



Chairman's Column

July Meeting

We are delighted to welcome back Dennis Bright. This month Dennis, who has visited us on a number of occasions, will be presenting his programme about 'Wild West Wales'.

Purton Barge Graveyard & the IWA Salisbury Group

Just a further reminder that the IWA Salisbury Group will be visiting the Purton Barge Graveyard on Sunday 6 July. If you would like to join in that visit, please contact Ron and Myra Glover or Jon Van de Geer.

Anniversary Clothing

Sales of the Society's 40th Anniversary clothing have been most successful and the range includes Polo and Sweat Shirts and Fleeces. Angela and Alan have samples available at most meetings.

Cotswold Canals

On 5th June, Stroud District Council voted to step into the breach left by British Waterways' withdrawal from restoration work on the Cotswold Canals. Councillors decided to apply as lead partner to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the original £12m allocated to the restoration for the canal from Saul Junction to Brimscombe Port in Stroud. This allocation was put on hold when British Waterways unexpectedly withdrew as lead partner in

Day-Star Theatre

Tickets for Day-Star Theatre's production of 'Put That Light Out', which will be staged at Chilworth on 2 October, are now available from our Secretary, Angela Rose, priced at £7.00 each.

2008 Annual General Meeting

At our next meeting, on 31 July, the Society will be holding its 41st Annual General Meeting, together with supporting programme. Normally, this issue of the Newsletter would contain the documentation for the AGM but this will now be re-produced in the next issue. Can those members who receive their Newsletters via email, please print off that August Newsletter and bring it to the AGM. This will avoid additional printing cost for the Society.

Paul Herbert

River Thames

The Environment Agency has announced that, following representations from its Thames lockkeepers, their trade union, MPs, IWA and other waterway user groups, and consequent to a meeting with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Minister Phil Woolas and MPs Martin Salter and Theresa May, the Agency has put on hold any changes proposed by the lock house review (i.e. any new sales and leases) until it has completed a full review of its waterways-staff roles and responsibilities, and terms and conditions.

The Agency has agreed that no action will be taken to sell or rent lock houses until these negotiations on the full review are completed. It anticipates that this will take about six months but has agreed not to sell or

lease any lock houses until all negotiations are completed or 1st January, 2009, whichever is latest. The Agency will then review the position on lock houses with lock-keepers and their representatives and with the MPs group.

Prior to this announcement, which was made on 20th June, the Agency had, on 17th June, conceded that, despite lobbying, it still intend to sell six houses. Four of these were not on the lock site and the other two were the second house on the site. It then considered that it would rent out the further 16 properties, that it does not need for its operations, when they become vacant, and was confident that this can be done while still maintaining a good level of service on the river.

IWA Head Office Bulletin - July 2008

Kennet & Avon Canal

British Waterways and many Kennet & Avon Canal users alike have been concerned for some time at the high levels of licence evasion on the Canal, particularly in some known areas. In November 2007 the evasion rate along the whole waterway was 11.5%, although it has now reduced since that date. The process of removing unlicensed boats can be expensive in terms of administrative staff, external solicitors and operational staff supported by specialist contractors and equipment to remove vessels from the water when the legal process is completed. Once removed from the water craft surveyors are employed and boats stored for at least six weeks in secure premises prior to being sold or destroyed. The cost of these processes has to be met from budgets that would otherwise be spent on

canal infrastructure and facility maintenance or improvement, and having to tackle the high-level of licence evasion is therefore to the detriment of all licence paying craft owners and other waterway users.

As a next stage to reduce craft licence evasion, BW proposes that the locks at each end of the Canal (Hanham Lock at the western end, and County Lock, or another nearby, at the eastern end) would be staffed such that unlicensed craft are not permitted onto the Canal. Staff at the locks would also sell licences to those arriving without one. This would be supported by the random manning of other locks from time to time with licence checks. Where such checks were

(Continued on page 2)

May Meeting

Bob Dukes – “Silk: Myth and Mystery”

Our talk last month was something completely different in that it had nothing to do with canals. Society member, Bob Dukes, talked about silk, its origins and the legends and tales that have been built up over the years. As Bob pointed out, silk has been second only to gold in causing strife and intrigue, as those who had it tried to keep it and those who hadn't tried to get it.

He started with the legend, from 4650BC, of Princess His Ling Shi who had been brewing tea in her garden when a cocoon fell into the hot water and collapsed, providing a long slender fibre with a shiny surface. Silk was appropriated by the Chinese rulers and the secret of its production was a carefully guarded secret for 2000 years before it began to be traded along the Silk Road, eventually reaching Rome where, again, it was appropriated by the ruling elite – Julius Caesar was the only man allowed to wear silk, although ladies were allowed to if their husbands could afford it.

Bob described how the production of silk was critically dependent upon the Mulberry tree, the leaves of which are the silk worm caterpillars food, and how the process was moved westwards by means of industrial espionage and conquest, eventually arriving in Constantinople in 550AD. Over the centuries the main centres moved from there, first to Italy in the 13th century and then to France, who became the leaders in the 17th century.

James I tried to introduce silk worms into England because of the high cost of importing silk from the continent but was unsuccessful and the industry died out after about twenty years. However, the weaving of imported silk thread, aided by Huguenot refugee weavers, became a significant industry in this country from the 17th to 19th century.

In the 19th century political moves involving first the removal of the embargo on the import of French silks in the 1820s and the total removal of import duties in 1860 affected the British weavers, although some companies persisted in niche markets.

Finally, Bob mentioned the attempts to produce artificial silk over the past hundred years, none of which have quite reproduced the real thing so that there is still a large, and increasing demand, for silk, with current production well over 100,000 tons per annum and probably, like gold, there will always be a demand.

Many thanks Bob for such an enjoyable and informative talk and for bringing along a range of interesting artefacts.

The evening concluded with the usual question and answer session.

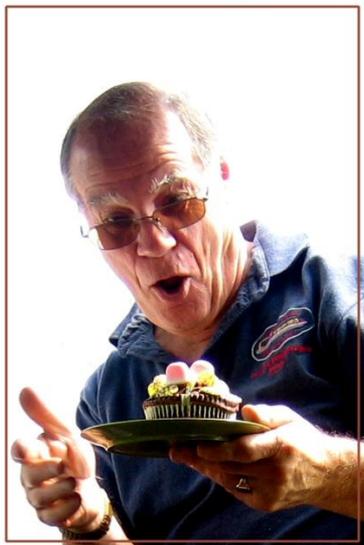
(With many thanks to Bob Duke for providing the notes of his talk).

Paul Herbert

Salisbury Group Outing

On Sunday 6th July the Salisbury Group of the IWA is organising a trip to The Purton Hulks. If any member of SCS is interested in joining them, then please contact Ron & Myra Glover tel: 01722 710322 email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk for further details. NB: Members will make their own way to the site and meet at Purton, Gloucestershire (OS grid ref: SO692044).

Captions Still Required!



This picture, taken during the recent Society Boat Gathering was published last month. Showing our illustrious Chairman, Paul Herbert, it was taken by Lynn Olding and she felt that members might like to suggest some ‘quotes’ or ‘captions’ to go with it, as a bit of fun.

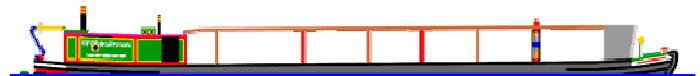
However, your Editor has received not one! Surely, our membership can do better than that? So, think again and send your ideas to the Newsletter Editor (contact details on back page) and, hopefully, I'll publish them next month.

K & A Licences

(Continued from page 1)

performed by lockkeepers, the policy would be one of “no licence, no passage”. The consequence of staffing locks at either end of the Canal would be that opening hours would be introduced with the locks being secured each evening and reopened the following morning. Opening hours at either end of the canal would be 9a.m. to 6 p.m. from April to October and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from November to March. BW is currently undertaking a formal consultation on these proposed arrangements.

IWA Head Office Bulletin - June 2008



Sailing by

Thanks to Laurie Pearce for spotting this in a magazine in his local surgery (although he didn't give a date for the article):

French vineyards are starting to export their wines by sailing ship - a method last used in the 19th century - in order to reduce their carbon foot print, reports the Observer. Later this month, 600,000 bottles will make their way by barge from Languedoc to Bordeaux, using two canals. They will then be packed onto the three-mast *Belem* (above) - used in the 19th century to transport chocolate from South America - which will set sail for Ireland. The process will take a week longer than if the bottles had gone by plane, but will save 18,375lb of carbon.



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.

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

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 3 Jul 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Dennis Bright with another illustrated wildlife talk "Wild West Wales". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 3 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Talk: The Past, Present and Future of the Chichester Ship Canal given by Rick Travis, Chairman of the Canal Trust, at Committee Room 3, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. Tickets £3.00	Brian Bacon: 01243 263544
Sat 5 Jul 2008 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Walk Part of the Old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Road, Barnham to walk to Hunston. Approx. 5 mile walk, allow 4 hours. Bring a packed lunch. Return journey by bus. FREE!	Tel: 01243 576701
Sat-Sun 5-6 July 2008 10.00 - 5.00	Cotswolds CT	Saul Canal Festival. Adults: £6.00 accompanied children (under 16): free. Saul Junction, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal Nr Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire GL2 7LA	Festival Administrator: 01285 643440 Email: scf-info@junctionevents.org.uk Web: www.junctionevents.org.uk
Sun 6 Jul 2008	IWA Salisbury Group	Group visit to Gloucestershire for guided tour through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett, Marine Historian. Combined with visit to Saul Canal Festival.	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Mon 7 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Mikron Theatre Company present "Debt-O-Nation ...the UK's addiction to credit". Fox & Hounds, Crookham Road, Fleet.	David Millett: 01252 617364
Sat 12 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Mikron Theatre Company present: "Fair Trade". The history of the cooperative movement in the North of England from it's beginnings in Rochdale in 1844 to a world-wide membership of 750 million.	Tickets £7.00 from Linda Wilkinson, 1 Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester, PO18 8TL
Thu 17 Jul 2008 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules and BBQ at the Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 27 Jul 2008 10.00 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival at Victoria Park, Newbury	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 31 Jul 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 4 Sep 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Dave Yaldren will show film and talk about the Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sat 13 Sep 2008 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Walk Part of the Old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Road, Barnham to walk to Ford. Approx. 4 mile walk, allow 4 hours and bring a packed lunch. Return journey by train.	Tel: 01243 576701
Sun 14 Sep 2008 1.00 - 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Guided Walk: Poyntz Bridge and Short Industrial Walk of Southgate, Chichester. An opportunity to cross the Chichester Ship Canal on the unique 1820 cast iron Poyntz swing bridge, just south of the canal basin. FREE! The walk starts at 14.30.	Tel: 01243 576701
Thu 18 Sep 2008 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Talk about the Chichester Ship Canal. Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Thu 2 Oct 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre with "Put that light out!" which follows the fortunes of Elsie Roberts, a young mother of two, from 1939 to 1945. Followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 6 Nov 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Paul Barnett with an illustrated talk about "The Purton Hulks" beached along the River Severn to Protect The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal from erosion. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 20 Nov 2008 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Ray Knowles will talk about the Crofton Beam Engines on the K&A Canal including their history, reason for their existence, technicalities and maintenance. Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 6, 20 Jul, 3, 17 Aug, 7, 21 Sep 2008 2.00pm		Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett, Marine Historian . Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (OS ref S0692044) .	Tel: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com
Tue 8 Jul, Wed 6 Aug, Mon 8 Sep, Tue 7 Oct 2008 10.45 for 11 am	Wey & Arun CT	5½ mile guided walk visiting parts of the restored section of the canal south of Newbridge. Meet at The Cricketers pub in Wisborough Green (OS Grid Ref TQ051261). Stout, waterproof walking boots are recommended for this walk.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk
21 Mar - 28 Sep 2008 10.30 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station open every day for static viewing. See below for steaming weekends. Adults £4.50, Seniors £4.00, Children £2.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £11.00, Children under 5 free	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
26-27 Jul, 23-25 Aug, 27-28 Sep 2008 10.30 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station - Steaming weekends. Adults £7.00, Seniors £6.00, Children £2.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £16.00, Children under 5 free	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
23 Mar - 25 Oct 2008 10:00 - 5:00 (4:00 Weds)	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station open every day for static viewing of the waterwheel and pump. See below for pumping days. Admission £2.50, Children under 16 free, but all children must be accompanied by an adult	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
13 & 27 Jul, 10, 24-25 Aug, 14, 28 Sep, 19 Oct 2008	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Pumping days. Admission £4.00, Children under 16 free, but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Open from 10.00 to 5.00	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org

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:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.

Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, Hilo, Hungerford, Bursledon, Hampshire, SO31 8DF. Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 403982 (home)

Email: info@apas-engineering.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Anne Coleman, 14 Redmoor Close, Bitterne, Southampton, SO19 4DH. Tel: 023 8044 2552. Email: wiseowl@tcp.co.uk

Committee:

Maureen Greenham, Peter Oates, Alan Rose, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798.

Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

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

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.

Day-Star Theatre

present

Put that light out!



Peter and Jane Marshall (aka Day-Star Theatre) are returning to Chilworth again this year by popular request.

They will be presenting a new family version of their very popular play for schools about the Home Front in World War 2 on the 2nd October 2008.

This production follows the fortunes of *Elsie Roberts*, a young mother of two, from 1939 to 1945.

She lives above a butcher's shop near the docks and from the moment war is declared her life changes for ever. Her husband joins the 8th Army and her children are evacuated to the country.

She becomes a crane driver at the docks but she also has to contend with Cyril Bridges her bossy landlord and newly appointed air raid warden.

There is also an insight into life at the local school with headmaster Mr. Gridlington and timid teacher Miss Bagshaw.

There is comedy and song but there is also hardship and tragedy as the characters experience blackouts and air raids, rationing and black marketeering, evacuation and digging for victory.

Tickets for the performance at £7.00 each are now available from the Secretary, Angela Rose (contact details above).



Annual General Meeting 2008

In accordance with the Constitution, notice is hereby formally given of the Southampton Canal Society's Annual General Meeting on the 31st July 2008 at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth Road, Chilworth, Southampton at 7.45pm.

Any member may request an item to be included on the agenda of the AGM by giving at least fourteen days written notice of the item and its nature to the Chairman.