



# Newsletter

## Chairman's Column

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society I wish you all a very Happy and Enjoyable New Year for 2017 and trust that you all had a good Christmas. We certainly did, we were boating with three of our grandchildren plus their Mum and Dad.

### 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 once again to David Doulton for the use of his digital projector.

### Society Christmas / New Year Lunch

Our now traditional Christmas / New Year Lunch will be eaten on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Meet midday to 12.30 at "Keats Restaurant", Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232) Tel: 01794 368252.

The cost of the lunch is £24.00 and as discussed, please make your payment direct to Keats by cash or by a card payment on the day.

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

Your menu choices **are required** by this evening (Thursday 5th January), please let Angela know. The menu can be found in the [December Newsletter](#).

### February Meeting

On Thursday 2nd February, Graham Mackenzie will talk about the "SS Shieldhall" and the history of the largest working steamship in Britain which is 61 years old and is moored in Southampton.

### March Meeting

This will take place on Thursday 2nd March when Stephen Fisher, from the local Maritime Archaeology Trust will talk about "Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War".

This sounds an interesting evening.

Thank you all for your support during 2016 and here's to pleasant boating with all our other outdoor activities that we will enjoy in 2017. Please though, if you have any comments or suggestions, let us know.

*Alan Rose*

## £1million dredging project on K & A

CRT have started work on a project to dredge sections of the 78 mile Kennet & Avon Canal.

The work, which is costing the Trust £1million and will last two years, will focus on areas along the Kennet & Avon Canal where boaters are having difficulty mooring, navigating through bridges or getting stuck on the approach to locks. In total around 21,000 tonnes of silt – which is the same in weight as over 4,000 elephants – will be removed from the canal.

Using a floating dredger, silt and debris which has built up along the bottom of the canal over a number of years, will be removed from the bottom of the waterway. Once collected the silt will be recycled to agricultural land alongside the canal.

The project will also involve installing water vole

friendly coir rolls which are soft mats made from recycled coconut husks. These protect the canal bank from erosion whilst allowing water voles to burrow into to make homes. It is hoped that the mats will connect different colonies of endangered water voles and so help to boost their numbers.

Paul Fox, from the Trust, said: "We've already started dredging along the canal near Crofton and should be finished by Christmas. After Christmas we plan to start dredging in the Horton area and will be in this area for a few weeks.

"We plan to recycle as much of the silt as possible to agricultural land which has the benefit of being both environmentally friendly and cheaper."

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

12 December 2016

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## Oxford Canal Lift Bridges

CRT has recently started a £1million project to repair and restore six historic lift bridges along the Oxford Canal over the next three years.

These Grade II Listed black and white timber lift bridges are a characteristic of the Oxford Canal and were originally built over 200 years ago. The lift bridges, and their supports, were built as a cheaper alternative to the more traditional brick arch bridge after the canal company ran short of money.



Badge No 193

The restoration work started with Chisnell Lift Bridge (No 193) south of Aynho and includes repairs to the brick and stonework, rebuilding walls and work to fill the numerous holes and voids that have appeared over the years.

The other bridges to be repaired over the next three years include:

- Drinkwaters Lift Bridge (No 231) & Wolvercote Lift Bridge (No 233)
- Shipton Lift Bridge (No 219) near Shipton on Cherwell
- Caravan Lift Bridge (No 215) near Enslow
- Haddons Lift Bridge (No 173) south of Banbury

## 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 5 Jan 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Members' annual "Waterways Photographic Evening &amp; Competition".</b> Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 14 Jan 2017 12.30pm	Southampton CS	<b>New Year Lunch</b> at Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232). See <a href="#">December Newsletter</a> . Booking essential by Thursday 5 January 2017.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sun 15 Jan 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Churchill Bridge to Cleveland Bridge.</b> Meet: Churchill Bridge, Bath, BA1 1UD (ST750643).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:history@coalcanal.org.uk">history@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Tue 17 Jan 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>"Claverton Pumping Station"</b> - George Eycott. 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 18 Jan 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Studying the Bats of the Basingstoke Canal and Greywell Tunnel"</b> with Dr Paul Hope. Paul talk about studies of the bats on the Canal and his 6 year PhD study into the hibernating bat population within Greywell Tunnel. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 19 Jan 2017 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"CRT Work Parties on the K&amp;A"</b> by Derrick Hunt. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 19 Jan 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>"The Camerton Branch Railway"</b> by Roger Halse. Meet: <a href="#">Radstock Working Men's Club</a> , Radstock House The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Tue 31 Jan 2017 7.30pm	Surrey Industrial History Group	<b>"The Majestic Age of the Ocean Liner"</b> lecture by Richard Mellor (ex Union Castle Line and P&O). Cost £5.00. Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, GU2 7UP (SU984500).	Bob Bryson: Email: <a href="mailto:meetings@sihg.org.uk">meetings@sihg.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.sihg.org.uk">www.sihg.org.uk</a>
Thu 2 Feb 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"SS Shieldhall" - the history of the largest working steamship in Britain now 61 years old. Visitors welcome. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). For more information visit: <a href="http://www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk">www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk</a></b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Tue 14 Feb 2017 7.30pm	Surrey Industrial History Group	<b>"Matthew Boulton FRS Industrialist Extraordinary"</b> lecture by Trevor Williams. Cost £5.00. Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, GU2 7UP (SU984500).	Bob Bryson: Email: <a href="mailto:meetings@sihg.org.uk">meetings@sihg.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.sihg.org.uk">www.sihg.org.uk</a>
Wed 15 Feb 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future"</b> by David Plunkett. This ancient site is over 900 years old with successive mills and causeway dams. The long history will be explained and how the tides govern the working of the mill. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 16 Feb 2017 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"Crofton Pumping Station - The challenges ahead"</b> by Peter Turvey. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 16 Feb 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>"SCCS Restoration -- The next major step"</b> The opportunities created by the "Waterspace Study" by Patrick Moss. Meet: <a href="#">Radstock Working Men's Club</a> , Radstock House The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sun 19 Feb 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Cleveland Bridge to Grosvenor Bridge.</b> Meet: Cleveland Bridge, Bath, BA1 5DH (ST753656).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:history@coalcanal.org.uk">history@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Tue 21 Feb 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>TBA.</b> 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Thu 2 Mar 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War" - talk by Stephen Fisher from the local Maritime Archaeology Trust. Visitors welcome. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).</b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Wed 15 Mar 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"History of Bursledon Brickworks"</b> with Carolyn Haynes. The talk gives a history of the only Victorian steam driven brickworks left in the country, why they are so important and what, hopefully, their future will be. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 16 Mar 2017 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"Boat Safety"</b> by Andrew Phasey, Technical Officer for the Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
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Sun 19 Mar 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Churchill Bridge to Sydney Gardens.</b> Meet: Churchill Bridge, Bath, BA1 1UD (ST750643).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:history@coalcanal.org.uk">history@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Tue 21 Mar 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>AGM + "Helpless in Holland"</b> - Rob Dean CMG (Trust Chairman). 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.

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## December Meeting

### The Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

As always, our 2016 programme rounded off with the popular Inter-Society Waterways Quiz, twenty six members plus visitors supported the four teams:

**Basingstoke Canal Society** with Dave Wedd, Jeff Hill, Tim and Penny Cadle.

**IWA Salisbury Group** with Sue Lewis, Colin Davies, Eric Lewis and Tony Fry.

**IWA Guildford & Reading Branch** with Ben Scott, John Jones, Robin Higgs and Mike Lewis.

Our IWA Members who have the IWA CARGOES quarterly newsletter will be sad to hear that a regular Guildford & Reading team member, Ray Carnell, died on the 24<sup>th</sup> November. Ray will be greatly missed at IWA events supporting the Sales & Publicity stand and Cargoes.

**Southampton Canal Society** with Alan Rose, David Wilkinson, Malcolm and Janet Gunningham.

As last year's winners, it was the responsibility of Salisbury IWA to arrange the questions and quizmaster. This was very ably carried out by Nick Grundy with Myra Glover keeping up to date with the scores for each round.

Questions ranged through subjects such as inclined planes at

Nynehead, Bude and Chard. Grand Canals in the world: China, Venice, Ireland. Identifying pictures of Nick boating on continental waterways. Canal places ending in "wich" (Greenwich, Middlewich, etc.) The name of Peter Scott's boat (Beatrice). Past IWA chairmen (Clive Henderson). WRG founder (Graham Palmer). Identifying Canal Builders, etc, etc.

All in all a very interesting quiz as the teams battled for positions. Throughout the evening the audience also participated with a prize at the end.

All the team places were close but IWA Salisbury finally pressed ahead to be champions again. The magnificent trophy was presented to the winning team.

Many thanks to Nick for organising the Quiz and to Myra 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*

## Numbers of boats used as homes in London soar

AS THE number of boats on the CRT's London's waterways continues to increase, research for the first time shows just how many people are making their homes on boats in the capital, the charity reports.

House prices across London remain unreachable for many and hundreds of people have taken to the water as boats are perceived as more achievable: but the differing needs of live-aboard boaters is placing unprecedented pressure on the waterways' infrastructure, CRT warns.

An explosion in boat numbers in recent years (a 57% increase since 2012) prompted the Trust to carry out its first ever "Who's On London's Boats" survey to build a picture of the capital's boating community in an effort to understand and meet their needs. The results show that boat living is increasingly seen as a viable alternative lifestyle by many, particularly younger, people and those living alone or as couples.

Matthew Symonds, Boating Strategy & Engagement Manager at CRT, said: "London's waterways are busier than ever before and this survey shows that they are providing a place to live for hundreds of people.

"It's fantastic that so many people love the capital's canals and rivers but the increasing numbers of people choosing to live on the water is bringing new challenges. We've done this research so that we can work together with local authorities, developers and boaters themselves to make sure that their needs are met."

### Who are London's boaters?

- 769 boaters – 58% of the total respondents – describe their boat as their primary residence, with a further 156 saying the boat is either a second or temporary home.
- 50% have been living on boats on London's waterways for three years or less.
- 50% cite financial reasons as motivation for living on a boat; but an overwhelming 82% are attracted by the waterway environment (boats, wildlife, tranquillity etc).
- 41% of those living on boats are under 35 years old.



Live aboard boats near City Road Basin

- 43% of those living on boats live alone, with 42% living as part of a cohabiting couple.
- 70% own their boats outright.

While boaters have always been synonymous with London's waterways, this is a fast-growing community, with a 57% increase of boats in the capital since 2012. This research shows that a significant number of these new arrivals are living on the waterways, and the needs reported by respondents reflect the challenges of this shift.

Living aboard can be substantially different to living on land. 558 surveys were completed by boats with a home mooring – somewhere a boat can be kept all the time – while 486 surveys were completed by boats without a home mooring. Boats without home moorings, known as continuous cruisers, are required to move their boats every 14 days in a journey that annually covers a significant portion of London's waterways. With boaters needing to empty their toilets, fill up with water, charge their batteries and find fuel for their stoves, as well as cruise to find mooring space on often crowded spots, continuous cruising can be like a part-time job.

### What do London's boaters want?

- The top five improvements people want to see are: more mooring places; more mooring rings; water points; more Elsan (toilet emptying) facilities; more dredging.
- 45% would have an interest in securing a permanent mooring if available.
- The most important qualities in a mooring (other than price) are: somewhere people feel personally safe; good services nearby (sewage and rubbish); public transport nearby.

Matthew Symonds continues: "If you live on your boat, especially if you continuously cruise, you need regular and consistent access to mooring space and facilities and, in an increasingly busy environment, this can be a challenge: the growth in boat numbers is moving at a

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 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.

**Chairman:**

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

**Secretary:**

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

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary:**

Aelred Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7DA.  
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**Society Website:** <http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

## London live aboard boaters

*(Continued from page 3)*

faster pace than we can upgrade the infrastructure. We are looking at ways we can improve things through our London Mooring Strategy, which aims to address the unique challenges and opportunities of boating in the capital, and these results will help inform its development.

"Living afloat is not the same as living in a house but for many people the lower-cost entry point, not to mention the attractions of a strong community, low-impact living and the charms of the waterway environment, means that it is an attractive option. Our advice is not to see living aboard as a way of saving money as there can be many

hidden costs, including time: looking after your boat can be like having a part-time job!

"London's waterways are for all boaters and it's important that we manage the space fairly for everyone. The survey has given us greater insight into who's living on our waterways and their needs. Now is our opportunity to gather partners together across the board to make sure that this happens."

The results do not include boats moored on the Thames, which is not managed by the Canal & River Trust.

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/> 19 December 2016

Full results can be found [here](#).

## Trust urging drivers to slow down on historic canal bridges

CRT are calling for motorists to slow down when crossing 200-year old canal bridges after a historic bridge over the Chesterfield Canal was damaged by a passing vehicle.

The damage to the brick parapet on Clayworth Greys Bridge is so significant that a section of it has been taken down and will have to be rebuilt. The driver hasn't been identified and the repair is expected to cost up to £20,000.

Sean McGinley, our waterway manager, said: "Hump-back bridges are such an important part of the Chesterfield Canal's character and the area's history. Each time a bridge is hit a small bit of history is lost and it is heart-breaking for us to spend so much time and money caring for these amazing structures just to see them so carelessly damaged. Over the last year we've had to spend over £1million

across the country repairing bridges hit by drivers and that's money which could be better used maintaining and looking after the region's canals. If motorists just slowed down a bit and took more care and attention then they would save themselves and us a lot of cost and aggravation, and protect the nation's important canal heritage."

The incident is believed to have taken place in the early hours of Sunday morning (18 December) and CRT have been working since to inspect the damage and make the bridge safe both for motorists and people using the canal underneath. Temporary barriers have been put in place along the bridge until the full repair can be carried out, which is expected to take place early in the New Year.

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

23 December 2016

## Waterways Events *(continued from page 2)*

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Mon 3 Apr 2017 7.30pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	<b>Branch AGM</b> at National Trust's premises at Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR.	Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: <a href="mailto:gareth@hillhouse.farm">gareth@hillhouse.farm</a>
<b>Thu 6 Apr 2017 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>"Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future"</b> by Ruth Keer. Visitors welcome. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). For more information visit <a href="http://www.elingexperience.co.uk">www.elingexperience.co.uk</a>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Tue 18 Apr 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>TBA.</b> 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 19 Apr 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"SS Shieldhall - 61 years and counting"</b> - Graham MacKenzie will talk about the history of the largest working steamship in Britain, including information about the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 20 Apr 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>"The Radstock Branch - Coal, Canal &amp; Tramway"</b> by Roger Halse. Meet: <a href="#">Radstock Working Men's Club</a> , Radstock House The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547)	Steve Page 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>