



NEWS LETTER

Chairman's Column

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society I wish you all a Happy and Enjoyable New Year for 2014.

January Meeting

We all look forward with eagerness to our Members' Photographic Evening and especially the Competition. The meeting gives us all the opportunity to share our boating experiences and the "fun" we have and see around us on the waterways.

Thank you to David Doulton for offering again the use of his digital projector.

Society Christmas / New Year Lunch

We have organised our now traditional Christmas/New Year Lunch which will be held on Saturday 11th January starting at 12 noon. The venue will as usual be The Blue Hayes Restaurant, Salisbury Road, Shootash, Romsey.SO51 6GA.

The cost of the lunch is £19.95 and as discussed, please make your payment direct to the Blue Hayes by Cash or Cheque on the day.

As usual, please bring along any unused Christmas crackers, party poppers and the like.

February Meeting

Geoffrey Watts, a member of the "Titanic Society" will speak about the Tragedy and the effect on the people of Southampton, showing the various memorials around the town.

March Meeting

Stuart Fisher, editor of the Canoeist Magazine, gives a canoeist's view of the canal system with particular emphasis on the canals that cannot be reached by narrow boat.

Alan Rose

Itchen Navigation Footpath Closures

Your editor has heard that the Itchen Navigation Footpath at Withymead Lock, north of Bishopstoke, reopened to walkers shortly before Christmas. The path was closed last June as a result of vandalism to the footbridge crossing the head of the lock. Hampshire County Council's Rights of Way team were able to install a bridge donated by a local landowner.

The section of path further north at Brambridge between Kiln Lane and Highbridge Road was repaired in a project involving The Friends of the Itchen Navigation Volunteers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council's Rights of Way team and the Environment Agency. This was reopened several months ago though there still remains work to improve the surface of the footpath.



The old bridge at Withymead Lock pictured in 2003 © Peter Oates

Forward planning on the Kennet & Avon Canal

As part of a £945,000 scheme, seven lock bypass weirs are being installed on the Kennet & Avon Canal, in a bid to reduce levels of rural diffuse pollution and to improve the ecological status of the rivers Dun and Kennet SSSI, as well as the Kennet & Avon Canal.

With the Water Framework Directive setting targets to drive water quality improvements, the Canal River Trust (CRT) are implementing changes in an effort to work towards these targets. On the Kennet & Avon Canal, CRT are working with the Kennet Catchment Partnership to install seven lock bypass weirs over a six kilometre stretch of the Kennet & Avon Canal in Bedwyn, Wiltshire.

Currently, under higher flow conditions, existing canal overspill weirs help prevent flooding of the canal by transferring excess water directly to the River Dun. On the Kennet & Avon Canal, there are a number of locations where agricultural run-off and sewage treatment effluent can enter the watercourse. These, and other point sources, generate significant volumes of suspended solids and nutrients which in a slow flowing canal can encourage the growth of algal blooms. Subsequent to heavy rainfall events, the algae and sediment rich canal water is then transferred to the more sensitive River Dun via existing overspill weirs along the canal.

The installation of seven new bypass weirs will ensure that surplus canal water generated by heavy rainfall

will remain in the canal, rather than spilling over to the more sensitive River Dun ecosystem. It is also hoped that the general water quality of the canal will improve, as the new weirs will increase the flow of the water and therefore reduce the occurrence of algal blooms.

14 Olympic sized swimming pools

The bypass will channel around 35,000 cubic metres of water on a daily basis, or the equivalent of 14 Olympic sized swimming pools. The scheme is the end product of several years of partnership working with local partners.

Environment manager for Wales and West, and ecologist for the Kennet & Avon Canal, Oda Dijksterhuis, said: "These lock bypass weirs will help to separate the water from the canal and that of the rivers Dun and Kennet SSSI over quite a stretch of the Kennet & Avon Canal, providing valuable benefits for aquatic ecology."

The Thames River Trust provided a £80,000 grant for the design of the project and over £600,000 for the construction came courtesy of the Catchment Restoration Fund (a DEFRA source of funding for water quality improvements) via the EA. The remaining £265,000 construction funding as well as engineering input, project management and environmental support was supplied the CRT.

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/features>
11 November 2013

Waterways Diary

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

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event.

If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 2 Jan 2014 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 11 Jan 2014 12.30 for 1.00pm	Southampton CS	SCS Christmas/ New Year Lunch. The Blue Hayes, Salisbury Rd, Shootash, Nr. Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6GA. Please inform Angela Rose if you are interested in attending. Cost :£19.95. Copy of the menu available at: www.sotoncs.org.uk/archive/pdf/SCS-Lunch-Menu-Jan-2014.pdf	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 14 Jan 2014 7.30pm	Cotswold CT	Noggin & Natter. Informal gatherings of anyone interested in finding out more about the Trust and the restoration. The Alehouse, 9 John St, Stroud, GL5 2HA (SO851050).	Alan Watts: 07976 617983 Email: a.f.watts@btinternet.com
Wed 15 Jan 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Canals and Navigable Rivers of Southern France." Dr Roger Squires will describe a unique blend of historic waterways and amazingly scenic river navigations. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Wed 15 Jan 2014 7.30pm	Cotswold CT	Eastern Branch meetings at The Trout Inn, Faringdon Road, Lechlade on Thames, GL7 3HA. (SU223991)	Peter Payne: 01367 253352 Email: peterlizanodyne@aol.com
Thu 16 Jan 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"The Salisbury Train Crash" by George Fleming. About a local Salisbury disaster on 1st July 1906. 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 16 Jan 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Dorset and Somerset Canal & Fussell's Boat Lift" with Derrick Hunt. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sun 19 Jan 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Twin Tunnels (Somerset & Dorset Railway). Meet: Bear Flat, Bath. Further details from Mike Chapman.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Tue 21 Jan 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet &Avon CT (Reading Br)	Speaker TBA. The Grange Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation, including K&A members, £2.50 (to help with expenses).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 29 Jan 2014 7.45pm	Kennet &Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"More on the Restoration of the Cotswold Canals" by Liz Payne, Vice-Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU472671).	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Mon 3 Feb 2014 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"An Update of what is happening on the Wilts & Berks Canal" by Chris Coyle. Church Hall at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7AH (SU069828). Admission, £2.00 inc refreshments. If you wish to attend, it would help if you contact Cheryl Yeowell.	Cheryl Yeowell: 01793 812708 Email: cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk
Thu 6 Feb 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Geoffrey Watts, a member of the "Titanic Society" will speak about the Tragedy and the effect on the people of Southampton, showing the various memorials around the town. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 11 Feb 2014 7.30pm	Cotswold CT	Speaker: Clive Matthews, Operations Manager, Avon Navigation Trust. Fromebridge Mill, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, GL2 7PD (SO769072).	Alan Watts: 07976 617983 Email: a.f.watts@btinternet.com
Thu 13 Feb 2014 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	"Fallout: Rolt, Aickman and the Origins of IWA" - a talk by Stuart Burrough of the Bath Museum of Work. On board "Sabrina VI", the HQ vessel of Bristol Cruising Club, adjacent to Redcliffe Bridge, Redcliffe Way, Bristol, BS1 6LY (ST589724).	Geoff Harman: 0117 962 3812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Sun 16 Feb 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Midford led by Mike Chapman. Meet: Twinhoe Lane, Midford, BA2 7DD (ST760606). Please do not use the Hope & Anchor car park unless you are a patron.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Tue 18 Feb 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet &Avon CT (Reading Br)	Speaker TBA. The Grange Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation, including K&A members, £2.50 (to help with expenses).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 19 Feb 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Rivers and Canals of Brittany" with Graham Deavin who with his wife Lyn will talk all about this system of waterways. Having a boat based in this area, they will cover some of the major sights. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Feb 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Rings around London" by Robert Dean. A look at the waterways that make up the 43 miles or so of the London Ring. 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 20 Feb 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Planning & Construction of the S.C.C. Part 2" with Patrick Moss. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Wed 26 Feb 2014 7.45pm	Kennet &Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"Waterways of Europe" by Ron & Myra Glover (of IWA Salisbury Group and SCS). This talk will cover their 2001 excursion which started in Arnhem in Holland and returned via Reims into France. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU472671).	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Thu 6 Mar 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Stuart Fisher, editor of the Canoeist Magazine, gives a canoeist's view of the canal system with particular emphasis on the canals that cannot be reached by narrow boat. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

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December Meeting

The Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

As always, our 2013 programme rounded off with the very popular Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Thirty seven members and guests supported the three teams:

- IWA Salisbury Group with Myra & Ron Glover, Tony Fry and Frank Wilson.
- Southampton Canal Society with Brian Evans, Alan Rose, Gordon Osborn and David Wilkinson.
- IWA Guildford & Reading Branch with Ben Scott, Gareth Jones, David Daines and Robin Higgs who this year stepped in for Ray Carnell.

As last year's winners IWA Guildford & Reading arranged with Martin Ludgate to be their Quiz Master with Sue Lewis, SCS member who took on the task of keeping us up to date with the scores for each round.

Martin started us off with general knowledge questions followed by the dates of Canal Openings. Not many points separated the teams at this point.

Naming Canal Junctions and sorting current names for the old canal waterways separated the teams and Southampton tailed away.

Salisbury's team soon followed leaving Guildford & Reading to gallop ahead and were deservedly presented with the magnificent Inter-Society Waterways Quiz Trophy.

Many thanks to Martin for organising the Quiz and to Sue the scorer and to all the team members for their participation. Thanks to all who generously donated raffle prizes and especially to Pam McKeown for her now traditional prize of a great home-baked Christmas Cake.

The evening finished with the traditional American Supper- many thanks to our members for providing such a wide selection of delicious food and to those who assisted in the galley and the setting up and clearing of the furniture.

Angela Rose



Above: The winning team - (l to r) David Daines, Ben Scott (captain), Gareth Jones and Robin Higgs with the SCS Chairman.
Below left: The scorer Sue Lewis. Below centre: The audience prize winner - Eric Lewis. Below Right: The Quizmaster - Martin Ludgate.
Pictures: © Paul Herbert



Rivers suffer from overdose of tablets

Thank you to Brian Evans for spotting the following in Romsey's local paper:

EXPERTS have warned that Hampshire's rivers are facing a new threat – dishwasher tablets.

New studies show that chalk streams which feed into the rivers Test and Itchen have high levels of phosphorus and environmental groups blame domestic cleaning products, particularly dishwasher tablets.

The Itchen failed a recent chemical quality test from the Environment Agency, which predicted it is likely to fail again in 2015 – putting it in the “at risk” category.

The issue was discussed when more than 100 people gathered at Sparsholt College for The Chalk Stream Headwaters Forum, led by the Vitacress Conservation Trust (VCT).

Graham Roberts, of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, called the condition of the Itchen, a designated special area

of conservation, “disgusting”.

He said: “This is a real menace. It's changing the whole ecology of the river. It's not rocket science. This needs to be sorted.

“I have had 27 phone calls and over 109 emails recently, particularly pertinent to the River Itchen.

“No water should be discharged with a quality worse than when it was abstracted: that's not an unreasonable aim to have.”

Agricultural run-off, with fertilizers washed off the land and into rivers, also contributes to elevated phosphate, while antiquated sewage works, and watercress and fish farms are also cause for concern, the meeting heard.

There are 161 chalk streams in Britain - 95 per cent of the world's total - and most are located in the south-east of England.

The problem is made worse because in rural areas the vast majority of houses use private drainage, and pollutants can find their way

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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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

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

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

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Committee:

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Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Diary). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

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

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

Overdosing rivers

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into river systems from septic tanks.

Alex Poynter, of Birmingham University, who has been researching the issue for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, said the number of cleaning products in the UK containing phosphorus is "quite scary".

Dr Steve Rothwell, of the VCT, said: "The UK is unusual in Europe because many EU countries long ago banned detergent products with phosphorus and the UK never has.

"In Hampshire phosphorus is a big problem. You get too much

algae growing in the rivers as a result and it starts to out-compete the other plants you want. We know septic tanks are a problem.

"The chalk streams are so clear because they lack phosphorus, but if you add any it's like adding fertilizer and you get all this growth."

<http://www.romsevadvertiser.co.uk>

27 November 2013

So, the lesson seems to be: watch how much and what type of detergent / cleaning agent you use in your dishwasher (including washing machines and all cleaning tasks)!

Waterways Diary

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Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 16 March 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Edford to Coleford led by Derrick Hunt. Meet: Duke of Cumberland, Edford, BA3 5HQ (ST669487).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Tue 18 Mar 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	AGM followed by speaker TBA. The Grange Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation, including K&A members, £2.50 (to help with expenses).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 19 Mar 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Conserving the Waterways Heritage" by Nigel Crowe, CRT's Head of Heritage. He will explain what waterways heritage is, how heritage assets are dealt with, maintained and restored. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Mar 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Disaster waiting" by Paul Barnett. This is the story of the River Severn Railway bridge. Its construction, day to day operation and its eventual destruction when it was hit by two runaway tanker barges. 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 20 Mar 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"A Pictorial Journey" with Roger Halse. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Wed 26 Mar 2014 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	Branch AGM followed by a talk on the History of the West Mills Area by Local Historian David Peacock. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS. (SU472671)	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Thu 3 Apr 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	TBA. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 15 Apr 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	TBA. The Grange Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation, including K&A members, £2.50 (to help with expenses).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 16 Apr 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Inland Shipping in West Africa" by Dr David Hilling. David is a Vice President of the IWA and a member of its Freight Group and is UK representative on the Berlin-based European River Sea Transport Union and an academic geographer. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 April 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	The Inclined Planes of the SCC and surrounding area by Derrick Hunt, Adrian Tuddenham and Mike Chapman. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sun 20 Apr 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stroud led by Patrick Moss. Meet: Layby on A46 south of M4 Junction 18 to car-share to Stroud. Nearest postcode BS37 6EJ (ST757779).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org