



Chairman's Column

May Meeting

Welcome to our May speaker, Paul Gosling, with 'Gosling's Gallivants 2009'. I believe that boats, railways and airplanes are all involved.

Aelred Derbyshire

I was sorry to hear that our member Aelred has been ill since the beginning of the year and has been in hospital for some time. I spoke to Sue Derbyshire recently enquiring as to Aelred's condition and passed on the best wishes of all their Society colleagues.

Vacancies for Chairman and Treasurer & Membership Secretary

..... and we are still waiting for volunteers to come forward. This does not bode well for the future of the Society.

Membership Subscriptions

Just another reminder that our new membership year started on 1 April and if you haven't yet paid your subscription (Individual - £15; Joint/Family - £22) to Anne Coleman, it is now overdue.

2010 Annual General Meeting

Further to the item in the last Newsletter, this is to confirm that this year's Annual General Meeting will now be held one week earlier than originally planned. The new date is Thursday 22 July and I suggest you note this in your diaries.

Society Visit to Bursledon Brickworks

Maureen Greenham has organised a visit to Bursledon Brickworks on 10 June starting at 2pm

The cost to cover the admission charge, a guided tour and a cream tea (comprising 2 scones, clotted cream and jam, tea or coffee) is £7.50

**To book a place on this visit, please contact Maureen
Tel: 02380 406 951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net**



Bursledon Brickworks was founded in 1897 by a Mr Ashby who previously ran brickworks in Chandlers Ford, until the clay deposits ran low.

The surviving buildings are the main part of the southern complex, which at its height was producing 20 million bricks a year and provided extensive local employment for around 180 people. The northern complex on the other side of the M27 was demolished a number of years ago and is now the site of the NATS (Swanwick Air Traffic Control Centre). The brickworks was a family run concern until after the Second World War when it was amalgamated with the Sussex and Dorking Brick Company and became Redlands Limited in 1959.

It remained open until 1974 when a combination of factors including the decline in quality of the clay, problems with its extraction and increased labour and running costs and the interruption caused by the

Day-Star Theatre

Pete and Jane Marshall will be paying us a return visit in the autumn with Day-Star Theatre's production of "The Worst Summer Ever". The date will be Friday 8 October, the day after our usual meeting for that month. Further details of this production have been published elsewhere in this Newsletter. Tickets at £8 each will be going on sale at our June meeting. Let us try and make it a full house again. There will be the usual American Supper after the show.

Society Burgees

A reminder that we are considering ordering a new stock of Society burgees. Enquiries to Angela Rose please.

Our Next Speaker

Our next meeting will be held on 3 June and our speakers on that occasion will be Society member, John Silman, and Tony Yoward who will be presenting "Canals and Mills General & Industrial".

April Newsletter

Apologies to those members who normally receive their Newsletter by post. Due to an administrative oversight there has been a most regrettable delay in sending out the April Newsletter.

Paul Herbert

construction of the M27, meant the works were no longer viable and it was closed.

Twenty years passed and the old brickworks fell into a state of dereliction and were in danger of disappearing altogether, when it was saved and given listed status.

The brickworks was sold to Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, for a token sum, as a result of an agreement with Redland plc which included an endowment to provide some of the funds needed for the restoration of the buildings.

Restoration began and is still an ongoing operation, which means there is plenty to keep visitors interested and find out just how much more there is to making a brick than you might think.

This is the last surviving Victorian steam-driven brickworks in the country and is run by enthusiastic volunteers to preserve the site for future generations.

April Meeting

Liam D'Arcy Brown - "Chinese Grand Canal"

It was very unfortunate that only nineteen members and three guests experienced Liam's talk to us at the April meeting. I am aware that being Easter a number of members were away on holiday whilst others were attending the Maundy Service at their church.

Liam introduced his talk by explaining that he started studying China and the Chinese in 1989 when he attended University in Taiwan and Shanghai. He admitted to not having any wide knowledge of canals but his speciality is China, and his extensive knowledge of that country soon became apparent.

His dedication to his thirst for knowledge of China was indicated by commencing a three month tour of that country in 2006 – just three days after his marriage (and no, his wife did not accompany him but, surprisingly, was awaiting him on his return!).

Liam is an experienced writer and presenter of talks. In fact, he is in significant demand for the latter and has a considerable number of talking commitments booked to date. As previously said, he has considerable experience of China and is the first westerner, in over 200 years, to travel the full length of the Grand Canal, all 1000 plus miles of it! Whilst parts of the canal's route have been changed a number of times during its life, today it stretches from Beijing, in the north, to Hangzhou, near Shanghai, in the south. As Liam describes, "*You can hear – and smell – the Grand Canal of China for a good half-mile before you see it*".

The first section of the canal was constructed by the military in 483BC (!!!). Most of the current canal was built between 600 and 700AD with further improvements in the late 13th century. The original route of the canal was 1,700 miles in length but is now only 1,114 miles. For much of its life, until its role was supplanted by the railways, the transport of grain on the canal was one of the

most solemn responsibilities of government. Up to 18,000 imperial barges carried 600,000 tons northward each year.

By 1901 the canal was declared derelict and, by 1911, had been largely abandoned because of devastating flooding, competition from foreign built railways and advances in coastal shipping. However, in the 1950s it became part of Chairman Mao's command economy, and today long trains of barge laden to the coamings, towed by tugs, carry the necessities of industrialisation – bricks, sand, cement and gravel for expanding cities like Shanghai. Seventy percent of China's energy is now met by coal, and the Grand Canal is a strategically vital route. But, despite there being around 100,000 working vessels on the canal, this is emphatically not a canal for leisure. A few sightseeing boats still give tourists a tantalising glimpse of canal-life, but with the demise in 2006 of the last commercial ferry the only way to travel any great distance is to strike a bargain with a willing captain, a time-consuming and illicit tactic that demands fluency in Mandarin and not a little money.

Liam described how the physical geography of the canal changes dramatically from south to north and his talk included information on the history of the canal, its construction, various major river crossings, and the politics involved.

Many thanks Liam for your fascinating talk and it was a shame that so many members missed it. However, for more information about the Grand Canal of China, there is significant material on the internet, an excellent illustrated article by Liam was published in this April's "*Waterways World*" and for the story of his journey to discover this major waterway, you must read his book "*The Emperor's River: Travels to the Heart of a Resurgent China*" published by Eye Books.

Paul Herbert

Day-Star Theatre



It's August 1954 the Americans have just exploded a hydrogen bomb on the island of Bikini, Khrushchev is manoeuvring for total power in the USSR after Stalin's death, Roger Bannister, has run the first sub four minute mile and wartime rationing finally ends with the lifting of restrictions on meat. It is also being called the 'worst summer ever' with high rainfall, low temperatures and very little sunshine.

In the small seaside town of *Shellsea* they are feeling the effects of the non existent summer. The *Sea Spray* seafront restaurant hasn't had a customer for days, nobody wants to hire a deck chair and the *Cliff View* Guest House has just one paying guest, a mysterious foreigner who says he is from Basingstoke.

Day-Star Theatre

will be visiting the

Southampton Canal Society

on

Friday 8 October at 7.45pm

Tickets will be £8 - available at the June meeting

An American Supper will follow the show.

Some people blame the weather on the new atomic research station up on the moor and others blame the Russians but when Rosie, the new focus of male attention in the town, goes missing, suspicion starts to fall on the mysterious foreigner.

There is also a neglected and bullied wife. A redundant Spiv, a war widow and an ex R A F war hero unrequited in love so you might wonder what there is to laugh about in *Shellsea*. Quite a lot actually

Two actors, six characters, a multitude of emotions

The Worst Summer Ever is this year's offering from *Day-Star Theatre*

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.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (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.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 29 Apr 2010 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Paul Gosling with "Gosling's Gallivants 2009" - Boats, Rail & Planes involved. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sat 1 May 2010	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Join Canal Ranger Peter Bickford for an early morning stroll down the Canal, listen and learn about birdsongs of migrant and resident birds. Booking essential. £3 per person. Meet: Howfield Cottage, Pirbright Lock, Connaught Road Brookwood, Surrey GU24 OAG (SU943568)	Canal Centre Tel: 01252 370073
Thu 20 May 2010 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	John Gollidge with "My Rescue at Sea." This will be followed by Ron & Myra Glover showing slides, a DVD and talking about the Falkirk Wheel. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR. (SU183274)	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Fri 21 May 2010 7.30 for 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'The Grand Canal of China' - Liam D'Arcy Brown. All Saints Church Hall, Downshire Square, Reading RG1 6NH. (SU705729) £2.50 to cover hall hire and tea or coffee.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@googlemail.com
Sun 30 May 2010 11.00am	Wey & Arun CT	Loxwood Small Boat Rally. No further details to hand.	Trust office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Thu 3 Jun 2010 7.45pm	Southampton CS	John Silman & Tony Yoward present "Canals and Mills General & Industrial". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 10 Jun 2010 2.00pm	Southampton CS	Visit to Bursledon Brickworks, SO31 7GW. (SU500098) Entrance in Swanwick Lane by the M27. Cost £7.50 to include admission, guided tour and cream tea.	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406 951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net
Sun 13 Jun 2010	Wey & Arun CT	38th Annual Puddle - 12 mile sponsored walk in the area around Bramley, Surrey. Sponsorship form from Trust office or www.weyandarun.co.uk/puddle-forms2010.pdf	Trust office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 13 Jun 2010	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Small Boat Cruise: Port Creek, between Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours. Port Creek, next to the A27 dual-carriageway, is what makes Portsmouth into an island. Further details from Andy or Brendan.	Andy Berncastle Tel: 023 8027 3599 Email: hilary.berncastle@btinternet.com or Brendan Whelan Tel: 01903 816012 Email: solentandarun@waterways.org.uk
Sat 19 Jun 2010	Reading Council K & A C T	The 21st annual Reading Water Fest. At Chestnut Walk (canalside) and Forbury Gardens, Reading. (SU719735).	Reading BC: 0118 937 2771 Web: www.reading.gov.uk/news/whatson
Sat 26 Jun 2010 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre with "Pedal Power" ... freewheeling through cycling history with the wind at its back. The Angel on the Bridge, Thameside, Henley, Oxon RG9 1BH (SU763825). Suggested donation £10.	Mikron Theatre: 01484 843701; Email: admin@mikron.org.uk ; Web: www.mikron.org.uk
Sun 27 Jun 2010 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre with "Striking the Balance" about the fight for equal pay in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Donnington, Chichester PO19 2QJ (SU855036). Tickets £7.50	Tickets from: Linda Wilkinson, 1 Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester, PO18 8TL. Tel: 01243 576701
Tue 29 Jun 2010 8.00pm		Mikron Theatre with "Pedal Power" ... freewheeling through cycling history with the wind at its back. Blubeckers at The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5SH (SU572664). Suggested donation £10.	Mikron Theatre: 01484 843701; Email: admin@mikron.org.uk ; Web: www.mikron.org.uk
Wed 30 Jun 2010 8.00pm		Mikron Theatre with "Pedal Power" ... freewheeling through cycling history with the wind at its back. The Trout Inn, St Johns Bridge, Lechlade on Thames GL7 3HA (SU222990). Suggested donation £10.	Mikron Theatre: 01484 843701; Email: admin@mikron.org.uk ; Web: www.mikron.org.uk
Thu 1 Jul 2010 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Power point presentation on the Itchen Navigation by Ali Morse, project manager for the HWT. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 1 Jul 2010 8.00pm		Mikron Theatre with "Striking the Balance" about the fight for equal pay in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Blubeckers at The Rowbarge, Station Road, Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5SH (SU572664). Suggested donation £10.	Mikron Theatre: 01484 843701; Email: admin@mikron.org.uk ; Web: www.mikron.org.uk
Sun 4 Jul 2010 10.30am	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Guided walk from Birdham sea lock along the Chichester Canal to the Canal Basin in Chichester. Approx. 4 miles. See some of the excavated engineering remains of the canal. Parking at the Marina (SU835010)	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 4 Jul 2010 7.30pm	Reading Borough Council	Mikron Theatre with "Striking the Balance" about the fight for equal pay in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Caversham Court, Reading, by the Thames. RG4 7 (SU709748). Free show. For further details tel: 0118 9390771	Mikron Theatre: 01484 843701; Email: admin@mikron.org.uk ; Web: www.mikron.org.uk
Mon 5 Jul 2010 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre with "Striking the Balance" about the fight for equal pay in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Goring Lock, Goring RG8 9AE (SU596808). Suggested donation £10.	Mikron Theatre: 01484 843701; Email: admin@mikron.org.uk ; Web: www.mikron.org.uk
Tue 6 Jul 2010 8.00pm		Mikron Theatre with "Pedal Power" freewheeling through cycling history with the wind at its back. Waterfront Cafe at Benson Marina, Benson, Oxfordshire OX10 6SJ. (SU613916) Tickets £10 must be booked in advance.	Tel: 01491 838435 to book tickets.
Wed 7 Jul 2010 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre with "Striking the Balance" about the fight for equal pay in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The Plough Inn, High Street, Long Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4QH. (SU546938) Suggested donation £10.	Tel: 01865 407738

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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, 18 Fairisle Road, Lordshill, Southampton, SO16 8BY. Tel: 023 8073.5444 . Email: anne-c@virginmedia.com

Committee:

Maureen Greenham, Alan Rose, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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

Email: scs@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

<http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

Dinghy for sale



Member Colin Huggins wonders if anyone would be interested in the illustrated dinghy?

He says, "Bought for £400 as a tender which would enable me to still do some sailing, I found it does NOT tow at 10 knots!

"The woodwork is newly varnished, the sail's in good condition, but the trolley is not available now. A similar dinghy is currently advertised in Boats & Outboards for £200. It's gathering dust here so needs a good home - would give it away (ouch!) for a donation to the RNLI."

Anyone who feels they're interested can contact Colin on 02392 467828.



IWA Solent & Arun Branch Small Boat Cruise

On Sunday 13 June 2010 the Solent & Arun will be holding another of its small boat cruises on the Port Creek. Port Creek, next to the A27 dual-carriageway, is what makes Portsmouth into an island. Tidal, with low bridges, we again attempt the challenge of navigating it in the time-window when there is both enough depth and enough headroom. For the confident harbour cruiser, a muddy launch at Fareham around 09.00 for a 12-mile cruise (using main channels, shorter if confident navigationally) through Port Creek eastwards to Langstone (Ship Inn), to recover at the good slipway there. High

Water is at about 13.00. For the less bold, meet at Highbury, to launch directly into Port Creek near the railway bridge, from 10.30, to get away at 11.00. Explore Port Creek in both directions and either recover at Highbury (or Hilsa), or head east to Langstone (6 miles). Lift available to recover cars if necessary from launch site. OS Grid References: Fareham slipway - SU 579056 and Highbury slipway - SU 666043.

Further details from Andy Berncastle Tel: 023 8027 3599 Email: hilary.berncastle@btinternet.com or Brendan Whelan Tel: 01903 816012 Email: solentandarun@waterways.org.uk

Waterways Diary

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Sat 10 Jul 2010 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Guided walk along part of the old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham, PO22 0BN (SU956035) for approx. 6 mile walk to Hunston. Bring packed lunch.	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 11 Jul 2010	Wey & Arun CT	Boat Rally on the stretch of the River Wey from Guns Mouth in Shalford (SU997464).	Trust office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 11 Jul 2010 10.00am - 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Soc	Poyntz Swing Bridge will be in operation for the day. Situated just 200 yards below the Chichester canal basin (SU859038). Display about the canal and its history on site. Guided walk around the canal basin led by Alan Green at 14.00 featuring the industrial history of the basin.	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Thu 22 Jul 2010 7.45pm	Southampton CS	AGM followed by "A Social Evening" with Cheese & Wine. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 25 Jul 2010 10.00am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival. Victoria Park Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1EH. (SU473673).	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Sun 2 & 16 May, 6 & 20 Jun, 4 & 18 Jul 2010 2.00pm	Paul Barnett	Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett. Tour fee £3.50 per person. Approx 2 hours weather permitting. Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (SO692044).	Paul Barnett: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com Web: www.friendsofpurton.org.uk