



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

March Meeting

On behalf of our members we welcome Stephen Fisher from the Maritime Archaeology Trust. Stephen is the Forgotten Wrecks project's Research Officer, playing an important role in raising the awareness of the often forgotten maritime heritage of the First World War in the Solent and surrounding area.

April Meeting

At the meeting on Thursday 6th April, we will hear about "Eling Tide Mill, the past and the future". Ruth Keer, our speaker, recently visited Winchester College and confirmed that the mill was owned by the Crown until about 1200, as part of the Royal Manor of Eling. Come along and find out more.

Alan Rose

Land & Water wins 10-year dredging contract

THE Canal & River Trust has awarded its national dredging contract to carry out essential dredging works on its 200-year-old waterway network in England and Wales to Land & Water Services Ltd following a competitive tender process.

Dredging is vital to keep the waterways open for navigation, as well as ensuring the canals are safe, combatting unruly vegetation and improving wildlife habitats. In 2015/16 the Trust spent over £7 million on dredging the 2,000 miles of waterways in its care.

Simon Bamford, asset delivery director at Canal & River Trust, said: "This contract is the result of 18 months of hard work, care and attention as we've reviewed how we manage our overall dredging programme and looked at how we can improve things. We're delighted with the way in which Land & Water Services has understood the challenges we face and the need for making

things more efficient.

"The contract will play a major part in what the Trust is trying to achieve: putting our customers at the heart of what we do and making sure that our waterways remain special places alive with people, boats and wildlife."

The contract expands the previous work to include: mainline, spot and hydrodynamic dredging; vegetation works; professional services, ancillary construction and civil engineering works; construction of fixed and floating moorings.

This is one of the Trust's largest single contracts and will replace the current mainline and hydrodynamic dredging contracts currently held by Land & Water. The contract will be for a period of 10 years and will start on 1 July 2017 when the existing contracts expire: the intervening period will be used to plan works for next year.

www.towpathtalk.co.uk

Celebrating Fifty Years

This June marks fifty years since the Southampton Canal Society was formed. To mark the occasion your Committee are looking at organising an event instead of holding the usual meeting on June 1st. We are proposing an outing on the Basingstoke Canal using the trip boat John Pinkerton II.



The trip would leave their Odiham base at 2:30 pm and travel to King John's Castle where we would be met by a local guide, who would give a 20 minute talk about its history. We would then return to base. The total trip time would be about 3 hours. During the trip we could arrange for a cream tea to be served on the boat.

Because the trip boat is very popular we have made a provisional booking for the John Pinkerton II for Thursday 1 June at 2:30 pm. The cost to hire the whole boat for the trip is £260

and the local guide a further £30. Some 20 members have already shown interest in such a trip, so if we split the cost over that number it would be £14.50 per head. Obviously the more participants we have the cheaper the individual cost will be, so we

are opening up the trip to friends and relatives. This trip would replace the usual Society meeting in the evening of 1 June, so the Society could use the cost of hiring the Hall and paying for a speaker as a subsidy towards the cost of the trip.

We need to move promptly to make this happen. The Society will not be meeting, as usual, on 4 May because the Hall is in use as a polling station for local elections. We need to confirm our booking and pay the full cost of the hire by 1 May.

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Bits and Pieces

Mystery of sunken safe

A large safe has been discovered in the depths of the Regent's Canal in King's Cross.

It took CRT nearly an hour to crane out the item, which was submerged under Camley Street bridge. It had only been detected after a 45 tonne work boat had crashed into it, stopping the vessel dead in its tracks.

The discovery came as the boat was transporting machinery away from St Pancras Lock, where the Canal & River Trust had recently completed a £150,000 restoration project.

The back of the safe had been broken open and it did not contain any valuables.

It is not the only unusual item to be discovered in the canal. In recent years the Trust's teams have also helped to recover more than 60 footballs in one spot behind a school in Willesden, a pizza delivery bike (including soggy pizza), and even an unexploded World War Two bomb.

Correction

As a minor correction to last month's Newsletter report regarding the photo competition, the picture entitled "Scruffy Heron" was actually taken by Eric Lewis.

The winner, Gordon Osborn, says "My picture, although winning the competition, was of a lower quality than the "Scruffy Heron" but I was lucky to catch a heron with a fish in its mouth."

The winning entry entitled the "Fishing Heron" is our Page 3 bird.

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 2 Mar 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War" - talk by Stephen Fisher from the local Maritime Archaeology Trust. Visitors welcome.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Wed 15 Mar 2017 12.00 for 12.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Branch Annual Lunch	The Butt Inn, Station Road, Aldermaston Wharf RG7 4LA (SU600669).	Andy James: 0118 950 7965 Email: andy_james3@hotmail.com
Wed 15 Mar 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"History of Bursledon Brickworks" with Carolyn Haynes. The talk gives a history of the only Victorian steam driven brickworks left in the country, why they are so important and what, hopefully, their future will be.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 16 Mar 2017 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Boat Safety" by Andrew Phasey, Technical Officer for the Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs.	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 16 Mar 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Maps and Plans of the S.C.C and Railways" by Roger Halse.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 19 Mar 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Churchill Bridge to Sydney Gardens. Includes Widcombe Locks on the Kennet & Avon in Bath	Churchill Bridge, Bath, BA1 1UD (ST750643).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 21 Mar 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	AGM + "Helpless in Holland" by Rob Dean CMG (Trust Chairman). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sat 25 Mar 2017 11.00am-4.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	AGM. There will be a walk at 11.00am, an informal lunch at 12.30 and the AGM at 2.30pm. Lunch bookings and any queries to Geoff Harman.	The Swan, 1 Church Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LN (ST826609).	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Sat 25 Mar 2017 2.15pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Callcott-Reilly Trail Guided Walk. A 4-mile circular walk to see how the 1865 Guildford-Horsham railway crossed the 1816 canal, explore a newly revealed iron truss bridge and see local industrial heritage. Please wear appropriate footwear for a country walk. Free – but donation appreciated.	Shamley Green Church car park, Church Hill, Shamley Green, Guildford GU5 0UD (TQ032435).	Pre booking required by noon Fri 24th: online or contact Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyarun.org.uk/drupal/
Sun 26 Mar 2017 2.30pm	Wey & Arun CT	Shalford to Bramley Guided Walk. Approx 2.5km, 2 hours, walk follows parts of the original canal to the former Bramley Wharf, including the new Hunt Nature Park in Shalford. Please wear appropriate footwear for a country walk. Free – but donation appreciated.	Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharf, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 8EH (SU998465). Parking available at Broadford Business Park, Shalford GU4 8EP (SU998466) (behind the Parrot Inn) on the A248 Shalford-Godalming road.	Pre booking required by noon Fri 24th: online or contact Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyarun.org.uk/drupal/
Mon 3 Apr 2017 7.30pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	Branch AGM at National Trust's premises.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR.	Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: gareth@hillhouse.farm
Thu 6 Apr 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future" by Ruth Keer. Visitors welcome. For more information visit www.elingexperience.co.uk	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sun 16 Apr 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Sydney Gardens to Bathampton. Along Kennet & Avon towpath.	A36 road bridge, Sydney Gardens, Bath, BA2 6PF (ST758654).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 18 Apr 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Horse drawn through the Kennet Valley" with Bill Fisher. £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 19 Apr 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"SS Shieldhall - 61 years and counting" - Graham MacKenzie will talk about the history of the largest working steamship in Britain, including information about the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Apr 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Radstock Branch - Coal, Canal & Tramway" by Roger Halse.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat 29 Apr 2017 2.30pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Annual General Meeting.	Cranleigh Village Hall, Village Way, Cranleigh, GU6 8AF (TQ059389).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: support@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk

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February Meeting

SS Shieldhall

Graham MacKenzie, the Chief Engineer on the SS ShieldHall, explained the interesting story of the largest working steamship in Britain. The steamship is the last in a series of vessels built to undertake the necessary, if not very glamorous, task of transporting treated sewage from Glasgow to an area of open sea to the east of the Isle of Arran. The vessel was commissioned and operated by the corporation of Glasgow and as part of her duties she also provided day cruises for the poor of Glasgow to enjoy an outing along the Clyde.

The ship was launched at the Renfrew shipyard in July 1955, can carry 1800 tons of cargo, and had a compliment of 9 crew and three officers. The ship could accommodate 80 passengers who were provided with deck chairs and entertained with deck games but were careful to be inside when the cargo was discharged.

Graham provided a virtual tour of the ship including some interesting features; the buoyancy air space beneath the cargo tanks to allow

the gravity discharge of the cargo; the ship's whistle and siren used to warn the berthing crew of the ship return; the traditional bridge; and the engine room.

In 1976 the ship was sold to Southern Water for £26,000 and transferred to Southampton where she subsequently undertook a similar work travelling back and forth to an area 10 miles south of the Nab Tower.

In recent years she has undergone a number of restoration tasks including a refit of the cabin space, refurbishment of her twin 11ft diameter propellers, hull repairs and resealing of the mahogany deck.

After the meeting Graham asked me to pass on his thanks to the society members for their warm welcome and attentiveness as it is always a joy to talk to a group with lots of genuine interest. He hopes to meet some of the society aboard Shieldhall during the summer months.

Gordon Osborn

Music at the Hall

The Chilworth Hall committee is putting on a show on 1 April by the Salisbury Big Band to raise funds for the hall refurbishment. As Donna Jones from the Hall committee put it: "They're meant to be good!"

Maybe our members might like to support the event and help the Hall committee improve the facilities they provide to us.

Who knows you might even enjoy the music!

Salisbury Big Band



Comes to Chilworth



CHILWORTH HALL - SAT 1st April
Doors at 7.00pm, show starts 8.00pm

Tickets £12 from: 07800 901208 or
 tickets@chilworthhall.org.uk

Licensed Bar

Snacks available

www.chilworthhall.org.uk

The Fishing Heron



The above picture taken by Gordon Osborn was the winner of the Photographic Competition at the January meeting.

Celebrating Fifty Years

(Continued from page 1)

This means that we need to have confirmed numbers, and the money, by the meeting on 6 April, at the latest. If members would like us to organise a cream tea as well, we would need to organise caterers through the Basingstoke Canal Society. On their website a link to a caterer quotes a simple cream tea at £3.75 per person. This would make the total cost of the trip just under £20 per person. If there is interest I will get a formal quotation.

We would like you to confirm your interest in this trip, including the guide and the cream tea, at the March meeting. I will firm up the actual cost per person so that you can pay at the April meeting.

Aelred Derbyshire

Hon Treasurer and Membership 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) 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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Brian Evans.

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The Celebration for the Life of Arthur Laurence Pearce

A Celebration for the Life of

Arthur Laurence Pearce

"Laurie"



22.10.1921 - 12.01.2017

Wessex Vale Crematorium

Tuesday 21st February 2017

A celebration for the life of founder member of the Society, Laurie Pearce, was held at Wessex Vale Crematorium near Hedge End on Tuesday 21st February 2017.

Mr and Mrs Brian Evans, Mr and Mrs Paul Herbert, Mrs Sue Lewis, Mrs Brenda Pomeroy, Mrs Eva Drinkwater, Mr and Mrs Alan Rose represented the Southampton Canal Society.

Former SCS members Mr and Mrs David Kessler-Lyne travelled from Milton Keynes.

A coach from Tamworth brought a group of Laurie and Linda's friends, including the Standard Bearers from the Royal Navy Association and the Merchant Navy Association, Tamworth Branch.

The rousing hymn "Eternal Father Strong To Save" concluded the service.



Alan Rose

© Paul Herbert

Waterways Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Thu 4 May 2017	Southampton CS	There will be NO meeting - as the hall will be used for elections.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 13 May 2017 10.30am	Kennet & Avon CT	55th Annual General Meeting of the Trust	West Lavington Village Hall Sandfield, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4HL (SU004535).	Trust Office: 01380 721279 Web: katrust.org.uk
Sun 14 May 2017 3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Pulborough to Pallingham Boat Rally. This aims to confirm the right of navigation on the River Arun above Pulborough, reaching the site of the junction with the Wey and Arun then on to the navigable limit at Pallingham Quay. No entry fee, but donations towards costs welcome. Further info on website.	Launching from Pulborough slipway planned 3.00-3.30pm. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map of slipway here Canoes can launch at Stopham Bridge, RH20 IDS (TQ030183) around 3.30pm. See map here .	Please register for event on website. Further information, please email. Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.org.uk
Tue 16 May 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Joint meeting with IWA. £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sun 21 May 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Bathampton to Claverton. Along Kennet & Avon towpath.	The George, Bathampton, BA2 6TR (ST776664).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 1 Jun 2017	Southampton CS	See page 1 of this Newsletter.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Aelred Derbyshire: 01794 651350 Email: aelred41@sky.com
Fri-Sun 2-4 Jun 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	See it for Real Productions	Beale Park Boat & Outdoor Show 2017. Open until 6.00pm Fri and Sat. See website for admission charges.	Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618778).	Phone: 01296 631 273 Email: info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk Web: www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/