

**In this issue:**

Chairman's Column	1
Ancient mill reopens	1
Letter to the Editor	1
Important Notice	1
Waterways Events	2 & 3
Mikron Theatre	3
Making royal waves	4
April Meeting	4
Commuting by Kayak	5
Licence Evasion	5
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	6

**Letter to the Editor**

Hi Peter

With reference to your challenge in the canal society newsletter as to the number of locks travelled through, I decided to check it out. So far we have travelled through 7,076 wide locks and 7,958 narrow locks, making a total of 15,034 locks on *Remus*.

In addition to this the hire boat lockage is in the order of 1500 thus making a combined total of approximately 16,534. Other information concerning our travels on *Remus*, -- total mileage in excess of 18,434 miles having passed through tunnels on 545 occasions, making 331 miles travelled underground.

*Eric and Sue Lewis***Important Notice**

I would like to draw attention to the important item on the back page about the new General Data Protection Regulation. Boring, but the law about the way organisations hold and use personal data will change on 25 May 2018.

To comply, we **need** you to give written consent to hold data about you and to use it to contact you by telephone or email. I should point out that if you do not give this consent you will **no longer** receive this Newsletter by email. (What a relief!)

Indeed, I would ask those members who use email but don't get their Newsletter via email to consider doing so - it saves the Society over 70p per issue in postage, etc. *Peter Oates*

**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**

The cancelled March meeting has been rearranged for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June. With a talk entitled "The Royal National Lifeboat Institution", Caroline Tilly will tell us all about the RNLI - the charity which rescues 24 people a day.

**July Meeting**

The Southampton Canal Society's Fifty-first Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**August Meeting**

There will be NO AUGUST MEETING as the hall will be closed for maintenance.

**September Meeting**

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Society's President, Brian Evans, will be showing a selection of canal films and DVDs.

Thank you all for your support.

*Alan Rose***Ancient mill reopens after £2million upgrade**

In the tide mill itself old safety barriers have been replaced with glass screens allowing uninterrupted views of the mill machinery and water wheels, which have been repaired and restored.

The mill shop has been refurbished, with new displays and a lighter, brighter environment. A lift has also been installed allowing visitors with mobility difficulties to access the ground floor of the ancient mill for the first time.

New footpaths, bridges and wooden boardwalks have been created

around Bartley Water and down to Goatee Beach, making the mill's lovely natural setting accessible to wheelchairs users and pushchairs for the first time.

The improvements have been supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £1.7m. The project was managed by New Forest District Council, which owns the tide mill, and put £223,000 into the project, along with Totton and Eling Town Council, which runs the attraction, which contributed £98,000.

Eling Tide Mill Experience manager Helen Robinson said: "We are really excited to welcome visitors back to the Eling Tide Mill Experience.

"The tide mill is one of only two in the country, and flour has been milled on this site for 900 years.

"Our new exhibition brings the mill to life and explains its central role in the life of the community over the centuries."

The Eling Tide Mill Experience will be officially open by HRH The Duke of Gloucester at an event on April 24.

*Daily Echo 10 April 2018*

*Thanks to Brian Evans for spotting the following article in the Echo and sending it in for all to see, with the comment "Interesting to see after the talk in April 2017."*

AN ANCIENT Hampshire mill reopens to the public today following a £2m refurbishment programme.

Eling Tide Mill its, visitor centre and open spaces around Bartley Water and Goatee Beach, has been restored and refurbished, creating an interactive exhibition, greatly improved access to the buildings and the footpaths, a new café, activity room and refurbished mill shop.

In the visitor centre a brand new exhibition telling the story of the tide mill features hands-on activities where visitors can try milling flour or operating a mini-working model of the tide mill. The visitor centre has been extended to incorporate the new Mill Café, serving lunches and homemade cakes; some made using the tide mill's own flour.

Talks, school trips and holiday activity sessions will be hosted in the John Chandler Activity Room, named for a former miller. The centre is now fully accessible to wheelchair users.

## 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 3 May 2018	Southampton CS	<b>NO MAY MEETING.</b> As always, there will be <b>NO May Meeting</b> as the hall is in use for elections.		<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat-Mon 5-7 May 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Early May Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 12 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, 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 13 May 2018 11.15am-4.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	<b>Pulborough to Pallingham Boat Rally.</b> This aims to confirm the right of navigation on the River Arun 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 11.15am - noon. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map of slipway <a href="#">here</a> . Canoes can launch at Stopham Bridge, RH20 1DS (TQ030183) noon onwards. 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>
Tue 15 May 2018 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Joint meeting with IWA. Mark Rudall and "Steam Boats". Joint meeting with IWA?</b> Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sat 19 May 2018 2.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>40th Annual General Meeting</b> of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society Ltd, (aka The Basingstoke Canal Society). After the AGM there will be reports from the Chairmen of the Canal Society and Boat Company, presentation of the Robin Higgs Award and a talk by Richard Davenport of the Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group.	Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman Road, Deepcut GUI6 6TB (SU908577).	Terry Inskip: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/</a>
Sat 19 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, 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 26-28 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	Waterways World Ltd	<b>Crick Boat Show.</b> Britain's biggest inland waterways event that in 2017 attracted a record 27,167 visitors.	Crick Marina, West Haddon Road, Crick, Northants, NN6 7SQ (SP596726)	Waterways World: 01283 742970 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@wvonline.co.uk">admin@wvonline.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.crickboatshow.com">www.crickboatshow.com</a>
Sat-Mon 26-28 May 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Late May Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 26 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, 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>
Fri-Sun 1-3 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	See it for Real Productions	<b>Beale Park Boat &amp; Outdoor Show 2018.</b> Open until 6.00pm Fri and Sat. See website for admission charges and attractions.	Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618778).	Phone: 01296 631 273 Email: <a href="mailto:info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk">info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/">www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/</a>
Sun 3 Jun 2018	Wey & Arun CT	<b>"The Poddle"</b> - WACT's annual sponsored walk and major fundraiser. 11 mile circular walk partly along the River Arun and the old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Start between 9am - 10.30am from Walberton Village Hall via Yapton, where lunch will be provided, then back to the start. Morning only possible. Further details and registration on website.	Walberton Village Hall, The Street, Walberton, Arundel BN18 0PJ (SU972058).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Poddle co-ordinator email: <a href="mailto:margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk">margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyarun.org.uk/events29">weyarun.org.uk/events29</a>
Thu 7 Jun 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.</b> The postponed March meeting has been rearranged for the June meeting. <b>Caroline Tilley will talk about RNLI, the charity which rescues 24 people a day.</b>	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 9 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, 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 12 Jun 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Annual General Meeting 2018</b>	Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, BA3 3EP (ST689549). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@coalcanal.org.uk">chairman@coalcanal.org.uk</a>

## Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat 16 Jun 2018 11.00am-5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Reading Waterfest.</b> 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sat 16 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, 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 23 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, 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-Sun 23-24 Jun 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Crofton steaming weekend.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Wed 27 Jun 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Revolting Women.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar, food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	The Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Road, Lechlade On Thames, GL7 3HA (SU223990).	The Trout Inn: 01367 252313 Web: <a href="http://www.thetroutinn.com">www.thetroutinn.com</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sun 1 Jul 2018 4.00pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Get Well Soon.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring a picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show. New venue supported by Reading Borough Council.	Abbey Ruins, Abbey Street, Reading, RG1 3HW (SU719735).	Tel: 0118 9372771 or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Thu 5 Jul 2018 8.00pm	Southampton CS	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.</b>	<b>Chilworth Parish 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 6 Jul 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Revolting Women.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after the show. Food & bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	The Waterwitch, Colt Hill London Road, Odiham, RG29 1AL (SU745515).	Tel: 01256 702778 Web: <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sat 7 Jul 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Get Well Soon.</b> No tickets required, cash collection taken after show. Food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show with shelter in case of bad weather. Bar and food from 5.30pm.	The Teapot Tearooms, Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7QJ (SU308871).	Tel: 07800637917 or 01367 820260 Email: <a href="mailto:rdewilton@yahoo.com">rdewilton@yahoo.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/TheTeapotTearoomandgarden">www.facebook.com/TheTeapotTearoomandgarden</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sun 8 Jul 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	<b>Newbury Waterways Festival.</b> Display of boats; in the Park will be stalls, activities, and entertainment for all the family with the theme of "Reach for the Skies" this year to celebrate the centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force and the 80th anniversary of the Spitfire. Festival entry: free. See website for further info.	Victoria Park, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU473672).	Email: <a href="mailto:newbury.chairman@katrust.org.uk">newbury.chairman@katrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://katrust.org.uk/events/">katrust.org.uk/events/</a>

## Mikron Theatre

Mikron Theatre has already started their 2018 tour although they don't get "down south" until the latter part of June. The Waterways Events item in this Newsletter (and on the website) will list all performances at all venues within 50 miles (as the crow flies) of Southampton.

As usual Mikron will be performing two different and new shows and a brief taste of these is given below.

### Get Well Soon

#### 70 years of the NHS!

All is not well at St Monica's Hospital. They're on life support; facing bugs, bed-blockers and a battle to save A and E.

70 years ago, Nye Bevan gave us free healthcare for all.

Can his dream survive the demands and pressures of the 21st century?

Can Nurse Danuta save the day with her Polish pastries and proverbs?

With tunes, transfusions and titters, join Mikron as we make a surgical strike on the state of our NHS.



### Revolting Women

#### Fight for the vote

Why did it take so insufferably long for women to get the vote? London. 1918.

**Revolting Women** tells the Suffrage story through the eyes of a less well-known Pankhurst, Sylvia, who fought for the vote alongside working women in the East End. Sylvia meets Lettie and together they push to Parliament, to bend the ear of the Cabinet.

A story of absolute commitment or dangerous obsession?

Full of political satire, song and more suffrage societies than you can shake a stick at, **Revolting Women** unravels a contentious and momentous movement in history!



## Making royal waves

HER Royal Highness, the Princess Royal has launched a few ships in her time but this week she took the helm.

The Princess was visiting Warsash Maritime Academy's ship handling centre at Timsbury Lake.

She had a tour of the lake aboard the 'Challenger', which is a scale model of a ro-ro ferry.



*HRH the Princess Royal at the helm of Challenger*



*The princess unveils a plaque at the new city campus*

The lake includes a four-mile scale length canal, buoyed channels, critical bends, turning basins, and harbour areas with 19 jetties. Complex and potentially hazardous manoeuvres can be learnt and practised in a scaled environment.

The focus of training for masters, officers, pilots and berthing/mooring masters is around slow speed control of ships and large yachts.

Earlier in the day the Princess launched Southampton Solent University's new £6 million home for officer cadet training and first certification courses.

Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque inside the building, which is located within the grounds of City College.

The new premises provides cadets with a distinct and modern teaching environment, brand new engineering workshops, a welding area, electrical and control laboratories, an ECDIS simulator suite and Marine -Electro-Technical Officer (METO) workshops.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq, and was presented to a number of dignitaries including the Vice-Chancellor of Solent, Professor Graham Baldwin, Chancellor of Solent, Lord Admiral West, Director of School Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering, Dr Syamantak Bhattacharya, and staff and cadets.

Professor Baldwin added: "The development at St. Mary's Campus is the first phase of our investment plans into maritime education and training at Solent. It has modernised our facilities and allows us to build on the heritage and expertise associated with Warsash Maritime Academy. We are proud that Warsash has become world-renowned for providing a cadetship programme and a number of professional short courses for more than 70 years."

*Romsey Advertiser 19 January 2018*

*Thanks to Brian Evans for spotting this article and speedily sending it in.*

## April Meeting

### The Heroes and Villains of the Basingstoke Canal with Roger Cansdale

Currently running from the River Wey at Byfleet in Surrey to Greywell in Hampshire, when built between 1788- 1794, it had a tunnel 1,200 yard long to enable it to reach Basingstoke. This together with deep cuttings and a mile-long, high embankment were all constructed using the picks, shovels and wheelbarrows of the navies. John Pinkerton was a major contractor and he paid his workers with a one shilling token as, at this time, there was a shortage of coin of the realm.

It was one of the first agricultural canals to carry lime to the farmers. Indeed, trade during the Napoleonic Wars was good but over the years lack of capital, competition with nearby railways led to the canal company becoming officially bankrupt in 1866. Despite attempts to sell the canal, it wasn't until 1874 that a new owner, William St Aubyn, was found. Despite attempts to revive trade, the canal was put in the hands of a receiver in 1878. The canal was high maintenance when Greywell Tunnel had collapsed and wasn't repaired until 1884 by Frederick Dimsdale.

By 1900, the canal had had three more owners and spent about ten years in receivership. In 1895 the canal was purchased by Mr Fredrick Seagar Hunt, baronet. Gin drinkers may care to know that this gentleman distilled his own Seagar Gin, obviously to fund the running costs of the canal? Improvements were made to the canal, brickworks were opened and traffic more than doubled. However, a breach in the canal and problems with the quality of the bricks led to the canal again going into receivership.

The canal was purchased in 1905 and this is when the financier (and scoundrel) Horatio Bottomley, Liberal MP for South Hackney, entered the scene and the waterway became the subject of a gigantic swindle.

Irregularities occurred, including the duplication of shares on an enormous scale. Remarkably, Bottomley emerged from this and other similar schemes almost unscathed.

In 1914 with the outbreak of war, the Royal Engineers took over and used German POW's for maintenance and repair work. Government stores and munitions were conveyed from Woolwich to Aldershot.

The final owner was Alex Harmsworth a former bargeman who in 1913 carried out an epic voyage from Ash Vale on the narrow boat "Basingstoke" in a failed attempt to reach Basingstoke. Harmsworth then in 1923 became the owner until his death in 1947.

Soon after his death it was auctioned for £6000, but restoration only really started after the two County Councils (Hampshire and Surrey) compulsorily purchased it as a public amenity in 1974 and 1976.

The Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society was formed in 1966 and many hours of volunteer labour over many years and almost continuous use of the steam dredger "Perseverance" were required before the re-opening in 1991.

Roger acknowledged SCS volunteers' Peter Oates, Eric Lewis, Brian Evans and others for the work that they did.

Roger showed pictures of work parties on Locks 8 9 & 10 and of Joan Marshall, Tim and John Dodwell at the 1957 & 1962 IWA Rallies.

All Canal Societies rely on volunteers, helping to keep the vegetation down to make the area attractive to visitors.

Thank you Roger for your very informative and enjoyable talk.

*Angela Rose*

## Commuting by Kayak

### Commuting along the canal

Tom Hards is fortunate to live and work close to the towpath of the Stroudwater Navigation. He used to commute to work from Stroud to Stonehouse by running or cycling along the towpath.

Tom comments, "This traffic free and almost direct route is ideal, and the occasional sight of a kingfisher, cormorant or heron is more than enough to offset the stress of the office before getting home. The bus journey, aside from the £3 fare, isn't nearly as scenic or soothing".



Cotswold Canals Trust Photographer Mike Gallagher recently accompanied Tom on his homeward journey

### Navigable route revealed

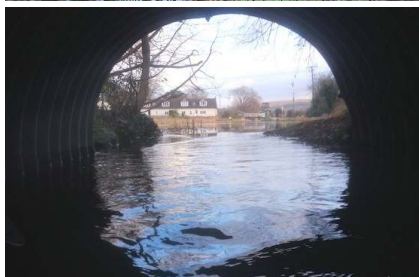
Tom recently found that the excellent tree clearance work carried out by the Waterway Recovery Group between The Ocean and Bond's Mill over the Christmas holidays had opened up a stretch of canal navigable to small craft. Tom became the proud owner of a slender all-purpose blue kayak complete with a paddle and buoyancy aid following a late-night Ebay session... "all this for the 'bus-busting price' of £30!"

### Tom takes the tube

"An interesting feature is the steel tube beneath the railway at the Ocean. This is not nearly as daunting as it appears. The local wildlife use the same tube and do a good job of keeping it clear. So long as one doesn't meet a swan paddling in the opposite direction, the transit is swift and straightforward."



Tom explains, "The journey itself is uncomplicated, with only the two locks at Dudbridge and Ryeford Double Lock to carry the boat around. The canoe & boat landing stages at Ryeford make getting in and out of my kayak a lot safer and easier when portaging around the lock chambers,



especially on dark & cold mornings at 7am. It's always difficult to leave behind the peace & tranquillity of the waterway to walk the rest of the route to work in the Oldends Lane Industrial Estate, for another day of 'keyboard-jockeying'. But it's nice to look forward to the return journey too."



### Highlights & sunlight

"The highlight for me is the ability to get closer to the wildlife. That includes looking down into the water with a head-torch to see fish pooling about, or being buzzed by bats near the textile mills. I really enjoy the adventure and exercise during the week. Savings on the bus fares can then be spent on large breakfasts.



"As the days have got longer recently I have been treated to some lovely sunrises and sunsets. I look forward to seeing the canal change through the seasons.

"This trip would have been a grand expedition a few years ago; fighting through under (over) growth, shallow and soupy water, infills and blockages.

Now the restored canal can be used as part of a daily commute, which is remarkable. I have to say well done and thank you to everyone involved."

[Cotswold Canals Trust](#) - 2 April 2018

Incidentally, the bid for restoring the canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction led by Stroud District Council was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 30th November. It is expected that the result of the bid will be announced on Wednesday 2nd May. This bid covers restoring the Stroudwater Canal from the Ocean (including "Tom's tube") west to the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal.



## 2018 national boat count shows license evasion at historic low

Our annual national boat count shows that licence evasion on our waterways is at its lowest-ever level, with 96.9% of boats holding up-to-date licences (2017: 96.3%).

Jon Horsfall, our interim head of boating said: "This is a fantastic achievement for our boat licensing customer support team. They are out every day helping boaters with their licence requirements and trying to find ways to work things out when a boater might run into problems. When boaters talk to us about difficulties they may be having, we are nearly always able to come up with a solution to keep them licensed.

"It's important that boats are licensed correctly. Not only does this mean they're insured and hold a boat safety certificate, but it means they're playing their part in contributing to the huge task of keeping our canals and rivers open. The income from boat licensing is crucial – in 2017/18 leisure licences contributed £20.2m, around 10% of total income – and it's important that it's shared fairly by everyone who

keeps a boat on our waterways.

"Unfortunately, a small minority continue to enjoy the benefits of boating on the waterways without putting anything back to fund their upkeep. In 2017/18 we had to remove 108 boats from our canals and rivers as they were unlicensed or in breach of our terms and conditions."

The national boat count also paints a picture of the changing numbers of boats across the country. Our waterways in London have seen growth slowing: up 2.4%, compared to growth of over 9% in 2016/17. The North also saw an increase of 2.3%, while other areas remained static.

The survey, completed in March, records boats on waterways across England & Wales and provides a comprehensive snap-shot of licence evasion. The information is used to support the day-to-day work carried out by us.

[Canal & River Trust News & Views](#) - 13 April 2018

