



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

November Meeting

This evening let us give a very warm welcome back to Pete and Jane of the Day-Star Theatre with their new programme for us, of a series of sketches about aspects of ...yes... the Canals! Some bits are being taken loosely from past shows. They simply call it "A Short Waterways Comedy" – enjoy the show and maybe you will recall some of the previous show stoppers!

After the performance we will, as usual, be enjoying an American Supper, kindly brought along by our members.

3rd December Meeting

A reminder that the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be taking place on Thursday 3rd December. As last year's winners, Southampton Canal Society will be organising the Quiz and SCS members will be hosting the evening, with the traditional pre-Christmas occasion of an American Supper which finishes off the evening.

This year we are now expecting five teams to be taking part: ourselves, IWA Guildford & Reading Branch, IWA Salisbury Group, the newcomers last year from the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust at Devizes and, this year, a team from the Basingstoke Canal Society have volunteered to take part. Again we extend a warm welcome to the teams and their supporters for their participation.

Most importantly, we need you to volunteer for our SCS team!! Revision notes and homework will be offered?? (if needed)

New Year Lunch.

At our October meeting a good show of hands was shown for Saturday 16th January at Keats Restaurant. Angela has reserved this date and the menu selection will be arranged during our December/January meetings.

Thank you all again for supporting your Society.

Alan Rose

Give bag tax to canals says IWA

RETAILERS in England are being urged by the Inland Waterways Association to help improve local communities by allocating substantial amounts from a windfall levy on plastic shopping bags towards cleaning up canal and river amenities, which are blighted by plastic and other waste.

The IWA has revealed that in 2014 its volunteers dedicated 7000 hours to canal cleanup work parties across the country, up 45% on 2013. Along with some unexpected finds are considerable quantities of "the usual suspects", the charity said, including supermarket trollies, plastic bags, bottles and other packaging waste.

Les Etheridge, IWA's chairman, appealed to medium and larger retailers, who will be required to collect the charge from customers under the Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) Order 2015, to use some of this levy to support efforts to enhance the waterways environment. "The new law allows them to decide what 'good causes' they will support with what promises to be substantial sums of money," Les Etheridge said. "Donating some of this levy to support IWA's

year-on-year cleanup efforts will deliver long-term benefits to marine habitats and, of course, to the communities which surround them," he said.

IWA campaigns officer Alison Smedley said: "Plastic and packaging waste in particular is terrible for the waterways habitat and for marine life, as well as for the wider enjoyment of the waterways' millions of annual visitors. These are hugely popular places for leisure and well-being, so this levy is a massive opportunity for both retailers and waterways bodies such as ourselves to make a real difference."

According to government (Defra) figures, in 2013 supermarkets gave out over 8 billion single-use carrier bags across the UK – nearly 130 bags per person – equating to about 57,000 tonnes of single-use carrier bags in total over the year.

Retailers keen to support IWA's charitable work on the waterways can get further information from the Association at www.waterways.org.uk/plasticbags

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/news/>

8 October 2015

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Bits and Pieces

Scouts lend a hand

The Scout Association has teamed up with CRT as part of an initiative called A Million Hands which aims to get 500,000 Scouts to work with major charities across the UK to improve people's lives.

Every Scout group in the country is being encouraged to make a pledge on how its members will take action on a series of issues including improving family resilience and the lives of those affected by dementia or physical disabilities. One of the ways they will do this is by working with CRT to adopt a stretch of their local canal and making improvements focused on aiding the health and wellbeing of the community.

The Scouts themselves chose CRT: as Chief Scout Bear Grylls put it, "water has an amazing effect on people – it connects us to nature and speaks to something deeply elemental inside us". He believed that in turn, the Scouts involved would "develop a lifelong love and respect for our canals and waterways".

Best Wishes

Former member Jenny Symington emailed the editor and sends her "love to all and hope this year has been a successful one for the society." Thanks, Jenny. We hope all goes well with you.

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	Contact
Thu 5 Nov 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre will present "A Short Waterways Comedy". Further details on page 1 in this Newsletter and in the August Newsletter. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 12 Nov 2015 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	"Didcot Railway Centre" with Martin Baker, Great Western Society. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Sun 15 Nov 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Dunkerton Aqueducts. Meet: Dunkerton layby on A367, BA2 8BS (ST715597).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 17 Nov 2015 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Speaker (to be confirmed) plus Christmas eats and drinks. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 18 Nov 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Leonardo's Canals - Waterways of Milan and the Papia Region" by Roger Squires. Milan was one of the leaders of early canal building in Europe and Roger will talk about waterways dating from 1177 to 1485. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Nov 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Elaine Kirby, archivist of the Kenet & Avon Trust, is returning with "Anything that Floats". In her work Elaine has discovered photos of a large variety of craft that have plied the K&A since 1887. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 19 Nov 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "Working the SCC" talk by Patrick Moss. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: chairman@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 19 Nov 2015 7.00pm for 7.30pm	Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust	"The Restoration of Isfield Lock (including design, archaeology and the history of the associated paper-mill and wharf)" by various members of the team. Upper Room, Perrymount Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3DN (TQ331244). Ample parking at rear. Please enter via side door.	The Secretary: info@sxouse.org.uk Web: http://www.sxouse.org.uk/
Thu 26 Nov 2015 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"Repeat to Flourish" - a visual odyssey (film) of the Kenet and Avon Canal's industrial past and present day renaissance created from found footage and archive film. Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury RG14 5AS (SU472671). Free entry. Car parking £1.00.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Thu 3 Dec 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. The traditional American Supper will finish off the evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). See also Chairman's Column on the front page.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 10 Dec 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas Dinner. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 10 Dec 2015 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Christmas Quiz with seasonal refreshments. Quiz set by Tim Wheeldon. Entry £10 for team of four, to cover quiz prizes and refreshments. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Wed 16 Dec 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Trail Boat Festivals on Isolated Waterways around Britain" by Ron & Myra Glover who detail the trailing of craft around Britain since the mid-1970s and attending festivals on waterways narrow boats can't reach. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Dec 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "Restoration Update" by Adrian Tuddenham. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 20 Dec 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Clandown. Meet at Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, Somerset BA3 3EP (ST689549).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 7 Jan 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' annual "Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sun 17 Jan 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: The Tynning and Woodborough Basin.. Meet at Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, Somerset BA3 3EP (ST689549).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 21 Jan 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "Adits" by Mike Chapman. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 4 Feb 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Cockleshell Heroes" Roger and Sandra Downton's recreation of Operation Frankton the daring wartime mission. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 18 Feb 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "The History of Clay Pipes" by Marek Lewcun. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 21 Feb 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - South Stoke and Twinhoe. Meet at Twinhoe Lane, Midford., BA2 7DG (ST760605) See map at www.coalcanal.org/maps/other/Midford.gif	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 3 Mar 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Sonia Rolt and other Idle Women" with Tim Coghlan. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com



October Meeting

“Cruising around Vancouver” - Ron & Myra Glover

At the October meeting, Ron and Myra Glover gave a talk rather different from their normal subject of European waterways. Due to the fact that Elsa, their cruiser, had been out of action during 2013 they ventured further afield to explore the waterways around Vancouver in Canada.

The slick presentation used two projectors, one for the pictures and the other showing the maps following their route as the talk progressed.

Ron & Myra and their friend Dave initially stopped in interesting accommodation right next to the Fraser River and they were able to explore the area by canoe.

Later they hired a 38ft Grand Banks cruiser from Granville Island, south Vancouver. They ventured out into English Bay and the Burrard Inlet en route to their first mooring at Gibsons, a community on the mainland but due to the mountainous terrain is only accessible by boat, ferry or float plane. Gibsons was established by George Gibson, a retired British naval officer in 1886.

They then headed along Howe Sound towards Squamish which is inhabited by the Squamish native Indians. On route they observed Howe Sound pulp mill which converts timber into newsprint and called into the Britannia mine, now a museum, where for 70 years various minerals were extracted, mostly copper but also others including silver and gold.

Major advance for canal restoration

The restoration of the canal in Surrey took a significant step forward with the signing of a land lease for part of the Bramley Link section, south of Guildford.

With this agreement, the Trust can re-create 400 metres of the waterway on farmland owned by Trust supporters Susan and Malcolm Brenton.

It will enable a stretch of the canal from Shalford down to the Tannery Lane Bridge near Bramley to be restored.

Mrs Brenton commented at the signing ceremony that she first came across WACT when she saw its plans at consultation sessions run by the Trust for Bramley people in 2004.

“Our lower field was shown as a possible route, so that raised our interest level,” she said. “We have always been keen supporters of the Trust and are very happy to sign this lease.”

Mr Brenton added that the key word in the lease negotiations was ‘trust’. He felt there was a solid understanding on the part of both parties on how to get the restoration work done.

Also speaking at the ceremony, WACT’s Bramley Link Manager, Philip

New waterside mooring website

The Canal & River Trust has launched a new website for the sale of its long-term moorings.

Their new [Waterside Mooring website](#) will show all current vacancies on a map or list and provide photos and details of over 300 mooring sites managed by the Trust. In time there will be videos of locations to give people a better feel for the sites.

People will be able to add sites to a personalised ‘watch list’ so that they will be automatically notified if vacancies arise.

News and features

As well as giving boaters more information about the moorings available, there will now be a fixed-price Buy-It-Now option for many

On returning south the next stop was at Bowen Island where they experienced the local lifestyle on the island which is 8 x 4 miles in size inhabited by 3,000 residents.

The crew then returned to Vancouver, passing through the harbour identifying various ships including bulk carriers, a Mississippi paddle boat and a cruise ship which is the largest size of vessel that can pass through the Panama Canal. It was interesting to see the float plane airport with planes constantly taking off and landing in the harbour. Their journey then took them up the Indian Arm to the next mooring at Deep Cove passing on route two hydroelectric power stations built in the early part of the 20th century supplying electricity to the Vancouver area.

When returning south back to the hire base - disaster struck! After a major breakdown in mid channel it was found that they were drifting helplessly and had to call out the search and rescue vessel and were later towed back to their hire base on Granville Island.

Their holiday continued with an overnight stop at Lake Lillooet which involved travelling 7 km along a dirt track, in their hired Jeep, to a log cabin beside the lake. Their holiday concluded with a twilight trip to the top of Mount Whistler in a 4 wheel drive vehicle, where they experienced a very steep, narrow, twisting track and deep snow. The three explorers had to trudge the last 100 metres in a foot of snow to the very summit to experience a spectacular sunset.

Myra Glover

Oliver, thanked the Brentons for their generosity and commitment to the Trust.

He also praised the volunteers who have worked on the Bramley Link project so far, particularly on the Trust’s Hunt Nature Park project. The Newbury Working Party Group, the Waterway Recovery Group and the Trust’s own Midweek Working Party were singled out for specific praise.

“The development of the park shows local residents that the Trust is serious in its intent to create not just a canal but a linear park around a waterway,” he said.

A year-long environmental impact assessment is being carried out on phase one of the Bramley Link, from the River Wey at Shalford down to the Gosden Aqueduct over the Cranleigh Waters stream.

Also under way for this phase are a civil engineering design study and a full flood study. Mr Oliver said the three studies will support a planning application expected to be made in summer 2016.

<http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/latestnews.php?id=%2081>

19 October 2015

of the moorings. In high demand areas there will still be a two-week auction facility for some moorings.

A news and features section will keep people up-to-date with the latest news about the Trust’s long term moorings, introduce the mooring managers and show the results of customer surveys.

Purchases of moorings will be fully automated, cutting down the wasteful paperwork and reducing processing time, allowing customers to get their new berths more quickly. For those customers who don’t have access to a computer, there will be a telephone facility to help them through the process.

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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.

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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.
Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.
Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Aelred Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7DA.
Tel: 01794 651350. Email: aelred41@sky.com

Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 8 Field View, Braunston, Daventry, Northants, NN11 7JS.
Tel: 01788 890102. Email: scs@sotoncs.org.uk

Society Website: <http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

£2m puts canal restoration back on track

Supporters of the Cotswold Canals restoration are celebrating the announcement of £2 million from the Homes & Communities Agency to put the re-creation of Brimscombe Port in the Stroud valley back on track.

The basin at Brimscombe was to be the terminus of the current £20m+ project to reopen the canals from Stonehouse up the valley through Stroud. However with the economic downturn, hopes that developers would pay to rebuild this section of canal (as part of a regeneration of the old Port site for housing, employment and community buildings) evaporated – and this part of the canal work had to be shelved. But now, thanks to the £2m it will be possible to reinstate the infilled canal and basin, a demolished road crossing, missing aqueduct and buried lock – as 'enabling works' to

demonstrate the value of the Port site to future developers.

Brimscombe Port, once the base for the headquarters of the Thames & Severn Canal, was a bustling transportation hub where cargo was transferred between the narrow barges sailing from the River Thames and the wider vessels from the Severn. The port was closed in 1933. The canal basin was filled in after the Second World War and in the 1960s an industrial estate was built, which has since declined.

This news is very timely, as the Cotswold Canals Trust is just about to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for major funds for the 'missing link' Saul to Stonehouse length which will link the canal back to the national network.

<http://www.canalboat.co.uk/news/> 23 October 2015

Stroud's canal project wins major award

The restored waterway between Stonehouse and Bowbridge came top of the Restoration and Historic Environment Category of the 2015 Living Waterways Awards. This prestigious national competition is run by the Canal & River Trust.

Living Waterways Awards are intended to recognise the most inspiring and exciting waterway-based improvement projects across the UK. The judges, who come from the environmental, engineering, architecture and regeneration sectors, summed up the award winning restoration in the following terms:

'This £20 million restoration project has transformed a massive swathe of derelict and contaminated land back into a pleasant waterway environment which supports diverse flora and fauna. And it has embraced the involvement of the local community in all aspects of investigation, planning and physical restoration.'

Cllr Geoff Wheeler, Leader of Stroud District Council, accepted the award and said: "It is great that all the hard work to transform and revitalise this area over the last six years has been acknowledged and

appreciated. Staff and volunteers have carried out sterling work to restore seven locks, build eight new bridges, open up 6km of canal channel and upgrade 9km of towpath."

Project leader Dave Marshall adds: "The £20M first phase of the canal project in Stroud was funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust – and supported by an army of volunteers who, since 2013, have given 48,000 hours to the project."

The Cotswold Canals Trust is now leading a £15 million bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which, if successful, will lead to the next stage – restoration of the canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction. Stroud District Council is working closely with the Trust in support of the bid. In the light of this Cotswold Canals Trust Vice Chair Jim White commented, "This nationally recognised award really could not have occurred at a better time coming, as it does, so near to the submission of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid being prepared by CCT's Val Kirby and her team."

<http://www.cotswoldcanals.com/pages/posts/> 9 October 2015

CRT long-term moorings website

(Continued from page 3)

Full of information

Jenny Whitehall, head of the Canal & River Trust's Directly Managed Moorings, said: "We want to make sure people have access to everything they need to decide on a safe haven for their boat, and have introduced a whole host of new features to make the task as

exciting and pain-free as possible. It's a big change from the old site and we hope that boaters will find it much easier to navigate."

The new website is at <https://www.watersidemoorings.com/> If you have any feedback please send it to:

Waterside.Moorings-Enquiries@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news>

14 October 2015