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**CRT announce temporary restrictions**

Due to the low rainfall which has resulted in the drawdown of the reservoirs, and with the forecast set for dry weather, CRT will be implementing temporary restrictions to navigation between Barrowford Locks (45 to 51) and Gargrave (from below lock 30) with effect from Monday April 29.

It is not clear how long the restrictions will be in place. However, if there is no significant, sustained rainfall it is likely further restrictions will be implemented.

*[Editor's comment: looks like we could have a repeat of last year's restrictions or even closures.]*

**Grade I status for Claverton**

Claverton Pumping Station on the K&A Canal will now receive extra recognition and protection with the announcement that its Grade II status has been amended to Grade I.

Only 2.5% of the UK's 500,000 listed buildings are Grade I listed. So the humble pumping station now enjoys the same status as buildings such as Brighton Pavilion, Chatsworth House and St Paul's Cathedral.

[Towpath Talk](#)

**Chairman's Column****May Meeting**

As always, there is **NO** May meeting as the Hall may be commandeered for elections.

**June Meeting - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Paul Gosling promises us : "Gosling's Gallivants Part Two" This will cover tours around Scotland covering boats, trains and docks.

**July Meeting**

The meeting on 4 July will be our Annual General Meeting. Nominations for Officers or Committee Members (together with a seconder) should be sent to the Secretary by the meeting on 6th June 2019.

**On our travels**

Angie and I are now at the Ellesmere Port Easter Festival having travelled up in windy and cold weather (even the milk froze in the hold). Now we're in 23 degrees.

**CRT to spend £8 million on dredging**

To help keep the waterways navigable for boaters, CRT are spending £8 million on dredging in the financial year 2019-20.

The comprehensive programme covers locations identified by boaters, as well as the places that need dredging every year.

CRT will be carrying out dredging work on the following canals over the next year:

- Oxford Canal (various locations between Enslow and Wolvercote)
- Grand Union Canal (various locations between Bull's Bridge and Boston Manor)
- Upper & Lower Peak Forest Canal (River Tame to Whaley Bridge)
- Macclesfield Canal (at various lengths)
- Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal (Sebastopol to Usk Road)
- Coventry Canal (Coventry Basin to Hawkesbury)
- Worcester & Birmingham Canal (Diglis to Lea End Lane)
- Llangollen Canal (spot dredging)
- Chesterfield Canal (River Trent to Babworth)

Annual maintenance dredging will take place at these locations:

- the River Weaver (including Hunts Lock),
  - the Ribble Link
  - the River Severn
  - the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and
  - throughout the Yorkshire and North East region
- The Trust will also be clearing these areas:
- the River Thames approach to West India Dock



Some of the boats at Ellesmere Port at Easter.

Photo: Sarah Mallett

At Chester we met up with the Reverend Mark Rudall - our steam boat speaker.

We won't be at the June meeting as we will still be out and on our way back from Hebden Bridge where we'll have attended a Historic Narrow Boat Club gathering.

So please enjoy the present good weather.

*[Editor's note: That didn't last too long!]*

Alan Rose

- the River Mersey approach to Canning Half Tide Dock
- lock approaches on the River Trent

This year the Trust will also be supporting feeder improvement works at priority locations across the network to maintain water feed – more important than ever given the dry weather over the past few years. Alongside this, CRT will take on jobs that arise throughout the year and investigate sites for work in the future.

Jon Horsfall, head of customer service support at Canal & River Trust, said: "Any boater will tell you how important dredging is, and we agree. It's a never-ending task, and a necessary one, as we as work to keep the waterways navigable and stop them becoming silted up. We listen to boaters' feedback and we target our dredging accordingly: if we get lots of reports of a problem spot, it will go onto our priority list. This year we'll be tackling plenty of places that boaters have told us could do with a little extra attention. We'll also be focusing on supporting our charity-wide water saving work by using dredging to help clear feeder channels in key spots.

"Please do share your knowledge and experience with us. Together we can make sure we target our resources to make the biggest difference we can to your cruising, so you can relax and enjoy your time on the water."

CRT say they will continue to evaluate the needs of the whole network and in some cases the projects may change.

[Canal & River Trust](#), 5 April 2019

## 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 2 May 2019	Southampton CS	<b>NO MEETING. As always, there is NO May meeting.</b>		<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat-Mon 4-6 May 2019 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Early May Bank Holiday steaming and Experience Archaeology.</b> In addition to the steaming, various talks and other items about archaeology including questions and answers with TV's Phil Harding (Sunday 2.15pm). Details on the website. 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 4 May 2019 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 7 May 2019 11.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm	National Trust	<b>Tollhouse Turbine Tour.</b> Electric boat trip to Millmead Lock for a tour of the Toll House, where a reinstated turbine is once again generating hydro-electricity. Return trip to Dapdune Wharf. Places limited - booking is essential on 01483 561389. £12.50 per person.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992502).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Sat 11 May 2019 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 18 May 2019 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 May 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Visit - Saltford Brass Mill.</b> The mill is the only surviving building, still with a furnace and working water wheel, remaining from a group of 18th century mills making copper and brass goods in the Avon Valley.	Meet at Saltford Brass Mill, The Shallows, Saltford, BS31 3EY. (ST687669)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:workparty@coalcanal.org.uk">workparty@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sun 19 May 2019 1.00pm-4.00pm	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 times to be announced nearer the date. Further info on website.	Launching from Pulborough slipway. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map of slipway <a href="http://www.weyandaron.co.uk">here</a> . Canoes can launch at Stopham Bridge, RH20 1DS (TQ030183). Map <a href="http://www.weyandaron.co.uk">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 21 May 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Joint meeting with IWA Guildford &amp; Reading Br.</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.
Tue 21 May 2019 11.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm	National Trust	<b>Tollhouse Turbine Tour.</b> Electric boat trip to Millmead Lock for a tour of the Toll House, where a reinstated turbine is once again generating hydro-electricity. Return trip to Dapdune Wharf. Places limited - booking is essential on 01483 561389. £12.50 per person.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992502).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Sat-Mon 25-27 May 2019 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 25 May 2019 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 1 Jun 2019 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 2 Jun 2019	Wey & Arun CT	<b>"The Puddle"</b> - WACT's annual sponsored walk and major fundraiser. Circular walk to include part of the canal. Start between 9am - 10.30am from Bramley Village Hall, via Farley Green Village Hall where lunch will be provided, Blackheath, Albury and back to the start. Possible to do morning only. Further details and registration on website.	Bramley Village Hall, Hall Road, Bramley, Surrey, GU5 0AX (TQ009449).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Puddle co-ordinator email: <a href="mailto:margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk">margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyarun.org.uk/events39">weyarun.org.uk/events39</a>
Thu 6 Jun 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"Goslings' Gallivants Part Two".</b> Paul Gosling will be showing us "Around Scotland – boats, trains & docks".	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 8 Jun 2019 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>

## Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Tue 11 Jun 2019 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Annual General Meeting 2019.</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>
Sat 15 Jun 2019 11.00am-5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Reading Water Fest.</b> Festival of boats, entertainment and stalls. Great family day out. Admission is free.	River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG13AH. (SU719734)	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Mobile: 07533 886917 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Sat 15 Jun 2019 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>
Wed 19 Jun 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Redcoats.</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.thetroutrain.com">www.thetroutrain.com</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Thu 20 Jun 2019 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>Boules &amp; BBQ.</b>	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sat 22 Jun 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>All Hands on Deck.</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 22 Jun 2019 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 29 Jun 2019	National Trust	<b>"Puffing-a-Wey".</b> Come and soak up the atmosphere as members the Steam Boat Association of Great Britain come and show off their magnificent steam powered craft.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4RR (SU992502).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Sat-Sun 29-30 Jun 2019 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>June weekend steaming and Motorcycle Festival</b> in association with the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne. Details on website. 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 29 Jun 2019 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 30 Jun 2019 2.00pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>All Hands on Deck.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after the show. BBQ, soft drinks and a tea and cake stall. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show with shelter in case of bad weather.	Minal Cricket Pavillion, Mildenhall, Nr Marlborough SN8 2LY (SU213698).	Tel: 01672 516408 Web: <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Thu 4 Jul 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Annual General Meeting. Nominations for Officers or Committee Members (together with a seconder) should be sent to the Secretary by the meeting on 6th June 2019.</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>
Sat 6 Jul 2019 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 9 Jul 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Redcoats.</b> Tickets £12. Tickets via contact. Bar available. Outdoor Show with shelter.	Bourne End WI, Spade Oak Farm, Coldmoorholme Lane, Bourne End, SL8 5PS (SU884876).	Tel: 01628 531521 or 07860 405000 Email: <a href="mailto:bourneendwi@yahoo.com">bourneendwi@yahoo.com</a> Web: <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Wed 10 Jul 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>All Hands on Deck.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after the show. Food and bar available. Outdoor show with shelter in case of bad weather.	The Bounty, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5RG (SU888869). By the River Thames - see pub's website re access.	Tel: 01628 520056 Web: <a href="http://www.thebountypub.com">www.thebountypub.com</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Thu 11 Jul 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Redcoats.</b> No tickets required, cash collection taken after show. Food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show. Bar and food from 5.30pm. Please do not bring your own food and drink.	The Teapot Tearooms, Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7QJ (SU308871).	Tel: 07800 637917 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>
Fri 12 Jul 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>All Hands on Deck.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring a picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show. New venue.	Hurley Riverside Park Picnic Grounds, Hurley Riverside Park, Hurley, Berks, SL6 5NE. (SU824839).	Tel: 01628 823501 Web: <a href="http://www.hurleyriversidepark.co.uk">www.hurleyriversidepark.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sat 13 Jul 2019 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Redcoats.</b> Tickets £10.00 - available from The Council Office, Ockwells, 113 High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6AE. Bring chairs and blankets. Bring your own refreshments. Outdoor event with indoor alternative in the case of bad weather.	Cricklade Bloomers, Riverside, High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6DD (SU101938). To be confirmed.	Cricklade Town Council: 01793 751394 Web: <a href="http://www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk">www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sat 13 Jul 2019 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 14 Jul 2019 2.00pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>All Hands on Deck.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring a picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	Caversham Court Gardens, Church Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7AD (SU709748).	Tel: 01189 372771 or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>

## 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 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.

### 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.

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### Committee:

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

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

## April Meeting

### Chris Witts and his life on the River Severn

It was a pleasure to meet Chris and his wife Susan.

Chris always dreamed of being a boatman on the River Severn, watching the oil barges just fitting into the locks on their way to Worcester, the tugs with large barge tows full with timber and the small Dutch Coasters.

At 15 he went to Gloucester Docks and asked at the office if he could join a ship. "Too young, come back after you have finished your studies," he was told. Leaving school at 16 he went to see the John Harker manager at their South West office in Gloucester. After pestering him, he joined John Harker Tanker the Shell Steelmaker the following day at 7.30am as fourth hand.

He arrived to find the ship with engine running and ropes singled up with the skipper telling him to move himself (he was a tad late).

He stayed on the "Shell Steelmaker" for 3 weeks which he found hard due to the long hours. At one point during his first 3 weeks he arrived back at the dock to find the ship had already left!

His next ship was the "Wyesdale H". This ship had a strange crew, always bickering between themselves.

His first trip in fog was one to remember, the tanker "Wastdale H"

came out of the fog straight at them and hit them cutting their fender in two. The fourth hand of the "Wastdale H" shouted at them that was another job for the morning!

He never saw the following day because that night the "Wastdale H" was in a collision with the "Arkendale H" and they drifted into the Severn Railway crossing upstream of Sharpness. They demolished two of the supports, caught fire and then blew up. Five crewmen from the two boats lost their lives.

During Chris' time on the Severn there were plenty of other craft trading.

In April 1961 the "Wyesdale H" was rebuilt at Gloucester so that she could operate as far as Swansea. She was in the docks for 11 weeks. Chris stayed with that ship for the next couple years. The runs to Swansea meant long hours, sleeping for 1 hr or up to 4 hrs.

He stayed on the boats till the end of 1963. Chris then decided to come ashore but he missed the life. 30 years later he found himself working again on the Severn for Allied Mills.

Further details can be found on Chris Witts' web site [River Severn Tales](http://www.riverseverntales.com).

*Alan Rose*

## Eva Drinkwater

Aelred Derbyshire has received a card from Eva Drinkwater's son formally notifying us that she died peacefully on 28 March 2019 after having a stroke. He said she enjoyed coming to the club meetings and outings and asked that we remember her with a mention in the Newsletter.

## Mikron Theatre

Mikron Theatre will be touring England again this year. Performances of the two new shows within about 50 miles of Southampton until mid July are listed in the Waterways Events pages of this Newsletter. A few more performances may be found on the [Society website](http://www.sotoncs.org.uk). Brief details of the two shows are given below.

### All Hands on Deck

A love story between the Royal Navy and their loyal 'Jenny Wrens'

New WRNS recruits Ginger and Lily, are looking for wartime adventure. Lily wants to serve on dry land but Ginger is desperate to serve at sea – and the sailors can't believe their luck!

Our Wrens show pays tribute to all those wartime women who pushed the door to opportunity firmly open.

Full of dots, dashes, semaphore and song, Ginger and Lily find themselves in uncharted waters on a journey they'll never forget.

### Redcoats

#### 'Our true intent is all for your delight'

Billy Butlin used Shakespeare himself to sell a seaside dream to the great British public.

Join us as we delve into holiday huts, bonny babies and knobbly knees with guest appearances from Marlene Dietrich, Gracie Fields and Laurel and Hardy.

Mikron's radiant Redcoats will guide you through 80 years of Butlins splendour with their trademark mix of fun, pathos and songs.