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Raffle

Each year the Raffle raises a sum equivalent to more than half the Society's Subscription income, but it relies on good quality prizes being donated by members. Currently we have a shortfall of prizes so I am making an appeal to each member to donate a raffle prize; it does not have to be expensive, just something interesting.

Thank you, Sue Derbyshire

Maid gets steam up

THE engines of Maid of the Loch, the last paddle steamer to be built in Britain, recently turned under steam pressure for the first time in 38 years.

Steam was generated by a new, Bynorth boiler, situated on Balloch pier, with steam piped on to the ship.

"We have worked hard to reach this stage," said Ken. "But the truth is that the two-cylinder, compound engines are good for at least another 50 years as they're barely run in. They ran only for four months each summer from the ship's launch in 1953 to her coming out of service in 1981. So, when we overhauled them for this, the first of regular steamings, we found that they are in excellent condition. Built by Rankin and Blackmore of Greenock for the ship's launch in 1953, the engines are an excellent example of Clyde marine engineering."

Towpath Talk - 21 October 2019

Chairman's Column**November Meeting**

This evening (7th) we welcome Andy Lester from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The new Fishlake Meadows nature reserve in Romsey will be an interesting evening for us.

December Meeting

On 5th we look forward to the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. As last year's winners Southampton Canal Society will be organizing with the questions being set by Peter Oates. SCS members will be hosting the evening with our traditional pre-Christmas occasion of an American Supper kindly supplied by our Members.

New Year Meeting

On January 2nd 2020, we start off with 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

We have provisionally arranged to have our usual New Year Lunch at Keats Restaurant on Saturday 11th January. This has to be confirmed. A menu and details of the cost will be available at the December meeting. Further information from Angela.

Alan Rose

Heritage Reports from CRT

Each year we produce a retrospective report focusing on the actions we are taking to care for the heritage of the waterways. This is publicly available and it summarises and reflects upon the past year's heritage activity and performance.

We care passionately about our canals and rivers and want to preserve their historic significance for future generations to enjoy far into the future, and for the waterways to be special places that are loved and valued today by local residents and visitors alike.

We are responsible for the care of 2,663 listed buildings and 50 scheduled monuments over 2000 miles. The heritage we care for is free to access and use; it provides an everyday, local connection

to our past.

Richard Parry, chief executive at the Canal & River Trust, said:

"Championing and protecting the historic environment of the waterways is a key area of our work. We're proud of the many historic sites and buildings we have worked on and improved, and of the contribution our volunteers have once again made to a variety of heritage works and projects."

Heritage Reports for the years 2012-2019 are available on the CRT website at the link below.

Canal & River Trust - <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/caring-for-our-heritage/heritage-report>

IWA Festival of Water 2020

AUGUST 2020 is a significant date for The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) as it is the start of the organisation's 75th Anniversary year. Where better to start the celebrations than with the annual Festival of Water on the waterway where it all began, the Worcester & Birmingham Canal?

Back in August 1945, Robert Aickman and Tom Rolt met on the canal at Tardebigge, Worcestershire to discuss the need for an organisation to speak for the inland waterways of the UK. It was at this meeting that plans for IWA were developed and then six months later, in early 1946, the IWA was officially formed.

IWA's Festival of Water, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend (29-31 August, 2020) is expected to be one of the highlights of the 75th Anniversary celebrations. The festival will be held in Perdiswell Park in Worcester, with all the visiting boats moored along the banks of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal. It promises to be a spectacular event, which is fully supported by Worcester City Council.

"The city is proud to host the 2020 Festival of Water. The Worcester & Birmingham Canal is a fantastic asset, providing a haven for wildlife and an attractive route for walking, cycling and boating," says Cllr James Stanley, Chair of the Communities Committee at Worcester City Council.

"This promises to be a fantastic family event for the whole community to enjoy – we look forward to welcoming boaters from across the UK to Worcester next year."

Spaces for boats and camping (tents, caravans, motorhomes etc.) are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

More information about the Festival of Water can be found at https://www.waterways.org.uk/events/festivals/festival_water/IWA_festival_water. If you have a specific question, or would like to volunteer over the weekend, please call 01635 414567 or email: event.enquiries@waterways.org.uk.

Towpath Talk - 14 October 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 | I Details | Venue | Contact |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu 7 Nov 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The speaker, Andy Lester , will be talking about the new nature reserve at Fishlake Meadows in Romsey , its history and future. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sun 17 Nov 2019 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - Dunkerton to Combe Hay - guided walk. | Dunkerton Layby on A367, Dunkerton, Bath BA2 8BS (ST715597). | Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 |
| Tue 19 Nov 2019 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br) | Christmas Party and Speaker. 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 20 Nov 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Surrey Search and Rescue." Rosie Jordan will talk about Surrey Search and Rescue: a professional but unpaid team who are on call to assist Surrey Police 24 hours a day to search for and rescue vulnerable missing persons. | 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 Nov 2019 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | "Exploring the South of France by Boat." Jon Van de Geer will take us on journeys along the Canal du Rhone a Sete, the Petit Rhone, on an excursion to Carcassonne and a trip along the Canal du Midi. | 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 21 Nov 2019 7.30pm | Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust | Fish-Passes will be the subject of a talk by Tony Woolnough who is an internationally renowned specialist designer of fish-passes. | Upper Hall, Perrymount Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN (TQ331244). | Secretary: 01761 433418 Email: info@sxouse.org.uk Web: www.sxouse.org.uk/ |
| Sat 23 Nov 2019 10.30am-3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. Curious what goes on at Crofton during the winter? Come along to one of the Winter Works open days and meet some of the dedicated volunteers carrying out essential maintenance tasks on the engines. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |
| Thu 28 Nov 2019 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | Social Evening - T B A by Patrick Moss. | 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 5 Dec 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. SCS 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 |
| Sat 7 Dec 2019 10.30am-3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. Curious what goes on at Crofton during the winter? Come along to one of the Winter Works open days and meet some of the dedicated volunteers carrying out essential maintenance tasks on the engines. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |
| Thu 12 Dec 2019 7.00pm | IWA Salisbury Group | Christmas Dinner at the Green Dragon. | The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275). | Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 or 07768 622966 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com or myra.glover@waterways.org.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 |
| Wed 18 Dec 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Film evening from the BCS archives." Archive film about one of the last commercial voyages from the Wey Navigation into London's Royal Docks. The film was made in the 1970s by Tony Harmsworth but has recently had a commentary added and presents a vivid picture of life and work on the Wey Navigation and the River Thames at this time. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 2 Jan 2020 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Members Photographic Evening and Competition. This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain / amuse / educate your fellow members. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sat 11 Jan 2020 12.30pm for 1.00pm | Southampton CS | New Year Lunch. This is a provisional booking and will be confirmed by the next meeting when a menu will be available. | Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Wed 15 Jan 2020 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "When London had an inland Port." Lester Hillman will talk about the arrival of the completed Regent's Canal with a huge terminal at City Basin a game changer for London. Hear about the politics, engineering marvels, commerce and crime. What of the future of the City Basin? | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Sat 18 Jan 2020 10.30am-3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. Curious what goes on at Crofton during the winter? Come along to one of the Winter Works open days and meet some of the dedicated volunteers carrying out essential maintenance tasks on the engines. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

| Date/Time | Organiser | Details | Venue | Contact |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu 6 Feb 2020 7.45pm | Southampton CS | To be arranged. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sat 15 Feb 2020 10.30am- 3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. Curious what goes on at Crofton during the winter? Come along to one of the Winter Works open days and meet some of the dedicated volunteers carrying out essential maintenance tasks on the engines. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |
| Wed 19 Feb 2020 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "100 years under the flightpath." Ms Jo Gosney will talk about Farnborough and the impact of aviation on the people, workplace and economy for over a century. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 27 Feb 2020 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | The Bridgwater Canal and the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal by Steve Bacon. | 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 5 Mar 2020 7.45pm | Southampton CS | To be arranged. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Wed 18 Mar 2020 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Woking's Railway." Alan Norris will describe the coming of the railway to Woking in the 1830's. The talk will also include the Brookwood Cemetery railway and the Bisley Tramway. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 26 Mar 2020 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | Social Evening - T B C. | 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 2 Apr 2020 7.45pm | Southampton CS | To be arranged. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Wed 15 Apr 2020 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "The Electric Boat Association." Tim Knox is a committee member of the Association. He will tell about it, the advantages of electric propulsion for canal boats and the current state of the technology. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |

October Meeting

William Walker with David Farthing

David Farthing provided an entertaining and informative talk on Winchester Cathedral. The talk explained the story behind what has been described as the "greatest engineering restoration project ever", covering the four P's: the problem, the project, the people, and the party. The Cathedral, which has been estimated to weigh around 100,000 tons, is built in the middle of a river plan. The east end of the cathedral stands on particularly poor ground and is supported on a raft of logs. However after 800 years this log raft was starting to fail, perhaps as a result of a change in water levels, and resulting in worrying subsidence. The cathedral's subsidence was the problem and the replacement of the foundations, which are below the water table, was the project.

The project took around six years to complete and started with reinforcing the building structure, fillings voids and bracing. Sections of the foundations were then dug out, initially relatively easy work through a layer of compressed peat, but at deeper levels this has to be completed underwater, by hand and by touch placing cement bags to seal the foundation pit so that it could be pumped dry. Once dry the foundations could be rebuilt in brick. This required around 26,000 cement bags and 900,000 bricks.

The people in this story included Francis Fox the engineer and William Walker the diver. William worked two shifts of three and half hours each, with a break for lunch. The task required day after day dedication to complete and although working in low visibility is the norm for many commercial divers and has the advantage of no tidal currents, there was always the constant threat of collapse from above. After each pit was completed the work was inspected by the engineer, donning the same diving suit, before the pit could be drained and the brickwork started. The people of Winchester and elsewhere were also just as critical to the process in donating the required money to fund the project.

The whole story is brought closer to mind with photos from the period, together with illustrations and accounts from the time. The party to celebrate the completion of the works was also fittingly recorded for posterity. One interesting tale surrounds a commemorative statue of William Walker, which was based on a group photo from the period of the works. Unfortunately for the sculptor the individual in the diving suit, assumed to be William Walker, was actually the engineer Francis Fox (although this was later corrected).

Gordon Osborn

Miss-matched locks

As I am not a big sports fan the most I normally see of 'Match of the Day', is the titles. I have however noticed that the title sequence includes some locks, perhaps inspired by the Rochdale Canal and Castlefield Junction. Am I

the only person to have noticed the locks in the programme introduction and am I the only person to think the locks are facing in the wrong direction?

Gordon Osborn



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 Village 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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Want a home with views of a park or a canal?

The grass might not always be greener on the other side but if it is, then the homes nearby will be worth more. That's the conclusion of a study that suggests homebuyers will pay an average premium of up to £4,600 to be near green spaces.

The Office for National Statistics' analysis of more than a million property sales in England and Wales confirms how much city dwellers value their parks and allotments. Houses and flats within 100 metres of public green space such as parks, allotments, golf courses and playing fields were 1.1 per cent, or £2,500, more expensive on average than they would be if they were more than 500 metres away in 2016.

But that premium rises even more in the case of detached home, or if the property has actual views onto parks or water such as rivers, canals, lakes or the sea.

In 2016, a detached home within 100 metres of a green space would cost on average 1.9 per cent more than similar homes 500 metres away - although a flat was only 0.6 per cent more expensive.

But having a view over a green space or water boosted house prices by the most, an extra 1.8 per cent, or an average of £4,600.

'Our analysis shows living near parks, gardens and playing fields or having a view over green space or water can have a real positive impact on the price of your house and the nearer the green space is, the higher the premium,' said Adam Dutton of the ONS.

'We are continuing to uncover and improve our measurements of the ways in which nature impacts on people's health, wealth and well-being in the UK.'

The study analysed property sales from website Zoopla between 2009 and 2016 and used Ordnance Survey's open greenspace data, gathered using maps and aerial imagery.

Public parks or gardens, play spaces, playing fields, sports facilities, golf courses, allotments or community growing spaces, and religious grounds and cemeteries were included. However, woodlands, heaths and other open spaces that people might use for recreation were not.

David Westgate of Andrews Property Group said: 'It may not quite have the impact on prices that proximity to a tube station has, but being close to an open space does push up values, all the more so if a property overlooks them.'

He continued: 'It goes without saying that where most nearby properties have been converted into flats that lack gardens, the local park becomes even more important, and that too can drive up prices.'

'Town planners 120 years ago got it right and the creation of open green spaces continues to have huge appeal for local people and exert a material influence on values.'

Camilla Canocchi for Thisismoney.co.uk

Boater travels 78 miles to keep waterways tidy

FOR many, doing their bit to keep Oxford tidy may be picking up the odd crisp packet but one resident has gone much further. Richard MacKenzie, 39, lives aboard his narrowboat Bluebell, cruising the historic Oxford Canal.

He has just completed a litter-pick of all 78 miles from Coventry to its terminus in the heart of Oxford's city centre. Mr MacKenzie lives with his wife and two young children full-time on his narrowboat, Bluebell, cruising the Oxford Canal.

He has been shocked by the amount of litter and flytipping he has encountered. Working as a gardener, protecting the natural world is a passion and he was committed to playing his part.

The dad-of-two has also been fundraising for the Oxfordshire charity, Bridewell Gardens, which provides support for those recovering from mental illness.

With his wife Jackie, at the helm of Bluebell, Mr MacKenzie left Hawksbury Junction in Coventry on Monday. Armed with his litter-picker stick and a supply of bin bags, he has so far collected around 70 sacks of rubbish.

On Sunday he reached Hythe Bridge in Oxford where he was welcomed by Tom Hayes, the council's lead member for the waterways, and Lord Mayor Craig Simmons.

Mr MacKenzie said: "It's been a huge challenge. I wanted to make a difference as the Oxford Canal is my home. But I want to raise awareness too - we all have to take greater care of our environment."

Mr Hayes said: "Richard has shown great personal commitment to keeping the waterways of Oxford - and over 70 miles beyond our city - clean and tidy, protecting our environment."

Oxford Mail - 16 October 2019