



## In this issue:

Chairman's Column	1
Canal lockage feels last summer's heat	1
Warm weather could send wrong signals to wildlife	1
Subscriptions for 2019/20	1
Raffle Prizes	1
Waterways Events	2 & 3
February Meeting	4
Crofton Beam Engines	4
New Boater Report for licence holders	4

## Subscriptions for 2019/20

As agreed at the last AGM, the subscription rate for 2019/20 is unchanged at £16.00 for a single member and £27.00 for joint membership.

Subscriptions are due at the April 4th meeting. I will not be at the March meeting, Angela will be providing any Treasurer services required.

*Alfred Derbyshire  
Hon Treasurer*

## Raffle Prizes

The raffle held at each meeting provides a significant income to the Society but it relies on a steady supply of good prizes. My stock of raffle prizes is running low and I would appreciate it if members could donate something to the stock. At the moment I have a good supply of jigsaws.

I like to keep some prizes in reserve for special occasions, like the Quiz Night, so please do not be disappointed if your donation is not raffled immediately. For that reason, please give any donations to me or Robb Unsworth, please do not leave them on the Raffle table.

*Sue Derbyshire  
Raffle Co-ordinator*

## Chairman's Column

March 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

This evening we welcome Mark Rudall, Editor of the Steamboat quarterly journal "Funnel". Mark is also a Waterway Chaplain.

"Steam narrowboating : not for the faint hearted!" is the title of his talk. So what are the challenges with steam in a narrowboat?

Evidently, quite a few!

April Meeting – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Chris Witts will talk about "My life on the River Severn". This will include observations on the tanker trade in the 1960s through to the grain trade in the 1980's.

## May Meeting

As, always, there is NO May meeting.

June Meeting – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

Paul Gosling promises us "Goslings' Galivants Part Two". This will cover tours around Scotland

## Canal lockage feels last summer's heat

CRT's Annual Lockage Report for 2018 has been published, which summaries the recorded usage of locks across their waterways.

2018 saw an 11% reduction from the previous year in usage across 150 comparison sites. Whilst lock usage was affected by the long hot summer and water resources shortages, which led to a number of lock restrictions and canal closures, on canals where there were no closures or restrictions, there was very little change in lockage, and some increases were seen.

The Report also highlights the success of the Trust's 1,114 volunteer lock keepers which were present at 111 registered lock keeper sites. Together they recorded just under 140,000 hours of lock keeping, with a survey suggesting that on an average week around 3,410 locks full of water were saved by their help.

## Warm weather could send wrong signals to wildlife

THE RSPB is warning that the unseasonably warm weather could lead to a crisis for nature – particularly if it turns cold again, as it did last year.

The charity has received a number of reports about birds attempting to nest and breed, butterflies emerging, hedgehogs, reptiles and insects coming out of hibernation and even migrant birds like swallows and house martins appearing back in the country much earlier than they should.

Martin Harper, the RSPB's Director of Global Conservation, said: "While the warm weather, bright sunshine and abundant sights and sounds of nature undoubtedly make us all feel better, they

covering boats, trains and docks.

## SCS Committee Meeting

The Committee held a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019. By way of a polite notification – this year's AGM will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Chilworth Parish Hall starting at 8.00pm.

At the recent meeting all the current officers agreed to stand again for the year 2019 – 2020.

Committee member Robb Unsworth wishes to retire but said he will still help out with the raffle.

The Committee is always looking for new members to provide help and new ideas. Nominations for Officers or for Committee membership (together with a seconder) should be sent to the Secretary by the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

In the meantime, enjoy this wonderful early Spring weather.

Thank you for your support.

*Alan Rose*

Once again, Hillmorton Lock 2 & 3 was the busiest site on the network, with a total of 8,621 lockages, followed by New Marton Lock on the Llangollen Canal with 7,866 lockages.

'Lockage' can be defined simply as lock usage through the filling and emptying of a lock chamber, which in turn allows the movement of water and passage of boats. It is important to distinguish lockage from boat movements, which are the actual number of boats which travel through a lock. The Trust separates boat movements from lockage to acknowledge that averages can be skewed by the boat:lockage ratio (in the case of a typical broad lock, the ratio can be between one and four boats per lockful of water used).

Read the [Annual Lockage Report](#) on the CRT website.

*Canal & River Trust - 6 Feb 2019*

should also ring alarm bells. The early signs of spring are likely down to climate change, which is bad news for us all. As we expect the weather to return to temperatures more traditionally associated with this time of year – as they are forecast to – then there could be a real crisis for our birds, insects and other wildlife."

The charity's wildlife team has been getting calls from people reporting early nesting attempts and in some cases even early young, with ducklings being spotted across the country.

Read the full article on the Towpath Talk website at <https://www.towpathtalk.co.uk>.

## 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 7 Mar 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"Steam Narrowboating – not for the faint hearted"</b> with Mark Rudall who is a modern day steamboat owner. He has been researching the history of steam power.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 16 Mar 2019 10.30am- 3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Open Day.</b> We will be open on occasional days so that visitors can see maintenance work in progress.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sun 17 Mar 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Paulton to Radford</b> - guided walk.	Paulton public car park, BS39 7NW (ST651565)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:workparty@coalcanal.org.uk">workparty@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sun 17 Mar 2019 11.00am- 2.00pm	National Trust	<b>Ripley and round about.</b> Meet at Ripley Green for a 4½ mile walk. (parking at Ripley Common car park) then walk along the Wey Navigation past Newark and Walsham locks and back to Ripley. Bring a packed lunch.	Ripley Green, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6AJ. (TQ053568).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Tue 19 Mar 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Branch AGM</b> to be followed by a speaker (TBA). Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 20 Mar 2019 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"200 Years of The Thames and Medway Canal."</b> David Rouse's talk traces the timeline from initial fundraising, construction challenges, the impact of railway fever, and eventual demise of the canal. Looking forward, the canal could be developed into a green safe water corridor, supporting fishing, informal boating and other activities.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 21 Mar 2019 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>"The Glastonbury Canal"</b> - including railways, by Dick Osborne.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Thu 21 Mar 2019 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"The Middle Danube &amp; its Connecting Waterways."</b> John Pomfrett will cover the Danube for over 600 miles from Vienna through several countries to a passage through the spectacular Iron Gate Gorge into Romania and Bulgaria. He also cover the river's navigable tributaries and canals.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Wed 27 Mar 2019 10.30am	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	<b>Walk along River Wey Navigation.</b> Walk from Godalming to The Parrot at Shalford for lunch. Please contact Jenny Bartholomew or Gareth Jones for further details and, if required, reserve place at table for lunch.	To be confirmed: Godalming Wharf, Off Woolsack Way, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1LQ. (SU975440).	Jenny Bartholomew: 01306 882927 or 01306 711688. Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: <a href="mailto:gareth@hillhouse.farm">gareth@hillhouse.farm</a>
Mon 1 Apr 2019 7.30pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	<b>Branch AGM</b> at the National Trust's premises. Followed by a talk on 'Steam Power' by Mark Rudall who is a modern day steamboat owner. He has been looking into the history of steam power.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GUI 4RR (SU992503).	Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: <a href="mailto:gareth@hillhouse.farm">gareth@hillhouse.farm</a>
Thu 4 Apr 2019 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	<b>Branch AGM.</b>	Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU472671).	Julie Dean. Email: <a href="mailto:juliedean@btinternet.com">juliedean@btinternet.com</a>
Thu 4 Apr 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"My life on the River Severn"</b> based on the Tanker Trade in the 1960s and the grain trade in the 1980s by Chris Witts.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sun 7 Apr 2019 10.30am- 1.30pm	National Trust	<b>Mandy's Walk.</b> From the Colonel Grounds north of Godalming to Bramley with the River Wey volunteers. Return via disused railway line to Broadford and then back along the towpath. Bring a packed lunch.	Parking at Broadwater Lake car park, GU7 3BX. (SU985452). This venue should be confirmed with National Trust.	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Tue 16 Apr 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Speaker TBA.</b> Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 17 Apr 2019 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Metropolitan Police Marine Policing Unit."</b> Officer William Sargent will talk about the Marine Policing Unit (MPU) which is responsible for policing the 47 miles of River Thames within the Met area (Dartford to Hampton Court) as well as providing a specialist response to over 250 miles of canals and waterways, lakes and reservoirs and other bodies of water in London.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Sat-Mon 20-22 Apr 2019 10.30am- 4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Easter weekend steaming.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>

## Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat 20 Apr 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
Sun 21 Apr 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Radford to Camerton</b> - guided walk.	Meet at Camerton Heritage Site, BA2 0PB (ST681579)(Park in Durcott Lane).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:workparty@coalcanal.org.uk">workparty@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sat 27 Apr 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
<b>Thu 2 May 2019</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>NO MEETING.</b> As, always, there is <b>NO</b> May meeting.		<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat-Mon 4-6 May 2019 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Early May Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 4 May 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
Tue 7 May 2019 11.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm	National Trust	<b>Tollhouse Turbine Tour.</b> Electric boat trip to Millmead Lock for a tour of the Toll House, where a reinstated turbine is once again generating hydro-electricity. Return trip to Dapdune Wharf. Places limited - booking is essential on 01483 561389. £12.50 per person.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992502).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Sat 11 May 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
Sat 18 May 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
Sun 19 May 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Visit - Saltford Brass Mill.</b> The mill is the only surviving building, still with a furnace and working water wheel, remaining from a group of 18th century mills making copper and brass goods in the Avon Valley.	Meet at Saltford Brass Mill, The Shallows, Saltford, BS31 3EY. (ST687669)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:workparty@coalcanal.org.uk">workparty@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sun 19 May 2019 1.00pm-4.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	<b>Pulborough to Pallingham Boat Rally.</b> 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. Launching times to be announced nearer the date. Further info on website.	Launching from Pulborough slipway. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map of slipway <a href="#">here</a> . Canoes can launch at Stopham Bridge, RH20 1DS (TQ030183). Map <a href="#">here</a> .	Please register for event on website. Further information, please email. Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.org.uk">www.weyandarun.org.uk</a>
Tue 21 May 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Joint meeting with IWA Guildford &amp; Reading Br.</b> Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Tue 21 May 2019 11.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm	National Trust	<b>Tollhouse Turbine Tour.</b> Electric boat trip to Millmead Lock for a tour of the Toll House, where a reinstated turbine is once again generating hydro-electricity. Return trip to Dapdune Wharf. Places limited - booking is essential on 01483 561389. £12.50 per person.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992502).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Sat-Mon 25-27 May 2019 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Late May Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 25 May 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
Sun 2 Jun 2019	Wey & Arun CT	<b>"The Poddle"</b> - WACT's annual sponsored walk and major fundraiser. Circular walk to include part of the canal. Start between 9am - 10.30am from Bramley Village Hall, via Farley Green Village Hall where lunch will be provided, Blackheath, Albury and back to the start. Possible to do morning only. Further details and registration on website.	Bramley Village Hall, Hall Road, Bramley, Surrey, GU5 0AX (TQ009449).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Poddle co-ordinator email: <a href="mailto:margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk">margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyandarun.org.uk/events39">weyandarun.org.uk/events39</a>
<b>Thu 6 Jun 2019 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>"Goslings' Galivants Part Two".</b> Paul Gosling will be showing us "Around Scotland – boats, trains & docks".	<b>Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Tue 11 Jun 2019 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Annual General Meeting 2019.</b>	Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, BA3 3EP (ST689549). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@coalcanal.org.uk">chairman@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sat 15 Jun 2019 11.00am-5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Reading Water Fest.</b> Festival of boats, entertainment and stalls. Great family day out. Admission is free.	River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG13AH. (SU719734)	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Mobile: 07533 886917 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>

## 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](mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com)

### Secretary:

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

Email: [alanjrose@btinternet.com](mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com)

### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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

Email: [aelred41@sky.com](mailto:aelred41@sky.com)

### Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn, Robb Unsworth.

### Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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

Email: [scs@sotoncs.org.uk](mailto:scs@sotoncs.org.uk)

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

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

## February Meeting

### "Bats - the super heroes of the night" with Nik Knight

Nik Knight, the bat recorder for Hampshire, travelled from his home in Havant to be with us.

Nik gave us a brief introduction to bats - nearly 1400 species recorded around the world. Bats are mammals with teeth and a good immune system - some with a long life that are known to live up to 34 years in Burma. They are happy in groups roosting in old trees, buildings and tunnels.

Greywell Tunnel on the Basingstoke Canal is well known as a very important bat roost. Natterer's bat is by far the most abundant species - indeed the tunnel hosts the largest congregation of hibernating Natterer's bats in the UK. The rare Horseshoe bat is among those that have been found, with hundreds of individuals from various species roosting and breeding in nurseries over the winter. Pictures of the nursery were shown.

The Pipistrelles and others feed if the weather is suitable, eating up to 3,000 insects a night. Humid old chalk strata ideal for woodlice, etc. The Wildlife Trust in 1982 recorded bats travel approx up to 30 miles for food. Natural vegetation and a wide range of insets is needed all year round.

Nik uses an echo meter touch 2 to pick up the sounds of the bat location - social signals and wave frequency, these we could pick up from his digital computer.

The 18th century naturalist Gilbert White named one species "Torpor" it had big ears and a thumb. Nik surveyed this second most important top site in 1992.

Loss of old habitat and disturbance such as re-development, the cutting down of old trees and hedges, loss of flight lines in farming practices, insecticides, artificial lighting, cats and dogs, squirrels, wind turbines, etc are all part of a great problem. All change of their habitats causes them trauma.

New industrial builds have been encouraged to fit sloping tiles in the walls to form bat roosts.

To see bats locally, visit Sadlers Mill and the stretch of the River Test running to Mainstone Bridge in Romsey. Another good spot is Eyeworth Pond at Fritham in the New Forest to see plenty of Pipistrelles and Daubentons bats. Or just sit in your garden, relax and enjoy them.

Nik expressed his appreciation of the work being done by members of the Natural Environment committee in surveying bats along the Tadburn, Abbotswood and Silverwood Lakes, Romsey. The results of which are held on his county records.

So lets all plant night scented plants, trees and shrubs, plus the good old compost bin to keep the bats happy.

*Angela Rose*

## Crofton Beam Engines

The Engine House, Engineman's Rest café and gift shop will be open from 6 April (the week before Easter) until the end of September every day (except Wednesdays) from 10.30 to 4.30.

Admission to the grounds and Engineman's Rest Café is FREE - except for the Steam Gala at the end of September when there will be a small charge to enter the grounds to see the many outdoor attractions.

When the pumps are in steam (see Waterways Events), a charge will be made to view the pumps - Adults: £8.00, Concessions: £7.00, Children under 16 accompanied by paying adult: Free.

On non-steaming days, the charges to view the static pumps are Adults: £4.50, Concessions: £4.00, Children under 16 accompanied by paying adult: Free.

Further details on the website at <https://www.croftonbeamengines.org>

## New Boater Report for licence holders

CRT have published their Boater Report for their 34,000 leisure licence holders. The Report sets out how they generate their income, including the contribution from boaters, and how that money is invested in the network.

Jon Horsfall, head of customer service support at CRT, comments: "The Trust's core purpose is maintaining the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers we look after ... Boaters play a central role in helping to fund the work with around 10% of our income coming from boat licences.

"The Boater Report is designed to give licence holders an overview of how much it costs to maintain the waterways, where the Trust's money comes from and where it gets spent, for example how much gets spent on dredging, maintenance, vegetation management or on customer service and facilities."

This report may also be of interest to all canal users. See it at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/original/39814-boater-report.pdf>