



Chairman's Column

June Meeting

This month we are pleased that our own member, Bob Dukes, is returning to 'centre-stage' when he will be telling us about "Silk, Myth & Mystery" - the history of how silk came from China, the start of its production in Europe, the UK and America, industrialisation, etc.

2008 Society Spring Outing

Further to the Society's excellent day out on the Basingstoke Canal and 'The Watercress Line' on Saturday 19 April, the full details of which, including photographs, were published in our last Newsletter, I was delighted to thank Maureen Greenham publicly at our last meeting for making all the arrangements and presented her with a bottle of wine, as a modest token of our appreciation. Maureen is now working on ideas for our next outing.

As a follow-up to that trip on 'The Watercress Line' Dave Yaldron of the Mid-Hants Railway will be coming to speak to us at our September meeting.

2008 Society Boat Gathering

An informal gathering of Society members with boats moored in the Napton area was held over the early May bank holiday weekend. See the item and photographs in this Newsletter.

Purton Barge Graveyard & the IWA Salisbury Group

The narrow bank between the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and the River Severn, to the north of the Severn Railway Bridge, has long been used as a graveyard for old barges, with the aim of protecting the bank from erosion by the strong currents in the river. Paul Barnett, who will be the visiting speaker at our November meeting, leads guided walks explaining the history of the hulks.

River Thames Lock Houses

Following parliamentary lobbying by IWA and other Thames user-groups, an Early Day Motion has been tabled by Ian Taylor MP (Esher and Walton), concerning the proposed sell-off of Lock Houses on the Thames by the Environment Agency. Early Day Motion 1587 states:

"That this House is concerned about the Environment Agency's proposal to dispose by sale or letting of 22 lock-keepers' homes along the Thames; recognises the importance of lock-keepers being resident in homes adjacent to locks to maintain safety on the river; fears for the welfare of the lock-keepers and their families; and calls on the Government to ask the Environment Agency to re-examine its decision so as to protect this unique part of the nation's river heritage and the tradition of lock-keepers living at the site of locks."

IWA is encouraging all waterway supporters to lobby their MPs to support this Early Day Motion. IWA's lobbying for the Environment Agency to change its mind is gathering considerable support in the national media, including a series of letters in The Times and coverage on various radio broadcasts.

In response to this, the Agency has offered assurances

On Sunday 6 July the IWA Salisbury Group has arranged a visit to the site. See item elsewhere in this Newsletter for further information.

For further information on this interesting and historic site just enter 'Purton Hulks' into your Internet browser.

Day-Star Theatre

Tickets for Day-Star Theatre's production of 'Put That Light Out', which will be staged at Chilworth on 2 October, will be available at our July meeting priced at £7.00 each.

Skittles Evenings

Following the previously successful Society Skittles Evenings I am pleased to advise that a further event will be held at the usual venue on Friday 7 November 2008. Please note that date in your diaries and look out for further details in a future Newsletter.

Monthly Raffle

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those members who donate prizes for our monthly raffle. The income from the raffle is one of our main regular income streams and each donated prize means it is one less to buy. Many thanks and please keep up the good work.

July Meeting

Our next meeting, on 3 July, will see a welcome return visit by the renowned wildlife photographer, Dennis Bright. His talk on that occasion will be 'Wild West Wales'. Those members who have been to Dennis's previous illustrated talks will know it is an event not to be missed.

Paul Herbert

that no lockkeepers would be made redundant or homeless as a result of its plans, and that the sales would take place over a five-year period. All 45 locks would continue to be manned on a roster basis, as they are now, providing help to boaters and managing water levels. The Agency also says that it has a positive vision for the future of the river set out in the Thames Waterway Plan, which is agreed with customers, businesses and government in 2005. In the last 3 years it has invested over £15 million improving the Thames as a waterway, and plans to continue this level of investment over the next three years.

IWA remains concerned, however, that the Agency plans to sell-off operational water-side assets that it will never be able to buy back again, and that as a consequence it will find it increasingly hard to retain suitable staff in the area. Furthermore, IWA believes it is exactly the wrong time to sell residential property, and that short-term renting would enable the Agency to retain control over the properties and thus ensure a steady income stream, and the Association therefore strongly disapproves of the Agency's plans.

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May Meeting

Clive Field - "Narrowboats to Norway"

Over the years the majority of our speakers have entertained us with tales of the inland waterways of the UK. Occasionally we have been told about narrow boat journeys around our coasts. We have learned about journeys within Europe's canal and river systems. But to take narrow boats across the channel and all the way to Norway.....!!!

Clive, ably assisted by wife Jilly, told us about the plan to take four narrow boats to Norway during August 2005. First of all, he had to take their boat single-handed from Saul Junction on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal across country to Limehouse Basin in London. The next stage saw the flotilla of four boats, including the working pair 'Aldgate' & 'Angel' making their way, breasted up, down a very choppy tideway where they locked up into Tilbury Docks (in which jelly fish apparently thrive!) for the next part of their journey to Sweden.

In Tilbury Docks the boats were craned out and on to low 'dollies' which were then loaded onto the ferry for its 36 hour crossing to Sweden. Fortunately, after the rough Thames passage the crossing was smooth. Arriving at the port of Goteborg (Gothenburg) the boats were unloaded and re-launched back into their more natural environment. Before making their way via canals and lakes into Norway, they moored at Gothenburg Maritime Museum for four days where their boats soon became part of the attractions, which included several other interesting craft, including a destroyer and a submarine. Visitors to the Museum took advantage of the presence of the narrow boats and droves of them made their way onboard (after all, it is not very often the Swedes would have seen boats of that type). The crews of the visiting boats found everyone very friendly and helpful.

After leaving Gothenburg the flotilla made its way along the Gota Navigation to Lake Vanern. On that navigation there is the famous

seven chamber staircase flight. Alongside is a former flight which was used up to 1916 when it was replaced by the present flight. The older locks are beautifully maintained but are now only used by maintenance boats. Nearby are the remains of an even older flight.

On the approach to Lake Vanern they passed the famous trip boat 'Juno' – used from time to time for the 'Waterways World' tours. The lake itself is vast, 87 miles across at its widest point – it is the third largest fresh water lake in Europe and is now officially designated an Inland Sea. The lake can be really rough at times but luckily their crossing was calm. Then it was through the Swedish Lakes system and interlinking canals and eventually into Norway and on to the Halden Canal. Part of that canal is only 1.5km from the Dalslands Canal in Sweden. There has long been a dream to connect those two canals but, regrettably, it must remain just a dream – there would be significant environmental and other objections to such a link.

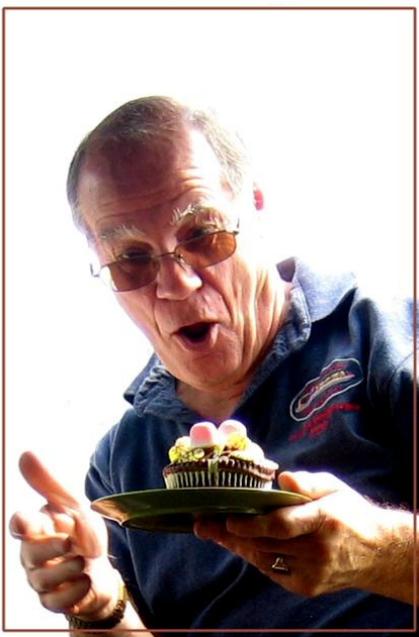
And then it was time for the homeward journey, stopping off at the World Canals Conference on the way.

We heard a great deal about the places Clive, Jilly and the other crews visited and the interesting people (including resident Brits) they met. During the subsequent question and answer session we learned that, because of the short daylight hours, and the presence of ice during the long winter, the Scandinavian boating season is very short. On the question of cost of the trip, including craneage and ferry costs, it worked out to about £2,500 per boat – obviously a once in a lifetime trip.

Many sincere thanks Clive and Jilly for such an entertaining talk. I know the large audience thoroughly appreciated its content, the superb photographs, and the accompanying humour.

Paul Herbert

Captions Required!



During the Society Boat Gathering (see back page), there was quite a story about 'some chocolate cake'. This photo of Paul Herbert was taken by Lynn Olding and she feels members might like to suggest some 'quotes' or 'captions' to go with it, as a bit of fun. Send your suggestions to the Newsletter Editor (contact details on back page) and we'll publish them next month.

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. (They will be away until 17th. June.) NB: Members will make their own way to the site and meet at Purton, Gloucestershire (OS ref: SO692044).

Boat for sale



It is with some regret that Laura and I have decided to sell our boat (to make way for another). Swallowdale is 65ft long, has a Colecraft hull, fit-out by John Woollard in 1987. She is powered by a Russell Newbery DM2 in it's own engine room. 15' 6" lounge with Squirrel stove. Spacious galley. Bathroom with shower over bath. Pumpout toilet in own compartment. Traditional boatman's cabin with 4' 6" wide cross-bed. £52,000 ono. Further details and photos on <http://apolloeduck.net/82903> or from the Newsletter Editor (contact details on back page).

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 5 Jun 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Bob Dukes with a talk entitled "Silk: Myth and Mystery". The history of how it came from China, getting silk production going in Europe, UK and America, industrialisation, etc Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Soton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 8 Jun 2008 Start 9.00 to 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	The "Puddle" Annual sponsored walk. Starts from North Hall (village hall), Loxwood, West Sussex. Figure of 8 walk - 15 miles round, 7½ miles in morning and 7½ in afternoon. Sponsorship forms from contacts on right.	Tel: 01403 752403 E-mail: puddle@weyandarun.co.uk Website: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 28 Jun 2008 1.00 to 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Guided Walk: Poyntz Bridge and Short Industrial Walk of Southgate, Chichester. Cross the Chichester Ship Canal on the unique 1820 cast iron Poyntz swing bridge, just south of the Chichester Canal basin. FREE!	Tel: 01243 576701
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 led by Alan Green. Highlights: the gas works, electricity generating station, icehouse, timber yards and lime kiln.	Tel: 01243 576701
Thu 18 Sep 2008 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Talk about the Chichester Ship Canal. Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts.	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 8, 22 Jun, 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
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
28-29 Jun, 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
8 & 22 Jun, 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.

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

Meetings:

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

2008 Society Boat Gathering

An informal boat gathering was held at Flecknoe (near Napton) and at Braunston over the bank holiday weekend, 3 – 5 May and an enjoyable time was had by all.



Boats and members attending included Ken & Margaret Froud on 'Duorf II'; Eric & Sue Lewis on 'Remus'; Terry & Ann Phippard on 'Dolly'; Rogan & Lynn Olding (with friends David and Pauline) on 'Merlin'; and Gill and myself on 'The Evelyn Broadbent'. Our first mooring was at Flecknoe where we joined together for a barbecue on Saturday evening. On Sunday we cruised to Braunston where, that evening, we enjoyed dinner at 'The Old Plough' (where we were joined by Society member Ray Brooks and an old friend of a number of Society members, Julie Unwin). Monday lunchtime we all met up on 'Merlin', at the kind invitation of Rogan and Lynn, for a splendid (and very filling) American Lunch.

After that lunch the gathering broke up, some of us then going cruising whilst others made the way back to their respective home mooring.

We were very lucky with the weather – apart from a shower just before the barbecue, we had excellent weather throughout the weekend, and that was the start of that glorious ten days or so at the beginning of May. Everybody agreed that it had been a very successful and enjoyable weekend and it is hoped to repeat the experience next year.

Paul Herbert

Above: Saturday evening barbecue at Flecknoe.

Below left: Sunday evening meal at The Old Plough, Braunston.

Below right: Eating again (!) aboard 'Merlin' at lunchtime on Monday.

Photos: © 2008 Paul Herbert and Lynn Olding

