



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

June Meeting

This evening we give a warm welcome to George Eycott and Peter Dunn with their two talks: one on the "The Claverton Pump" and the second on the "Burbage Crane." Both are well-known machinery used on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Society Boat Gathering

The May Bank Holiday weather was sunny, wet & windy but being hardy boaters we carried on.

Malcolm and Janet Gunningham on "Amy Grace" moored up at Flecknoe mid-afternoon in pouring rain. Angela and I on "Liberty" came along soon after, and, while mooring up we were pleased to see Tony and Pauline Fry members of IWA Salisbury group already moored due to the rain. With an invite for tea with homemade cake we all spent an enjoyable afternoon.

On Sunday "Amy Grace" and "Liberty" leisurely cruised to Braunston, where we were surprised to find not many boats about. During the afternoon the four of us walked around the IWA Northampton Branch Rally being held in the Marina. After cups of tea and sitting in the sun we decided to stay on for the evening entertainment, Fish & Chips, a quiz, raffle and auction finished off the day. Malcolm and Janet continued with their early summer cruise.

July Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th July which is our Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by cheese & wine and a natter.

August Meeting

As usual, there will be **NO** meeting in the month of August.

September Meeting

A talk about the "Industrial Archaeology within the New Forest" will be given by James Brown from the New Forest National Parks Authority on September 1st. Hear about the past and future of the park, ice houses, fire blackened stones, churchyards with history; heritage on your doorstep.

David Townley-Jones

On a more serious note David Townley-Jones our Raffle organiser and long term Committee member has suffered a serious accident. His wife Jean telephoned to say that whilst David was dropping off household rubbish in their local municipal refuse depot (one where you have to climb steps to empty into the skips) he fell and injured his head.

He was transferred to Southampton General Hospital Neurological Unit where they induced him into a coma. On the 18th May Jean telephoned us with an update on David's progress: he is moving his toes and fingers, eyes open and still under sedation but not responding.

On behalf of us all at SCS, we send David, Jean and their family our love.

Alan Rose

Three people rescued from sinking narrow boat

THREE people and two dogs onboard a narrow boat had a lucky escape on April 27, when their hire boat caught on the cill and sank on the K&A.

Although the couple onboard were able to get off the boat an older woman had to be rescued by the specialist rescue team using an inflatable raft.

After travelling the 41 locks uphill from Aldermaston to the summit - and Cadley (also known as Wootton Top) was their first downhill lock.

A team from River Canal Rescue went to the scene and after the water level was lowered they pumped out the water to re-float the boat.

Annual General Meeting 2016

In accordance with the Constitution, notice is hereby formally given of the Southampton Canal Society's Annual General Meeting on the 7th July 2016 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 can be found at the top of the back page).

Please note that the papers associated with the AGM (Agenda, Minutes of last year's AGM, Officers' Reports and the Society's Accounts) will be published in the July Newsletter.

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Bits and Pieces

Seend Wharf Bridge reopens

A bridge over the Kennet & Avon Canal in Seend has reopened, following a £720,000 project to repair and strengthen it for future use.

The work involved repairing cracks, strengthening the bridge arch and abutments, and fixing sections of the canal wall below the water level.

Navigation along the canal for boaters re-opened in March, with work to the road surface over the top of the bridge completed early in May.

The project formed part of a £45 million programme of winter maintenance works on the country's canals and rivers, which also included replacing multi-tonne lock gates at historic Seend Lock earlier this year.

Volunteers restore toll house

Volunteers have restored a nineteenth-century toll house on the Kennet & Avon Canal in order to create a 'welcome station' for visitors to the canal.

Volunteers have spent the last year working on the building, which stands next to the aqueduct at the junction of the Kennet & Avon Canal and the now derelict Somerset Coal Canal taking tolls from boats passing from one waterway to the other.

One of the most spectacular sights on the Kennet & Avon Canal, Dundas Aqueduct was built by renowned waterway engineer John Rennie to take the canal over the River Avon, and was the first canal structure to be designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the country.

Waterways Events

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

OS grid references and/or postcodes are shown (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event.

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

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 2 Jun 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Claverton Pump" with George Eycott and Peter Dunn with his talk on the "Burbage Crane". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Fri 3 Jun 2016 12.00-1.00pm	Arun Talks & Chichester Ship CT	Talk: "An Idle around Ironbridge" - a visual tour around the World Heritage site. Chichester Ship Canal Visitor Centre, Canal Basin, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041). Space limited to 25 per talk - booking is recommended, £3 per person payable on the day. To reserve place, please email or phone. Talk repeated later in June.	Clive and Sue Fennell: 07523 486369 Email: aruntalks1@gmail.com Web: http://chichestercanal.org.uk/talks-idle-around-ironbridge/
Fri 3 - Sun 5 Jun 2016 10.00am - 6.00pm	See it for Real Productions	Beale Park Boat & Outdoor Show. Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618781). For ticket prices see website.	Web: http://www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/
Sun 5 Jun 2016	Wey & Arun CT	"The Puddle" - WACT's annual sponsored walk. The route of this year's Puddle will include Compasses Bridge and Gennets Bridge Lock, both currently under construction. See page 5 for more information.	Margaret Darvill: 01483 894606 Email: Margaret_Darvill@weyandarun.co.uk Web: http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/events2.php
Sat 11 Jun 2016 11.00am - 5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT	Reading Water Fest. River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG1 3AH. (SU719734)	General enquiries: 0118 937 2771 Boating enquiries: 0118 959 8247 Web: www.reading.gov.uk/waterfest
Sun 12 Jun 2016 10.00am-3.00pm	Chichester Rotary Club	Dragon Boat Racing. Chichester Ship Canal Basin, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041).	Web: http://www.chichesterdragonboats.org.uk/
Sun 12 Jun 2016 9.00-11.00am	National Trust	Take part in National Moth Night by joining our lengthsmen, Emma, when she opens her moth trap to study the night's finds. Bring your cameras but not your dogs, please. Enjoy some home made cake while identifying the moths trapped. £2.50 inc coffee/tea and cake. Booking essential. Meet at Walsham Lock on the River Wey, near Pyrford, GU22 8XE (TQ050578)	Booking and details: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk Web: http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/b5624691-1b55-4f7a-b8d1-a352323cca6a/pages/details
Thu 16 Jun 2016 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Serve On" is a non-profit humanitarian organisation that responds to disasters both at home and abroad and based in Salisbury. Craig Elsdon will talk about the vital work carried out by the group. 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
Fri 17 Jun 2016 12.00-1.00pm	Arun Talks & Chichester Ship CT	Talk: "The life of a bargee" - a historical talk based around canal life. Chichester Ship Canal Visitor Centre, Canal Basin, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041). Space limited to 25 per talk - booking is recommended, £3 per person payable on the day. To reserve place, please email or phone. Talk repeated on 30 June.	Clive and Sue Fennell: 07523 486369 Email: aruntalks1@gmail.com Web: http://chichestercanal.org.uk/the-life-of-a-bargee/
Sun 19 Jun 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Writhlington and Foxcote. Meet Radstock Museum (map http://www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/RadstockMuseum.gif). Further details from Mike Chapman.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 23 Jun 2016 2.00-3.00pm	Arun Talks & Chichester Ship CT	Talk: "An Idle around Ironbridge" - a visual tour around the World Heritage site. Chichester Ship Canal Visitor Centre, Canal Basin, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041). Space limited to 25 per talk - booking is recommended, £3 per person payable on the day. To reserve place, please email or phone.	Clive and Sue Fennell: 07523 486369 Email: aruntalks1@gmail.com Web: http://chichestercanal.org.uk/talks-idle-around-ironbridge/
Sun 26 Jun 2016	Wilts & Berks CT	Canal Heritage Walk organised by Melksham, Chippenham and Calne Branch to retrace the Chippenham branch to Pewsham. Further details on website.	Web: http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/
Thu 30 Jun 2016 2.00-3.00pm	Arun Talks & Chichester Ship CT	Talk: "The life of a bargee" - a historical talk based around canal life. Chichester Ship Canal Visitor Centre, Canal Basin, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041). Space limited to 25 per talk - booking is recommended, £3 per person payable on the day. To reserve place, please email or phone.	Clive and Sue Fennell: 07523 486369 Email: aruntalks1@gmail.com Web: http://chichestercanal.org.uk/the-life-of-a-bargee/
Tue 5 Jul 2016 2.00-6.00pm	National Trust	This will involve a trip on the Trust's electric boat to Millmead Lock and a tour of the Toll House where the Guildford Borough Council Hydro Project harnesses the power of the River Wey using a reinstated turbine. Return trip to Dapdune followed by tea & cake. Cost £12.00 (Booking essential). Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU993502).	Navigation Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk
Wed 6 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at The Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Road, Lechlade On Thames, GL7 3HA (SU223990). 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: 01367 252313 Web: www.thetroutinn.com
Thu 7 Jul 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting and this will be followed by Cheese and Wine and a natter. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Fri 8 Jul 2016 7.00pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at Fordingbridge Group of WIs, The Town Hall, 63 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1AS (SU147141). Tickets: £10. Indoor venue. Ice cream available in interval. Please use town car park (The Bartons SP6 1HZ) free after 6pm.	Tel: 014255 650493 / 01425 652172
Sat 9 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester, PO19 8QT (SU854034). Tickets: £12 (concs £10). Indoor show. Refreshments available.	Tel: 01243 576701

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Waterways Events *(continued from page 2)*

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 10 Jul 2016 5.00pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at Forbury Gardens, Reading, RG1 3EJ (SU718736). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	Tel: 01 189 372771
Sun 17 Jul 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - for details please contact Mike Chapman.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 19 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at The Bounty, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5RG (SU888869). By the River Thames - see website re access. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar and food available. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	Tel: 01628 520056 Web: www.thebountypub.com
Wed 20 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at Bourne End VI - Spade Oak Farm, Bourne End, SL8 5PS (SU884876). Tickets: £12 (concs £10). Bar available. Outdoor show with shelter. Tickets via contact.	Tel: 01628 531521 / 07860 405000 Email: bourneendwi@yahoo.com
Thu 21 Jul 2016 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules and 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
Thu 21 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at Eyot Centre, Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3JD (SU766823). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show with indoor backup. Gates open from 6pm for picnics.	Tel: 01491 578658 Email: davemcewen@btinternet.com
Fri 22 Jul 2016	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at The Riverside Tea Garden @ Sonning Lock, Reading, RG4 6UR (SU755757). Please park in village and walk to lock. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring chairs, blankets and picnic. Outdoor show with shelter and indoor backup. Celebrating tearoom's 10th and the lock-house's 100th birthdays.	Tel: 07710 224008
Sat 23 Jul 2016 11.00am- 16.00pm	National Trust	Puffing-a-Wey. Steam Boat Association return with their steam powered craft. Take a short boat trip with one of the members. Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU993502).	Navigation Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk
Sat 23 - Sun 24 Jul 2016	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival, Victoria Park, Newbury, RG14 5AU (SU473672). Main public event on Sunday 24th.	Julie Dean Email: juliedean@btinternet.com
Sun 24 Jul 2016 1.00pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at Minal Cricket Pavillion, Mildenhall, Nr Marlborough, SN8 2LR (SU213697). Tickets: £12 (concs £10). BBQ, soft drinks and tea and cake stall. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	Tel: 01672 516408
Tue 26 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH (SU572664). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	Tel: 0118 971 2213 Web: www.brunningandprice.co.uk/rowbarge
Wed 27 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at The Oxford Science Park - Sadler Building, Heatley Road, Oxford, OX4 4GE (SP538021). Tickets: £12 (concs £10). Refreshments available. Indoor show.	Tel: 01865 781300 Web: www.oxfordsp.com/mikron.php
Thu 28 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH (SU572664). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	Tel: 0118 971 2213 Web: www.brunningandprice.co.uk/rowbarge
Fri 29 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at The Teapot Tearooms, Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7QJ (SU308871). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	Tel: 07800637917 or 01367 820260 Web: www.facebook.com/TheTeapotTearoomandgarden Email: rdewilton@yahoo.com
Sat 30 Jul 2016 1.00pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at Bear Flat, Bloomfield Road Allotments, Bath BA2 2AB (ST745637). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Refreshments available. Gates open from 12pm. This is an outdoor show with shelter. Bring a picnic, chairs and blankets.	Tel: 07867 532512 Web: www.banes-allotments.org.uk
Sat 30 Jul 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at The Space, Market Walk, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1FS (ST655684). Tickets: £12 (concs £10). Bar and refreshments available. Indoor show. Tickets via contact.	Tel: 01179 868 683 Email: ric@keynshamfest.co.uk Tickets also via https://keynshamtickets.cloudvenue.co.uk/
Wed 3 Aug 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at Goring Lock, Goring, RG8 9AE (SU596809). No tickets required, cash collection after show. We'll perform under the bridge if its wet! This is an outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Tel: 01484 843701
Thu 4 Aug 2016 3.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916). Tickets (£12) 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. This is an outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk
Thu 4 Aug 2016	Southampton CS	There will be NO August Meeting as the hall will be closed for maintenance.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 4 Aug 2016 8.00pm	Mikron Theatre	"Canary Girls" performed at Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916). Tickets (£12) 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. This is an outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk
Fri 5 Aug 2016 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at The Plough, High Street, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QH (SU545937). No tickets required, cash collection after show. Beer and food available. Outdoor show. Bring chairs and blankets.	Tel: 01865 407738

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Wilts & Berks Canal Trust News

Destination Lacock update

An opportunity has arisen to purchase an 850 metre section of a critical stretch of canal at Queenfield Farm (to the north of Melksham) and we need to secure it quickly. Our target for the appeal is £60,000 which should cover a fair market price for the land, legal fees and contribution to the general funds to cover the appeal and related overheads. So far we have raised £32,926 (as at 27 May 2016) which means we are over half way. Can you help and make a contribution to this vital fund raising appeal? Or can you think of any friends or local companies that may be able to help us?

Payment online through BT Donate: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/wiltsberkscanaltrust>

By text: Text WBCT25 £2/£5/£10 to 70070, e.g. WBCT25 £5

If donating by cheque, please make it payable to "Wilts & Berks Canal Trust" and send it to: Destination Lacock Fund, Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, SN15 4HD

For full details of the appeal, go to <http://www.wbct.org.uk/about-the-trust/trust-news/1424-destination-lacock-opportunity-to-purchase-at-queenfield-farm>

If you are a tax UK tax payer and would like to make a gift aid declaration to enable us to reclaim tax at no cost to you, please email button@wbct.org.uk with your details and we will send you a form.

Wiltshire Council transfer of land to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

The Trust are pleased to announce that last week Wiltshire Council's Cabinet Capital Assets Committee approved the transfer to us of a number of sections of the waterway owned by the Authority. This includes the section in Morningside Farm at Chaddington, Royal Wootton Bassett, where the work party have already erected a fence defining the area to be transferred.

Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, said: "Wiltshire Council is a long standing partner in this restoration and we are pleased to be able to assist the volunteers to progress work on the Wilts & Berks Canal. Wiltshire continues to benefit from the great tourism attraction of the Kennet & Avon Canal, which was similarly restored with the passion and enthusiasm of volunteers: it is a wonderful success story and is a great benefit to the community"

Trust Chairman Roderick Bluh said: "The Trust is extremely grateful for this support and demonstration of the confidence of Wiltshire Council in the work of the volunteers. In practical terms it represents at least 15% of the canal route in Wiltshire. This will help considerably with the ability to fundraise, and we hope it will also encourage other

IWA directory of waterways

MAINLAND Britain enjoys 4700 miles of navigable inland waterways, but that still leaves more than a quarter of our 6500-mile canal and river network either derelict or unnavigable, new research from The Inland Waterways Association shows.

The findings are contained in the IWA Waterways Directory, detailing the complete canal and river network of England, Wales and Scotland, its condition and the myriad bodies responsible for it. IWA is making the Directory [freely available online](#), as a record of the state of the nation's waterways and as part of its commitment to their protection and restoration.

John Pomfret, who compiled the Directory on behalf of the Association, said: "This information has never before been available in one place in an easily accessible and searchable format. By ensuring the data is available on our website as a public resource, IWA is adding

landowners to consider helping with this inspiring community led project."

Presentation of donation from Waitrose

On the 27th May the Trust received a donation cheque from Waitrose at the Wichelstowe Waitrose landing stage.

Rod Bluh, Chairman of the Trust, received the cheque from Waitrose Wichelstowe store manager Dan Morehead. Waitrose has donated £7,000 to the Trust as a contribution towards the installation of the landing stage.

Rod Bluh said: "The Trust is delighted to receive this contribution from Waitrose towards this great facility, which has enhanced the canal side at Waitrose Wichelstowe and has allowed many people who visit the store to access the canal and discover the pleasures of enjoying the canal environment from our trip boat Dragonfly. We are very grateful to Waitrose for their generous contribution, and look forward to working with them again in the future."

This new landing stage, which is a popular viewing point for wildlife on the canal, is the departure and landing point for the canal trips run by Trust volunteers using nb Dragonfly between Kingshill and Wichelstowe. These trips provide canal boat experiences for visitors to the Waitrose store at Wichelstowe, for residents from Swindon and for many people from further afield, in order for them to enjoy this section of the canal, its tranquillity and its wildlife. For more information on boat trips go to <http://www.wbct.org.uk/boat-trips>

The construction of the new landing stage is part of the development and restoration works of the historic Wilts & Berks Canal through Swindon, and has been made possible by a partnership relationship between the Trust, Swindon Borough Council and the contribution from Waitrose.

Melksham Town Council recommends approval of Melksham Link planning application

More exciting news to announce, there has been significant progress in restoring the Wilts & Berks Canal in the western sector. On Monday 23rd May, Melksham Town Council recommended for approval the planning application for the creation of a new waterway and towpath for the Wilts & Berks Canal between the Kennet & Avon Canal and the River Avon, together with associated footpath, cycleway, 10 bridges and new access roads to Berryfields.

The Planning Committee also stated that they were pleased to see another step taken on the road to getting the canal through Melksham, they were appreciative of the benefits this development will bring to the town. This was unanimous. The Trust are very pleased and grateful for the Town Council's support.

The next step in the process is for the application to go to Wiltshire Council Planning.

significantly to the knowledge of our waterways that is readily available to all."

"The Directory is conceived as a dynamic, evolving reference work that can be updated as the condition of our waterways change. So we're encouraging users of the publication and those with expert knowledge of even the remotest reaches of the network to help us keep the Directory as accurate and current as possible," he said.

As well as benefiting anyone with a professional interest in our inland waterways, the IWA Waterways Directory will be valuable to academics, historians and canal enthusiasts alike. And by highlighting waterways which may be less familiar to many inland boaters, IWA hopes to encourage more interest in ensuring their protection and development.

<https://www.waterways.org.uk/news/>

Wey & Arun Canal Trust News

Compasses Bridge Special Open Day

Trust members and the public have a rare opportunity to explore the first canal bridge to be built in Surrey for 200 years.

Compasses Bridge, across the Wey & Arun Canal at Alfold, is in the final stages of construction and set for a public open day on Sunday, June 5th.

Guided tours will showcase a project which is key to the reopening of more than a mile of the waterway to navigation by small boats. With the canal drained of water, people will be able to see under the bridge, which has replaced a 1930s concrete causeway.

The bridge is at the Compasses Gate entrance to the Dunsfold Park aerodrome and business complex, on what was once the main Guildford to Horsham highway. Contractors built the main structure but volunteers from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust and visiting canal construction enthusiasts are finishing the project.

The Trust's site manager, Dave Evans, said: "We want to show the public what the Trust is doing here, including restoring a significant stretch of the canal's Summit Level. Our volunteers range from bricklayers to digger drivers and they turn out really professional work."

Guided tours will be run from 11am to 2pm. Those wishing to take part should arrive at Compasses Gate, off Dunsfold Road, Alfold, and check in with the Trust's mobile display vehicle there.

Visitors will have the chance to buy special merchandise commissioned to mark the 200th anniversary of the canal being declared open at Compasses. They will also be able to greet and encourage people taking part in the Trust's annual sponsored walk, the Poddle, which passes by during the day.

With the major aspects of the bridge build now complete, the Trust has just launched a 'final push' appeal to complete the last part of the Compasses project.

To make a donation, click on the Donate Now button on the home page of our website – www.weyandarun.co.uk

You can also send a cheque, made out to Compasses Appeal, to WACT Northern Office, Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8EQ, or donate through a BACS transfer to CAF Bank, Sort code 40-52-40, Account 00024651.

If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please make sure you have returned a reg-

istration form, available via the website. This will enable us to claim 25p from HMRC for every £1 you give.

Call 01483 505566, or e-mail support@weyandarun.co.uk for more information.

2016 Poddle strolls off!

The Trust needs people to sign up for an enjoyable stroll along the canal and through some beautiful Surrey and Sussex countryside, raising money for our restoration projects.

The route for this year's WACT annual sponsored walk, the Poddle, has been chosen to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the canal's opening.

Almost anyone can take part, with the proviso that the walk route includes stiles and some hills so may prove difficult for some. Dogs are welcome – especially if sponsored!

The morning section of about 6½ miles is from North Hall in Loxwood to a marquee behind the Three Compasses pub at Alfold, where lunch will be provided. The Wey & Arun Junction Canal was opened here by Lord Egremont 200 years ago.

The route takes in the canal from Devil's Hole Lock, past Gennets Bridge Lock, where you may see volunteers at work, to Compasses Bridge. Between Loxwood and Alfold, the route passes through the picturesque Sidney Wood, along parts of the unrestored canal.

Those who would like to do a shorter walk can just join the afternoon 5½ mile section. It starts at 1pm from the Three Compasses. The route goes to Alfold village, over farmland and then along the Surrey-Sussex border and back to North Hall for tea and cake.

WACT gives other charities and organisations the opportunity to raise money through our 50/50 sponsorship option. If you enter as a 'team' and raise more than £200 sponsorship (minimum £20 each) we are happy to split your proceeds equally with a good cause of your choosing. Register to take part in the Poddle at <https://weyarun.org.uk/drupal/content/2016-poddle>

If you are unable to do the walk, you could sponsor the 'Last Man', support the Poddle by making cakes for the walkers, act as a marshal on the day or man a refreshment point. To offer your services or find out more, contact Poddle organiser Margaret Darvill on 01483 894606 or e-mail her on poddle@weyandarun.co.uk

Cotswold Canals Trust News

THE Cotswold Canals Trust is determined to continue with elements of their planned major restoration project which would complete the link from Stroud, in Gloucestershire, to join with the national waterways network - despite a disappointing announcement on May 6, 2016 that a bid for £15 million towards the project has been turned down for this year by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

CCT is already discussing the likelihood that another bid might be made for the next annual round of grants. It has been encouraged by written guidance from HLF on ways that might increase the probability of success next time.

"We will be meeting with HLF to review their feedback and to decide with our partners how we can progress towards a resubmission of a revised bid in November 2016," said the chief executive, Ken Burgin. "In the meantime, there are several exciting projects under way this year and plenty of progress to be made."

"From what we understand, our lack of success this time round was not primarily due to any deficiency in the content of our bid so far as the project is concerned, but was more to do with competition from other bids seeking smaller amounts of money."

The main purpose of the scheme is to link an existing six-mile stretch of almost-completed restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation from Brimscombe to Stonehouse, due to be completed this year, to the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal at Saul Junction.

Had the Lottery bid been successful, the partnership led by the Cotswold Canals Trust was aiming to complete the scheme within six years, at a total cost of £20 million.

Now this next restoration phase is likely to take somewhat longer, new and varied funding sources will be urgently sought to back up a HLF bid resubmission in November this year. "We are determined to keep up the momentum for this brilliant project, that has caught the imagination of both our local communities and that of the boating world" said Val Kirby, who led the group that produced the bid. "The HLF have told us that much of the work we have already done is good: so we need to identify the gaps, and get busy: it's not long to November."

One way in which the scheme is likely to be moved forward is by pursuing solely volunteer-manned projects such as environmental impact assessments and conservation plans. This will reduce the time needed to commence the cost-sensitive physical work required once funding has been secured.

Meanwhile, the Phase 1A restoration of the canal from Brimscombe to Stonehouse, which is funded under a previous HLF grant and managed by Stroud District Council, moves closer to completion.

The hydraulically operated Lodgemore lift bridge is now almost ready for use by boaters, while work is under way to resolve land slippages and dredging of the canal in the centre of Stroud. Work is advancing to complete Wallbridge lower lock, and Gloucestershire County Council is expecting to resume work shortly on the redesigned Bowbridge bridge.

SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Events) at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184. Contact the Secretary for further information.

This Newsletter is normally published during the first week of each month in time for the Society's meeting.

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Mikron Theatre Tour 2016

The Mikron Theatre have started their 45th tour this year, which by the end of the season will have visited some 130 different venues. Their venues within about 50 miles of Southampton appear in the Waterways Events feature in this Newsletter.

Mikron tour on their narrowboat, Tyseley, in the summer and by road in spring and autumn, to every conceivable type of venue, reaching audiences that other companies cannot.

Mikron are the only the theatre company in the world to tour by narrowboat. Tyseley was built by Yarwoods of Northwich and delivered to the Grand Union Canal Carrying Co in March 1937.

Over the years, Mikron have performed at allotments, care homes, community centres, dry docks, festivals, pubs, rallies, restaurants and village halls. They've even performed inside a tunnel, in the bows of a docked boat and in people's very own front rooms.

Canary Girls

Heroes on the Home Front

It's Summer 1914 and sisters Rose and Lizzie work as maids, a world of deference, bed-making and poor pay. When war breaks, adventure-seeking Rose becomes a shell worker, persuading her procedure loving sister Lizzie, to follow her to a world offering more money, exciting work and union activity. It seems like a new start.

But as the sisters discover the dangers of shell work, they realise their dreams are pulling in opposite directions.

As old and new worlds collide on the factory floor, each sister must ultimately decide, which takes more courage – following your dreams, or giving them up for the ones you love?

Funny, heartfelt and tender. Mikron presents a tale of two sisters well and truly at war.

PURE

The Business of Chocolate

Kreation Foods are the Big Cheese of Food Manufacturing – and they have big plans.

With all due razzmatazz they are about to re-launch the nation's one time favourite chocolate bar "Plumstead's Pure". For Head of Marketing, Theresa, this is a delicious moment, but for idealistic trainee Faye the whole event is in bad taste.

Cut to 150 years in the past and the pioneers of chocolate are fighting other battles. John Jordan has discovered a revolutionary way to make chocolate – but can he persuade his tight fisted Landlord, Darius Sanguine, to finance his bold idea?

Join Mikron and devour a story of many flavours – both from the past and in the present. If a business is big does it really have to be bad? Does success always have a sweet smell?

Waterways Events *(continued from page 3)*

Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sat 6 - Sun 7 Aug 2016	Basingstoke CS & Historic Narrow Boat Club	Woking Canal Festival, Brookhouse Common, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5BP (TQ008593). Celebrating 50th anniversary of the foundation of both of the organising groups. And 25 years since formal re-opening of the canal. Parking in town centre car parks. Public transport recommended.	Roger Cansdale: 01252 678608 Web: www.WokingCanalFestival.info Email: roger.cansdale@ntlworld.com
Sun 7 Aug 2015 2.45pm	Mikron Theatre	"PURE" performed at Woking Canal Festival, Brookhouse Common, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5BP (TQ008593). No tickets required, cash collection after show. No public parking on site. Use Town centre car parks and walk along towpath to event (about 350m).	Tel: 01483 760161 Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sun 21 Aug 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - for details please contact Mike Chapman.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 1 Sep 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Industrial Archaeology within the New Forest" by James Brown from the New Forest National Parks Authority. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Fri 2 Sep 2016 6.30 - 10.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Carnival on the Canal, Devizes Wharf, SN10 1EB (SU004617).	K&ACT, Devizes Wharf: 01380 721279 Web: http://katrust.org.uk/events/