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**The HS2 rail network**

With the recent Government announcement about the construction of the HS2 rail network, the Canal & River Trust have recently published information on their website about the effects that the railway will have on the waterway system.

The proposed route of the High Speed Rail Network HS2 will change the waterway landscape forever, affecting 17 canals, three river navigations and four waterways planned for restoration. It poses a real threat to the future use and enjoyment of the waterways.

You can find out more at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/the-hs2-rail-network-and-our-waterways>

## Chairman's Column

### March Meeting

Our originally listed speaker, Colin van Geffen, has had to postpone his visit due to ill health.

Luckily for us Mr Rob Dean, the President of the K&A Trust has been able to step in with "Happy in Holland" about cruising in Holland in 2016/17.

### April Meeting

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, under the title Southern French Waterways, our member Jon Van de Geer will relate his explorations of the canals in the south of France on board hotel boats. These will include the Canal du Rhône à Sète, the Petite Rhône, on an excursion to Carcassonne and a trip along the Canal du Midi.

### No May Meeting

As usual there will be NO meeting in May as the hall is booked as a polling station for local elections.

### June Meeting

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June, we welcome back Cheryl Butler who spoke to us several years ago about "Itchen Village, Itchen Ferry and the Diaper family". This time she will regale us with "Murder, Mayhem, Pillage & Plunder."

### July Meeting

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, it will be our AGM.

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 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Remember **you will need** a new chairman!

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Geoff Watts is another speaker who has visited us before when he's talked about the Titanic and another time about Memories of the Great War. The subject for this visit is, as yet, undecided.

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Our members Ron & Myra Glover will be talking about "Exploring the Irish Waterways."

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November

This month will see more members addressing the Society: Eric & Sue Lewis. The subject is to be confirmed

This time last year I wrote Enjoy this wonderful early Spring weather. Thank you all for your support.

*Alan Rose*

## Tackling 'improper' mooring

CRT are reaching out to boaters who have moored their boats in a way that could be dangerous or cause problems for other boaters or waterway users.

It regularly receives feedback from boaters about craft that are poorly moored, blocking facilities, or making it unsafe for boats to navigate.

The Trust are addressing the problem by promoting more considerate mooring and shared use of the waterways, letting those who are moored inappropriately know there is a problem, and ultimately acting against persistent rule-breakers.

### A new process put in place

From Monday 10 February 2020, the new "Improper Mooring" process will be applied where a boat is moored in a way that affects safety or impedes other boaters or waterway users. It will be recorded by the Trust's Licence Support Team and, initially, a letter will be sent to the boat owner highlighting the problem. The boater will also receive a booklet including extracts from the Trust's boat licence terms & conditions, bye-laws, the Navigation Rules, and Boaters' Handbook to help them understand how they can moor more appropriately.

Matthew Symonds, national boating manager at

the Trust, said: "While the vast majority of boaters are considerate neighbours, every boater has a story to tell of a badly, or simply dangerously, moored boat. Whether it's someone moored up for days on a water point, to boats blocking the sightlines on bends, there are many examples of poor mooring etiquette. This can at best be frustrating and, in some instances, can be dangerous for the moorers and others.

"So we're going to be stepping up our efforts to contact all boats that we see moored inappropriately. Much of the time a boater may not realise that the way they're moored may be causing a problem, and we think a polite reminder of good mooring practise will result in them moving somewhere safer, or where they won't be affecting others.

"Being by the water makes you healthier and happy and we want everyone to be able to enjoy the waterways safely".

### Taking action

The Trust intends the process to serve as a prompt for the boat owner to moor appropriately and to help and educate boaters that may be new to the water or unaware of the issues caused by poor mooring.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 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 5 Mar 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Our previously advertised speaker is unable to give his talk but a replacement has been booked: "Happy in Holland." Rob Dean, President of the K&amp;A Canal Trust, will talk about cruising in Holland in 2016/17.</b>	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Thu 12 Mar 2020 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	<b>A.G.M. followed by a brief talk</b> by Roger Francis, our new IWA region chairman.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ. (ST678674).	Geoff Brown: 07980 279929 Email: <a href="mailto:geoff.brown@waterways.org.uk">geoff.brown@waterways.org.uk</a>
Fri 13 Mar 2020 7.00-9.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>"The Uncommon Common: The Curious History of Greenham Common"</b> Once this area was synonymous with the protest against nuclear weapons. This talk covers the Common's history from being an area of heathland, then a major military base and back to a site of special scientific interest open to all. Tickets £10-00 available on-line or by phone. To include light refreshments. Cash bar available.	The Sutton Hall, Stockcross, Nr Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8LN (SU433685).	Tel: 01672 870300. Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a> Tickets: <a href="http://Online via Eventbrite">Online via Eventbrite</a> Phone: 01672 870300
Sun 15 Mar 2020 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Combe Hay Lock Flight</b> - guided walk.	Layby opposite Bridge Farm BA2 7EE (ST745604).	Derrick Hunt: 07986 972984
Tue 17 Mar 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Branch AGM</b> followed by talk by Chris Sims, Trust Chairman. 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 18 Mar 2020 7.00-10.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>"Concorde the Legend"</b> a talk by Air Traffic controller Phil Holt. Where did the name Concorde come from? Why was Concorde retired? How much did Concorde cost? Will one ever fly again? Tickets £10-00 available on-line. To include light refreshments. Cash bar available.	The Assembly Rooms, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 1AA (SU188691).	Tel: 01672 870300. Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a> Tickets: <a href="http://Online via Eventbrite">Online via Eventbrite</a>
Wed 18 Mar 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Woking's Railway."</b> Alan Norris will describe the coming of the railway to Woking in the 1830's. The talk will also include the Brookwood Cemetery railway and the Bisley Tramway.	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 19 Mar 2020 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>The Irish Waterways.</b> Ron & Myra Glover recently trailed their 23 ft. Viking Cruiser to Ireland. In this talk they will be taking us on a trip from Athlone on the River Shannon in Southern Ireland via canals, rivers and loughs to Eniskillen in Northern Ireland.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 or 07768 622966 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> or <a href="mailto:myra.glover@waterways.org.uk">myra.glover@waterways.org.uk</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 26 Mar 2020 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>"Cleveland Pools -- Another Georgian Achievement"</b> by Sally Helvey & Dr Linda Watts.	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>
Mon 30 Mar 2020 7.30pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	<b>Branch AGM</b> at the National Trust's premises.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992503).	Chris Jones: 07711 784374 Email: <a href="mailto:chrismjones10@btinternet.com">chrismjones10@btinternet.com</a>
Thu 2 Apr 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Southern French Waterways.</b> Member Jon Van de Geer will take us on a journey along the Canal du Rhône à Sète, the Petite Rhône, on an excursion to Carcassonne and a trip along the Canal du Midi.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 4 Apr 2020 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-Mon 11-13 Apr 2020 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>Easter steaming.</b> Theme: Easter Fun at Crofton. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free. Further details on website.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Wed 15 Apr 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"The Electric Boat Association."</b> Tim Knox is a committee member of the Association. He will tell about it, the advantages of electric propulsion for canal boats and the current state of the technology.	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 18 Apr 2020 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 Apr 2020 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Combe Hay to Midford</b> - guided walk.	Layby opposite Bridge Farm BA2 7EE (ST745604).	Derrick Hunt: 07986 972984
Tue 21 Apr 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>"Reading to Isleworth Thames short cut – James Brindley."</b> – a talk by Victoria Owens.	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.

## Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat 2 May 2020 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>
Thu 7 May 2020	Southampton CS	<b>NO MEETING.</b> As always, there is <b>NO</b> May meeting.	<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>
Sat-Mon 8-10 May 2020 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>May Day Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Theme: Model Engineering Festival. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free. Further details on website.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sun 10 May 2020 1.00pm-7.00pm	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 and other info on website.	Launching from Pulborough slipway. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map <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.weyarun.org.uk">www.weyarun.org.uk</a>
Sat 16 May 2020 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 19 May 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Joint meeting with IWA Guildford &amp; Reading Br.</b> 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.
Sat-Mon 23-25 May 2020	IWA and Wey & Arun Canal Trust.	<b>IWA National Trailboat Festival.</b> Order your earlybird trailboat mooring before 1st March for just £15. Full price moorings cost £25. For further information or to book a festival space for a trailboat, please see website.	Wey & Arun Canal, Alfold / Dunsfold (TQ034360).	Email: <a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyarun.org.uk/trailboat-festival">weyarun.org.uk/trailboat-festival</a>
Sat-Mon 23-25 May 2020 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>Spring Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Theme: Family Fun Steaming. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free. Further details on website.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 30 May 2020 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>
Thu 4 Jun 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>“Murder, Mayhem, Pillage &amp; Plunder” - a talk by Cheryl Butler.</b>	<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>
Fri 5 Jun 2020 7.00-10.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>“The Codebreakers: Enigma, Bletchley Park &amp; the Battle of the Atlantic”</b> a talk by Dr Mark Baldwin. One of WW2's most fascinating stories is that of the Enigma codes which the Germans mistakenly believed unbreakable. An original Enigma machine will be present and used. Tickets £12-00 available on-line or by phone. To include light refreshments. Cash bar available.	The Assembly Rooms, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 1AA (SU188691).	Tel: 01672 870300. Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a> Tickets: <a href="#">Online via Eventbrite</a>
Sat 13 Jun 2020 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>

## Tackling 'improper' mooring

*(Continued from page 1)*

If a boater does not address their inappropriate mooring the process will allow the Trust to take action that could ultimately result in the revocation of the boater's licence.

If, after the first letter, there are further instances of poor mooring, then the Trust will send a formal reminder which clearly sets out how T&Cs and/or byelaws have been breached, and that this could result in the termination of their licence. Should there be no resolution or a repeat of the behaviour, a second reminder will be sent, detailing the circumstances, the action the boater needs to take, and issuing a final warning. A final letter will be sent if the problem is not addressed, or if it is repeated, informing the boater of their licence being immediately suspended.

In these circumstances, the boater will be directed to remove their boat to a specific location where it must remain until investigation into the mooring conduct is concluded and they have been contacted with the outcome, which could be licence termination due to serious or persistent breach of the Trust's terms and conditions.

### Preventing poor behaviour

The process is aimed at preventing persistent poor behaviour or serious instances and as such will focus on more acute issues. Rare or singular historic instances will be considered but the Trust hopes that the initial informative letter will help address these instances.

The Trust has identified the following examples of improper mooring, which are found in the Boaters' Handbook, navigation rules and relevant byelaws. It is not an exhaustive list and the local environment will always be taken into account:

Mooring in a lock, lock approach, or in a lock flight; blocking services that the boater is not using; mooring near a bridge or under a fixed bridge where inappropriate; mooring near a weir; mooring near a sharp bend, on the outside of a bend, or by a blind spot; mooring in or opposite a turning point/winding hole or on the approach to it; mooring at a junction; mooring to the bank on a tidal river; mooring on a canoe landing place; mooring in a stretch marked for an angling match; mooring where there are signs that prohibit mooring.



## February Meeting

### Reconstructing the FMC wooden motor boat CLENT - Peter Boyce

Our February speaker was Peter Boyce with his very interesting talk on the history and restoration of ex-Fellows, Morton and Clayton wooden narrowboat CLENT.

He started his talk with a brief history of CLENT.

She was the last wooden narrowboat built at Uxbridge by Fellows, Morton and Clayton in December 1947 at a cost of £1080. Her first steerer was Charlie Atkins, often known as Chocolate Charlie. The boat worked a short time for FMC but then was taken over by British Waterways at nationalisation in 1948. In the late 1950's she was sunk at Northwich by British Waterways with other surplus boats. In 1974 she was recovered and restored together with the steamer PRESIDENT. CLENT was relaunched at Norton Canes in 1980. She remains unconverted to this day.

In 2009, Pete met the owner Andrew and they discussed work on the back cabin which by this time was suffering with rot.

The work list in October 2009 was quite extensive, new cabin doors, replace engine room and cabin slides, replace handrails and back-end rails, replace 25ft of gunnels, tighten caulking, tarring, new cratch board and cabin side panelling. Renew paintwork and signwriting, new cloths.

Unfortunately, by 2011 she was wrapped in a tarpaulin to stop her sinking and at this point Peter decided to lift her out. CLENT was taken to Braunston Marina and lifted out onto transport. She was then taken the short distant to Peter's Tess Yard where she was off-loaded.

In 2012, investigation found much rot

throughout the hull.

Timber was sourced at Helmdon, cut and delivered. Work was then started at the bow, new stem post, patterns were taken (spiling) for plank shapes. A steamer was then built using wall paper steamers and drums. The first plank was bent and fitted.

2013 saw CLENT faired up and bow planks fitted. The foredeck was restored and further planking work was carried out. In 2014 the engine was lifted out. The cabin supports and the old stern post were removed. In 2015 new Elm for the bottom was obtained, cut and part fitted. A new stern post was fitted and the stern tube hole bored. Other areas were worked on over the next couple years. 2017 saw the last of the planks fitted and the engine refitted.

In 2018 the decision was taken to replace all of the bottom planks. The year 2019 saw the last of the massive keelson fitted and all of the bottom planks fitted.

Already in 2020, the shearing went in and it was found that the bottom was holding water without caulking. Still to be done: gunnels, engine holding down bolts and stern fittings, cross beam brackets, running gear, caulking, tarring and

#### LAUNCH !

What cannot be shown in this brief report is the tremendous amount of hard work and effort made by Peter over 11 years. Some members may have visited the yard and seen progress as it went on. These members would have appreciated the work involved, not just a job but a labour of love.

Alan Rose



*Cleat at Tess Yard before lifting out in 2011*

## 5-year infrastructure joint venture completed

The maritime infrastructure works on and around the weir lock complex along the Lys in Harelbeke in Belgium have been officially delivered.

The 'Leieland' Joint Venture, a partnership between contractors Jan De Nul nv, Herbosch Kiere nv, Engie Fabricom nv and Aelterman bvba, was responsible for the design and execution of the works.

The 5-year project was commissioned by 'De Vlaamse Waterweg' (the Flemish Waterway Authority) covering the renovation and modernisation of the weir lock, waterway and environment alongside the river Lys in Harelbeke.

Jan De Nul nv and Herbosch-Kiere nv were jointly responsible for the civil engineering works, as well as for the general coordination of the project and all parties involved. Engie Fabricom was responsible for the electromechanical works, Aelterman bvba for the steel construction works.

The infrastructure works took place in the town centre of Harelbeke. Another impediment was that during the works the Lys could not be blocked for shipping. All this had a direct impact on the execution methods and project planning.

The project partners decided to install a temporary lock so that shipping would not be affected by the works. A temporary weir made sure there was no flooding during the works.



*These infrastructure works in Harelbeke are part of the overall Seine-Scheldt project*

The new lock and weir were to be built at the same location as the old one to ensure the best possible nautical and hydraulic design. In other words, the construction could only start after the installation of the temporary infrastructure and the demolition of the old infrastructure.

Next to the new weir lock complex, the Joint Venture built a pumping station with two turbines. When the water flow is in surplus, the turbines will generate energy. In dry periods the pumping station can pump water to the upstream water level. The expected energy production is higher than the energy consumed by the weir lock complex so that the complex can be considered energy-neutral.

that the complex can be considered energy-neutral.

### Seine-Scheldt Project

These infrastructure works in Harelbeke are part of the overall Seine-Scheldt project, which improves the waterway link between the Seine basin and the Scheldt basin. Thanks to some large-scale infrastructure works in France, Wallonia and Flanders, inland navigation vessels up to 4,500 tonnes will be able to sail between Paris and Antwerp. These infrastructure works include the renovation of locks, weirs and quay walls, the deepening of canals and the excavation of new ones and the raising of bridges.

<https://www.maritimejournal.com/> 14 January 2020

## Canal conduit for clean heating

CRT welcomes the recent announcement from Government setting out plans for a £20million package to cut household emissions through a number of local 'smart energy' projects, including some using the Midlands' canal network.

Analysis of our [network](#) shows that, beyond the Government's announced trial, our canal network across England and Wales can provide 640 megawatts of latent thermal energy to support the heating and cooling needs of around 350,000 homes.

### Huge opportunities

Richard Parry, our chief executive, comments: "I welcome today's Government announcement and recognition of the role that the nation's canals and rivers have in battling climate change.

"There is a huge opportunity to build upon the trial and the existing sites that already use our waterways to heat and cool their buildings – from residential heating & cooling projects to industrial cooling of commercial premises and heat networks.

"The Midlands' canals are perfectly placed, both practically and symbolically, to lead the green energy charge. It's fitting that these

arteries of the Industrial Revolution are being repurposed to bring clean, green energy to what was the beating heart of Britain's production line.

"As technological advances are made the canals can once again be at the forefront of progress that transforms and improves the national quality of life."

### Our research

The use of our canal network for heating and cooling is an example of the evolution of the nation's former industrial waterways. Today we provide vital green and blue space to millions of people living in towns and cities alongside its waterways, including some of the nation's most heavily populated communities where it's needed most.

Our research shows being by water makes people healthier and happier and, with ever increasing rates of obesity, stress and declining mental health in the UK, the waterways are uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to improving the wellbeing of millions of people.

*[Canal & River Trust News](#) - 20 February 2020*

## Otters spotted in the heart of Birmingham

The largest-ever survey of the otter population in the West Midlands is being carried out by us after sightings of the protected animals in the heart of Birmingham.

We are calling on local people to get involved in the survey which is taking place on the 22nd and 23rd February, and will involve walking a stretch of towpath looking for signs of otters – specifically otter droppings, known as spraint, and 'latrines' – areas where the animals mark their territory. Otters have large territories, so spraints will be sent off for DNA analysis to identify the otter, including if it is male or female.

### A surprising come-back

The survey will establish where otters, once hunted to the brink of extinction, have been making a surprising come-back. Initial research suggests that the animals are making use of the region's canals for the first time since the manmade waterways were built in the industrial revolution.

Since the 1950s the number of otters on Britain's rivers have been in decline due to a combination of habitat loss, persecution and the use of pesticides. Over recent years otter numbers have been making a comeback due to better water quality and efforts to improve their habitats. There is now evidence of otter territories being found in the

heart of Birmingham, in the canal near to Brindleyplace.

### A real testament to our hard work

Tom Wilding, environmental scientist for the Trust, said: "Our previous survey helped us identify a number of otters living across the West Midlands region using our canals. This year we are hoping to find that these otters are still here and that we have even more living along and using our waterways.

"The fact that we're even talking about the possibility of otters on the West Midlands' formerly industrial canals is incredible and a real testament to all the hard work that's gone in to improving water quality in the region.

"It's amazing that they're now clean enough to sustain otter populations for the first time since the Industrial Revolution. Today these canals are vital green corridors which provide countless habitats for wildlife as well as giving local people beautiful spaces green spaces right in the heart of city centre."

No experience is required as a short training session will be given. Anyone interested in helping out with the survey can register their interest by emailing [thomas.wilding@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:thomas.wilding@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

*[Canal & River Trust News](#) - 14 February 2020*

## Passage restrictions at Frankton Locks eased

FOLLOWING a 10-month campaign by the Shrewsbury District & North Wales Branch of the Inland Waterways Association (IWA), Canal & River Trust has agreed to extend the opening times of Frankton Locks for the summer 2020 season starting on March 30, 2020.

The extension, from the current 12am-2pm daily opening to 9am-1pm daily, should improve boater access to the Montgomery Canal.

Particularly in view of the extensive restoration work on the Montgomery Canal to extend the limit of navigation for powered craft beyond Gronwen Wharf, IWA is keen to help more boats use the rural waterway. The current Montgomery Canal Conservation Strategy allows for 2500 boat visitors a year onto the canal; however, it is thought that the actual number of visitors is only between 1100 and 1200 per annum.

Michael Haig, chairman of IWA Shrewsbury District & North Wales Branch, said, "Canal & River Trust's agreement to double the opening

hours at Frankton locks should make things considerably easier for boaters wishing to explore the tranquility of the Montgomery Canal, and perhaps more boaters will be encouraged to visit the IWA Silver Propeller Challenge destination at Gronwen Wharf."

"Additional advantages of the revised opening times are that boaters will not have to moor above or below the locks waiting for a noon opening, and the additional hours should spread water demand over a longer period, reducing the problems of low water at the top lock."

For the foreseeable future, the requirement for both advance bookings and for a minimum stay of one night with a maximum of 14 nights will remain in force. Boaters wishing to book passage through Frankton Locks should contact CRT no later than 10am on the day of passage. Boaters can do this via CRT's website at <https://licensing.canalrivertrust.org.uk> or by calling 03030 404040.

*[Towpath Talk](#) - 25 February 2020*

## China announces museum for Grand Canal

The Chinese government has unveiled the design for a museum celebrating the heritage of the country's Grand Canal, the world's oldest and longest artificial waterway.

The result of an international competition, the museum will be built at the south end of the canal, which runs for over 1,000 miles between Beijing and Hangzhou.

The design shows a vast, long, linear form and a rippling glass facade designed (from a distance) to resemble water. Internally, there will be a large exhibition area on two identical floors that can operate independently.

China staged the 2019 World Canals Conference, although with little emphasis on the canal's massive freight capacity, or any willingness to develop it for leisure boating. Instead the government is keen to highlight the historical aspect, for which the new museum should be a showpiece.

Nevertheless the amount of freight on the Grand Canal is staggering. In particular, one set of locks, at Shaobao near Huai'an, holds the record for passing through a million tonnes of cargo in a single day.

[Waterways World](#) - 30 January 2020

## CRT and Sustrans sign agreement

Towpath users can expect to benefit from a formal commitment from the Canal & River Trust to work alongside the walking and cycling charity Sustrans to make canalsides more accessible.

The organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January, which, though not legally binding, outlines key areas where they promise to collaborate in future, including identifying third party funding streams, promoting the pedestrian-priority Towpath Code and working to manage interaction between different towpath users. The latter, both parties agree, will ensure the needs of people using the waterspace, for example boaters and anglers, are given precedence.

They will also work together on the enhancement of Sustrans' National Cycle Network where it runs over the trust's towpaths, addressing accessibility, and increasing community involvement.

CRT chief executive Richard Parry, said: "We have worked closely and effectively with Sustrans in various ways over many years, and I'm pleased to have renewed our relationship."

There are currently around 500 miles of National Cycle Network routes on towpaths.

[Waterways World](#) - 30 January 2020

## Cressy clone among plans for Tooley's Boatyard

The craft made famous by LTC Rolt's 1944 travelogue *Narrow Boat* could be reconstructed as part of plans to enhance the visitor experience at Tooley's Boatyard in Banbury.

It was at Tooley's, one of the oldest working dry docks on the network, that Rolt converted his wooden narrowboat *Cressy* for liveaboard use prior to the four-month voyage he undertook with his new bride Angela to chronicle the precarious state of the English canal system.

The book it spawned ultimately inspired the formation of the Inland Waterways Association, and a concerted campaign for greater use of the canals. *Cressy* itself, however, suffered an ignominious fate. A rotten hull saw the boat condemned as dangerous in 1951, and unworthy of restoration. The craft was eventually broken up at Wyatt's boatyard in Stone, and much of it burned.

However, *Cressy*'s story might not end there. The charitable trust established to take on a 150-year lease of Tooley's, ensuring it remains open to visitors while also securing the future of the boat-repair business, has mooted a reconstruction of the craft as a potential tourist attraction.

Dubbed 'The *Cressy* Experience', the project would see Rolt's boat re-built from scratch on site and according to original plans, but with a

"modern twist". The latter would include an electric power source and "virtual portholes", giving passengers canal views from the past, present and future using transparent monitor screens, and offering advertising space on the boat's exterior with the same technology.

There is potential for the build itself, which would take place on site, to become an attraction in its own right, as well as offering an opportunity to share traditional boat-building skills.

Once launched, *Cressy* could be used both as static exhibition space and for short Oxford Canal trips from the boatyard, tracing the story of Rolt and the waterways through a character guide, video, and even a "whispering bath" feature, explaining how Rolt's one concession to luxury – a bath aboard – earned him merciless ribbing from working boatmen. Also mooted in the proposal is the option to hire out *Cressy* as B&B accommodation.

A focus group to discuss the feasibility of the project was held in Banbury on 23rd January. Tooley's Boatyard Trust is also appealing for any original artefacts from *Cressy* (to loan, purchase or reproduce) to include on the working reproduction of the historic narrowboat.

[Waterways World](#) - 30 January 2020

## CRT moving towards cash-free transactions

CRT are encouraging more boaters to licence their craft online as it brings forward plans to cease accepting cash payments for large purchases at its offices from 1 April 2020.

Although boaters won't be able to make large cash purchases, customers will still be able to make payments at CRT's offices by Debit or Credit card (except AMEX), or by cheques crossed and payable to 'Canal & River Trust'.

For smaller purchases, such as sanitary station keys, handcuff keys, pump out cards and electricity cards, boaters can use their online [shop](#) or pay by cash, card, or cheque at CRT's customer-facing offices.

Amanda Stratford, business support and licensing manager, comments:

"Our online portal is a one-stop-shop to manage your [boat licence](#), from purchasing and renewing your licence to updating your details and letting us know of any changes in your circumstances.

"Boaters are able to pay by a variety of different means and we would encourage every boater to sign up so they can quickly and efficiently manage their licence admin."

The Trust will continue to work to [support](#) vulnerable boaters. If you know a boater who is struggling, please contact your local licence support officer.

Visit our online [portal](#) for more information.

[Canal & River Trust News](#) - 2 March 2020



## 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 Village 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:

Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn.

### Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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

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

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

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

## Water level and strong stream warnings

In addition to the winter maintenance stoppages, the recent storms and the very heavy rainfall of the last few weeks have led to a series of stoppages on many waterways.

Canal & River Trust have information on their website that can provide warnings to tell you about conditions that may affect navigation, such as when stretches of river are experiencing variable heights in water level which in most cases will result in faster flows.

The link to this information is <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/planning-your-boat-trip/water-level-and-strong-stream-warnings>

Their SCADA system provides near real-time data from a number of rivers showing the local water level conditions. It normally updates every 15 minutes, however, please check the time the last reading was taken at each location carefully. River conditions can change rapidly and without warning.

They currently provide automated warnings for a small number of sites, but plan to expand the system in the future. If a site you're interested in is not listed, please check [their stoppage notices](#) or contact the local office for more information.

On some waterways they also provide information on flood lock and floodgate status. Gate status is set manually and is not linked directly to river levels. Following flood events it is often necessary to remove silt and other debris before the gates can be reopened. For this reason flood locks and flood gates may remain closed even though river levels return to normal. Flood locks and floodgates may also remain closed for operational reasons. Skippers of all craft should always check gate status when planning passage even though river levels have returned to normal.

On the 3rd March the following CRT waterways were affected by adverse conditions:

Aire & Calder Navigation, Calder & Hebble Navigation, Caldon Canal, Droitwich Canals, Erewash Canal, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, Kennet & Avon Canal, New Junction Canal, Nottingham & Beeston Canal, Oxford Canal, River Severn Navigation, Rochdale Canal, Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation, Staffs & Worcs Canal, Upper River Trent.

Checks on Environment Agency waterways can be found through this web page: <https://www.gov.uk/check-river-conditions-and-closures>

*Canal & River Trust - 3 March 2020*

## Mixed results from CRT boater satisfaction survey

Some considerable variation in levels of boater satisfaction with the Canal & River Trust's waterways has been reported in the monthly and annual surveys carried out by the Trust.

Launched in 2019 to complement the more detailed annual Boat Owners' Views survey, the new Waterway Experience Survey was distributed to boaters out and about on the network in "fortnightly waves" from April through to September. Its results appear to show that these boaters have a higher opinion of the waterways and their upkeep than those surveyed in the annual survey - and that their perception improved as the summer went on.

This is shown in these figures for whether boaters are satisfied with their overall recent experience of CRT's waterways, and whether they would recommend them to others.

**Very or slightly satisfied?** - Annual survey: 61% / Experience survey (April): 64% / Experience survey (all summer): 67%

**Would recommend?** - Annual survey: 58% / Experience survey (April): 64% / Experience survey (all summer): 69%

It could be that "boaters out and about on the waterways are reporting a more satisfying experience than those who were asked to think back",

as CRT's Matthew Symonds suggested.

Those sampled in the West Midlands and North Wales seemed happiest, while the lowest satisfaction ratings came from London & South East, Yorkshire & North East, and South Wales & South West. Issues which were felt to need more attention included overhanging vegetation, non-compliant boaters, and availability of facilities, while respondents felt the Trust did better at managing congestion, visitor moorings, and condition of locks.

### ...while CRT promises to act

The Canal & River Trust has come up with a list of actions which it says it will take in response, including:

- Working with regional teams on "getting the basics right" - facilities, fixing faults and informing boaters.
- Increasing boater participation
- Improving stoppage notices
- Quicker response to enquiries and better feedback to customers

*Canal Boat - 27 February 2020*