could go to the pier, even in the early hours

after a shift at the South China Morning Post newspaper and there would be two or three of these round-bottomed boats waiting for custom. But now there are far fewer as the next generation looks for comfier jobs. We sometimes drop a couple of fishermen off on their trawlers before heading out to sea. And home.

Annemarie Evans



Above: An old lady gutting and de-scaling fish. Below: Dried fish at Aberdeen Harbour



EA boat fees to rise in 2018

THE Environment Agency has confirmed that boat registration charges for the waterways it manages will increase in 2018/19.

These increases are the first since 2015/16 which marked the end of a three year period of minimal increases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Implementing these increases is essential to help deliver the navigation service.

The increases are unchanged from proposals set out in July 2017 and on which boaters' views were sought during a six-week consultation process. This was carried out through national and local user groups with whom the Environment Agency works closely, and whose members represent the majority of private pleasure and commercial boating organisations active on its waterways.

The increases are:

- Charges for any powered boat kept, used or let for hire on Environment Agency waterways in 2018/19 will increase by 5.7% (Thames), 7.5% (Anglian) and 10% (Upper Medway).
- Charges for all unpowered boats (not houseboats) and those registered with British Rowing or British Canoeing, will increase by 7.7%.
- The Gold Licence will increase by 3.8%. This is based on the Canal and River Trust increase of 2.5% for 2017/18, and the Environment Agency increase of 7.7% for 2018/19.

IWA reaction

IWA is disappointed by the response from Environment Agency to its consultation on 2018/19 Navigation Charges and is calling for clear progress on the activity based costing of the Navigation Service before any further steps are taken to increase fees.

IWA disagreed with EA's proposal to differentiate its registration charges between its three waterway management areas. IWA believes the level of increase should be Consumer Price Index across the board, because in all likelihood anything above will be expropriated by government thus further reducing EA's funding.

EA also needs to work harder on setting out clearly the activity based costing of the Navigation Service, to address the current shortfalls in contributions to Navigation Services activity from, for example, water resources abstractions. Once this is clear, contributions need to be obtained and allocated to each waterway area based on the work they are doing to support that service and others. EA also needs to vigorously pursue increases in income from other sources.

Middle Level Bill to Proceed

The Middle Level Bill, which ran out of time in the last Parliament, has been given the go ahead to proceed through its parliamentary process, with the House of Commons voting in favour following a debate on 17th October. Despite suggestions from some MPs during the debate that it should be postponed, the Bill will proceed to the House of Lords before going to an Opposed Bill Committee for consideration of the remaining objections.

The Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) are the navigation authority for the Middle Level Navigations, which comprises 100 miles of navigable waterways in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The Middle Level Bill would update the legal framework which currently governs their navigation function.

IWA welcomes the revival of this Bill, which would bring MLC into line with other larger navigation authorities by enabling better waterway management powers and increased provision of facilities in connection with their navigation function. Among other powers it would enable the Commissioners to levy charges in respect of vessels using the Middle Level waterways, including the ability to charge where vessels overstay time limits in force at a mooring place. It would enable the removal of sunken, stranded and abandoned vessels and it would enable requirement of vessels using the Commissioners' waterways to have

The increases are supported by the Environment Agency Board and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. They will apply from January 1, 2018, on the Thames, and from April 1, 2018 for all other waterways.

Mark Ormrod, national navigation manager said: "We would like to thank all those organisations who shared their views, and those of the boaters they represent, with us. Their feedback was invaluable.

"While there was some divergence of opinion on our proposals, what was very consistent was the strength of feeling for our waterways felt by all our customers. We share their passion of course, and always strive to provide the very best levels of service we can.

"Through this consultation process, our customers have made it very clear what their aspirations and expectations are, and where they want us to do better.

"Alongside working hard to be as efficient as possible and to generate additional income from commercial ventures, implementing these increases is essential to help deliver the navigation service."

The original consultation document, a summary of the consultation responses and the Environment Agency's replies to the main points raised are all online at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/navigation-charges-consultation-201819

[Towpath Talk - 13 November 2017](#)

IWA wants EA to continue its work on establishing a sound cost base for navigation services based on work carried out to support other activities, such as flood defence, which share and require the performance of assets that have been moved into the Navigation Services area. EA also needs to pursue Defra for Grant in Aid to fund any asset investment needed to raise the condition of these structures, to carry out their joint function safely and reliably.

Moreover, IWA continues to be a supporter of the proposed transfer of EA navigations to the Canal & River Trust, together with a suitable investment programme to bring necessary assets up to a sustainable 'steady state' condition. IWA believes this remains a better solution than the present situation, where Government is pushing EA to engage in asset stripping on Defra's behalf, and failing to meet its legal obligations as a navigation authority.

IWA is keen to see something done before a catastrophic asset failure leads to lives being lost.

[IWA Bulletin - 14 November 2017](#)

insurance and a boat safety certificate, which is currently not the case.

The Middle Level is an important part of the East Anglian waterways, and IWA's view is that it needs these powers in order to continue to run its navigations effectively. Subject to any charges imposed being reasonable, IWA believes that the Bill's implementation would be beneficial for all who use these waterways. MLC would be able to spend money on facilities and moorings for boaters, which they are currently unable to do; the value of the waterways to the local economy through tourism would increase; there would be increased provision of leisure opportunities for the local population; and safer conditions for the boats currently on the system, which are currently not subject to boat safety examinations or the requirement to have any insurance.

Express your support. Write to your MP now.

As an Opposed Bill, there is the potential for it to be defeated, and IWA members and supporters are therefore encouraged to write to their MP to express their support for the Bill, particularly if living in the constituencies which include the Middle Level Navigations. These constituencies are: North West Cambridgeshire (Shailesh Vara MP), North East Cambridgeshire (Stephen Barclay MP) and South West Norfolk (Elizabeth Truss MP). See a [list of bullet points to assist in letter writing](#).

[IWA Bulletin 24 October 2017](#)

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 in this issue) 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, Rob Unsworth.

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>

Longest Green Flag award for K&A

A GREEN Flag, awarded to the best kept parks, beaches and green spaces across the UK, has, for the first time, been awarded to the entire length of the Kennet & Avon Canal from Reading to Bath.

The award to the 87-mile Kennet & Avon Canal is the longest Green Flag designation ever awarded. Looked after by the Canal & River Trust, it marks a remarkable transformation for the canal which only a few decades ago was unused and in a state of dereliction.

Canal Planning Application

Cotswold Canals Trust (CCT) has recently submitted a planning application for the reinstatement of a missing section of canal at Marston Meysey towards the eastern end of the canal. They need our support to ensure that it is successful. The deadline for submission of comments is 14th December but you are encouraged to register your support as soon as possible so as to raise its profile.

This 1km section of canal was flattened and lost; probably in the 1950s and 60s. In the 1980s the area was proposed for gravel extraction, CCT and many others made representations seeking the canal to be

it beats the previous longest Green Flag designations which were the Macclesfield Canal in Cheshire at 26 miles and the Shropshire Union Canal between Middlewich to Audlem at 22miles.

In its industrial hey-day, the canal shipped goods such as coal and stone. It then fell into dereliction and decline and it wasn't until the early 1960's when it began to be restored by volunteers and initially opened by the Queen in 1990's and then Prince Charles in May 2003.

[Towpath Telegraph - 30 October 2017](#)

reinstated as part of the post quarrying restoration. Condition 39 of the planning permission stated that "... details regarding the proposed programme of restoration work to be carried out ... shall be submitted for approval."

Many years later and now quarrying is coming to an end, this condition has still not been fulfilled. One of the reasons being given by Wiltshire County Council is that the canal itself does not have planning permission, the application seeks to remove this excuse. The timing is important as there is a real risk that the quarry site will be restored with no canal across it.

For full details go to the CCT webpage [here](#).

Ilford photo wins National Historic Ships competition

THE winner of National Historic Ships UK's 2017 photography competition was revealed at a prestigious awards ceremony at the Corporation of Trinity House, London, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal.

The accolade was awarded to Teresa Fuller after her image, 'Butty boat Ilford breaks the September Dawn', was chosen from hundreds of entries to scoop the £1000 prize awarded by National Historic Ships UK.

The prize will go to a vessel of Teresa's choice on the National Register of Historic Vessels.

The competition was strong this year with outstanding entries from a wide range of entrants. The judging panel were delighted to see both professional and amateur photographers represented, although to ensure fairness these details are not disclosed when selecting the best photographs.

Commenting on Teresa's winning image, judge Paul Atterbury said:



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"Having had a long-term attachment to Britain's inland waterway network, I am delighted to see a canal boat as the Overall Winner. National Historic Ships UK seems to conjure up sea-going and coastal vessels, so it is good to remember that canal craft are also part of our great boating story.

"For decades, so much of our ordinary trading life depended upon pairs of narrowboats making their way slowly through the landscape. This scene, exceptional and romantic today, would have been commonplace eighty years ago."

Details of the competition and a selection of the best pictures can be found at <http://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/>

The competition has been supported this year by Classic Boat, Adlard Coles Nautical, Fat Beehive Ltd and Waverley Excursions Ltd.

[Towpath Telegraph - 8 November 2017](#)