



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

May Meeting

AS USUAL, **NO** MAY MEETING AS THE HALL IS IN USE FOR ELECTIONS

At last! We hope that spring and the sunshine will arrive soon, time to plan our holidays and days out.

June Meeting: Celebrating Fifty Years

On Thursday 1st June we hope you will be able to enjoy the cruise on the "John Pinkerton" on the Basingstoke Canal. For more information, see Aelred's item below.

As a result of the cruise there will be **NO** evening meeting at Chilworth.

July Meeting

This will be the Southampton Canal Society's Fiftieth Annual General Meeting. The formal business will be followed by cheese, wine and a natter.

August Meeting

There will be **NO** August meeting as the hall is closed for maintenance.

September Meeting

On 7th September, Society member Gordon Osborn will be talking about family cruising in Ireland.

Thank you all for your support.

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Cotswold Canals Funding

COTSWOLD Canals Trust and Stroud District Council have welcomed the news that the Canal & River Trust is backing the bid to reconnect Stroud to the national canal network.

Canal & River Trust trustees have pledged £625,000 to support the restoration of the Cotswold Canal. The assistance will be spread over five years from 2018 if a bid this year to the Heritage Lottery Fund is successful. This is in addition to the support 'in kind' that the Trust can also provide.

David Hagg, chief executive of Stroud District Council, comments: "The funds could be an important factor in helping to secure a bid by Cotswold Canals Trust and Stroud District Council to the Heritage Lottery Fund later this year which would see nearly £20m overall investment in the waterway.

"If the bid is successful, it will fulfil the waterway movement's long held ambition to connect approximately 11 miles of 'new' canal to the wider network as it will connect the six miles of largely restored canal around Stroud, to the Canal & River Trust's network at Saul Junction on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal."

The decision follows Stroud District Council's investment of £3million in the project, and Gloucestershire County Council's recent announcement that it will commit £700,000.

If the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is successful, 'Stroudwater Connected' would start in 2018/19 with the Canal & River Trust's contribution of £125k per annum (plus staff time as can be made available) continuing over five years.

Alan Rose

Celebrating Fifty Years

There will be no meeting on 4 May, as usual, as the Hall will be in use for the local elections. The meeting on 1 June has been replaced by the trip on the Basingstoke Canal to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society's foundation, so there will be no meeting at Chilworth Village Hall on that day.

The trip boat John Pinkerton II will depart from the Wharf at Odiham at

2:30 pm on Thursday 1 June 2017, and the trip will last approximately 2½ hours. There are hot and cold drinks, and snacks, available on the boat so I am not organising any other refreshments. A number of members are planning to have lunch at The Waterwitch at Odiham before the trip. The Manager has said it would be helpful if people wanting to eat at the pub would look at the menu on their website: www.chefandbrewer.com/pub/waterwitch-odiham-hook/c3350/ and then call them to make a reservation before the day.



The Committee have secured the services of Derek Spruce, President of the Odiham Society and a well known local historian. Derek will be joining us for the trip and will give a talk about the history of Odiham Castle.

If you have not already booked a place on the trip please contact Angela or me as soon as possible, as we have to tell the trip boat organisers the final numbers by 18 May 2017.

*Aelred Derbyshire
Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

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 4 May 2017	Southampton CS	There will be NO meeting - as the hall will be used for elections.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 13 May 2017 10.30am	Kennet & Avon CT	55th Annual General Meeting of the Trust. After the formal business, there will be short presentations explaining the Trust's two main strategic priorities in 2017: 'Our Crofton Story' and 'The Bruce branch and our strategic alliance with the Bruce Trust'.	West Lavington Village Hall Sandfield, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4HL (SU004535).	Trust Office: 01380 721279 Web: katrust.org.uk
Sun 14 May 2017 3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Pulborough to Pallingham Boat Rally. This aims to confirm the right of navigation on the River Arun above Pulborough, reaching the site of the junction with the Wey and Arun then on to the navigable limit at Pallingham Quay. No entry fee, but donations towards costs welcome. Further info on website.	Launching from Pulborough slipway planned 3.00-3.30pm. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map of slipway here Canoes can launch at Stopham Bridge, RH20 IDS (TQ030183) around 3.30pm. See map here .	Please register for event on website. Further information, please email. Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.org.uk
Tue 16 May 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Joint meeting with IWA. £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sat 20 May 2017 2.00pm	Basingstoke CS	Annual General Meeting. Following the formal business, there will be reports from the Chairmen of the Canal Society and Boat Company, presentation of the Robin Higgs Award and a talk by John Dodwell, Trustee of the Canal & River Trust.	Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman's Road, Deepcut, Surrey GU16 6TB (SU909577).	Terry Inskip: 07768 410920 Email: Secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/
Sun 21 May 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Bathampton to Claverton. Along Kennet & Avon towpath.	The George, Bathampton, BA2 6TR (ST776664).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat-Mon 27-29 May 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 27 May 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Thu 1 Jun 2017	Southampton CS	In view of this afternoon's cruise on the Basingstoke Canal, there will be NO evening meeting this month.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 1 Jun 2017 2.00pm for 2.30pm	Southampton CS	Celebrating Fifty Years. Cruise on the 'John Pinkerton' on the Basingstoke Canal. See article in on page 1.	Colt Hill Wharf, London Road, Odiham, Hampshire, RG29 1AL (SU747519).	Aelred Derbyshire: 01794 651350 Email: aelred41@sky.com
Fri-Sun 2-4 Jun 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	See it for Real Productions	Beale Park Boat & Outdoor Show 2017. Open until 6.00pm Fri and Sat. See website for admission charges.	Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618778).	Phone: 01296 631 273 Email: info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk Web: www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/
Sat 4 Jun 2017	Wey & Arun CT	"The Poddle" - WACT's annual sponsored walk. Details to follow.	To be announced.	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: support@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 10 Jun 2017 11.00am-5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Reading Water Fest. Festival of boats, entertainment and stalls. Great family day out. Admission is free.	River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG1 3AH. (SU719734)	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sun 11 Jun 2017 10.00am-3.00pm	Chichester Rotary	Dragon Boat Challenge 2017 The Rotary Club of Chichester Priory has joined again with Cancer-Wise for the fifth dragon boat challenge on Chichester's canal to raise money for charity.	Canal Basin, Canal Wharf, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041).	Email: chichester-dragons@btinternet.com Web: http://www.chichesterdragonboats.org.uk/
Tue 13 Jun 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Annual General Meeting - 2017	Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, BA3 3EP (ST689549). For location see map here	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: chairman@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 18 Jun 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Brassknocker to Claverton. Alongside part of the Coal Canal and the Kennet & Avon.	Brassknocker Canal Centre, Brassknocker Basin, Bath BA2 7JD (ST781621).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat-Sun 24-25 Jun 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org

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April Meeting

“Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future” with Ruth Kerr

The meeting was reasonably well attended, 28 in total, including three new faces which had seen the meeting advertised in the Newsletter.

The society welcomed Ruth Kerr, a Community Engagement Officer for the Eling Tide Mile. Ruth explained the long history of the site, located on the causeway which impounds the tidal Bartley Water, and the Grade II listed building. The incoming tide floods through a group of hatches in the causeway to fill the mill pond behind the causeway. After high water, when the hatches have been closed and the level of the tide has fallen sufficiently on the seaward side of the causeway, the sluice gates are opened to drive the water wheel and in turn the mill machinery.

The history of the causeway possibly dates back to the time of the Romans (c400 AD) but the earliest surviving reference to mill is in the Domesday Book in 1086 AD. Research has identified the mill was owned by King John in the 1200's and later by William of Wykeham, the Bishop of Winchester, in 1382 AD. Subsequently ownership was transferred to Winchester College until 1975 when the building was bought the New Forest District Council. The lease for the mill on Christmas day December 1418 included the requirement to rebuild the mill, house and causeway. The current mill was dates from 1785



and was built by John Chandler the lease holder at that time.

Grain was unloaded directly in to the mill from vessels moored in the harbour and the quay was developed further to include ship and boat building and shipment of timber, coal and food. 1847 saw the arrival of the railway in Totton with a spur constructed to the wharf in 1851, the rails of which are still visible at the end of the quay. In this period, the separate steam mill was constructed on the quay. By the 1930's the tide mill was being used as a provender (animal feed) mill until 1941 when war restrictions stopped operations.

The collection of causeway tolls have always been associated with the mill and the toll gate has long been a recognisable local landmark. Weight restrictions on the causeway previously required the bus service to unload the passengers on one side of the causeway, cross on foot while the bus was driven to the other side, before re-joining the bus.

The local council group has recently secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop the site and the adjacent heritage centre. The work will include conservation of the mill and improvements to visibility of the mill machinery, in addition to new features in the heritage centre to explain water power.

Gordon Osborn

Waterways Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat-Sun 24-25 Jun 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 24 Jun 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. Bring your own refreshments. Outdoor event with indoor alternative for inclement weather. Tickets £10.00 from The Council Office, Ockwells, 113 High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6AE.	Cricklade Bloomers, Brook House, High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6DD (SU101938).	Cricklade Town Council: 01793 751394 Web: www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Sat 24 Jun 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sun 25 Jun 2017 5.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	Forbury Gardens, Reading, RG1 3EJ (SU718736).	Tel: 01189 372771 Web: mikron.org.uk
Tue 27 Jun 2017 7.00pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. performed at Fordingbridge Group of WIs. Tickets: £10. Indoor venue. Ice cream available in interval.	The Town Hall, 63 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1AS (SU147141). Please use town car park (The Bartons SP6 1HZ) free after 6pm.	Tel: 014255 650493 / 01425 652172 Web: mikron.org.uk
Wed 28 Jun 2017 3.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar, food and refreshments available. Indoor show.	YHA, 41 Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NH (TQ312039).	Tel: 01273 738674 Web: www.yha.org.uk/hostel/brighton or mikron.org.uk
Thu 29 Jun 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. No tickets required, a cash collection will be taken after the show. Bring chairs and blankets. Bar available. Outdoor Show with shelter and Indoor back up.	YHA Bath, Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6LA (ST763645). No parking at hostel. Please park on Bathwick Hill.	Tel: 01225 465674 Web: mikron.org.uk
Thu 6 Jul 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	SCS's Fiftieth Annual General Meeting. The formal business will be followed by cheese, wine and a natter.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

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

Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Events) at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184. Contact the Secretary for further information.

This Newsletter is normally published during the first week of each month in time for the Society's meeting.

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Mikron Theatre Tour 2017

Mikron Theatre Company will be touring again this summer and performing at some 150 venues across the country. Those venues within about 50 miles of Southampton during June are listed in this Newsletter (a list of all such venues throughout the summer can be

found on the Society's [website](#)). The subjects of the two productions this year are the Youth Hostel Association and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution; brief resumés of these are given below.

Best Foot Forward

A hike through the history of hostelling

Something's afoot at Pearling Manor and it isn't just the walkers.

The beautiful hostel, rich in YHA history, is lovely but falling apart. External forces are out to grab and turn it into a golf club.

Cue Connie, first ever warden, with a heart as big as her rucksack. She takes us on a journey through the YHA's past in the hope of securing its future.

With harmonies, hills and humour, join Mikron on a hike through the history of hostelling.

In at the Deep End

An RNLI Story

Skipwick RNLI is all at sea. Crew members are hard to come by and Coxswain Darren's management style isn't helping. So when seventeen year old Shannon volunteers, it's all hands on deck – particularly for Darren's teenage son, Billy.

Can the station survive in this 'me first' age? Will eccentric fundraiser Hazel's ideas ever turn a profit? And can Darren and Billy chart the choppy emotional waters closer to home?

With marvellous maritime music and fathoms of fun, join Mikron as we dive into two hundred years of saving lives at sea!

Historic Narrow Boat Club Easter Gathering on the BCN

After knocking the dust off Purton, we left our mooring and headed down through Stockton and Bascote locks on the Grand Union Canal mooring up below Cape Locks and Hatton flight. Up bright and eager we teamed up with another boat to go up the steep Hatton Flight, a tea break at the top then motored on alone through Kingswood Junction and Knowle Locks.

Here we were informed there was very low water in the cut above the locks. The suggestion was we turn and go back to the Stratford Canal and go through the Lapworth flight. Not to be defeated we carried on very slowly, going out of gear through the bridge holes and moored up at 9pm.

On day three, we pressed on to Camp Hill and Garrison Locks on the Birmingham & Warwick and a short section of the Junction Canal before going under the wonderful construction and labyrinth of "Spaghetti Junction". We found it an interesting day of old canal heritage, foundries, and machine shops, loading bays, huge waste disposal and paper recycling sites but then "Star City" a massive gambling and entertainment complex, built on the site of Nechells power station. We did not stop as I had not brought my "fancy clothes" but moored at the bottom of Perry Barr Locks.

We set off early the next morning to find there was no water in the intermediate pounds. This meant water had to be brought down from the top locks - no problem - just time consuming. Moving on up

to Rushall Junction and locks, we arrived at Brownhills mid-afternoon to find excellent moorings for 30 plus boats.

The Brownhills Community Hall had been hired including a bar which sold local Backyard Brewery Beers. Highlights of the four days included an excellent speaker on this area of coal fields, the build, supply & delivery of coal for the power stations. The Chasewater Reservoir was opened in 1800 to serve the Wyrley and Essington main line.

Purton and Stanton explored the canal dead end of the Anglesey Wharf and Basin. In addition we went off to Pelsall Junction and onto the Cannock Extension Canal to Norton Canes where the M6 Toll road cuts off the line.

On Easter Sunday, HNBC held their traditional "Tat Auction" the proceeds going to the local "Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust Fund." Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock ran another "fiendish quiz in the evening and this finished off our visit to Brownhills.

Easter Monday the boats dispersed. Twenty odd cruised down to the Walsall Town Arm, a very lively area especially at 2am. It gave an opportunity to show a presence at this under-used branch of the BCN Please note a long boat hook and pole is required to clear debris from the prop in these areas.

Angela Rose