

NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column

July 7th Meeting

This evening we welcome Pablo Haworth who will be showing and informing us of the History and Design of the "Bailey Bridge".

August meeting

As the hall is unavailable during the month of August, this meeting is to be held on the Thursday 28th July. This will be our 44th Southampton Canal Society AGM.

Details and the agenda will be in next month's Newsletter. For our members who receive the Newsletter by email, please if possible, print off and bring along to the AGM.

If any Members have anything or questions to raise at the AGM please speak to Paul Herbert or any Committee member. Thank You.

The July Boat Trip

Maureen Greenham has been organising our boat trip for Tuesday 19th July from Gosport to the Beaulieu River and back.

As Maureen Greenham will be away from the July meeting, please see the details given on page 4 for the final arrangements and times.

September Meeting

At this meeting on Thursday 1st September our President, Brian Evans, will show us slides of Cheddleton Flint Mill, & Consall Forge on the Caldon Canal. Also featured will be Bewdley and Bridgnorth and the Railway between them. May be a bit of Continental too!

Please come and enjoy this informative evening.

Day-Star Theatre

An excellent production from Peter and Jane Marshall called "A Long Weekend!" will be presented on Friday 7th October at Chilworth. Tickets are available now at £8 each from Angela, Gill or Maureen.

Angela and I were lucky to see them at the Braunston Historic Working Boat Meeting on the 24th June. Many of the residents from Braunston village had never seen Day-Star and were thrilled to come along to the show and enjoyed the twists and laughter of the plot. The proceeds of that evening went to the Braunston Church Fund.

A Date for your Diary

The Society Christmas/New Year lunch will be held at The Blue Hayes on Saturday 14 January 2012.

Alan Rose

Caen Hill Locks receives Transport Trust award

The historic Caen Hill Locks in Devizes have been given an award by the Transport Trust. The popular Wiltshire tourist attraction received a Red Wheel plaque, which recognises transport sites of historical interest.

The flight of 16 locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal was designed by engineer John Rennie and constructed in the early 1800s. It was his solution to enable boats to make the steep hill climb into Devizes.

British Waterways' chairman, Tony Hales, said he was "delighted" that the flight had been recognised.

He said: "The lock flight is an impressive mark upon the landscape, much like a giant staircase climbing the hillside.

"It's an impressive feat of engineering and it's a testament to the volunteers who helped to restore the canal, as well as the hard work of the British Waterways team, that so many people can continue to use and enjoy this piece of working heritage."

The plaque will be unveiled at a ceremony in Devizes later.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-13872318

Water Fest lives up to its name

A bit too much water and some technical difficulties failed to dampen spirits at an annual celebration of Reading's waterways. Heavy showers did not stop thousands of people attending Water Fest by the River Kennet on Saturday 18 June.

People visited a range of stalls, heard music played on an island in the river, went on boat trips, took part in a rubber duck race, enjoyed a boat decoration competition and more.

The event, organised by the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, raises money for the upkeep of the waterway and allows other organisations, including the First

Reading YMCA Sea Scouts, to raise money themselves.

Mike Rodd, chairman of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, said: "It's worked remarkably well despite the rain – it was a slow start but that picked up as the rain stopped. We've got more boats here than we've had in some years now and we've had lots of people here.

"We need to make people aware of how important the waterways are. I don't know if all people realise just how much the waterways have to offer but Water Fest is a good way of letting people know."

www.getreading.co.uk

Annual General Meeting 2011

In accordance with the Constitution, notice is hereby formally given of the Southampton Canal Society's Annual General Meeting on the 28th July 2011 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, Alan Rose (contact details on page 6).

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 7 Jul 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Pablo Haworth with "The History and Design of the Bailey Bridge." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 7 Jul 2011 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Hell & High Water" performed by Mikron Theatre. Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ. (SU613916). Tickets MUST be booked in advance.	Tel: 01491 838 435 Websites: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk www.mikron.org.uk
Fri 8 Jul 2011 10.00am - 3.00pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Himalayan balsam work party at Mansbridge Fen. Contact office for more information.	Donna Birch: 01489 774442 Email: volunteer@hwt.org.uk
Sat 9 Jul 2011 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Hell & High Water" performed by Mikron Theatre. Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester, PO19 8QT. (SU854034). Tickets £7.50 by phone or on door.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701 Mikron website: www.mikron.org.uk
Sun 10 Jul 2011	Wey & Arun CT	"Gun's Mouth, Shalford, Small Boats Rally". Come and have a look at what the Trust have been doing at Gun's Mouth Island just off the A281 at Shalford. (SU999463) Suitable only for small boats, kayaks, canoes, rowing boats, etc. Further details from contact.	John F. H. Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 10 Jul 2011 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	A 4 mile linear guided walk from Salterns Lock, Chichester Marina, PO20 7EJ (SU827011), along the canal towpath to the basin at Chichester seeing the engineering features / remains. Parking available at Marina.	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 10 Jul 2011 5.00pm	Mikron Theatre	"Hell and High Water" performed by Mikron Theatre. Plough Inn, High Street, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, OX14 4QH. (SU545938). Collection taken after show	Plough Inn: 01865 407738 Mikron website: www.mikron.org.uk
Sun 17 Jul 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Timsbury Basin - detailed site assessment. Meet: Paulton Sewage Works (ST654576).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Tue 19 July 2011 11.15am	Southampton CS	Society boat trip from Gosport to the Beaulieu River and back.	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net
Thu 21 Jul 2011 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules & BBQ. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3AR (SU182274).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 28 Jul 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	AGM - followed by Cheese & Wine (which went down very well last year). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184). Please note this is the "August" meeting.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 7 Aug 2011 10am - 4pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail from Southampton to Winchester (11 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Mon 8 Aug 2011 2pm - 5pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Otter Trail: Otterbourne area (3.5 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Tue 9 Aug 2011 10.30am - 12noon	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Bargeman's Way: Mansbridge area (2 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Wed 10 Aug 2011 6.30pm - 8.30pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Mills and Meadows: Winchester area (3 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Thu 11 Aug 2011 2pm - 6pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Kingfisher Trail: Twyford area (6 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Fri 12 Aug 2011 9.30am - 1.30pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Valley of Fields: Compton area (6 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Sat 13 Aug 2011 10am - 1pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Guided Walk - Water Vole Way: Bishopstoke area (3.5 miles). See page 5.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Sun 21 Aug 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Upper lock flight and Inclined Plane, Combe Hay. Meet: Lay-bys near Bridge Farm, Combe Hay. BA2 7EE (ST745604).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Thu 1 Sep 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Brian Evans will show us slides of the Caldon Canal. Also featured will be the Severn Valley Railway. Maybe a bit of Continental waterways too! Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sat 10 Sep 2011 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	Guided Walk (6 miles) from Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham, PO22 0BP to Hunston. Walk along the old tow path of the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal and see many engineering remains. Parking available at the start. (SU956035)	Adge Roberts 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sat 10 Sep 2011 2.00pm - 5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	As part of national Heritage Open Weekend 2011, Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharfside, Shalford, near Guildford, Surrey, GU4 8EP (SU997465) will be open to public for first time ever.	Wey & Arun CT office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 10 Sep 2011 3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Guided walk (approx 2 miles) from the Gunpowder Store, Shalford (see above) following part of the old route of the Wey & Arun Canal, to the old Bramley railway station. Bookings for the guided walk from Guildford TIC.	Guildford Tourist Information Centre: 01483 444333 Email: tic@guildford.gov.uk

Continued on page 3

Waterways Diary

Continued from page 2

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sat 10 Sep 2011 11.00am - 4.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	As part of national Heritage Open Weekend 2011, Brewhurst Mill, Loxwood, West Sussex open to the public. Please use car park behind Onslow Arms, RH14 0RD (TQ041311) and then follow signs.	Wey & Arun CT office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat-Sun 10-11 Sep 2011	Somersetshire Coal CS	Heritage Open Weekend 2011 - Combe Hay Locks and Engine site - a series of guided tours.	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Sun 11 Sep 2011 10.00am - 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	Poyntz Bridge open. Situated approx 200 metres south of the canal basin, Poyntz bridge is possibly the only single span 1820 cast iron swing bridge in the UK. Plus a display of photos and artefacts. 2.00pm: Guided walk around the canal basin led by Alan Green, illustrating the history of past industry around this canal feature. (SU858038)	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 11 Sep 2011	Wey & Arun CT	'Lording's Small Boats Rally' to celebrate re-opening of Lordings Waterwheel. Meet Lordings Farm, Lordings Road (B2133), Ardversane, Billingshurst W Sussex, RH14 9JE. (TQ071241).	John F H Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Fri 25 Sep 2011 7.30 for 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'Caversham Court Gardens' - Emily Waters, Head Gardener. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 to cover room hire and tea / coffee.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Fri 7 Oct 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre present "A Long Weekend!" Tickets: £8.00 includes American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184). Please note this meeting is on Friday not Thursday.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
21 Jun - 17 Aug 2011	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Itchen Navigation Art Trail - Free event at Chandler's Ford Library, Oakmount Road, Chandler's Ford Eastleigh, SO53 2LH (SU441210). Follow the art trail around the library to discover images, facts and observations about the Navigation. Suitable for ages 8 years to adult.	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust: 01489 774400 Email: feedback@hwt.org.uk
30-31 Jul, 27-29 Aug, 24-25 Sep 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines - Steaming Days. 10.30am - 5.00pm Adults £8.00, Seniors £7.00, Children £3.00, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £18.00, K&ACT Members free. Crofton Pumping Station, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Every day until 25 Sep 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines - Not in steam. 10.30am - 5.00pm Adults £5.00, Seniors £4.50, Children £3.00, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £12.50, K&ACT Members free. Crofton Pumping Station, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
10, 24 Jul, 14, 28-29 Aug, 11, 25 Sep, 23 Oct 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Pumping days. 10.00am - 5.00pm. Adults £5.00, Children under 16 free with adult. Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST791643)	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Every Wed, Sat, Sun & Bank Hol until 26 Oct 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Days not pumping. 10.00am - 5.00pm (4.00pm Weds). Adults £3.00, Children under 16 free with adult. Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST791643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org

World's first floating ice cream boat

National Ice Cream Week (30th May - 5th June) might not have seemed the most boaty of PR events, especially because it clashed with the Crick Boat Show. But that was before ice cream maker Frederick's hit upon the idea of a floating ice cream van.

Along with its home-made ice creams made at the canalside parlour near Adlington, Frederick's also makes ice creams under contract for Cadbury's, among others. It was the Cadbury connection which financed the new *HMS Flake 99* ('Licenced To Chill'), launched to an amused press last week when it sailed up the Thames for a photo call.

Frederick's say they hope to get it on the canals this summer, although British Waterways hasn't yet received a licence application. With a width of up to 7'6" it classes as a wide beam, so you are unlikely to see it in the narrow canals.

The basic craft is made by amphibious vehicle specialist Mike Ryan of SeaRoader. He says the underlying vehicle is their 'military model', which uses a Landrover Defender 110 FWD body, driven by a 200 TDi engine. It has a 2ft draft, with an 'axe drop' of approximately 18" more. It took him a month to build. I didn't dare ask the price.

The basic vehicle was supplied to movie special effects company Hothouse, who created the 'ice cream' body and added two 8hp Yamaha high-torque outboards. Mike Ryan said he had recommended at least a 70hp engine and was pleasantly surprised that the 8hp outboards performed so well.

Mike Ryan does not know if any of his craft have yet been used on



the canals, but says that if there wasn't enough water depth to float, they could probably just drive along. Of course, it would need slipways, at both the start and end.

Frederick's shop, incidentally, is a marvellous place to stop for real home-made ice cream if you are doing the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. It's 5 minutes from Bridge 73, Heath Charnock, about 6 miles north of Wigan top lock. You'll probably have to walk, as I'm assuming your own narrow boat isn't amphibious.

Andrew Denny, www.waterwaysworld.com

June Meeting Social Evening

Our Social evening started with a welcome glass of Pimms. Thank you to the 16 members who came along and supported our society on this evening. Three members kindly sent their apologies with notes of other commitments.

We enjoyed Maureen's Quiz's and her "guess the weight of the cake" - the winner was Myra Glover. Myra did confess that she was a Cookery Teacher during her time, and so had learnt through experience, an idea of the weight of a cake.

Alan Rose ran the Aunt Sally. (Based on the children's books by Barbara Euphan Todd, a TV series from 1979-81 concerns the adventures of Worzel Gummidge, a scarecrow, and his love Aunt Sally, a life-size wooden fairground doll, both of whom

can walk and talk and pass themselves off as human.)

An assortment of items for the Silent Auction: walking sticks, hand painted door stops donated by Laurie Pearce; various paintings and Works of Art! Paul Herbert turned out his loft of left over SCS sales stand items. A plum tree (small), a black bow tie and various etceteras.

Drinks and refreshments were available throughout the evening. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our Treasurer, Gill Herbert will update us of the proceeds which have gone into our own Society funds.

Angela Rose

'Lucky escape' for man after tree falls by Bath canal

A holidaymaker narrowly missed being crushed to death when a tree fell on him as he was opening a lock gate on a canal in Bath. The 71-year-old man from Hull was travelling on the Kennet and Avon in a barge when the accident happened. A Great Western Ambulance Service spokesman said the man had been "extremely lucky".

"It was a substantial tree... landing a few extra inches would have been fatal," he said. "The tree had come down and landed parallel to the lock gate the man was operating near Widcombe Hill.

"Paramedics were called to reports of a man trapped under a tree... however it turned out he was under some of the outer branches and had narrowly missed being crushed."

It is thought a combination of wind and heavy rain was responsible for causing the tree to topple on Sunday 12th June. The man was taken to Bath's Royal United Hospital for treatment to back and chest injuries. He was not believed to have been seriously injured.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-13750373

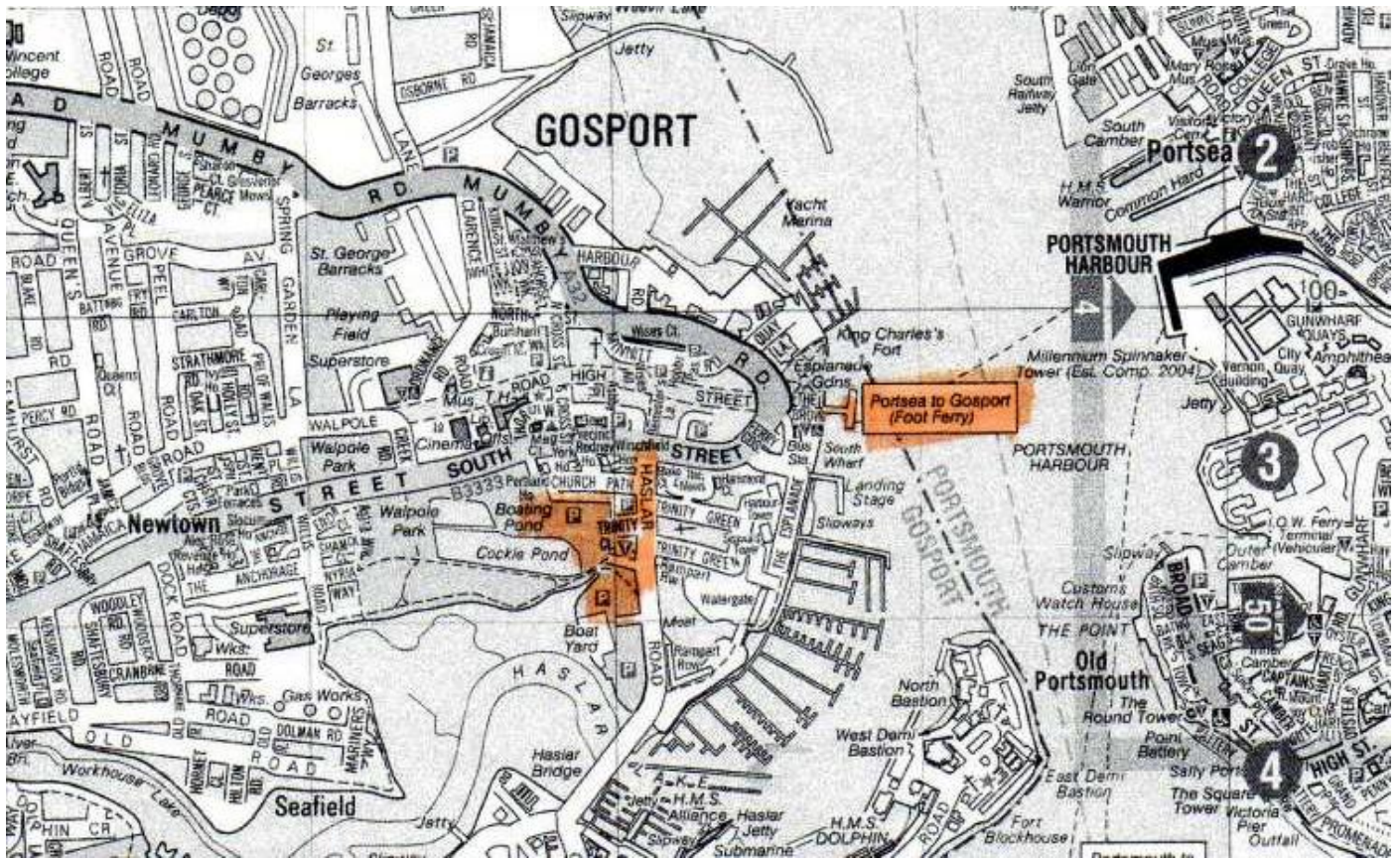
Summer Boat Trip

This cruise will be taking place on 19th July. It commences at 11.30am. Will everyone meet at the top of the pontoon by 11.15am. Please remember that long stay parking is some distance away (off Haslar Road) so allow 10-15 minutes to walk from the car park to the pontoon. The cost for 5 hours + is £4. The trip is

scheduled to end at 4.30pm.

Any questions or further information can be had from me before the day by phone on 02380 406951 or email at maureen.greenham@talktalk.net

Maureen Greenham



Itchen Navigation Walks Pack

As well as having good public access all the way along it, the Itchen Navigation links in with other paths around Winchester, Eastleigh and Southampton. We have identified six circular walks which use part of the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail and other paths in the surrounding countryside.

The six circular walks which are between 2 and 6 miles in length will be promoted in a circular walks leaflet pack which will be available later this summer.

These walks are perfect if you want a shorter walk than the whole 10.5 mile Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail route. The circular walks



Walkers in Riverside Park by Dennis Bright

leaflet will include maps, directions and highlights for each walk. On the ground there will also be small discs to point you in the right direction along the route. The leaflet pack is free and will be downloadable from our website as well as being available in local outlets.

To celebrate the launch of the circular walk leaflet pack we will be running a week of guided walks along the new routes from 7th - 13th August. To book a place on one of the guided walks shown in the table below, please contact Polly Whyte by emailing PollyW@hwt.org.uk or call 01489 774400.

*Itchen Navigation News: Issue 19
June 2011*

Date	Walk name	Locality	Distance	Time
Sun 7 Aug 2011	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail	Southampton to Winchester	11mi	10am - 4pm
Mon 8 Aug 2011	Otter Trail	Otterbourne	3.5mi	2pm - 5pm
Tue 9 Aug 2011	Bargeman's Way	Mansbridge	2mi	10.30am - 12noon
Wed 10 Aug 2011	Mills and Meadows	Winchester	3mi	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Thu 11 Aug 2011	Kingfisher Trail	Twyford	6mi	2pm - 6pm
Fri 12 Aug 2011	Valley of Fields	Compton	6mi	9.30am - 1.30pm
Sat 13 Aug 2011	Water Vole Way	Bishopstoke	3.5mi	10am - 1pm

Itchen Navigation Project Progress

A new stone barge seat designed by artist, Abigail Downer, has been installed on the Itchen Navigation near Winchester to give walkers a place to stop and rest and to give a reminder of the history of the special river. The three-metre long barge seat, named 'The Pausing Place' is carved from Portland stone and engraved with the names of bargemen who worked on the Itchen Navigation between 1710 and 1869. The bargemen were exempted from fighting in the Napoleonic wars by the Bishop of Winchester, because their work transporting cargoes of goods was so important at the time. The barge seat can be found at the bottom of St. Catherine's Hill, a short walk downstream from Garnier Road in Winchester.

The project team are currently planning the final sets of engineering works on the Itchen Navigation. We hope to undertake footpath improvements in the Withymead area (north of Bishopstoke) later this summer and habitat improvements near the Malms (south of Shawford) in the Autumn.

Itchen Navigation News: Issue 19 June 2011



The Pausing Place by Dennis Bright

Friends of the Itchen Navigation

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, as part of the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project, are setting up a 'Friends of the Itchen Navigation' group to help keep an eye out for problems and carry out basic tasks on the Navigation, such as scrub clearance and litter picks. If you would like to find out

more about the group, please contact Polly Whyte at Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hampshire SO32 2DP telephone 01489 774400 fax 01489 774401 or email PollyW@hwt.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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

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Society Website:

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

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Meetings:

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

Heritage Open Days 2011

Heritage Open Days 2011 will be 8-11 September

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee. Heritage Open Days also includes tours, events and activities that focus on local architecture and culture.

Organised by volunteers - usually property owners or managers - for local people, Heritage Open Days is England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event. Last year the event attracted around 1 million visitors. English Heritage gives central co-ordination and a national voice to the event.

Heritage Open Days provides visitors with a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy these sometimes hidden, often curious and always interesting places in English cities, towns and villages - and completely free of charge.

Civic society members, property owners, estate managers, visitors, conservation officers, company directors, parishioners, tourism managers, education officers - people from all walks of life who care about and take pride in the environment they live in make Heritage Open Days happen. We would like to bring people and places together, encourage you and thousands of others to explore the buildings on your doorstep and to become an active member of the community.

Follies, contemporary buildings, churches, factories, tunnels, temples, offices, private homes, industrial sites, castles, windmills,

town halls - guided walks, concerts, re-enactment, trails, role-plays, children's activities - the variety of places and ways to discover them are endless.

Heritage Open Days was established in 1994 as England's contribution to European Heritage Days, in which 49 countries now participate. In the UK, four other schemes open up places in September: Open House London, Doors Open Days in Scotland, Open Doors Days in Wales and European Heritage Days in Northern Ireland.

Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive, English Heritage, says: "Heritage Open Days this year is set to be even bigger than last year, so even if you are a regular Heritage Open Days-goer there will be something new for you to see and do. This is a chance to explore not just country houses but the history and culture of everything from Buddhist temples and Masonic lodges to mines, farms, pubs and factories.

"Heritage Open Days is about people and places; it celebrates community and reflects the importance of the built environment in our lives and to our quality of life. It is organised by local people who dedicate their spare time to opening properties and staging activities, and it is their knowledge and enthusiasm that makes Heritage Open Days happen."

Several waterway related events are listed in the Waterways Diary on pages 2 and 3. A directory of all Open Days is due to appear on the www.heritageopendays.org.uk website in mid-July.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Dogs get swimming access on Itchen Navigation

Dedicated access points for dogs have been installed on the Itchen Navigation to help prevent disturbance to wildlife along the waterway.

Dogs getting in and out of the water have trampled vegetation, eroded the bank and disturbed wildlife, says the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. It has put in three "dog dips" along a 10.5 mile section.

The swimming points have been installed in Shawford and near Allbrook. The trust is asking dog owners to encourage their pets to use the access steps into the water.

Ali Morse, Itchen Navigation project manager for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, said: "We hope the dog dips will reduce bank erosion and make the Navigation an even better place



for wildlife."

The Itchen Navigation was created in 1665 as a waterway that commercial barges could pass through.

It is a noted area for wildlife, including water vole, otter, salmon and kingfisher. The trust is leading a five year project to improve the wildlife along the Itchen Navigation between

Winchester and Southampton.

The Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The project has recently reached the semi-finals of the National Lottery Awards.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-13737071