

Newsletter

Issue 396

October 2005

Chairman's Column

Rita Johnson

It is with much sorrow that I have to report the passing of our member, Rita, last month, after a short illness. Our sympathies go to husband, Derek and their family, including members Norma and Frank Stokes; Norma and Rita were sisters. Appropriate cards have been sent on behalf of the Society.

October Meeting

Welcome to member John Silman and to Tony Yoward who will be asking us "So you think you know about Industrial Archaeology?"

Newsletter

Due to reproduction difficulties, the size of our Newsletter has had to be reduced until further notice. We will therefore have to concentrate on news mainly applicable to the Society and any inconvenience to members is regretted.

Donation

Many thanks to former members, Brian and Sylvia Allen, who have kindly made a donation of £25 to the Society in appreciation of minor assistance that Gill and I were pleased to give them recently.

Storage of Society Equipment

Further to the item in the last Newsletter, just to confirm that the Society is anxiously seeking storage for some of its equipment. If you think you may be able to help, further details were in that Newsletter or, alternatively, please have a word with me as soon as possible.

Donated Canal Prints

Further to the item in the last Newsletter concerning a Garth Allen canal print donated to the Society by Paul and Viv Taylor, members Tony & Jackie Coles have also kindly donated a print, this time of Hawkesbury Junction through the iron towpath bridge, painted by Alan Firth. Both prints will be auctioned at our Christmas meeting. Many thanks to Tony and Jackie.

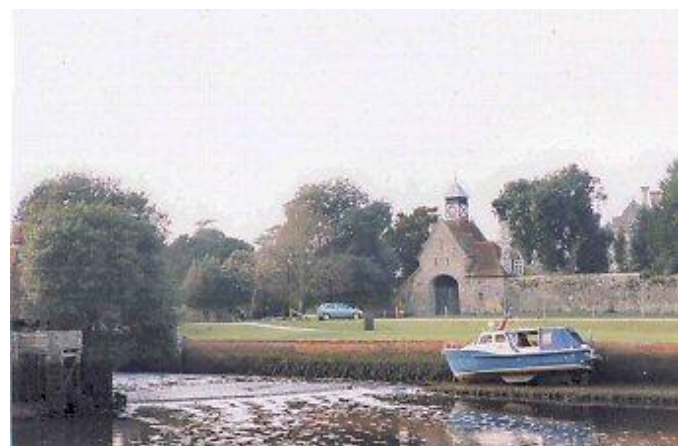
Refreshments Rota

Yes, I know, you get fed up seeing appeals about assisting with our monthly refreshments.....but we do need you to come forward. Please see Gill with the date(s) you are willing to assist.

Paul Herbert



The Garth Allen print to be auctioned at our Christmas meeting - see Chairman's Column above.



Society member Colin Huggins moored at the head of the tidal Beaulieu River earlier this year.

Boat for Sale

Brian and Sylvia Allen, who live in Southampton and are former members of the Society, have decided to sell their boat Ragtime. Brief details of this are given below:

40ft All steel Tug Style Semi-Trad Narrowboat. 1990. 4-berth. Beta/Ford 33hp Engine. 240v Ring Main.

Inverter. Built-in Battery Charger. Bathroom with hip bath and shower. Cooker. Fridge. Boat Safety Certificate until August 2007. Lovingly cared for and in excellent condition. £28950.

Contact Brian Allen on 02380462432 or 07887710083 (mobile) for details.

August Meeting 2005 Annual General Meeting

Because of the shortage of space in this issue of the Newsletter this will be a very much abridged version of the proceedings of the Society's 38th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 28 July 2005. Twenty-five members attended the AGM which was chaired by our Chairman, Paul Herbert, whilst our President, Brian Evans, officiated for the election of Officers and Committee.

The meeting followed the traditional procedure, all officer reports had been published in advance in the Society Newsletter, though the Treasurer tabled amended 2004/05 accounts at the meeting (showing just a minor adjustment). The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer & Membership Secretary presented their reports, highlighting issues of particular note. In summary, the Society continued to be successful with a full and varied programme of speakers and a number of enjoyable special events and outings. Membership numbers had been sustained and attendance at monthly meetings had been encouraging. Our financial position remained sound, despite a number of pressures and increased annual running costs. A year end balance of approximately £1,300 had been carried forward into 2005/06.

The success of the Society depends upon the support of the whole membership, and in particular on its officers, committee and the small band of members who regularly provide active assistance in a number of areas of its work. The AGM gave an excellent opportunity to thank all those in person.

A number of decisions had to be taken by the membership at the AGM. Those particularly concerned the future of the Newsletter and the new year's subscriptions. Since the Society lost the previous sponsorship of the Newsletter we have been faced with potentially high printing costs. Fortunately, one of our Committee members has been able to arrange for the

printing of the Newsletter without cost to the Society, an action which is very much appreciated, but we are still faced with the cost of envelopes and postage etc. The Committee had discussed this issue and a number of options were put before the AGM, where other options were raised. The AGM decided to continue with a monthly Newsletter but where members were prepared to receive copies electronically (viz. via email), then that would be facilitated. Members will be surveyed on this suggestion in a future Newsletter. Regarding subscriptions for 2005/06, again there was a lengthy discussion, and the AGM agreed that these be increased to: Family Membership - £18 and Individual Membership - £13. Regarding the surplus stock in hand from the former Sales Stand, the Committee had agreed to write the value of that down over four years. That would represent good accounting practice. However, members would still be able to purchase stock items, at cost. (*Details in next Newsletter*).

The other major financial decision was to increase the refreshment price to 30p with immediate effect!

We then came to the election of Officers and Committee. With the exception of Paul Taylor, who regrettably had had to resign from the Committee for family reasons, all existing incumbents were returned en bloc. In addition, two additional Committee members were elected, Maureen Greenham and Alan Rose. Peter Oates confirmed his willingness to continue as Newsletter Editor and Society Webmaster.

To conclude the AGM, the President thanked the Officers and Committee for all their work on behalf of the Society.

Following the AGM, members were entertained to a hi-tech presentation of a recent excellent DVD of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canal – thanks to Martin and Peter for providing the DVD and equipment.

Paul Herbert

September Meeting 'The Work of the Upper Severn Trust' with Jeremy Coles

For our September meeting Jeremy Coles gave us a very interesting illustrated talk on the Upper Severn Navigation.

He explained that 200 years ago the River Severn was navigable up to Ironbridge, some 85 miles from Bristol, and that the plates for the SS Great Britain were brought from Ironbridge on the river. In the early 1800's 75 cargo vessels were registered at Bridgnorth alone and trading along the River Severn.

We saw pictures showing the extremely low water levels of the river today, mainly due to water extraction, (some 85 million litres a day), as well as pictures showing other rivers, both in the UK and Europe, which have been restored.

The right of navigation on the Upper Severn still exists and plans are being developed for its restoration to a navigable waterway. Appropriate sites for locks and weirs are being established and the use of inflatable weirs is being considered. The river could also be used to produce some hydro-electric power.

There is a small amount of trade on the lower reaches of the river consisting of gravel movement by boat but this would be able to be developed if the river was fully navigable.

There is great resistance to change but hopefully in time the authorities will see the benefits of a fully restored navigation."

Sue Lewis

WATERWAYS DIARY

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Hopefully you can find something to interest you.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to supply further details of that event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 13 Oct 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'So you think you know about Industrial Archaeology?' with John Silman and Tony Yoward. NB: this date is the 2nd Thursday of the month. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 19 Oct 2005 8.00pm	Surrey and Hampshire CS	'Idle Women' by Runnalls Davis. This will feature the story of the women who operated working narrow boats during World War II. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey	Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564
Thu 20 Oct 2005 7.30pm	IWA Avon and Wiltshire Branch	'Around Britain's Canals in the 1970s.' An illustrated talk by Eric Lewis (of SCS). Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina (off the A4 between Bath and Bristol).	Geoff Harman: 0117 962 3812
Thu 3 Nov 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'South Coast Circular Cruise' by James Griffin. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 16 Nov 2005 8.00pm	Surrey and Hampshire CS	Colin Reynolds from the River Thames Society will illustrate the history of the River Thames and its historical connections. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey.	Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564
Thu 17 Nov 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	'Lots to do at the Soo'. A look at some North American waterways with Colin Ward. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Thu 17 Nov 2005 7.30pm	IWA Avon and Wiltshire Branch	'SARA - The Severn Area Rescue Association.' A Talk by David Walker. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina (off the A4 between Bath and Bristol).	Geoff Harman: 0117 962 3812
Sat 19 Nov 2005 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'From Ground to Glass'. Wine-tasting and talk by Littleton Panell Vineyard. The Wharf, Devizes. Small admission charge.	Alice Boyd: 01380-724701 Email: alicebf2@aol.com
Thu 1 Dec 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 15 Dec 2005 7.30pm	IWA Avon and Wiltshire Branch	Skittles and Buffet. IWA and W&B Members Welcome. The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze, Bristol. Tickets from Geoff Harman.	Geoff Harman: 0117 962 3812
Wed 21 Dec 2005 8.00pm	Surrey and Hampshire CS	'Past, Present and Future of the Chichester Canal.' Rick Travis (Chichester Ship CT) gives the story of this south coast canal plus the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey.	Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564
Thu 5 Jan 2006 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members photo evening and competition. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 18 Jan 2006 8.00pm	Surrey and Hampshire CS	'History of London Trams.' Dr. Tanner with the story of the London Tram System. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey.	Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564
Thu 2 Feb 2006 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'My work as Padre to the Inland Waterways' by Peter Atwill. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 2 Mar 2006 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Odds and Ends but not what you think!' with SCS member David James. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Hol 25 Mar to 30 Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm (Weds 4.00pm). Pumping days: 27-28 Mar, 24 Apr, 2 May, 29-30 May, 25-26 Jun, 23-24 Jul, 28-29 Aug, 25 Sep, 23 Oct. Admission: Pumping days: £3 Static days: £2	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org/

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:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm.
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.
Email: paul@herbertpaul.wanadoo.co.uk

Secretary:

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Southampton, SO40 2SS. Tel: 023 8086 0384
E-mail: sue.eric.lewis@ukonline.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel: 01794 517614
Email: laura@whitenap.plus.com

Committee:

Martin Cripps, Maureen Greenham, Peter Oates, Alan Rose, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel: 01794 517614
Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

<http://www.whitenap.plus.com>

HAMPSHIRE: National Lottery aid is being sought to save the Itchen Navigation waterway

£1.7m bid to revive a great river

IT is one of Hampshire's greatest rivers but parts are so overgrown you can barely see the water and in others discarded motorcycles and bikes are commonplace.

Further upstream, paths that have been trodden for centuries are slipping away, leaving muddy trails and difficult, narrow walkways.

The River Itchen has long been vaunted as the priceless jewel in the crown of Hampshire's celebrated waterways - a chalk river of global repute and officially recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Itchen Navigation - a 10.5-mile strand of the river which formed a vital transport and cargo link between Winchester and Southampton during the Industrial Revolution - provides one of its more intriguing facets.

Years of neglect have left certain parts of the waterway in desperate need of a bit of tender loving care. Now a £1.7m bid to return the Navigation to its former glory is in the hands of the National Lottery

The Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust, responsible for drawing up the proposals following a year-long consultation and planning project, must wait until March 2006 to find out if the first phase of their Conservation Management Plan will be given the green light.

Project manager Leah Mathias explains: "It needs a big effort to repair the whole Navigation. We've identified what we need to do to preserve this historical waterway in the Hampshire countryside and now we will be looking exactly at how we go about it.

"It's quite good timing for this bid because with London getting the 2012 Olympics there's the possibility more lottery money will be used up by the Olympics."

Tun Bridge - St Catherine's

Lock: Towpaths and banks eroded. Look at putting new banks in using hazel faggots, woven branches and sticks that form a barrier and allow the bank to regenerate naturally behind it.

Shawford: backfilling and reprofiling the bank.

Parts of the River Itchen are so overgrown you can hardly see the water

Public consultations, with representations from more than 20 vested interest parties including disabled, wildlife, cycling, canoeing, horse riding, fishing and rambling groups, have been staged in Southampton, Winchester and Eastleigh in the past 12 months.

Ongoing discussions and an activity day have also been held with landowners along the Itchen as to what people actually want from the Navigation and which specific areas require the most urgent attention.

Among the identified priorities are various riverbank restorations, lock preservations and repairs to the adjacent Itchen Way tow-path. There is an emphasis on community involvement and volunteers for many of the projects especially at Mansbridge Lock, where there is a scheme to clear polluted water, and for conservation work for example building otter holts and artificial kingfisher banks.

A community arts project and exhibitions also form integral parts of the bid.

If the Trust's lottery bid is successful in March they will receive a sum of development money to employ a team of consultants to produce detailed engineering designs while at the same time conducting wildlife surveys to document names and numbers of species along the river.

Once this development phase work has been completed the Trust will have to resubmit their revised bid to the lottery next September before they hear the final decision on funding for their plans in March 2007.

- *Anyone interested in volunteering for the various projects next year should register with the Trust on 01489 774400.*

**Karenza
Morton
reports**



Priority Projects

Railway Bridge - Mansbridge: Long stretch of pathwork.

St Catherine's Lock: Old-fashioned traditional method lock preservation.

Mansbridge Lock: Old-fashioned traditional method lock preservation.

Brambridge: Repair and restore original towpath hatch discovered during recent surveys.