



Chairman's Column

May Meeting

Yes, I know the meeting is actually being held on 24 April, but as we are not able to use the hall in May, due to its use as a Polling Station, we always have to bring that meeting forward to the last Thursday in April. But as we have already held a meeting this month, we always refer to it as the May meeting. Whatever - this is the Society's May Newsletter. We are delighted to welcome Clive Field to the current meeting with his talk about 'Narrowboats to Norway'.

2008 Society Spring Outing

In spite of the poor weather, Society members and guests enjoyed an excellent outing on the Basingstoke Canal and 'The Watercress Line' on Saturday 19 April. For the full story and photographs see elsewhere in this issue.

The Itchen Navigation Project

Following the recent Heritage Lottery grant for this project, the Project Team have a busy schedule for the coming year including the following plans:

- A project launch is planned for the summer to kick off the project and increase community awareness and involvement.
- A school competition will be run to design an eye catching logo for the project, which will be used on a new leaflet and new website which are also planned for this year.
- River engineering will be carried out at Allbrook and Brambridge to stabilise eroding banks and reduce leaks from the Navigation.
- Carefully planned tree works will take place at Shawford, Otterbourne and Bishopstoke. The purpose is to make the Navigation less shaded, making the areas a better place for wildlife, and also in preparation for future work such as path improvements and bank stabilisation works.
- Species monitoring - surveys of bats, otters, watervoles, birds, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies.
- Habitat enhancement at Mansbridge. This much neglected part of the Navigation will be revitalised with the help of volunteers.
- Lock preservation work at Mansbridge Lock and Brambridge Hatch will be carried out by volunteers under the supervision of the Inland Waterway Association.

Volunteer Opportunities:

There are a number of opportunities for which we are seeking the aid of volunteers. If you're interested in any of the tasks listed below, get in touch with Polly Whyte (contact details below). Volunteer involvement is a vital part of the project so it's hoped there is a task here that appeals to you.

For regular updates go to www.hwt.org.uk/what-we-do/conservation/itchen-navigation.htm

The Itchen Way

We have recently heard of (but been unable to review) a new 40 page guide to the popular long distance footpath along the River Itchen by Richard Kenchington. This is now available for £6 plus £1 for

New Members

I am pleased to welcome new Society members, Pete and Carol Jones. I hope you will enjoy our future programme of speakers and special events.

Skittles Evenings

Following the successful Society Skittles Evening on 15 March, it is hoped to organise another event in November. Further details in a future Newsletter.

June Meeting

A reminder that next month Society member Bob Dukes will be telling us all about "Silk, Myth & Mystery" - the history of how silk came from China, the start of its production in Europe, the UK and America, industrialisation, etc.

Paul Herbert

Species Surveys:

Water vole and otter surveys: monitoring their distribution and recording bank vegetation on stretches of the Navigation.

Bat Surveys: emergence surveys using bat detectors.

Bird Surveys: experienced birders required for monitoring the distribution of birds at specified sites.

Dragonfly, damselfly and butterfly surveys: recording the presence of different species from the bank of the Navigation.

Practical Conservation:

Lock preservation including some vegetation clearance, re-pointing and brick work.

Habitat enhancement which includes scrub management and litter clearance.

Publicity:

Can you take a good photo? A **photographer** is needed to capture a photographic record of the project and the people involved. Required one day per month.

Website Editor: to update and maintain the project website.

Public Transport Guide Editor: researching bus and train timetables and publishing on the web.

Newsletter Editor: to put articles and information for the quarterly Itchen Navigation Newsletter.

Events Assistant: helping with the coordination of key events throughout the year, including publicising the event and support with running it.

Finally, we are also looking for a **Heritage Researcher** to bring together details of the Itchen's industrial heritage including text, photos and artwork.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact Polly Whyte, Itchen Navigation Project Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hampshire, SO32 2DP
Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk Telephone: 01489 774400

post and packing. Cheques should be made payable to "Walk the World Limited" and sent to 2 Pavilion Close, Fair Oak, Hampshire SO50 7PS
Further details at: www.walktheworld.freeserve.co.uk/

April Meeting Steve Haywood – “Fruit Flies Like a Banana”

Having read his book “Fruit Flies Like A Banana”, I was delighted to welcome Steve Haywood to our April meeting.

Steve is an award-winning TV producer, journalist and author. He worked on a number of current affairs programmes, including Newsnight, Panorama and the award-winning series ‘Rough Justice’. In 1990 he formed Just Television Ltd and, in 1999, he won a Royal Television Society award for investigative journalism. The following year, after the publication of his first novel, he left the industry to pursue a career as a writer. Steve will, perhaps, be best known to our members for his monthly column in the “Canal Boat” magazine.

He introduced himself and his talk by telling us ‘there will be no holiday slides tonight, you will just have to listen to me’ which we all did, avidly. Apart from canals his other interest was football. He supports Leicester City and therefore enjoyed visiting Southampton, who were having similar problems.

Steve told us he had always been obsessed with canals, he had been a boat owner for more than 30 years; his narrow boat is called ‘Justice’. He described his early adventures at Barrow on the River Soar – swimming in the lock and throwing bricks at passing boats – and being told off by his Mum.

It was Steve’s 50th birthday that spurred him into action. As he explained that ‘What men do, when they hit 50, is cycle around the world, or go to the Amazon – but, not me. I made a trip from Oxford to Bristol by narrow boat and in a classic Triumph Herald car’. Therein lays the premise of his book “Fruit Flies Like A Banana” – an account of the journey he took through the nation’s waterways in 2000.

He referred to his first hire boat experience and he quoted from excerpts of the old (Northern) Nicholson Guide, concerning likely problems to be encountered, including very shallow canals and the risks of running aground, making sure one didn’t run out of fuel because of the infrequency of convenient re-fuelling points, and emptying the toilet. He went on to compare the differences between canals of, say, 30 years ago and now: made up towing paths, cyclists, joggers, and fishermen with all their tackle. He recollected about the early hire companies with their converted pontoons and ships’ lifeboats and cut down working boats.

After the interval Steve had a rant against British Waterways (something he is well known for) and its ever-increasing regulations. He was obviously unhappy about the increasing number of boats on the waterways and the growth in marina development.

We heard of his spooky experience of a ghost on Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

He was looking forward to 2044(!!!) – the 100th anniversary of Tom Rolt’s “Narrow Boat” – which had started it all.

During the evening Steve sold signed copies of “Fruit Flies Like A Banana” – at a specially reduced price. Steve has another book, due to be published later this year – “Narrow Boat Dreams”.

Many thanks Steve for taking the time to visit us and for such an entertaining and humorous talk.

Paul Herbert

(With acknowledgement to an article in the Manchester Evening News and an interview of Steve Haywood by Riazat Butt).

Society Spring Outing The Basingstoke Canal and the Mid-Hants Railway

Despite the inclement weather (overcast and intermittent rain) a party of 32 Society members and guests enjoyed a ‘double-headed’ outing on Saturday 19 April. All week the weather forecast for that weekend warned of bad conditions so none of us should have been surprised that it was a little on the damp side.

We arrived at Odiham Wharf on the Basingstoke Canal where we met the crew of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society’s trip boat “The John Pinkerton” headed by its skipper, Hugh Gough, who was known to a number of us, as he and wife Marion, who live in Compton, near Winchester, were members of our Society some years ago. When they heard that we had chartered the boat they wanted to come along and share in our trip.



Our outward cruise took us through the electrically operated North Warnborough Lift Bridge to Odiham Castle where we disembarked and the boat was winched. Whilst some members explored the recently ‘restored’ King John’s Castle’, others walked beyond the (current) head of navigation to view the entrance portal to Greywell Tunnel. Then

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Waterways Diary

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed

contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

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

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Fri 25 Apr 2008 7.45 for 8.00	Kennet & Avon CT	"The story of Bailey Bridging" with Pablo Haworth. Turnham's Farm Hall, Little Heath Road, Tilehurst, Reading.	John or Pam Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Sun 27 Apr 2008	Cotswold CT	Canamble - sponsored walk to include the whole of Phase 1A of the restoration. Starting from Ebley Mill, Stroud.	Sponsor forms - Tel: 07811 529230 Email: canamble@raash31.co.uk Web: www.cotswoldcanals.com
Sun 27 Apr 2008 10.00am	Wilts & Berks CT	Annual fundraising walk from Chippenham to Pewsham (8 miles).	Peter Williams: Email: peter.williams32@btinternet.com
Wed 30 Apr 2008 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Branch AGM + K&A review. The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury, Berks.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 15 May 2008 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Roger Cansdale from the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society will be talking about "The Basingstoke Canal - Past present and future". The Green Dragon, Alderbury, nr Salisbury, Wiltshire.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 18 May 2008 9.30am	Wey & Arun CT	Small boats rally at Loxwood. Entry forms from contacts on right.	Tel: 01483 503029 Email: rallies@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/events2.php
Sat 24 May 2008	Wey & Arun CT	Whiskey Cruise: Whiskey tasting and boat trip to Drungewick. Tickets will be available shortly. To reserve a space, please contact the office.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/events2.php
Fri 30 May 2008 7.45 for 8.00	Kennet & Avon CT	"BATS" with Tony Vetta. Turnham's Farm Hall, Little Heath Road, Tilehurst, Reading.	John or Pam Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Thu 5 Jun 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Bob Dukes with a talk entitled "Silk: Myth and Mystery". The history of how it came from China, getting silk production going in Europe, UK and America, industrialisation, etc Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Soton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 8 Jun 2008 Start 9.00 to 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	The "Puddle" Annual sponsored walk. Starts from North Hall (village hall), Loxwood, West Sussex. Figure of 8 walk - 15 miles round, 7½ miles in morning and 7½ in afternoon. Sponsorship forms from contacts on right.	Tel: 01403 752403 E-mail: puddle@weyandarun.co.uk Website: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 28 Jun 2008 1.00 to 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archeology Soc	Guided Walk: Poyntz Bridge and Short Industrial Walk of Southgate, Chichester. Cross the Chichester Ship Canal on the unique 1820 cast iron Poyntz swing bridge, just south of the Chichester Canal basin. FREE!	Tel: 01243 576701
Thu 3 Jul 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Dennis Bright with another illustrated wildlife talk "Wild West Wales". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 3 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Talk: The Past, Present and Future of the Chichester Ship Canal given by Rick Travis, Chairman of the Canal Trust, at Committee Room 3, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. Tickets £3.00	Brian Bacon: 01243 263544
Sat 5 Jul 2008 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archeology Soc	Walk Part of the Old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Road, Barnham to walk to Hunston. Approx. 5 mile walk, allow 4 hours. Bring a packed lunch. Return journey by bus. FREE!	Tel: 01243 576701
Sat-Sun 5-6 July 2008 10.00 - 5.00	Cotswolds CT	Saul Canal Festival. Adults: £6.00 accompanied children (under 16): free. Saul Junction, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal Nr Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire GL2 7LA	Festival Administrator: 01285 643440 Email: scf-info@junctionevents.org.uk Web: www.junctionevents.org.uk
Sun 6 Jul 2008	IWA Salisbury Group	Group visit to Gloucestershire for guided tour through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett, Marine Historian. Combined with visit to Saul Canal Festival.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sat 12 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Mikron Theatre Company present: "Fair Trade". The history of the cooperative movement in the North of England from it's beginnings in Rochdale in 1844 to a world-wide membership of 750 million.	Tickets £7.00 from Linda Wilkinson, 1 Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester, PO18 8TL
Sun 27 Jul 2008 10.00 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival at Victoria Park, Newbury	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 31 Jul 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 25 May, 8, 22 Jun, 6, 20 Jul, 3, 17 Aug 2008 2.00pm		Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett, Marine Historian . Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (OS ref S0692044) .	Tel: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com
21 Mar - 28 Sep 2008 10.30 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station open every day for static viewing. See below for steaming weekends. Adults £4.50, Seniors £4.00, Children £2.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £11.00, Children under 5 free	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
3-5, 24-26 May, 28-29 Jun, 26-27 Jul, 23-25 Aug 2008 10.30 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station - Steaming weekends. Adults £7.00, Seniors £6.00, Children £2.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £16.00, Children under 5 free	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
23 Mar - 25 Oct 2008 10:00 - 5:00 (4:00 Weds)	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station open every day for static viewing of the waterwheel and pump. See below for pumping days. Admission £2.50, Children under 16 free, but all children must be accompanied by an adult	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
27 Apr, 5, 25-26 May, 8 & 22 Jun, 13 & 27 Jul, 10, 25-26 Aug 2008	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Pumping days. Admission £4.00, Children under 16 free, but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Open from 10.00 to 5.00	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org

SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

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

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.

Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, Hilo, Hungerford, Bursledon, Hampshire, SO31 8DF. Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 403982 (home)

Email: info@apas-engineering.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Anne Coleman, 14 Redmoor Close, Bitterne, Southampton, SO19 4DH. Tel: 023 8044 2552. Email: wiseowl@tcp.co.uk

Committee:

Maureen Greenham, Peter Oates, Alan Rose, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798.

Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

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

Meetings:

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

Society Spring Outing

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it was back on board for the return journey to Odiham Wharf. Light refreshments were available on board and Maureen Greenham had organised a raffle.

We took our leave of "The John Pinkerton" after thanking its crew of Hugh & Marion Gough and John & Yvonne Kilburn. Just time for the traditional group photograph alongside the boat.

Then it was back into the cars for the drive to 'The Watercress Line' at Alresford Station, with members making their own lunch arrangements en-route.

Society members Sue and Eric Lewis were much in evidence, Sue working in the Station Buffet whilst Eric (who is training as a Travelling Ticket Inspector) was on duty on the platform, resplendent in his Southern Railway uniform, complete with peaked cap!

We joined the 3pm train, headed by Bulleid *Merchant Navy* Class No. 35005 *Canadian Pacific*, on which we had our own reserved carriage section. Sue was able to join our party for the return trip to Alton whilst Eric was up and down checking tickets. As might be expected, he had to put up with some good natured banter from many of us.

At Alton Station a number of us disembarked to watch our



Above: Inspector Lewis

Left: 35005 Canadian Pacific

Bottom Left: Another group photo!



locomotive run around its train to be re-coupled at the other end, ready for our return journey back to Alresford. On reaching journey's end there was the opportunity for a further group photograph alongside the train before we dispersed to make our own way home.

The Society owes a great deal to Maureen Greenham (and, I am sure, husband Brian) for organising yet another successful and enjoyable outing. Not only does she do the actual organisation and make the necessary bookings, but she and Brian visit the locations, making careful note of the best route to take and journey times, details of which are then provided to all those taking part. MANY THANKS MAUREEN.

Paul Herbert