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Canal Closures

Despite some rain, the following canal closures and lock restrictions were still in place as of 25 October. The current situation can be checked on the [CRT website](#).

Closed:

Peak Forest - Marple Locks 1 to 16 for engineering works.

Leeds & Liverpool - Wigan Locks 65 to 85 for engineering works. To open for October half term.

Reduced opening times:

Leeds & Liverpool - Locks 30 - 51.

Macclesfield - Bosley Locks 1-12.

GU Leicester Line - Foxton and Watford Locks.

Northampton Arm - Locks 1 - 17.

Grand Union - Buckby Locks 8-11.

[Canal & River Trust](#),
22 October 2018

K&A celebrates 50 years of renaissance

Thursday, 25 October marked 50 years of renaissance for the Kennet & Avon Canal, following the passing of an important piece of legislation in 1968 which helped to save Britain's waterways from dereliction.

The 1968 British Transport Act changed this and helped establish the waterways as places for leisure. This helped a growing movement of passionate canal lovers to restore and campaign for their survival. Today the Kennet & Avon Canal is more popular than ever with more visitors on the towpath and more boats than any time in living memory.

[Canal & River Trust](#),
24 October 2018

Chairman's Column

November Meeting

Please give a warm welcome to Nick Grundy with his talk "Canalling in the late 50's and 60's". This will be based upon the diaries of his grandfather's holiday and campaign cruises.

December Meeting

On 6th December we look forward to the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. As last years winners Salisbury IWA will be organizing the questions being set by Nick Grundy. SCS members will be hosting the evening with the traditional pre-Christmas occasion of an American Supper which

will finish off the evening.

January Meeting

On 3rd January 2019, we will be holding our Members Photographic Evening and Competition. This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain/ amuse/ educate your fellow members.

New Year Lunch

Sue Derbyshire has reserved Saturday 12th January at Keats Restaurant. The menu selection will be arranged during our December/ January meetings.

Alan Rose

Ken Froud

Ken's funeral was held on the 12th October At Oakley Wood Crematorium, Warwickshire. The Southampton Canal Society was represented by Eric and Sue Lewis, Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock, Alan and Angela Rose and Paul and Gill Herbert.

Wootons Lodge, where Ken and Margaret had lived since 2011, invited us all to catch up with their family. Their son Roger and daughter Hillary played a rolling screen of their lives, including pictures of Ken building their first boat *Duorf*. As the family said Ken always had a plan in hand.

A picture of members at our Society's 40th Anniversary outing at Godalming in October 2007 with Roger and family was

handed around (and copied below).

Angela Rose

It had been hoped that an appreciation of Ken (and Margaret) Froud would appear in this issue written by Society President, Brian Evans.

However, to do the subjects justice, Brian feels he needs a little more time; his feature will appear in the December issue.



The Society's 40th Anniversary with Ken and Margaret sat at the front.

'Lovely jubbly' boat brings smiles to Peak



The Only Fools and Horses-inspired narrowboat belongs to Tony Vaughan - just don't call him a plonker! PHOTOS: GEOFF WOOD

Bridge, with 'New York - Paris - Peak Forest' painted on the side. Fellow boat owners are a little puzzled by Tony's creation, but, like the unforgettable programme itself, it never fails to raise a laugh.

TROTTERS Independent Trading Co has set up shop on the canals - with a narrowboat inspired by classic BBC TV comedy Only Fools and Horses.

But you won't find Del Boy or Rodney wheeling and dealing on the waterways - it's the work of boat owner Tony Vaughan, who has fashioned the stern to look like the famous Reliant Robin van from the series.

Tony, from Greater Manchester, whose boat is a long way from Peckham on the Peak Forest Canal at New Mills, Derbyshire, says he came up with the idea over a few pints in a local pub.

The boat is now fashioned in mustard yellow and regularly travels along the canal to nearby Whaley

Towpath Talk, November 2018

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 1 Nov 2018 7.45pm | Southampton CS | "Canalling in the late 50's and 60's" is the title of Nick Grundy's talk. This will be based upon the diaries of his grandfather's holiday and campaign cruises. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Mon 12 Nov 2018 7.30pm-10.30pm | Kennet Valley Village Hall | "The Introduction of Jet Aircraft to the RAF." A talk, by Air Vice-Marshal Graham Skinner CBE, highlighting issues as the RAF replaced piston engines with jets after 1945. Tickets £10.00 including a light refreshments. Bar available. Event in support of RAF Benevolent Fund and Crofton Beam Engines. | Kennet Valley Hall, Overton Road, Lockeridge, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 4EL (SU147678). | Web: www.kvh.org.uk Tickets: events@kvh.org.uk |
| Thu 15 Nov 2018 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | "John Padmore - 19th Century Engineer & Polymath" by Richard Ross. | Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here | Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Thu 15 Nov 2018 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | Vic 32, a Clyde Puffer. Ron & Myra Glover together with Dave Thomas took a week's holiday on Vic 32. They will be relating their experiences whilst onboard as they pass through the locks on the Crinan Canal and around the Western Isles of Scotland | 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 |
| Sun 18 Nov 2018 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - Combe Hay Locks and the Engine Site guided walk to view the locks, some of which are on private land. | Meet at layby opposite Bridge Farm, Combe Hay, BA2 7EE (ST745604) | Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: workparty@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Tue 20 Nov 2018 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br) | Members slide show and Christmas "party" - Please bring food. 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: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917. |
| Wed 21 Nov 2018 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "The History and Restoration of the Paddle Steamer Medway Queen - Heroine of Dunkirk." Pam and Mark Bathurst will talk about the Medway Queen. Launched in 1924, it saw service on the Thames estuary until 1963, with 7 trips to Dunkirk in 1940. It was an Isle of Wight nightclub 1966-74, returned to the Medway in 1984, followed by rebuilding of her hull. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Mon 3 Dec 2018 7.30pm | Wilts & Berks CT (Royal Wootton Bassett Branch) | "Action for the River Kennet." Charlotte Hitchmough of Action for the River Kennet (ARK) will talk about wildlife and habitat of the river and what ARK does. All welcome. | The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AQ (SU068826). | Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310 Email: jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk |
| Thu 6 Dec 2018 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Salisbury IWA will be in charge of this year's quiz evening. Followed by the traditional American Supper. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Tue 11 Dec 2018 7.30pm-10.30pm | Crofton Beam Engines | "The History of Christmas." How old are the customs which we celebrate: prehistoric or Victorian? Are Santa Claus and Father Christmas the same and where did they come from? This talk by Professor Ronald Hutton is designed to answer these and other questions. Tickets: £10.00 includes glass of wine and seasonal gift. | The Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 1AA (SU188691). | Tickets via email from crofton.manager@katrust.org.uk or via internet from www.eventbrite.co.uk |
| Thu 13 Dec 2018 7.00pm | 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 19 Dec 2018 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Power from Poo." David Linsell will introduce Thames Water; it's geographic coverage, handling volumes of clean and waste water, plus tonnes of dry solid material for disposal. Finally, power generation in a combined heat and power plant plus future developments will also be discussed. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 3 Jan 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Members' Photographic Evening and Competition | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Wed 16 Jan 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "By Barge to Blighty - The role of inland waterways and the evacuation of casualties in the First World War." During WWI with the number of casualties being on unprecedented scales, evacuation to the base hospitals at the coast became a major problem. Pete Starling will highlight the role of the inland waterways as a means of casualty evacuation. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Sun 17 Feb 2019 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - Paulton and Timsbury Basins - guided walk to view the basins. | Paulton public car park, BS39 7NW (ST651565) | Adrian Tuddenham: 01225 335974 Email: editor@coalcanal.org.uk |

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

| Date/Time | Organiser | Details | Venue | Contact |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Wed 20 Feb 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Archaeological Treasures of the Thames." Malcolm Head will lead a show and tell discussion featuring some artefacts recovered from the Thames during dredging operations conducted over the years. It's remarkable that the objects, some very fragile, have survived mechanical dredging and are available to enjoy today. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 21 Feb 2019 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | "Saltford Brass Mill Project" by Richard Ross. | Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here | Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Wed 20 Mar 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "200 Years of The Thames and Medway Canal." David Rouse's talk traces the timeline from initial fundraising, construction challenges, the impact of railway fever, and eventual demise of the canal. Looking forward, the canal could be developed into a green safe water corridor, supporting fishing, informal boating and other activities. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 21 Mar 2019 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | "The Glastonbury Canal" - including railways, by Dick Osborne. | Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here | Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Wed 17 Apr 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Metropolitan Police Marine Policing Unit." Officer William Sargent will talk about the Marine Policing Unit (MPU) which is responsible for policing the 47 miles of River Thames within the Met area (Dartford to Hampton Court) as well as providing a specialist response to over 250 miles of canals and waterways, lakes and reservoirs and other bodies of water in London. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |

How Amsterdam's canal boats are going electric - at a cost

The following article recently appeared on the BBC website:

As we glide silently up Amsterdam's busy waterways on an unseasonably warm autumn morning, boat company owner Rik Kooij, 38, admits that "canal water runs in my veins".

Ever since his mechanically-minded grandfather renovated a bicycle, then a motorbike, then a boat back in the 1920s, Mr Kooij's family has been at the heart of Amsterdam's tourist canal boat business.

The *Prinses Irene*, which once took Winston Churchill up the canals, is silent because it's electric. All you hear is the swoosh of the water being churned up by the propeller. And there are no acrid diesel fumes to spoil the experience.

When Mr Kooij had to take the helm of the family business following the sudden death of his father in 2013, he wasn't daunted because he'd been working the canals since he was a boy.

Now the Reederij Kooij boat company he runs with his wife Daniela is one of the largest plying Amsterdam's famous canals. It owns 32 boats out of about 150 catering to the city's many tourists.

But when the municipality of Amsterdam stipulated that all boats would have to switch from diesel to electric power by 2025, in an effort to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, boat companies were faced with a huge - and expensive - challenge.

"We prefer to do everything that is good for the environment," says Mr Kooij diplomatically, "but it is going to cost us millions of euros. Too much! But if we don't do it we won't get a permit to operate, so our boats will be just scrap metal."

He has converted six boats so far - it takes about three months to strip out the old diesel engine and install the electric engine and batteries. A typical 23m (75ft) tourist boat needs about 66 batteries, he says, making the conversion cost around 165,000 to 250,000 euros (\$189,000 to \$287,000; £145,000 to £220,000) per boat.

But the engines are quieter, cleaner and cheaper to run - boat companies

should recoup their costs in about 12 years, according to the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate, a body supporting sustainable transport projects. They can be recharged in about 10 hours and last about two days between charges, says Sigrid Hanekamp, an application engineer from Dutch battery company Lithium Werks, which supplied the batteries for Reederij Kooij's boats.

These batteries are not your typical lead-acid type traditionally used in cars, or even the type of lithium-ion ones becoming standard in electric vehicles, she explains. They're lithium-iron-phosphate, a chemistry Lithium Werks believes is more durable and environmentally friendly.

They might not be as energy dense as some other types of battery, but they can be charged quickly and last longer than many other lithium-ion battery chemistries, the company says. And as they use iron rather than the much less plentiful cobalt, they're easier to produce and less prone to price fluctuations. But isn't water and electricity a dangerous mix?

Arjan Kooijman, director of E-Ship, a firm that converts diesel boats to elec-

tric, says connected sensors on the batteries are constantly sending performance data back to the boat company's headquarters.

Software monitors the health and charge of each battery. And if any water does get in to the insulated unit, a fuse blows, isolating it, and an alarm alerts the operator back at base.

"People used to think it was impossible to make a big ship electric 10 years ago, but we've shown that it can be done," says Mr Kooijman, whose company stands to do a brisk trade over the next few years.

By 2020, Amsterdam aims to have decreased energy consumption by 20% and increased use of renewable energy by the same percentage. The electrification of canal cruise boats is a significant part of this plan.

But another challenge the boat companies face is installing enough dockside charging stations. Mr Kooij says he will have to stagger the charging rota, as it doesn't make commercial sense to have one charging



The Prinses Irene

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.

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October Meeting

"The Steamer VIC32" with Ron and Myra Glover

Ron and Myra together with Dave Thomas took a week's holiday on "Vic 32" a Clyde Puffer based on the Crinan Canal in April 2018 on the first trip of the season.

As a working boat, the three joined in the excitement of loading the stores and checking out the mechanical workings. There were twelve guests on board with compact cabins, adequate corner seating plus a large oak table for meals. As a coal fired boat "white clothes" were not encouraged.

She was built in 1943 at Richard Dunston of Thorne, Yorkshire as a victualling inshore craft with a good keelson and a flat bottom for loading and unloading onto beaches.

She has a four blade cast iron propeller and is fitted with a triple expansion engine.

Mention was made of the old "Vic 27" or "Vital Spark" and Para Handy, a character created by the journalist and writer Neil Munro.

During WW2, Vic32 was used for moving ammunition, cement etc. She was laid up in 1960 until 1975 when Nick Walker took her over.

The keeper, Nick Walker, is very much hands on, but knowing how keen

Ron, Myra and Dave are they soon were on the helm, using charts and the intercom to the engine room for less or more power. Dave was in charge of the weather boards, plus holding the ropes when locking as necessary.

Cruising through the Isle of Bute, past Tarbert and because the weather was typical Scottish "wet & windy" they made their way past Tighnabraich to Rothesay. (If ever you go there, visit the toilets.) Compass swing was carried out once a year at the start of the season.

Just by chance Dave recognized the first mate -he had previously been the manager of the Coop in Stockbridge.

A few other tasks the intrepid trio carried out included repairing the intercom, adjusting a wonky seat and a couple of high tech adjustments, sorting out the Steam Powered Record Player.

The week was full of good company, excellent food and the odd tipple.

For more information see The Puffer Preservation Trust at <http://savethepuffer.co.uk/>.

'Haste ye Back.'

Angela Rose

Electric boats

(Continued from page 3)

station per boat.

This is where a two-day operating range and monitoring software comes in handy. If a boat skipper drives too fast - there's a 6km/h (4mph) speed limit on the internal canals - and drains the batteries too quickly, the software alerts headquarters, which then warns the skipper.

Amsterdam has been a pioneer in low-carbon transport for many years. Back in 2009 the Lovers boat company launched the first tourist boat powered by hydrogen cells. The Nemo H2 uses hydrogen and oxygen to create electricity - the only by-product is water vapour.

And earlier this year, the Netherlands and Belgium announced a plan to



Electric zero-emission container barges, like this artist's impression, could soon be plying Europe's canals

launch zero-emissions, self-piloting container barges to sail from Amsterdam, Antwerp and Rotterdam. The barges could remove 23,000 lorries from the roads, claims Port Liner, the firm making the boats.

While retrofitting canal boats with electric engines and batteries is a time-consuming and expensive task, Amsterdam is hoping the cleaner air and waterways will attract more tourists, be better for wildlife, and contribute to carbon emission reduction targets.

Matthew Wall

Technology of Business editor

www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-45783085 9 October 2018