



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 present day sequel to their 2014 play "A Bad Penny". This is set in the same village of Nether Claybourne but 52 years later. Take your seats and enjoy "What's Good for the Goose".

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

December Meeting

A reminder that the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be taking place on Thursday 1st December. As last year's winners, Salisbury IWA 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.

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

New Year Lunch

Angela has reserved Saturday 14th January 2017 at Keats Restaurant. The menu selection will be arranged during our December / January meetings.

January Meeting

We will be holding our Members' Photographic Evening and Competition at the meeting on 5th January 2017. This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain / amuse / educate your fellow members.

Just before the tea interval, entries for the Photograph Competition will be shown. You don't have to be showing other pictures during the evening to enter. One picture only to do with the waterways.

Thank you all for supporting your Society.

Alan Rose

CRT announces new licence fees for 2017

THE Canal & River Trust has announced that private and business boat licence fees will rise by 2.5% from April 1, 2017.

Having capped licence fees to inflation for the past three years, the 2017 increase anticipates next year's prevailing inflation rate which is widely forecast to rise between now and next summer.

The rise in licence fees will raise income to ensure that the Trust can continue to sustain the increased spend on waterway maintenance over recent years.

This has seen an improvement in the structural condition of the waterways and a significant reduction in the amount of disruption experienced by boaters (with almost 300 days fewer of unplanned navigation closures compared with 2014/15).

Mike Grimes, head of boating at CRT, said: "Boaters are the backbone of our waterways and we know what a vital role they play. We also know that as a community they are as passionate about the future of our canals and support the rising volume of work that the Trust is able to fund.

"Although the cost of a licence will be increasing slightly, I'm pleased to say that overall proportion of the Trust's income coming directly from boaters is decreasing as we generate more income from other sources."

Over the past three years the Trust has spent considerably more on caring for the waterways, with the amount spent on maintenance and repair in 2015/16 rising to £128 million, over 15% higher than was expended in 2013/14. In the same period the proportion of income from boaters has reduced from 19.9% to 18.3% of total income.

Mike continues: "The income from boat licences continues to make an important contribution to the work we do: looking after a 200-year old network is a never-ending task. I hope that boaters can see that we are investing in areas that make a difference to them. We've put extra cash into dredging and cutting back off-side trees over the past few years, as well as the massive and growing programme of major works we carry out every year to keep our canals and rivers safe and navigable."

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Bits & Pieces

Hampshire Topics in Surrey

Three topics of local interest to southern Hampshire residents will be the subjects of talks arranged by the Basingstoke Canal Society in 2017 at Chobham in Surrey.

In February, the talk will be about "Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future." In March the subject will be "History of Bursledon Brickworks" and in April attendees will hear about "SS Shieldhall - 61 years and counting."

Further details in Waterways Events in this Newsletter.

Oxford Canal makeover

CRT has announced a programme of works on the Oxford Canal in this winter.

It can be viewed at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices/winter/#staticFiles and includes:

Repairs to the canal walls at Bridge 193 north of Somerton Lock

Replacing lock gates and repairing brickwork at Lock 9, Napton.

Replacing the lock gates at Bakers Lock (40).

Replacing a set of lock gates and repairing brickwork at Nell Bridge Lock (32), near Anyho.

Automation of Mill Lift Bridge 205, Lower Heyford.

Gate replacement and brickwork repairs at Dukes Cut Lock (44A).

To which your editor would remind CRT that overgrown trees and bushes make boating positively dangerous on the southern Oxford.

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 3 Nov 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre will be performing a new production "What's Good for the Goose?" See page 3 of August Newsletter for a synopsis. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 15 Nov 2016 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Member's evening extravaganza + Christmas eats and drinks. Food contributions very welcome, if not essential - as usual. 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 16 Nov 2016 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	Nick Pollard talks about "The Thames Bridges, Staines to Kingston." Following Nick's visit last season, this talk will explore the history of each bridge, including all the different structures which have been built at each site over the centuries. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Nov 2016 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Pleasure Boating in the 1930s, 40s, & 50s." Nick Grundy's grandparents started pleasure boating on early hire boats before the Second World War. After the war they cruised extensively on their own boat, and were involved in some early IWA campaigns. 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 17 Nov 2016 7.00pm for 7.30pm	Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust	"Railways of the Sussex Ouse Valley": Sam Bee (of the Bluebell Railway) will give a talk on the coming of the railways to the Ouse Valley in the mid-nineteenth century, and their impact on the Navigation. Joint meeting with IWA. Upper Room, Perrymount Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3DN (TQ331244). Refreshments available. Please enter by the side door.	The Secretary: info@sxouse.org.uk Web: http://www.sxouse.org.uk/
Thu 17 Nov 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening -- "Maritime Short-Cuts" by Colin Vosper . Meet: Radstock Working Men's Club , Radstock House The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 20 Nov 2016 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Windsor Bridge to Churchill Bridge. Meet: Old Windsor Castle Inn, Bath , BAI 3DN (ST735651).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 1 Dec 2016 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter Society Waterways Quiz: IWA Salisbury Group as last year's winning team will be organising the Quiz and the evening is hosted by SCS. The traditional American Supper will finish off the evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Mon 5 Dec 2016 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"The Kiel Canal" by John Laverick. John will bring his experience as an engineer and traveller of canals to talk about the Kiel Canal, the world's busiest and Europe's largest ship canal. The Angel Hotel, 47 High St, Wootton Bassett SN4 7AQ (SU068826).	Web: https://www.wbct.org.uk
Thu 15 Dec 2016 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Fussells of Mells" by Robin Thornes. Meet: Radstock Working Men's Club , Radstock House The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 15 Dec 2016 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
Wed 21 Dec 2016 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"A Watery Canadian Adventure - Cruising Around the Islands of Vancouver" with SCS members Ron and Myra Glover. See report on this talk given at SCS in November 2015 Newsletter. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 5 Jan 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' annual "Waterways Photographic Evening & Competition". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 14 Jan 2017 12.30pm	Southampton CS	New Year Lunch at Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232). Further details to follow.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 17 Jan 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	'Claverton Pumping Station' - George Eycott. 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 Jan 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Studying the Bats of the Basingstoke Canal and Greywell Tunnel" with Dr Paul Hope. Paul talk about studies of the bats on the Canal and his 6 year PhD study into the hibernating bat population within Greywell Tunnel. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Jan 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Camerton Branch Railway" by Roger Halse. Meet: Radstock Working Men's Club , Radstock House The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 2 Feb 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	TBA. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Wed 15 Feb 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future" by David Plunkett. This ancient site is over 900 years old with successive mills and causeway dams. The long history will be explained and how the tides govern the working of the mill. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

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October Meeting

History of the Inland Waterways from Exeter to the Warwick & Napton Junction - Eric and Sue Lewis

Inland waterways transport has been important to the inhabitants of the British Isles since before the Romans built their Fossdyke Navigation and improved the River Witham to serve their settlement at Lincoln. The rivers and the fens needed to be managed and drained.

Canals were expensive to build. One of the first sections of canal built was the Exeter Canal. Sue then listed many more: 1611 the Titchfield Canal opened; 1649 the Fens drained by William of Bedford; 1651 River Wey to Guildford; 1723 the River Kennet; 1727 Bristol Avon; 1760's and the Bridgewater built for coal movement, followed by the Trent & Mersey with the potteries - the Industrial Revolution had started. There followed the BCN, the Leeds & Liverpool, Warwick & Napton, the Grand Junction Canal and many others.

Eric has taken and collected many slides over the years of the canal network and, with Sue's enthusiasm and descriptions, we were shown many of their trips on hire boats in the 1970's, some before they were married.

- We were also shown a wide variety of scenes including:
- Different flash and pound locks, turf-sided locks
- Eric's Dad helping on a construction dig
- Eric and Sue with their son Peter in a pushchair

- Limehouse basin in the 70's
- An Admiral class working boat
- Grosvenor Canal in London
- Rubbish barges in Richmond half tide lock
- 1974 Goring lock
- Their trip on the Middle Level, Denver sluice, River Cam & Jesus Lock
- 1970's Harecastle tunnel, Heart Break Hill, the Thurlwood Steel lock and the Anderton Lift which Eric & crew were allowed to climb up
- Next views of Farmers Bridge & the BCN
- In the mid 1980's Remus cruised the Leeds & Liverpool, view of the Wigan 21 flight
- Followed by a cruise on the Basingstoke and the River Thames
- Continuing up the Grand Union showing a good picture of Croxley Paper Mill, then Stoke Bruerne and Blisworth Tunnel

I suppose it would have been easier to have listed all the canals that Eric and Sue have not walked or cruised yet! Thank you both for the excellent pictures and an evening enjoyed by 24 members & visitors.

Angela Rose

Environment Agency appoints new lock keepers

THE Environment Agency has made four more full-time lock and weir keeper appointments to help deliver its service to boaters and boating businesses along the navigable, non-tidal River Thames.

These appointments fill vacancies created through retirements, and all four are resident positions. This means the lock keepers are required to live on site in the lock house which, along with the lock itself and the accompanying weirs, forms part of the overall lock site complex. The Environment Agency owns, maintains and operates 45 such complexes along the River.

Barry Russell, River Thames Waterways Manager said: "I'm delighted to announce these four appointments. Along with two other full-time

lock and weir keeper appointments we made in earlier in the year, they underscore our commitment to retain resident lock and weir keepers at sites where there is an operational need."

John O'Hara will be the new lock keeper at Radcot Lock near Faringdon in Oxfordshire; Mark Winks at Osney Lock in Oxford, Aiden Mahon at Iffley Lock, also in Oxford; and Katie Marshall at Romney Lock, near Windsor in Berkshire.

Mark and Katie are already resident lock and weir keepers; at Northmoor Lock near Appleton, and Benson Lock near Wallingford – both in Oxfordshire – respectively. John and Aiden are currently 'relief' keepers.

Towpath Talk 21 October 2016

Waterways web form to improve customer service

CRT is making it easier for boaters to get their enquiries answered quickly by introducing a new web contact form on its website at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us/ways-to-contact-us>.

The move will improve customer service by putting people in touch with the most appropriate team or information source at the first point of contact. This will speed up the time it takes for boaters to get information and provide a more efficient service.

Carron Smith, head of customer experience at CRT, explained: "At the moment, our service team receive thousands of emails each month. In some cases it's not immediately clear what information customers need and the team may go back and forth several times before they're able to give the customer precisely what they're after. On many occasions the information the customer is looking for is already

available on our website.

"The new form should help us to reduce our response times on email correspondence by getting each enquiry sent straight to the most relevant and knowledgeable people at the Trust or directing the customer straight to the answer online if the information is already available on our website. Over the next few months we'll be monitoring the use of the form together with customer feedback to ensure the service improvements are achieved."

The current email address customer.service@canalrivertrust.org.uk will continue to run side-by-side with the new form until Tuesday January 3, 2017. After this date customers emailing customer services will be redirected to the web form.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/> 25 October 2016

Waterways Events *(continued from page 2)*

Thu 2 Mar 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War" - talk by the local Maritime Archaeology Trust. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Wed 15 Mar 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"History of Bursledon Brickworks" with Carolyn Haynes. The talk gives a history of the only Victorian steam driven brickworks left in the country, why they are so important and what, hopefully, their future will be. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Wed 19 Apr 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"SS Shieldhall - 61 years and counting" - Graham MacKenzie will talk about the history of the largest working steamship in Britain, including information about the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

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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Little insects rescue choked canal

TINY beetles have halted an outbreak of weed which was choking part of a historic waterway. The two millimetre-long North American weevils nibbled away at a carpet of vegetation on the Wey & Arun Canal, clearing the non-native water fern in just a few weeks.

Twelve thousand weevils were released into the waterway at Tickner's Heath, Dunsfold, in July, to combat *Azolla filiculoides*. This floating fern is considered one of the most invasive plants in the country.

"The exercise has had a remarkable impact on the water fern", said Ian Burton, the Wey & Arun Trust's conservation adviser. "The weevils speedily removed most of the water fern and have had a comprehensive impact. There is now no sign of the weed."

The project was a partnership between the Canal Trust, the Heritage Lottery funded Arun and Rother Connections (ARC) and the CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International), which supplied the weevils.

ARC works with local organisations to help ensure wildlife can flourish in a thriving river system. As part of a wider programme of work to tackle a number of priority invasive species across the whole catchment area, project staff identified the invasive plant and provided the funding to purchase the weevils.

All known infestations of this invasive plant have now been removed from the river catchment. Wey & Arun Canal Trust will continue to monitor its waterway to ensure that the plants do not return in the spring.

"We acted to try and clear the weed because it had formed a thick mat on the surface of the water, blocking out the light and threatening the

aquatic flora and fauna," Mr Burton added. "The canal appeared to be solid ground."

"Floating water fern multiplies rapidly and its area can double in a few days. We didn't want it spreading to neighbouring properties and other parts of the canal.

"We are delighted with the work of the little insects. There are no organisms native to the UK that can combat *Azolla*, but research has shown the weevils to be one of the plant's main natural enemies."

Individually, the weevils consume a small amount of *Azolla*, but they breed to produce large populations which feed extensively on the weed. Across the UK, entire infected lakes and canals have been cleared using this form of biological control.

Azolla was introduced into the UK from the Americas in around 1840 as an ornamental garden aquatic. Some North American weevils also arrived with the imported ferns, and the insect species is now considered naturalised.

They pose no threat to UK ecosystems, unlike the fern itself, which soon escaped into the wider environment, where it now causes considerable problems on ponds, lakes and waterways.

The initiative at Tickner's Heath is line with the Wey & Arun Canal Trust's policy of controlling and eradicating invasive species, including Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed, on land that it has responsibility for.

Pictures at <http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/azollawaterfern.php>

Press release issued jointly by the Wey & Arun Canal Trust and Arun and Rother Connections

Winter open days at Crofton

AFTER a summer raising funds to pay for the repair of the heritage Lancashire boiler during Crofton Beam Engine's winter shutdown, the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust has enough money to make a start.

To give readers the opportunity to visit and see the work in progress, winter works open days will be held at the historic Crofton Pumping Station on Saturday October 29 and Saturday November 26.

Watch the team of dedicated volunteers cosset and maintain the two historic beam engines, and prepare the Lancashire Boiler for its 10 year safety inspection and repairs.

Free guided tours will be given of the Engine House at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm but donations always appreciated.

Towpath Talk October 25, 2016

Licence fee increase

(Continued from page 1)

The Trust is also announcing that, following feedback from boating customers and the boating volunteers who sit on its Navigation Advisory Group (Licensing and Mooring), it will be carrying out a wide-ranging review of the structure of boat licensing fees to help guide potential changes to the structure of licence fees from April 2018.

There will be an extended period of engagement and consultation with boating organisations, boat clubs and societies. Individual boaters will also be given the chance to be heard to ensure that any proposals are based on a full understanding of the range of views from across the Trust's wide range of boating customers. The Trust will announce more information and timelines for the consultation process in due course.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/original/> 20 October 2016