

# Newsletter

Issue 379

February 2004

## Chairman's Column

### E-mail Contact

Further to the item in last month's Newsletter, I am pleased to advise that my computer is up and running again and I am now able to use my e-mail facilities. It appears that I have lost all incoming e-mails between 7 and 27 December so, if you sent me an e-mail during that period, would you please mind re-sending it. Thanks.

### Skittles Evening

Following the success of the two Society Skittles Evenings held during 2003 I am delighted that Angela Faull has organised a further event on Friday 12 March. Full details are included in this Newsletter. The previous two evenings were sell-outs so to avoid missing out, please contact Angela without delay to book your place.

### IWA Salisbury Group

As we heard from Myra Glover at our last meeting, after many years happy association with Salisbury Rugby Club, the Salisbury Group of the IWA Avon & Wilts Branch has had to move to a new venue for its bi-monthly meetings. The Group now meets at 'The Three Crowns' at Whaddon, near Alderbury, just off the A36 to Salisbury (see map inside). All meetings start at 7.30pm and each person attending is asked to

pay 50p (which is passed to the Landlord). Attendees should also take along a raffle prize. Details of the Group's very interesting programme are included in the Waterways Diary in this Newsletter. For further information please contact Jon Van de Geer (01722 412841) or Ron and Myra Glover (01722 710322 – e-mail: [ronmyra.glover@virgin.net](mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net)).

### National Association of Boat Owners

In my May 2002 Chairman's Column I advised members that I had been appointed to the position of Southern Regional Secretary, and therefore a Council Member, with NABO (National Association of Boat Owners). From the outset I had let it be known within NABO Council that I would undertake those duties for a year or so and then review the situation.. This I did last summer and because the various duties of the post were taking far more of my time and involving more travelling than I originally envisaged, and potentially impacting on our future cruising plans, I retired from Council at November's AGM. My decision in no way reflects a change of view of the importance of NABO and the valuable work it undertakes on behalf of individual boat owners and I will be remaining in membership and assisting the organisation where possible.

*Paul Herbert*

## Water Supplies

The majority of British Waterways' reservoirs started full in 2003 and, despite the long hot dry summer, there were no restrictions owing to water supplies on the majority of BW's waterways throughout the year. The favourable situation, compared with the previous recent similar drought period in 1995, was due to BW's improvements in water management, particularly better information and back-pumping arrangements.

Rainfall in December and early January has been slightly above average, and most reservoirs are now filling up well and are likely to be full by Easter. The main exceptions to this are:

- Shropshire Union Canal - Belvide Reservoir was at 51% capacity in mid-January and likely only to fill to about 76% capacity by March. This is unlikely to be a problem as there is a good clean water supply from a sewage treatment works near Wolverhampton.
- Birmingham Canal Navigations - Rotton Park and

Upper Bittell reservoirs on the Birmingham level were at 65% and 70% capacity in mid-January, and reservoirs serving this area are expected to reach about 83% capacity by March. Water supplies are supplemented here by pumping water from underground mine workings at Bradley.

- Naseby Reservoir on the Leicester section and Clattercote Reservoir on the southern Oxford Canal were at 30% and 62% capacity in mid January - but both the Oxford and Grand Union (to Milton Keynes) canals can be fed by back pumping from the Birmingham supply.
- Wilstone Reservoir, the largest of those at Tring that feed the Grand Union Canal south of Milton Keynes, was at 52% capacity in mid-January, and overall these reservoirs are only likely to reach 73% capacity by March - but these can be supplemented by

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## January Meeting

### Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening

As usual, our annual Members' Photographic Evening was a very successful event, attracting a large attendance. We were entertained with a wide variety of topics with photographs or slides exhibited by members: Frank Stokes, Laurie Pearce, Michael Pomeroy, Eric Lewis, Sue Lewis and Andy Berncastle.

Subjects covered included Bugsworth Basin; the Shackerstone Rally on the Ashby Canal; the Falkirk Wheel (shown by two members); the former Cowes Railway Station; the Canal Society Stand doing the rounds of events; Brentford Lock; the Kennet & Avon Canal; Braunston in the 'LadyLine' days; the Huddersfield Narrow Canal (also shown by two members) and Standedge Tunnel; the Anderton Lift; Scottish views including the Fort Augustus Locks and a remarkable railway viaduct; 'Last of the Summer Wine' country and Nora Batty's cottage in Holmfirth;

the Titchfield Canal; more shots of the Anderton Lift and of the River Weaver; Chester's Northgate staircase locks and Ellesmere Port Basins.

In addition, founder member Laurie Pearce included a number of humorous shots and reminded us that many years ago there was a special competition category for such.

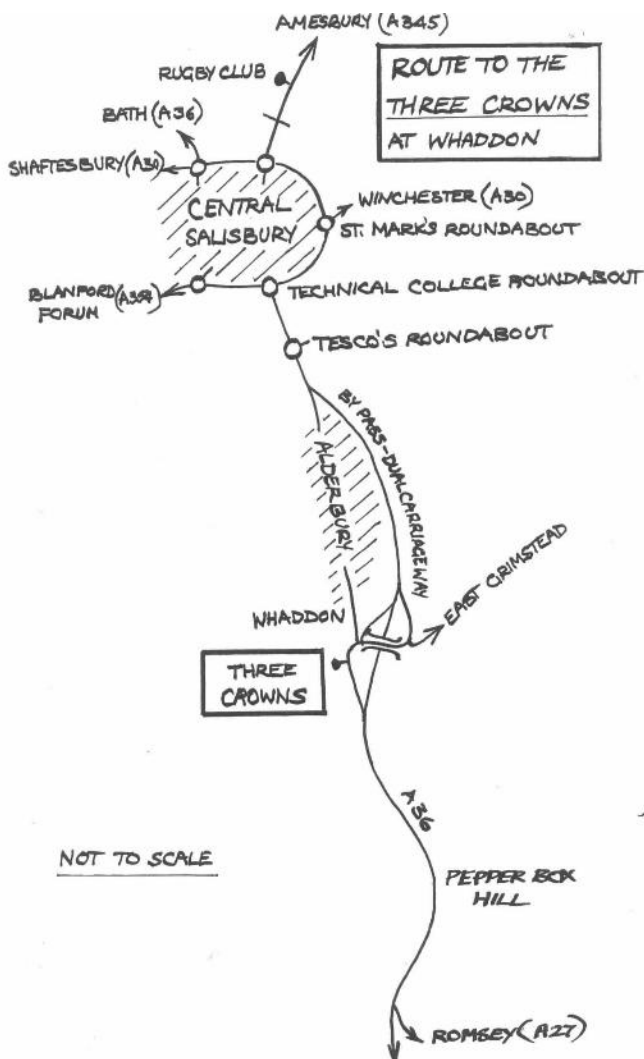
We then came to the annual competition, which this year attracted seven entries. The clear winner was Laurie Pearce with an evocative shot of Burghfield Bridge on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Laurie will be awarded his prize at the February meeting.

Many thanks to all those members who took part in another very entertaining evening. Thanks also to Eric Lewis for operating the projectors throughout the evening.

*Paul Herbert*

## IWA Salisbury Group Meetings

A map of the new location for the IWA Salisbury Group meetings is given below. For information about their meetings see Waterways Diary.



## SKITTLES EVENING

**THE KINGS HEAD, HURSLEY.**

**FRIDAY MARCH 12TH. 7.30PM.**



**£7.50 PER HEAD INCLUSIVE OF  
BUFFET**

**Commence playing at approx 7.45pm**

**Food at 8.45 - 9.15pm**

**Finish at 10pm approx.**



## WATERWAYS DIARY

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Hopefully you can find something to interest you.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to supply further details of that event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 5 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) British Waterways - who will be talking about the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link, the Cotswolds Canals and, probably, the Droitwich Canals. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Soton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 14 Feb 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Talk on the French Canals by Brian Poulton at Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sun 15 Feb 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Radstock and Kilmersdon. Meet at Radstock Museum	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 18 Feb 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Roger Cansdale and Roger Read - The Link. A talk about the proposed link between the Basingstoke and the Kennet and Avon Canal. At Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dungate: <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
Thu 19 Feb 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Crofton Pumping Engines. At Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Tue 24 Feb 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Quiz night at Rachel Fowler Memorial Hall, Melksham, Wilts	Diana Hunter: 01380 871522
Wed 25 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'Frosts, Freezes and Fairs' - Ian Currie. At Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 27 Feb 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Swan Lifeline. At Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Sat 28 Feb 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Quiz night at Shrivenham Bowls Club, Martens Road, Shrivenham. Doors open 7.30pm – First question 8.00pm.	Jan Mable: 01793 784334
Thu 4 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Eric and Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri 12 Mar 2004 7.30pm	Southampton CS	Society Skittles Evening at the Kings Head, Hursley. £7.50 per head inclusive of buffet.	Angela Faull: 023 8047 6112 or <a href="mailto:Faull@waitrose.com">Faull@waitrose.com</a>
Sat 13 Mar 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Quiz Evening - Bring your own Bottle. Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sun 14 Mar 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Sponsored Walk - Chippenham to Lacock and back along the newly constructed cycle-way beside the canal.	Peter Williams: 01249 652248 or <a href="mailto:Peter.Williams32@btinternet.com">Peter.Williams32@btinternet.com</a>
Wed 17 Mar 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Woking Town Centre Illustrated History - Ian Wakeford. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dungate: <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
Thu 18 Mar 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Canalware & folk art with artist Terri Robinson. Talk demonstration and possibly "hands-on." At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Fri 19 Mar 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Quiz night at Cauldwell Hall, Drayton near Abingdon. £6.00 per head to include supper.	George Eycott: 01635 569449 or <a href="mailto:george.eycott@wbct.org.uk">george.eycott@wbct.org.uk</a>
Sat 20 Mar 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Skittles & Buffet. Booking Deadline March 6th Eastfield Inn, Henleaze.	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 21 Mar 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Combe Hay Locks and Caisson Site. Meet at The Avenue, Combe Down	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 31 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Richard Thomas - 'The Stort Navigation'. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 1 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 3 Apr 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Devizes Branch AGM with talk by Peter Potter on The Early Days of the Junior Division of K&A. Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Fri 9 - Mon 12 Apr 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Easter Bunny cruises. Children will receive chocolate eggs and other gifts from the Easter Bunny, while adults can enjoy hot cross buns and a drink to celebrate the return of spring. Hourly from 11.00am to 4.00pm. £6 each.	Phone: 01403 752403 Fax: 01403 753991 Credit cards accepted
Sun 18 Apr 2004	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stroudwater Canal: Easington to M5. Meeting arrangements TBA	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Wed 21 Apr 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - David Barrie (Chairman of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society). Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
Thu 22 Apr 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	The Trireme - John Coates. Somerset Room, Saltford Hall	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Wed 28 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Brian Eighteen - 'Watermills on the Thames' + Branch AGM. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting <b>one week early</b> ). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 1 May - Mon 3 May 2004	Southampton CS	Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365 <a href="mailto:PaulHerbert@aol.com">PaulHerbert@aol.com</a>

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## WATERWAYS DIARY *(continued from page 3)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 16 May 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Thames & Severn Canal; Daneway to Chalford. Meeting arrangements TBA	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Sun 16 May 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Small Boat Rally This will start from the Drungewick Slipway. Apply to the WACT office for an entry form. This event will coincide with the Official Opening of the slipway.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk</a>
Thu 20 May 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Rev. Peter Atwill - Canal Padre (From his narrow boat "Gospel Bell".) Illustrated talk about his work around the canal system. At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Sun 30 May 2004	Basingstoke CBC/Canal Authority	Boat Gathering at Colt Hill, Basingstoke Canal. Jointly organised by Basingstoke Canal Boat Club and the Canal Authority.	Mr D Venn: 01252 668697
Sat 5 Jun 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Pewsey Water Carnival	Graham Lee: 01 672 564020
Sun 13 Jun 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Poddle 2004 (sponsored walk). Details to be announced.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk</a>
Sun 20 Jun 2004	IWA Salisbury Group	Walk along the K&A followed by lunch at The Golden Swan at Wilcot.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Thu 15 Jul 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"History and restoration of the K&A" with Graham Horn (K&A Trust). At Three Crowns, Whaddon	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Sat 24 - Sun 25 Jul 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Jul 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Society AGM and Video. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 16 Sep 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Waterways videos on the big screen. At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Thu 7 Oct 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Day-Star Theatre'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 18 Nov 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Eric Lewis on "Little & Large in the North West." Huddersfield Narrow, Manchester Ship Canal, River Weaver. At Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Thu 2 Dec 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 9 Dec 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas meal at the Fox & Goose, Coombe Bissett.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Fri 9 Apr to Sun 26 Sep 2004 10.30am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Open Days (see below for Steaming Days). Adults £3.00, Seniors £2.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £7.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org">enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/">www.croftonbeamengines.org/</a>
10-12 Apr, 1-3 May, 29-31 May, 26-27 Jun, 24-25 Jul, 28-30 Aug, 25-26 Sep 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Days (10.30am - 5.00pm). Adults £4.50, Seniors £3.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £10.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org">enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/">www.croftonbeamengines.org/</a>
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday 9 Apr to 31 Oct 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm. Telephone for pumping days.	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org/">www.claverton.org/</a>
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk</a>
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: 01243 670786

### Somersetshire Coal Canal

Avon Industrial Buildings Trust, Bath & North East Somerset Council and the Somersetshire Coal Canal Society have jointly produced a consultation Conservation and Access Strategy to cover the future management and conservation of the Somersetshire Coal Canal. Following public consultation, the Strategy is due to be used to raise funds for a range of projects, including access improvements, the restoration of selected structures and interpretation of the canal's history and features.

The Somersetshire Coal Canal was constructed between

1795 and 1801 to link the North Somerset coalfields with the Kennet and Avon Canal. The main branch followed the Cam valley from north of Paulton to the Dundas Aqueduct and served the coalfields around Paulton, Timsbury, Camerton and Dunkerton. This continued in use until 1898 and was formally abandoned in 1904. A second branch, which was never completed, was planned to run from the main branch at Midford to Radstock. A tramway was built instead and in 1872 replaced by the Somerset and Dorset Railway,

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## Simple Stowage

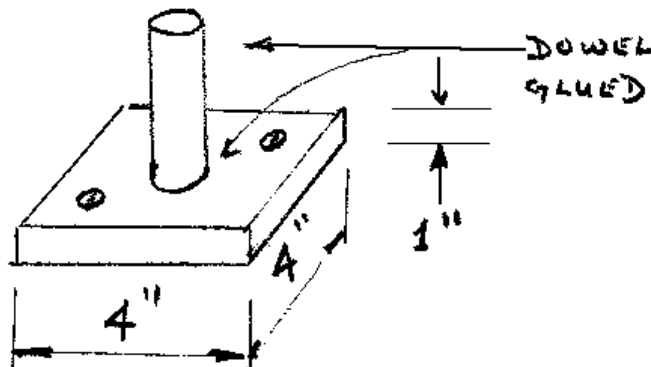
Here's another piece from one of our trusty members at Napton, Warwickshire. In fact, I must apologise to Ken Froud for the late inclusion. He sent me the article at the New Year (twelve months ago)! Bet you thought I'd forgotten it didn't you, Ken? You were right.



### Simple Stowage for tiller bar and pin

A block of wood drilled to fit a dowel of hardwood and screwed to a convenient place on the floor will provide a safe haven for the bar. Drill the wooden handle and the pin will push inside safely. I must admit that my stowage is welded steel with a rubber washer to prevent damage to the brass bar.

*Ken Froud 30-12-02*



## Wey & Arun Canal

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust has opened a permissive footpath beside the restored section of canal from Drungewick Lane Canal Bridge, 1.75 miles east of Loxwood, to Drungewick Lock and the adjacent Long Meadow Winding Hole. The Trust occupies this land under a 99-year lease.

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## Local Honour

The New Year's Honours List brought welcome recognition for a number of people with inland waterway connections. Of local note, one of the longest-serving waterway society chairmen, who recently retired, was recognised with an MBE: John Cooper of Chichester Ship Canal Trust (formerly Chichester Canal Society). John saw the

## Water Supplies

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groundwater pumped from the Tring area.

- Crinan Canal. Four smaller of the nine reservoirs feeding the Crinan Canal were full in mid-January, but the largest Loch An Add was at only 73% capacity. Overall, these reservoirs should reach 89% capacity by March.
- Trent & Mersey Canal - Rudyard Reservoir had reached 46% capacity by mid-January and is unlikely to fill before demand for water starts to empty it again. Despite some recovery with the good rainfall in December and January, this remains the key area of concern and could still pose the potential for water shortages on the Caldon and parts of the Trent & Mersey Canal in 2004

As well as from Rudyard Reservoir, water for the Trent & Mersey summit (via the Caldon Canal) also feeds down the Macclesfield Canal with water from the two Macclesfield reservoirs, Sutton and Bosley, and also from the upper Peak Forest Canal reservoirs, Combs and Toddbrook, though some of that goes down the Marple flight towards Manchester. During previous water shortages when Rudyard Lake got too low to be much use, supplies from the Macclesfield Canal played an important role in keeping the Trent & Mersey Canal open. In mid-January, Toddbrook, Coombs and Sutton reservoirs were at 100%, 77% and 90% capacity, and Bosley was at 66% capacity. Knypersley and Stanley reservoirs, which also feed into the Caldon Canal, were both near full in mid-January.

Many WRG volunteers and others local to the area will remember the substantial weekend voluntary operation in October 1996, which dug out the river Dane feeder supply to Rudyard at Rushton Spencer. That work was to complement British Waterways' work on clearing the feeder elsewhere in response to the dry spell in the mid 1990s. The feeder is again silting up, and would benefit from being cleared once more.

Rudyard Lake relies on the winter filling by floodwater from the river Dane, as input from the side-streams is only modest. The arrangement for this to happen is, however, not straightforward as it relies upon water being diverted that would otherwise flow down the river Dane, and this is subject to an agreement with the Environment Agency.

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transformation of the Chichester Canal restoration from a small band of volunteers to one of the leading organisations in Chichester with over 1,000 members, a substantial programme of activity on the water and major works being undertaken on the canal.

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## SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

### Meetings:

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

### President:

Brian Evans.

### Chairman:

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

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### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire,  
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Martin Cripps, Peter Oates, David Townley-Jones

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4222

### Society Website:

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

## FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

- 5th February 2004** - Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) British Waterways, will be talking about the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link, the Cotswolds Canals and, probably, the Droitwich Canals.
- 4th March 2004** - Eric and Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'.
- 12th March 2004** - Skittles Evening (for details see elsewhere in this Newsletter).
- 1st April 2004** - The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch.
- 29th April 2004** - 'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting one week early).
- 1st - 3rd May 2004** - Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston.
- 29th July 2004** - Society AGM and Video.
- 7th October 2004** - 'Day-Star Theatre'.
- 2nd December 2004** - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper.

## Obituary

We are very saddened to report that former IWA Council member Mike West died in hospital on 23rd January, following a short illness.

At its January meeting, IWA's Council had conferred honorary life membership of the Association on Mike and Marian West. Mike retired from the Association's Council at the AGM held in September 2003, having been a member of it for 26 years. On hearing of his honorary life membership, Mike commented on the honour and how much pleasure it brought him.

He first joined in 1977, when he was elevated from secretary to chairman of (the then very much larger than it is today) South East Region. During his long term of office, Mike has held a variety of senior positions, including being a national vice-chairman and national treasurer.

In its proposal to confer honorary life membership on Mike and Marian, which was made before the extent of his recent illness was clear, Council was aware that Marian had provided tremendous support for Mike throughout his period on Council, taking on considerable workloads herself, especially for IWA Sales, including handling IWA's Christmas card mail order operation from their home for two years.

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## Somersetshire Coal Canal

*(Continued from page 4)*

which ran until 1966.

The main branch of the canal was replaced by a railway, which ran from Limpley Stoke to Camerton until 1951. However, many waterway structures still remain. In its heyday, the canal was one of the most successful canals in the country, carrying coal from the Somerset coalfield to Bath, Bristol and further afield.

The canal has become an important linear feature for wildlife and recreation within the beautiful Cam and Wellow Brook valleys, linking community spaces, wooded gorges and rural canal side habitats. The draft Strategy sets out a co-ordinated approach to the conservation and management of the remains of the Coal Canal. Many ideas contained in the Strategy have come from a photographic project, funded by the Local Heritage Initiative.

The photographic project provided the opportunity for local people to record the remains of the Somersetshire Coal Canal and highlight its importance and value. The project demonstrated that local people want the remains of the canal and its surrounding environment to be protected and conserved for future generations. Issues and ideas raised during the photographic project have informed the Strategy for the canal.

The draft Somersetshire Coal Canal Conservation and Access Strategy is available for consultation until 19th March 2004. Copies can be viewed locally and online from 1st February 2004 at: [www.bathnes.gov.uk/planningservices/environmentgroup](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/planningservices/environmentgroup)

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