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Chairman's Column

July Meeting 2017

This evening we extend a very warm welcome to all Southampton Canal Members to their 50th Annual Meeting. Details and the Agenda are included in this newsletter.

Please if possible print off a copy and bring along to the meeting. Please do feel free to raise any questions or other concerns at the AGM.

And finally, enjoy the cheese and wine it finishes off the evening.

We have acquired two more boxes of waterways books they will be laid out for your perusal, any reasonable offers will be accepted.

SCS Polo Shirts 2017

We have contacted the Company who sorted out our 40th clothing items. They still have the set up disc and would be pleased to supply our 50th requirements.

We will bring along our 40th Polos this evening with a print out of other colours and sizes.

Please also see item below from Aelred.

August Meeting

As usual, there will be no meeting in August.

September Meeting

On 7th September, Society member Gordon Osborn will be talking about family cruising in Ireland.

October Meeting

On 5th October we will have a talk by Cheryl Butler on "Itchen Village, Itchen Ferry and the Diaper Family."

November Meeting

Day-Star Theatre have just been booked to give their latest show called "The Last Run" on 2nd November. More details to follow.

June Newsletter

Finally, on behalf of all our members we send a big thank you to Peter Oates, founder members Annegret and Brian Evans, daughter Annemarie based in Hong Kong, David and Margaret Kessler-Lyne and Eric and Sue Lewis for the excellent "Memories" which made our June 50th Anniversary Newsletter so special.

Thank you to all our Members for your continued support.

Alan Rose

Celebrating Fifty Years

On the Thirtieth and Fortieth Anniversaries of the Society we ordered commemorative clothing, a polo shirt, sweatshirt or fleece jacket with the Society logo and the occasion. If anyone is interested could they please place an order with me or Angela. Please specify: garment type, size, colour and any other wording (name of boat, etc). Depending on the numbers we will get a price and a delivery date.

*Aelred Derbyshire
Hon Membership Secretary*

Walkers raise £10,000

PEOPLE strolling in the countryside and visiting historic locations have raised around £10,000 to help bring a 19th century waterway back to life. Their enjoyable expedition supported the Wey & Arun Canal Trust (WACT), which is carrying out a number of restoration projects. The money was amassed by 150 people who took part in the charity's annual fundraising walk, the Poddle, at the beginning of June.

"We are delighted with the money raised for the canal restoration fund," said walk organiser Margaret Darvill. "With Gift Aid added, the final proceeds from the Poddle will be about £10,000.



"The trust is really grateful to the people who sponsored our walkers and our thanks go to all those who completed the Poddle and to those who helped with the organisation and on the day."

The Poddle supports the restoration of 'London's Lost Route to the Sea', a 23-mile waterway which ran from the River Arun at Pallingham in West Sussex to the River Wey at Shalford in Surrey. This year's walkers followed a 12-mile route around the Arun Valley, starting and finishing at Ingfield Manor School at Five Oaks, north of Billingshurst, with lunch at Wisborough Green Scout Hut.

(Continued on page 12)

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	Venue	Contact
Thu 6 Jul 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	SCS's Fiftieth Annual General Meeting. The formal business will be followed by cheese, wine and a natter.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 8 Jul 2017	Wey & Arun CT and National Trust	"Dashwood Day" - Celebrating the 150th anniversary of JB Dashwood's adventurous journey up the River Wey to the Wey & Arun Canal towards the Solent. The trip is open to small boats, cyclists and walkers. Please register on website.	Meet at 9.30am at Thames Lock, Weybridge, KT13 8LG (TQ072655). Finishes at Guns Mouth at junction of River Wey and Wey & Arun Canal, GU4 8EH (SU997464).	Details and registration on web: www.weyarun.org.uk/dashwood
Tue 11 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End Tickets: £13 (£11 Concs.). Indoor show. 50% of ticket sales for this event goes directly to RNLI.	RNLI Selsey Lifeboat Station, Kingsway, Selsey, PO20 0DL (SZ862926).	Tel: 01484 843701 Web: www.selseyboats.org.uk or mikron.org.uk
Wed 12 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Outdoor show with a shelter backup in case of bad weather.	YHA New Forest, Cott Lane, Burley, BH24 4BB (SU221028).	Tel: 01425 403233 Web: www.yha.org.uk/hostel/new-forest or mikron.org.uk
Thu 13 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End Tickets: £13 (£11 Concs.). Food and bar available. Indoor show. 50% of ticket sales for this event goes directly to RNLI.	The RNLI College, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1HZ (SZ008908).	Tel: 01484 843701 Web: www.pooleboats.org.uk or mikron.org.uk
Fri 14 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. Tickets £12. Tickets via contact. Bar available. Outdoor Show with shelter.	Bourne End WI, Spade Oak Farm, Bourne End, SL8 5PS (SU884876).	Tel: 01628 531521 / 07860 405000 Email: bourneendwi@yahoo.com Web: mikron.org.uk
Sat 15 Jul 2017 10.30am-4.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Bradford on Avon Canal Fete. Music, children's activities, short boat trips, ice creams, BBQ, children's crafts, beer, canal art, face painting, craft stalls – and much more. And the area will be dressed with Yarn Bombing.	Bradford Lock, Frome Road, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LT (ST825602).	Web: katrust.org.uk/events/
Sat 15 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection taken after show. Food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show with shelter in case of bad weather. Bar and food served from 5.30pm.	The Teapot Tearooms, Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7QJ (SU308871).	Tel: 07800637917 or 01367 820260 Email: rdewilton@yahoo.com Web: www.facebook.com/TheTeapotTearoomandgarden or mikron.org.uk
Sun 16 Jul 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Brassknocker to Freshford Mills.	Brassknocker Canal Centre, Brassknocker Basin, Bath BA2 7JD (ST781621).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 16 Jul 2017 1.00pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. Tickets: £13 (concs £11). BBQ, soft drinks and tea and cake stall. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	Minal Cricket Pavillion, Mildenhall, Nr Marlborough, SN8 2LR (SU213697).	Tel: 01672 516408 Web: mikron.org.uk
Tue 18 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar and food available. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	The Bounty, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5RG (SU888869). By the River Thames - see pub's website re access.	Tel: 01628 520056 Web: www.thebountypub.com or mikron.org.uk
Wed 19 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show with indoor backup. Gates open from 6pm for picnics.	Eyot Centre, Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3JD (SU766823).	Tel: 01491 578658 Email: davemcewen@btinternet.com Web: mikron.org.uk
Thu 20 Jul 2017 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules & BBQ.	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
Sat 22 Jul 2017 1.00pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Refreshments available. Gates open from 12pm for picnics. Outdoor show with shelter. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets.	Bear Flat, Bloomfield Road Allotments, Bath, BA2 2AB (ST745637).	Tel: 07867 532512 Web: www.banesallotments.org.uk or mikron.org.uk
Sun 23 Jul 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival. Display of boats; in the Park will be stalls, activities, and entertainment for all the family with the theme of "Beatlemania" this year. Festival entry: free. Boats: start arriving on Fri 21st - see website for further info.	Victoria Park, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU473672).	Julie Dean: 07795 116221 Email: juliedean@btinternet.com Web: katrust.org.uk/events/
Tue 25 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH (SU572664).	Tel: 0118 971 2213 Web: www.brunningandprice.co.uk/rowbarge or mikron.org.uk
Wed 26 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar, food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	The Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Road, Lechlade On Thames, GL7 3HA (SU223990).	The Trout Inn: 01367 252313 Web: www.thetroutinn.com or mikron.org.uk
Thu 27 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH (SU572664).	Tel: 0118 971 2213 Web: www.brunningandprice.co.uk/rowbarge or mikron.org.uk

Waterways Events

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Tue 25 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH (SU572664).	Tel: 0118 971 2213 Web: www.brunningandprice.co.uk/rowbarge or mikron.org.uk
Wed 26 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar, food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	The Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Road, Lechlade On Thames, GL7 3HA (SU223990).	The Trout Inn: 01367 252313 Web: www.thetroutinn.com or mikron.org.uk
Thu 27 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH (SU572664).	Tel: 0118 971 2213 Web: www.brunningandprice.co.uk/rowbarge or mikron.org.uk
Sat-Sun 29-30 Jul 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 29 Jul 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring chairs, blankets and picnic. Outdoor show with shelter and indoor backup. Raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.	The Riverside Tea Garden @ Sonning Lock, Reading, RG4 6UR (SU755757). Please park in village and walk to lock. Gates open from 6pm.	Tel: 07710 224008 Web: mikron.org.uk
Sat 29 Jul 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sun 30 Jul 2017 3.00pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Outdoor show. We'll perform under the bridge if its wet!	Goring Lock, Goring, RG8 9AE (SU596809).	Tel: 01484 843701 Web: mikron.org.uk
Tue 1 Aug 2017 3.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. Tickets £12.50 (£8 Child Ticket Concs.) must be booked in advance from Sue 01491 835631. Bistro menu available at extra cost on the day (no need to book). Refreshments, beer and food available. Outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916).	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Tue 1 Aug 2017 8.00pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. Tickets £12.50 (£8 Child Ticket Concs.) must be booked in advance from Sue 01491 835631. Bistro menu available at extra cost on the night (no need to book). Refreshments, beer and food available. Outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916).	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Wed 2 Aug 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Beer and food available. Outdoor show. Bring chairs and blankets.	The Plough, High Street, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QH (SU545937).	Tel: 01865 407738 Web: mikron.org.uk
Thu 3 Aug 2017	Southampton CS	There will be NO August meeting as the hall is closed for maintenance.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat-Mon 26-28 Aug 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 26 Aug 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Fri 1 Sep 2017 6.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Carnival on the Canal. Devizes branch annual open evening of music and dancing beside the canal, contributing to Devizes Carnival. With food and drink and canal related craft stalls and demonstrations.	Devizes Wharf, Couch Lane, Devizes, SN10 1EB (SU003617).	K&A Trust Office: 01380 721279 Web: katrust.org.uk/events/
Thu 7 Sep 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Family cruising in Ireland with Society member Gordon Osborn.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 9 Sep 2017 11.00am-3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Guildford's Treadwheel Crane. Heritage open day. Come and join volunteers from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust at the Town Wharf in Guildford (opposite the White House pub and St Nicolas church - also, Church tower open during the morning for visits to the top and bell chamber) and see the Guildford Treadwheel Crane.	Town Wharf, Millbrook, Guildford, GU1 3DL (SU994494).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events23
Sat 9 Sep 2017 2.15pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Guided circular walk. Heritage open day. Visit Whitley Rail Bridge and Josias Jessop's canal swingbridge, Shamley Green, and join us on the Wey & Arun Canal Trust's new Callcott Reilly walk trail. Free of charge (donations to WACT welcome). Please pre-book online, by email or phone by 8 Sep 2017.	Church car park, Church Hill, Shamley Green, Guildford GU5 0UD (TQ032434).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events22

Whilst the listing shown on pages 2 & 3 above is complete, a fuller list containing events later in the year can be found on the [Society's website](#).

Memories - Part 2



To mark the Southampton Canal Society's 50th anniversary, Annemarie Evans, daughter of our President and a journalist/broadcaster based in Hong Kong, has been chatting to some members but would like to talk to more. If you'd like to share some memories and anecdotes, please email Annemarie at: hkhradio3@gmail.com and she'll give you a phone call.

He was chairman of the Southampton Canal Society for nine years. But Paul Herbert admits that when he and Gill lived and worked in the Midlands, surrounded by the inland waterways system, the sum total of their contact with canals was a picnic at Foxton Locks and later a work boat trip from Stoke Bruerne.

But in the years since then, the Herberts have volunteered in a variety of jobs within the society and introduced the joy of narrow boats to a generation of schoolchildren.

"When we moved to Camberley in Surrey we regularly walked various parts of the then derelict Basingstoke Canal and later witnessed the early stages of its restoration," says Paul.

Paul and Gill went on to join the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society (now known as the Basingstoke Canal Society), which recently marked its 50th anniversary. When the Herberts enter into something, they do it for quite a while – when asked on how many years they had been members of the two canal societies – "oh, donkey's years", says Paul, as is membership of the IWA.

While living in Camberley, Paul worked for Frimley and Camberley Urban District Council, which became Surrey Heath Borough Council, where he was officially involved with various restoration and funding issues for canals on behalf of the authority and was an early member of the Canal Management Committee, though still not involved in any active boating.

Then, in the 1970s, their son was invited by a school friend's family to go on a canal holiday with them from Nantwich, in Cheshire. Shortly afterwards the Herberts had their first canal boat holiday with Salter Bros on the River Thames and Oxford Canal.

Gill's career in teaching facilitated more holidays on half terms and the Herberts hired narrow boats on holidays for the next decade, before deciding to buy their own, a 50ft narrow boat, called the Evelyn Broadbent, named by the previous owner, so the Herberts decided to carry on with the name.

"We had cats for donkey's years," says Paul, "and all our cats travelled with us. We had four different cats, and it was fantastic seeing them on board."

In 1995, Paul became vice chairman to Brian Evans, before taking over

from Brian in 2001, until he was succeeded by Alan Rose in 2010. Gill has also served the society as treasurer, membership secretary and on the refreshments team. While Paul's career was in leisure and entertainment at local government level, Gill's career was in teaching. She gradually worked her way up at various schools in Surrey and Hampshire before becoming a head teacher at Calmore Middle School.

One of the outdoor programmes at the school was "Adventure Afloat", where the top year group would be taken along with teachers and parent volunteers for several days on the canals. When Gill was being interviewed for the job, she mentioned that she was "heavily into canals", which delighted the school governors, staff and parents and she was put in charge of the annual trip. The week-long educational trip involved about six or seven camping boats based at Union Canal Carriers (UCC) at Braunston, which then always followed the same route to Fenny Stratford. The trips continued until Gill retired in 2003.

"These were 70-footers," says Paul. Once retired, Paul also became a steerer, as did Ray Brooks from the Southampton Canal Society, along with Sue and Eric Lewis and their late son, Peter, school staff, parents and professional skippers from UCC.

It was a huge undertaking. "There would be 60 to 70 children, plus all the parents," says Paul. "Eric would take his own boat and mop up any extras. It would start from Braunston, down the Grand Union to Stoke Bruerne, to Fenny Stratford. We would go to the sports centre so the children could have a swim. Then we would water up the boats ready for the return journey. We would go up on a Saturday morning and then come back to Braunston on a Friday lunchtime. Peter was about 20 at the time, but he had been brought up on the canals."

It was a major undertaking. All the food had to come on board, as it would have been impossible just to nip off to the supermarket en route for that number of people. "All that packing," recalls Paul. "Great big cartons of baked beans, potatoes and cheese. All the food was brought on trolleys" to be put on the boats.

Both Paul and Gill's jobs were high-pressured, so the canals were a place to relax and enjoy the wildlife and countryside. "At the end of the first week you could actually see that the tension had gone," says Paul.

While life is a little less stressful these days, Paul says: "There are times, lots of times, when Gill and I are moored up, when it's really fantastic. We love seeing the wildlife and the wild flowers." But they also enjoy the industrial architecture of the towns."

The waterways still have a future, says Paul, though they will always need money spent on them, which can be challenging at a local government level, when money also needs to be spent on other

(Continued on page 10)



Above: Basingstoke Canal near Ash Wharf in 1976 after an SCS working party. Below: Paul and Gill with the "Evelyn Broadbent."



A Grand Day Out

To celebrate our Society's 50th year, forty-four members, family and friends made their way to Odiham via various routes. Arriving in good time some of us had a lunch time meal or snack at the Waterwitch Pub.

We all then congregated at Odiham Wharf and embarked on the "John Pinkerton II" for the 2.30pm cruise to the 13th century King John's Castle.

We had an excellent crew looking after us with refreshments but to "Top it All" Pam and Keith McKeown treated us to a whole selection of wonderful homemade "Cup Cakes." These were delicious and much appreciated by all. Thank you.

A local guide Derek Spruce joined us on board and talked us through the canal history while we cruised along to the castle. Once there, many of the passengers went ashore and explored the ruins by following the information boards and taking in Derek's

endless knowledge.

Some stayed on board as the boat winded further up steam.

A perfect summer's day on the cut, ducks, swan's with cygnets, butterflies and plenty of fish a swimming with the bank sides full of wild flowers.

Then it was time to disembark, take the usual group photographs and say goodbye to the crew. Thank you to Aelred and Alan for organising the day. Thank you to the generous member who covered the cost of our special day. Finally thank you all for supporting our Society as we enter our fifty-first year.

Angela Rose



Top right: Celebrating the 50th on "John Pinkerton II"

Above: General view of the interior of "John Pinkerton II"

Right: View of the trip's destination.

Bottom right: Pam & Keith McKeown and the wonderful cup cakes

Below: Our oldest member, Eva Drinkwater, enjoyed the trip.

Images © Alan Rose 2017



China puts Nicaraguan Canal plan on hold

IN the November 2014 Newsletter, the [proposal to build a new canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans](#) was reported. The article below from *The Times* gives further news.

It was billed as the biggest earth-moving operation in history: the creation of a 170-mile canal across Nicaragua, linking the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

The Grand Inter-oceanic Canal (commonly known as the Nicaraguan Canal) would have been more than twice the length of the Panama Canal, and wide enough for the new generation of 400,000 tonne container ships.

Now, it appears that the £40 billion project is on hold amid rumours that it has been shelved because of China's improved relations with Panama.

Construction had been due to start this year, but residents along the planned route have reported no signs of any activity. ProNicaragua, the Nicaraguan government's investment agency, made no mention of the project in its 2017-2021 plan, and President Daniel Ortega, once an enthusiastic proponent of the scheme, has made no statement on it for months.

The proposed canal construction was approved by the Nicaraguan assembly in June 2013. A company owned by Wang Jing, a Chinese telecoms tycoon, was given an extendable 50-year concession to

finance and manage the project. The government in Managua said that the canal would transform the economy and provide an efficient link between China and the Americas.

"Since the project was approved, not a single part has been built," said Carlos Fernando Chamorro, editor of *Confidencial*. "Not a single piece of land has been expropriated on the canal route."

One possible reason for the plan being abandoned is that Mr Wang is understood to have lost a fortune in the June 2015 Chinese stock market crash. Another is that he is acting on behalf of the Chinese government — although he has denied this.

Earlier this month, China and Panama announced new diplomatic relations and that Panama would sever all ties with Taiwan. Supporting a rival to the Panama canal would seem counter-productive. China is its second biggest customer after the United States.

Environmentalists will be relieved. The new canal's proposed route was through Lake Nicaragua, the biggest freshwater reserve in Central America. It was feared an artificial link between the lake and the sea would pollute water and fisheries for millions.

The Times, 19 June 2017



Wildlife at risk from dwindling rivers, says WWF

Kingfishers, water vole, trout and other wildlife populations are under threat because water companies and farmers are draining dozens of rivers.

Too much is being taken from 550 bodies of water in England and Wales, an analysis shows, including some of the finest chalk streams where flow has been reduced to a trickle.



Above: River Itchen; Below left: Southern Damselfly; Below right: Kingfisher

The problem has become acute because Britain has experienced its driest winter and early spring for more than 20 years, the WWF says. The charity accuses water companies of seeking cheap sources of clean water, extracting it from rivers rather than investing in treatment systems and fixing leaks.

Environment Agency figures reveal that 42 per cent of England's chalk streams are below their environmental limit, meaning wildlife is threatened.

Chalk streams have naturally filtered water from springs and are havens for kingfishers, otters, and rare species such as the southern damselfly.

The Itchen in Hampshire is being harmed by over-abstraction by Southern Water, the WWF said. Bevern stream, a tributary of the Ouse in Sussex, was deep enough to swim in 20 years ago but can now be walked across all year round.



Peter King, project officer for the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust, said abstraction by farmers and landowners had increased in the past five years. "Those who visit for canoeing, wildlife and fishing are not visiting anymore. Angling clubs have seen a 50 per cent decline in memberships. We have also seen a strong decrease in pike and carp."

Water voles are particularly threatened by low rivers because they are more vulnerable to predators. Their numbers have declined by 90 per cent since the 1970s.

Most abstraction rights date back to the 1963 Water Act, which gave no regard to the environment. A white paper in 2011, *Water for Life*, promised new legislation for England and Wales. However, in April the government said there would be an indefinite delay in introducing a water bill, citing time limitations owing to Brexit.

Four out of five people believe wildlife has as much right to water as people, according to a survey commissioned by the WWF. More than two thirds said the government should restrict the water taken from rivers.

The WWF said Ofwat should require water companies to develop "smarter tariffs", charging households more during droughts to encourage water saving. However, only half of homes have water meters and most of those cannot handle variable charging.

The Times, 24 June 2017



Surprise donation to Crofton fund

CROFTON's fundraising efforts received a huge boost when an American visitor presented them with a £7500 donation.

Bill Tandler, founder and CEO of Multi Metrics Inc CA, visited Crofton in May and was so impressed by the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the care with which the beam engines are maintained that he decided to offer this boost to fundraising.

He said "May Crofton continue to be a jewel in the crown of steam in England and the world, and may I be fortunate enough to come to see it again." This donation highlights the significance of Crofton as part of the industrial heritage of the UK demonstrates the international attraction we enjoy.

Crofton is presently working towards a grant from the Heritage Lottery fund and has submitted a proposal for a wide range of work to both

preserve the industrial heritage of the grade 1 listed site and expand the visitor experience.

As part of this proposal the Crofton branch of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust has to raise a significant amount of match funding to release the grants from the Heritage Lottery fund.

Crofton chairman Peter Turvey commented: "We have made great progress towards this goal but still have to find £55,000 before September. Bill's generous donation is a significant help towards this goal."

Readers can visit <http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/> and read about 'Our Crofton Story'.

[Towpath Telegraph](#) 26 June 2017

Kennet & Avon Canal ready for summer boaters

CRT have recently completed a major project that will make it easier for boat owners and holidaying tourists to visit Wiltshire's Kennet & Avon Canal this summer.

Over the past six months, they have been dredging the canal and have removed 17,000 tonnes of silt – the equivalent of 38 Boeing 747 planes.

The dredging between Pewsey and Wootton Rivers makes the canal deeper and therefore easier for boats to enjoy the 200-year old manmade waterway.

And Wiltshire's farmers benefited from our work as the nutrient-rich

silt removed from the canal was spread on adjacent fields. This saved hundreds of road miles by avoiding lorries taking the dredgings to a tip.

Paul Fox, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "It has been great working on the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal. The waterway is such a wonderful resource and the work the Canal & River Trust does is really important as it ensures the canal is here for local people to enjoy as well as all the tourists who flock to the Kennet & Avon Canal each summer and support local shops and restaurants."

[Canal & River Trust](#) 14 June 2017

Transformation of derelict east London waterways complete

CRT are welcoming boaters back to the Bow Back Rivers that run through East London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, after a 10-year transformation project that has turned the derelict, virtually unnavigable waterways into a major new route for the capital.

It follows investment of over £60 million as part of the wider regeneration of the area in the lead up to and following the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Exploring the capital's canals and rivers

Jon Guest, Canal & River Trust's London waterway manager, said: "The transformation of the area has been incredible. Those with long memories will remember that the rivers in this part of the east end were all but unnavigable, subject to the tides and full of fly-tipped fridges, cars and tyres. I'm over the moon to see the changes and I'm excited for everyone who will get to explore them, at a time when the capital's canals and rivers are arguably more popular than any time in history."

The three and a bit miles of rivers in the Park were once used by local industries but the drop in canal freight after the Second World War, together with a build-up of silt, saw them decline until they were largely closed in the 1960s. The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games offered the opportunity to unlock the true commercial and leisure potential of the Bow Back Rivers. Now the waterways will be once again open to boaters and other people who want to get on the water and enjoy the Capital's newest cruising route.

Paul Brickell, London Legacy Development Corporation, said: "The waterways of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park have a fantastic industrial heritage. We have worked hard for many years to open up the waterways so more people can use them, and are proud to welcome leisure boats into the Park to complement the commercial activity we have already introduced.

"We've got lots coming up this summer, as we celebrate the restoration of Carpenters Road Lock and look forward to hosting our first East London Waterways Festival at the end of the August. See you there!"

This summer the Loop of waterways around the London Stadium, which includes the Old River Lea, City Mill River and St Thomas Creek, will open to public navigation for cruising without the need for prior booking.

Closures will occur from time to time as part of the security requirements for high profile events in the Park. Boaters will be notified in advance of any closures via the Trust's stoppage notifications and notices on site.

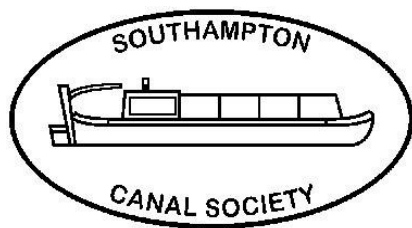
Short stay visitor moorings

CRT are also planning to create a 100-metre stretch of short stay visitor moorings on a currently unmoorable length of towpath on the Lee Navigation near the Hertford Union Canal. As boaters may be journeying from far afield to visit the Park some of the new moorings will be pre-bookable to guarantee travellers a place to pull up. Boaters will be able to reserve a spot at the pre-bookable moorings for up to seven days at a cost of £10 per night with the other spots free for up to two days stay. These moorings will be available by the end of the year. There will be no mooring within the Park itself.

Jon Guest adds: "Boaters from across the country have been looking forward to cruising these rejuvenated waterways and we want to make the experience as smooth and pleasant for them as possible. The new visitor moorings will be a valuable addition to a busy area and will ensure boaters have somewhere to end, and start, their journeys."

From autumn Waterworks River and Three Mills Wall River, which runs adjacent to the loop, will be opened to navigation via the soon to be completed Carpenters Road Lock. The Lock is being restored as part of a £1.8million project, part funded by the Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund and London Legacy Development Corporation. A booking system will be trialled over the summer with full launch after the East London Waterways Festival on Monday 28 August.

[Canal & River Trust](#), 15 June 2017



SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton

Thursday 6 July 2017 at 7.45 pm

AGENDA

1. Announcements.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting held on 7 July 2016 (herewith) and matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report (herewith).
5. Secretary's Report (herewith).
6. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report (herewith). (Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2017).
7. Future of the Society (see page 8).
8. Review of Annual Subscription Rates.
9. Election of the following Officers:-
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer & Membership Secretary
 - Election of Committee (the Officers plus up to three other Society Members. Additional Members may be co-opted as required).
10. Any other business relevant to an Annual General Meeting, where prior notice of the item has been given.

Note: In accordance with the Society's Constitution, only fully paid up members are eligible to vote at a meeting of the Society. Individual members and affiliated member organisations are entitled to one vote. Joint or family membership entitles that category to a maximum of two votes. Only members aged 18 or over are eligible to vote. All votes have to be cast in person, no proxy votes being permitted.

SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 7 JULY 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. CHAIRMAN

The Annual General Meeting was chaired by Alan Rose, Chairman of Southampton Canal Society.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from:-

David Dalton
Ron & Myra Glover
Ann Phippard

3. ATTENDANCE

A register was circulated and 18 members recorded their attendance. The attendance register forms part of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

4. MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting held on 2 July 2015 had been provided to all members.

On being put to the vote, the minutes were accepted by the members present. There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report for 2015/16 had been printed in the July Newsletter. The report was taken as read with Alan Rose highlighting some of the points. In particular he thanked his fellow Committee members and all those other members who regularly helped or supported Society events.

Alan reminded members that in 2017 the Society would be celebrating its 50th Anniversary and the Committee would be considering ways of marking that important occasion.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

There were no questions.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report for 2015/16 had been printed in the July Newsletter and the report was taken as read and Angela Rose briefly spoke to that report, highlighting a number of issues. She expressed her thanks to the Chairman for leading the Society through another successful year and the Committee and members for their continued support during the year.

There were no questions.

7. TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report for 2015/16 and the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, including the balance sheet, had been printed in the July Newsletter. Aelred Derbyshire expressed his thanks to Laura Sturrock for her prompt examination of the accounts.

He advised that the Society continued to 'hold its own' and referred to the notes on the accounts and explained some variations.

There were no questions on the report.

It was **proposed** by Annegret Evans and **seconded** by Gill Herbert that the Treasurer & Membership Secretary's report be approved and the accounts for 2015/16 be adopted and that was approved by the members present.

8. REVIEW OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Treasurer & Membership Secretary advised that the Committee had reviewed the Society's membership subscription rates and was recommending that the rates remain unchanged in respect of the membership year commencing 1 April 2017.

Following discussion it was **proposed** by Gordon Osborn and **seconded** by Terry Phippard that the Committee's recommendation be adopted and, upon being put to a vote, that proposal was approved.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

That part of the Annual General Meeting was chaired by the President, Brian Evans.

The President reminded members that all officer and committee posts were up for annual election. All the present officers and committee members were willing to stand again and there had been no other nominations either prior to or at the meeting.

The Chairman had already briefed the AGM on the current medical condition of David Townley-Jones and it was agreed that, whilst he would not be able to attend meetings for some time, he should remain on the Committee if re-elected.

It was **proposed** by Gill Herbert and **seconded** by Brenda Pomeroy that the current officers and committee be re-elected en-bloc (as below) and this was approved unanimously:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Chairman	Alan Rose
Vice-Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Angela Rose
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Aelred Derbyshire
Other Committee Members	David Townley Jones
	Sue Derbyshire
	Gordon Osborn

It was further agreed that Laura Sturrock be re-appointed the Society's Auditor/Examiner and Peter Oates the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

Gill Herbert thanked the Committee for all its hard work and those sentiments were endorsed by the President.

10. DISPOSAL OF SOCIETY LIBRARY

Aelred Derbyshire reminded members that the Society Library had previously been managed by the late Alan Howarth. With his passing nobody had come forward to take over the running of the Library and the considerable stock was currently being stored by Aelred which was taking up valuable space which he needed for his personal use. The meeting discussed future options and it was agreed that, unless a volunteer came forward to run the Library, books etc of little value would be donated to other waterway organisations and those of a perceived higher value should be offered to a commercial book seller. It was further agreed that a list of those books should be published in a future edition of the Society Newsletter to enable members to have the first opportunity to purchase them.

It was **proposed** by Brenda Pomeroy and **seconded** by Julie Callow, that the Committee, at its discretion, be authorised to dispose of the Library, along the lines agreed above, and this was approved by the members present.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gordon Osborn referred to the annual surplus in the Society's Accounts and suggested that a donation(s) from that surplus should be made to other waterways organisations. There ensued a discussion on that suggestion and possible methods of choosing appropriate bodies to which donations could be made. It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Committee for further consideration.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Brian Evans raised the issue of the falling membership of the Society and the low attendances at some meetings, referring to the need for greater marketing of Society events, particularly when a local speaker was involved. However, it was felt that significant local coverage was already given in the local Press and Radio but, nevertheless, this matter would be further discussed by the Committee.

There had been no notice of any other business, relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman's Report 2016-17

I am pleased to present to the Members of the Southampton Canal Society my seventh Chairman's Report.

Fifty years ago, on Thursday 1st June 1967, our Society was officially founded, when Brian Evans was elected as Chairman. We have a lot to be thankful for and the Society has achieved a great deal, in constantly changing times, with many other activities competing for our leisure time.

The Society has enjoyed an interesting programme throughout the year and I wish to thank our President Brian Evans, our members and the Committee for their support. Angela, our Secretary, has arranged a varied selection of speakers.

We started in April 2016 with Colin van Geffen who talked about "The Flying Boats of Southampton." One of the headlines in the Newsletter: "What lurks beneath the waterline?" It costs CRT £1 million each year to clear the dumped rubbish.

June's meeting was a two part talk: "The Claverton Pump and The Burbage Crane," both well-known pieces of machinery on the K&A, detailed by George Eycott and Peter Dunn. One article in the June Newsletter told of three people and two dogs rescued when their hire boat caught on the cill and sank on the K&A.

The August Newsletter ran an article about "The First 25 years of the IWA Salisbury Group" with thanks to the author Tony Fry.

In September, Frank Green, the New Forest National Park archaeologist, presented a very interesting and informative evening about "Industrial Archaeology within the New Forest."

October was spent with Eric & Sue Lewis talking about the "History of the Inland Waterways." Eric has taken and collected many slides over the years of the canal network and with Sue's enthusiasm we were shown many of their trips on hire boats in the 1970's.

November saw Pete and Jane of the Day-Star Theatre perform "What's Good for The Goose?" and they were well received. An article in the Newsletter detailed CRT's announcement about an increase of 2.5% on boat licence fees for 2017.

The highlight of the year was the December "Annual Waterways Quiz" when IWA Salisbury proudly carried off the coveted trophy for the second year running. Thanks to our members and visitors an American Supper finished off the last two evenings.

Early in the New Year, the Members' Photographic evening was well supported. The Newsletter told us about the number of boats used as homes in London soaring. Our New Year Lunch at Keats Restaurant was

another great success.

In February, Chief Engineer Graham Mackenzie explained the interesting history of the largest working steamship in Britain - the "SS Shieldhall."

The March meeting concluded our year with "Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War" by Stephen Fisher from the Maritime Archaeology Trust in Southampton.

It has been encouraging to see perhaps through advertising, a few new faces at our meetings, they are certainly made very welcome by you all. So please, if you are able, encourage your friends and family to come along and join our Society.

My fellow Committee members and myself are always keen to hear your suggestions for speakers and other activities you may think of.

Next, I would like to thank all those whose efforts ensure that the society functions. Starting with the officers: our Secretary Angela and the Treasurer and Membership Secretary Aelred Derbyshire. I should point out that Aelred is a very dedicated and valued member of our Society. Gordon Osborn and Sue Derbyshire have been valuable committee members, helping out with the raffle and running the meetings when I am away. Gordon updates our active "Society Facebook" page.

Our monthly raffle still remains our highest regular income, thank you to all those who regularly donate prizes.

As you know we all miss David Townley-Jones as he slowly recovers from his accident. To lose one of our founder members, Laurie Pearce, at the grand age of 96 in January was sad but we have happy memories and enjoyment of his time within our Society.

Thanks must go to our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, Peter Oates; our Auditor/Examiner, Laura Sturrock; our President Brian Evans and Paul Herbert. These members are always available with help and advice. Brenda Pomeroy and her helpers well deserve our thanks for providing our tea and biscuits each month.

Finally, thanks to all those members that regularly turn up early to our meetings and help set up the hall and put it all away at the end.

We have a good programme of speakers and other events lined up for the future, including Day Star Theatre again in November.

Now it is time to thank all our members for their continued support as we enter our 51st Year.

Alan Rose
Chairman

Memories - Part 2

(Continued from page 4)

projects or when they face financial difficulties.

"There are also many people who say [canalling] is becoming a rich man's hobby," says Paul. "Looking at the boats they're building now, they can be £150,000, which is mind-blowing, with every mod-con that they have at home.

"There have been many changes in the attitudes of some boaters,

particularly in lack of tolerance and more selfish attitudes, however we still find those are exceptions," says Paul. "Most boaters and lovers of the waterways are just that, they appreciate them and love being on them whether on boats or just being beside them. Gill and I still very much enjoy our cruising experiences and look forward to many more years to come."

Annamarie Evans

Southampton Canal Society

Income & Expenditure Account for year ending 31 March 2017

	£	£	£	£	Y/E 2016	£
Income						
Subscriptions						
2015/16					527.00	
2016/17		515.00				
Raffle		378.00			413.00	
Teas		109.04			112.22	
Wine		11.00			7.00	
Sales		69.00			44.00	
Library Fees					14.30	
Donation					27.00	
Daystar		410.00	1,492.04		390.00	1,534.52
Expenditure						
Hall hire		546.00			569.00	
IWA Membership	54.00			54.00		
IWA Insurance	176.00	230.00		175.20	229.20	
Speaker Fees		214.00			205.00	
Gift to Gill					25.00	
Daystar		280.00		250.00		
Donation				20.00	270.00	
Teas					4.80	
Secretary's Expenses		60.00			81.50	
Overpayment		4.00				
Engraving of Trophy			1,334.00		3.00	1,387.50
Excess of Income over Expenditure			158.04			147.02
Deposit Interest			0.19			0.24
			158.23			147.26
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017						
Current Assets						
Bank Deposit account			345.55			345.36
Bank Current account			1,149.85			1,195.81
Cash in hand			4.11			4.11
Prepayment for Jubilee Trip			234.00			
			1,733.51			
Less Uncleared cheques			30.00			
			1,703.51			1,545.28
Reserves						
Brought forward			1,545.28			1,398.02
Surplus for year			158.23			147.26
Carried forward			1,703.51			1,545.28
Report to the members of Southampton Canal Society						
I have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.						
I have no reason to believe that the accounting records have not been properly maintained.						
The accounts agree with the underlying accounting records.						
Laura Sturrock 31 May 2017						

Notes on the Accounts

INCOME

Subscriptions

The difference here is because we have a single subscription in arrears, and I was sent a cheque for £20 for a single subscription; hence the corresponding £4 overpayment in Expenditure.

Raffle

Slightly down this year because we have not had the services of Dave Townley-Jones.

Sales

These are one-off sales of books.

EXPENDITURE

Hall Hire

The meeting in September 2015 was held at the Chilworth Parish Hall. The rental that month was lower, but Chilworth Village Hall asked us to make a (returnable) deposit of £50 for Equipment Usage.

Day-Star

This year their fee was back to normal because it was a new show; we sold more tickets so ended up making much the same.

Jubilee Trip

Because of the certainty that the boat hire fee would be paid, we were able to take advantage of an early payment discount. I have shown this amount as a notional asset in the Balance Sheet. The generous donation was received in April so it will be accounted for fully in the accounts for the next year.

SURPLUS FOR YEAR

This year's surplus is in line with last year.

Aelred Derbyshire

Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Secretary's Report 2016-17

As Secretary, my thanks and appreciation first go out to all our members for their continued support during the year.

Thank you also to our Chairman, Alan Rose, for leading the Society through another year and my fellow committee members: Aelred, Gordon and Sue. As a team I know we are working very well.

Monthly attendances remain generally good. The average over ten months is around 25 people, this includes our guests at the Quiz evening and the Day-Star Theatre held in November.

Our meeting continue to be published in local newspapers, Radio Solent and national waterways publications.

Our Society's aim is to encourage "Newcomers, Boaters and Walkers to enjoy the waterways, to look back at the history,

the ongoing regeneration needed to keep our Canals and Rivers open for all of us to enjoy.

Finally a big thank you to Peter Oates our Newsletter Editor.

In the mean time I trust we all feel that the Society has enjoyed another successful year.

Angela Rose
Secretary

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 in this issue) 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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Aelred Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7DA. Tel: 01794 651350.

Email: aelred41@sky.com

Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 8 Field View, Braunston, Daventry, Northants, NN11 7JS. Tel: 01788 890102.

Email: scs@sotoncs.org.uk

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

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

Future of the Society

The Fiftieth Anniversary is a good time to look back at what the Society has achieved; it is also a good time to look forward as to what the Members want from their Society. The current structure of the Society reflects its past as a campaigning Society. Since it is now less active it raises a number of questions. Your Committee would like to hear the opinions of Members, so we have placed this item in the Agenda before the election of Officers and discussion of Subscription rates because the outcome may affect both those items.

To help shape the discussion, your Committee have come up with a number of alternatives for the future direction of the Society. We would like Members to consider these and suggest others.

1. Status quo. We continue to meet for 10 months of the year, with speakers, as at present.
2. We change the meeting frequency to meet only in the autumn/winter, say from September to March. We currently do not meet in May and August, so this would mean no meeting in April, June and July either. An Annual Outing could be held in this period. The year-end would stay the same but the AGM would be the September meeting. The winter program would be as at present.
3. We change to a less formal structure similar to the Salisbury Group, probably meeting in the autumn/winter as above. Each meeting would need to be financially viable in its own right; the Society would keep no funds, any surplus on the night would be

donated to another waterways charity. This would mean that the meetings would have to move from Chilworth Village Hall as the Society would not have funds to commit in advance for regular hire of the Hall.

4. We merge with another IWA society. This would mean agreeing a meeting location and program with that society and the effective winding up of the Southampton Canal Society.
5. We simply wind up the Society, possibly over a period. At the end any surplus funds would be donated to a charity of the members' choice.

If the Society is to continue, any restructuring should maintain the social aspect. An Annual Outing is one proposal; the role of the Newsletter in spanning any periods when meetings are not held is also important. Other suggestions for social activities would be welcome. All of them would require more input from the members, to organise activities and to contribute to the Newsletter.

There is also the question of the purpose of accumulating and holding financial reserves.

For all of these options members should consider how long they think the status quo could be maintained, bearing in mind that membership numbers are largely static, the membership is aging and the willingness of members to contribute actively to the Society.

The Committee

Walkers raise £10,000

(Continued from page 1)

The route included the canal from Loves Bridge, past Rowner Lock – the site of the first volunteer working party on the canal – to Lordings, where walkers were able to see a unique waterwheel and a restored aqueduct.

WACT is currently putting the finishing touches to its first major restoration scheme in Surrey, the new £700,000 Compasses Bridge at the Alfold entrance to the Dunsfold Park aerodrome and business complex.

The bridge is in the middle of the canal's Summit Level, where around 1¼ miles of waterway are planned to be open to navigation by small boats by the end of this year. This will add to the 3½ miles of fully operational waterway at Loxwood in West Sussex.

A new Gennets Bridge Lock is being constructed north of the current head of navigation on the Surrey-Sussex border and the trust is in the advanced stages of planning the re-creation of the canal from the River Wey at Shalford down to Bramley.

If you would like to support the restoration, donations can be made via the home page of www.weyandarun.co.uk or by sending a cheque made out to the Wey & Arun Canal Trust to Compasses Appeal, WACT Northern Office, Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8EQ. The Trust asks that eligible donors Gift Aid the money they give, which adds 25p from the Government to every £1 – declaration forms available via the website if required.

<https://weyarun.org.uk/drupal/content/> 19 June 2017