



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society and Angie and myself we wish you all a very Happy and Enjoyable New Year for 2016

January 2016 Meeting

We again look forward to our annual 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.

We again should be able to offer all formats for viewing. Memory sticks are easiest but we will have a slide projector, the societies Episcoper for photographic prints, and of course CDs.

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

Society Christmas/ New Year Lunch

We have organised our now traditional Christmas/ New Year Lunch which will be held on Saturday 16th January meeting around 12.30. The venue is Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ. Telephone: 01794 368252. This is on the A3090, opposite the White Horse pub.

The cost of the lunch is £22.00 and, as discussed, please make your payment directly to Keats by cash or by card payment on the day. The January meeting is your last chance to reserve your place and make your menu choices, if you have not already done so. The menu choices were included on page 4 of the last [newsletter](#). We have to tell Keats Restaurant by the following weekend of the final numbers and choices. You can, of course, tell Angela by email at her contact address if you are not going to be at the meeting.

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

February Meeting

On 4th February, we welcome Roger and Sandra Downton's recreation of Operation Frankton, the wartime mission we all know as "The Cockleshell Heroes."

March Meeting

As special treat at our March 3rd get-together, Tim Coghlan of Braunston Marina will be telling us about "Sonia Rolt and other Idle Women." Tim is the man behind the saving and development of Braunston Marina in the late 70's and 80's.

Thank you all for your support and here's to pleasant boating and all our other outdoor activities that we will enjoy in 2016.

Caen Hill reopens after towpath collapse

The historic flight of locks at Caen Hill has reopened, after a lock paddle left open on the Kennet & Avon Canal in Devizes allowed thousands of gallons of water to wash away sections of towpath and canal bank earlier this year.

The £235,000 repairs have taken eight weeks to complete, and involved rebuilding large sections of the towpath and embankment. More work, including installing a new fence and planting a new hedgerow will continue into the new year.

The damage was caused after the paddles of Kennet Lock – at the top of the famous Caen Hill flight – were left open overnight, allowing thousands of gallons of 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.

Mark Evans, waterway manager at CRT, said: "We're really pleased to be getting the canal and towpath open again in time for Christmas, as it's the perfect place to walk off your turkey.

"The team will still be around into the new year finishing things off, and we're also hoping to start work again in February to resurface part of the towpath in partnership with Wiltshire County Council, so we will have a better surface in the end than the one we started with. We really appreciate the support from everyone around the canal while the work's been going on."

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/caen-hill-reopens-after-towpath-collapse>

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CRT to improve tunnel

Phone lines are set to be installed in a canal tunnel – 18 months after a man fell from his narrow boat and died.

CRT wants to install a new Vodafone system at Harecastle Tunnel, near Kidsgrove, to reduce the risk of any more deaths. At the moment, communication lines at the tunnel are 'temperamental'. But the latest move means 999 calls could be made from inside the tunnel.

The plans would also see a wooden gauge board installed at the start of the tunnel to make people aware of height restrictions.

A planning application has now been submitted to local councils. It comes 18 months after 58-year-old Michael Holgate, from Ambleside, Cumbria, died when he fell from his boat. He had been on the way to a family wedding in Macclesfield.

A spokesman for the Canal & River Trust said: "Following the tragic death of a member of the public in Harecastle Tunnel in May 2014, the Canal & River Trust has reviewed the health and safety at the tunnel.

"Currently, there is a 'gauge board' which consists of three lightweight chains, which warns boaters of the height restrictions. Subject to planning permission, we would like to replace the chains with a physical board positioned prior to entering the tunnel to put greater emphasis on the restricted headroom.

"Harecastle Tunnel is unique as it is the only manned tunnel across our 2,000 miles of canals and rivers."

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

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 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	Robert and Julie Dean hired a boat on "Australia's River Murray". This river is continuously navigable for 1241 miles, providing many opportunities for visitors to enjoy Australia's great outdoors and fascinating wildlife aboard a luxurious hire boat. 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.
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	"Port To Port" - an historical journey along the length and breadth of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal with Paul Barnett. He will use information from re-discovered documentary evidence and images from the early 1950s. 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/RWMCmap.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
Tue 15 Mar 2016 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	AGM + speaker TBA. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 16 Mar 2016 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Coals to Croxley (and beyond)" by Ian McKechnie. Ian and friends bought a derelict ex-GUCC Large Northwich motor, and, after fitting it out, decided to load coal delivering it to the paper mill at Croxley. 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

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December Meeting

The Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

As always, our yearly programme rounded off with the popular Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Forty six members and guests supported the four teams.

We welcomed a new team this year from the Basingstoke Canal Society led by their chairman Philip Riley and ably supported by Verna Smith, Dave Wedd and Jeff Hill with support from other society members in the audience.

The other teams were:

- IWA Salisbury Group with Ron Glover, Colin Davies, Nick Grundy and Tony Fry.
- IWA Guildford & Reading Branch with Ben Scott, Gareth Jones, David Daines and Robin Higgs.
- Southampton Canal Society with Brian Evans, Alan Rose, Eric Lewis and Janet Gunningham.

As last year's winners, it was Southampton Canal Society's duty to arrange the questions and quizmaster. This was very ably carried out by Peter Oates with Laura Sturrock keeping up to date with the scores for each round.

Peter started the teams off with a Round 1 of Bits and Bobs which contained 20 questions with multiple choice answers presented on the screen.

This was followed by a number rounds with picture questions with answer sheets. Throughout the evening the audience were also able to participate with a small prize at the end.

The question rounds were formed from all around the UK and Ireland and included Canal Builders, Tunnels, Historic Boats, Bridges, Locks and Characters on the Cut, as the teams battled for positions.

Southampton were ahead for a good part of the quiz but were let down by the canal anagrams near the end. During the evening, all the teams scores were neck and neck but Salisbury IWA finally pressed ahead to be this years champions (and to arrange next year's quiz) and to receive the magnificent trophy.

Many thanks to Peter for organising the quiz and to Laura the scorer and to all 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 left: Ron Glover of the IWA Salisbury Group receives the quiz trophy from the SCS Chairman Alan Rose.

Above right: the scorer and quizmaster in full flow.

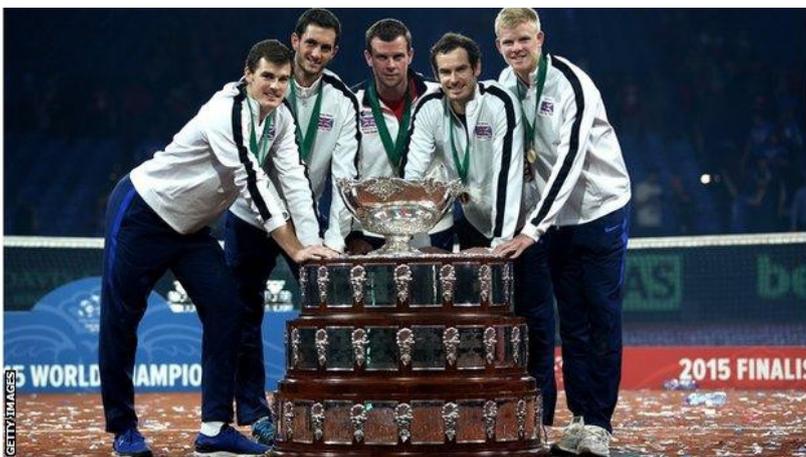
Below: The Salisbury team celebrate their victory.

Pictures: © Chris and John Jones



We're also grateful to the member of the audience who pointed out the similarity between our quiz trophy and the Davis Cup (below) that had recently been won by Andy Murray and the Great Britain tennis team.

Picture: Getty Images



Waterways Events

Continued from page 2

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 17 Mar 2016 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"The South Pennine Ring" - Roger Squires will talk about this circular canal route in Northern England, 70 miles long with 198 locks. 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 17 Mar 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "The Restoration of the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway." 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 Mar 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Writhlington and Wellow. Meet at Wellow public car park BA2 8QB (ST738580). See map at http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/WellowCP.gif	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk

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.

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Brian Evans.

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A Christmas Letter

Alan and Angie Rose recently received this letter from Ken Froud who, as most of you know, is a member of the Society living in Southam, Warwickshire.

For 31 years, Ken and Margaret lived on their boat on the Engine Arm on the Oxford Canal at Napton until 2011 when health issues made a move ashore necessary.

Unfortunately, Ken was widowed last August.

In another note to Alan, Ken wrote:

I'll finish with a small poem.....

"If ever you happen to be this way, there's one more thing I have to say.

There'll always be a cup of tea, at Wattons Lodge Flat 33"

All the best KEN

Flat33

Dear Alan & Angie,
 Christmas wasn't be the same as it used to be, but fortunately we have a supportive family to see us through. We scattered Margaret's ashes by the swing bridge in September with all the family attending. The grass looks greener already. I don't like the term "Lost" because I know exactly where she is, making sure the boaters don't do anything daft on the moorings. Life here is very hectic at the moment with lots going on.
 We had our Christmas dinner in the lounge last Wednesday with 20 of us participating. Thank goodness I was spared the washing up.
 Every week I put on a film show for the residents. We have loads of DVD's between us so we're spoilt for choice, ending up with a cup of tea, cake and biscuits.... I find that there's not enough hours in the day to do all the things that I'd like to do. Keeping up with all the correspondence is a challenge in itself, but having my laptop makes it a lot easier. My handwriting leaves a lot to be desired, likewise my spelling.
 What with hearing aids, glasses and false teeth, there's not of the original left..At least I've still got hair.. I use my mobility scooter to go up town to do the shopping. 4 minutes from here and 10 minutes to Tesco's. Being ex RAF, I'd like it to fly, but try as I might, it wont leave the ground, (I'm working on it)
 I have a "Flight Simulator" programme on the laptop but haven't had time to take off yet.
 I've sorting out myriads of photos so will attach some at a later date.
 But for now I hope you and your family had A Very Happy Christmas,
 With Love from KEN XXX

Christmas Floods

The high volume of rain and flood water has significantly affected our waterways in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Our engineers are assessing the damage caused and we'll be continuing to liaise with the Environment Agency, local councils and the emergency services over the coming days as we seek to assess, repair and re-open our waterways.

Flood water has caused a small breach to the bank of the River Aire at Knostrop in Leeds. In addition, half a dozen boats have broken loose from their moorings and become stranded on the byweir at Fishponds. They are likely to be removed by a floating crane tomorrow (28th Dec).

There is a failed waterway wall at Park Nook on the Calder & Hebble Navigation. The waters from the river Calder have overflowed into the canal and eroded the towpaths and part of the embankment as it receded. The tarmac towpath has been ripped up. We're speaking to Powergen about exposed electricity cables here and elsewhere on the navigation.

On the Rochdale Canal, excess water has eroded part of the embankment causing a small breach midway between Lock 16 and 17, with water flowing into the adjacent River Calder. There is also a small landslip upstream of Lock 16.

There are substantial lengths of towpath along the Rochdale Canal that have been washed out and in need of repair. We expect significant volumes of material to have entered the channel that will need dredging.

The focus for the waterway team tomorrow and Tuesday is making the paths safe. In addition, there are a couple of boats that are sideways on the canal. We're trying to contact the owners to make them aware.

What's clear is that a number of towpaths have been washed away, and there are a couple of places where the flood water has compromised the waterways, including washing away sections of canal bank. We are facing considerable damage along much of the Rochdale Canal, the Calder & Hebble and on the Aire Navigation through Leeds that may take some time to repair.

Our local teams have shown great professionalism, and we've been really heartened by the fantastic response from volunteers who have been offering support to get all the region's waterways back open as soon as possible. We'll be able to provide a clearer of picture of what and where your help will be required next week when the full extent of repairs are known.

The teams have been putting up signs and fencing reminding people to stay away from closed sections of towpath where it's currently unsafe. Please respect the advice to stay off closed towpaths – with more rain forecast, it's for your own safety. Our thoughts continue to be with everyone in the affected areas, and we'd urge everyone on or around swollen waterways to take care while this extreme weather continues.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 27-28 Dec 2015