



NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column

October Meeting

On behalf of the society I am delighted to welcome back Pete and Jane Marshall and the crew of "Day-Star Theatre".

We are being taken away on a "Long Weekend." Enjoy yourselves and the American Supper to follow. Thank you to all for bringing food to share.

November Meeting

On 3rd November Paul Barnett from the "Friends of Purton" is returning to give a presentation on "Lydney's Lost Fleet". This is situated on the other side of the Severn Estuary from the Purton Hulks. This will be a very enthusiastic and informative evening. Do come along.

Future Events

Maureen Greenham has arranged two treats for us!

Another popular Skittles evening at the Phoenix, Twyford on Friday 18th November. Price £10.50 to include a hot meal. Please give your names to

Maureen. See Waterways Diary for contact details.

The Society's Christmas Lunch Saturday 14th January 2012 at The Blue Hayes Restaurant. Fuller details will appear in a later edition of the Newsletter.

December Meeting

Our annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be held on Thursday 1st December. This will, as usual, be hosted by Southampton Canal Society on behalf of last year's winners IWA Guildford & Reading.

The quiz will be followed as usual by an American Supper.

Congratulations to Salisbury IWA

16th October is the 21st Birthday of the Salisbury Group of the IWA Avon and Wilts Branch.

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society members we hope they enjoy their celebrations at their meeting on 20th October (see Waterways Diary for details of meeting).

Alan Rose

Contract for construction of world's largest lock

The Municipal Port Authority of Antwerp has let a contract to construct a second lock in the Waaslandhaven on the left bank of the River Scheldt. The contract value is in excess of €272 million, excluding VAT.

The construction of a new lock in the Waaslandhaven will be one of the largest infrastructure projects in Flanders during the next few years. At present, the Waaslandhaven is only accessible for shipping via the Kallosluis lock, which has more or less reached its maximum capacity. A second lock is needed in the Waaslandhaven in order to allow shipping traffic there to continue to expand.

The second lock in the Waaslandhaven will be a sea lock, with the same dimensions as the Berendrechtsluis

lock, currently the largest in the world - 68 metres (223ft) wide, and 500 metres (1640ft) long. The new lock will be deeper than the Berendrechtsluis, thereby making it the world's largest once it is completed.

Construction work will start on 24 October 2011. The project is expected to take 53 months, during which time 800,000 m³ of concrete will be poured, 55,000 tons of reinforcing steel put in place, and 12,000 tons of steel used for building the lock gates and bridges.

www.bam.eu - 15 September 2011

Editor's note: To give some idea of the size of this lock, you would be able to fit around 700 full size, working narrow boats (71ft 6in by 7ft) into the chamber. On second thoughts, it isn't easy to imagine 700 boats all together!

IWA highlights '£40m funding gap'

The Inland Waterways Association has issued a briefing paper for MPs and local politicians, identifying a massive £40 million 'gap' in funding the waterways. The paper is a result of the public consultation on the Government's plans to move the waterways to a new waterways charity (NWC), and comes as a six-week further consultation on way in which the move takes place.

IWA says that to make the move to a charity a success, it is critical that the NWC is properly funded from the start, and makes several practical suggestions on how to fill the gap.

The briefing paper calls Defra's plans 'a fragile entity', and identifies five key issues it believes the government should fund, namely:

- Taking on the past service pension liabilities of British Waterways.
- Provide a 'transition fund' to cover the costs for a successful launch of the Charity and the costs of

promoting local involvement.

- Index-linking the funding.
- Provide certainty of funding beyond the ten years initially proposed.
- Funding the cost of bridge repairs, which has risen exponentially. This is because much of BW's existing property comprises bridges and tunnels over 200 years old, most of them at least Grade II listed, so BW is compelled to maintain them to heritage standards.

Clive Henderson, IWA National Chairman, said: "The All-Party Parliamentary Waterways Group has supported the IWA's concerns over insufficient funding, the consensus being that we are at least £40 million a year short. We are pleased that there now seems to be an acknowledgement from Government that this is still open for negotiation with the new trustees."

Andrew Denny - www.waterwaysworld.com - 16 September 2011

Waterways Diary

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.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (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.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Fri 7 Oct 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre present "A Long Weekend!" Tickets: £8.00 includes American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184). Please note this meeting is on Friday not Thursday.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 16 Oct 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Dorset & Somerset Canal, Edford & Coleford (and see the "Hucky Duck" or aqueduct). Meet at The Duke of Cumberland, Edford, BA3 5HQ (ST677489).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Tue 18 Oct 2011 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Branch)	"The River Loddon to London" with Steve Bacon. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 19 Oct 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'Boat and Barge Building at Honey Street.' Adrian Softley will describe the history of the barge building base on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Oct 2011 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Tom Rolt Celebration Cruise". Ron & Mary Heritage will be returning to tell about their re-enactment of Tom Rolt's "Cressy Cruise". The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR. (SU182274) (October 16th is the 21st Birthday of the Salisbury Group of IWA and so they will be celebrating this event at the October 20th meeting).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 20 Oct 2011 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Author Kirsten Elliott will be talking about her book "Queen of Waters" which celebrates the Kennet & Avon Canal. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST689549).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Wed 26 Oct 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Branch)	"Why Archives?" by Elaine Kirby, K&ACT Archive Administrator. Elaine will explain the role of an archivist and bring along some of the Trust's photographs and documents to illustrate her talk. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 3 Nov 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Paul Barnett from the Friends of Purton is returning to give a presentation on "Lydney's Lost Fleet." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Tue 15 Nov 2011 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Branch)	K&ACT President David Bruce - followed by Christmas Party (bring some food). The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 16 Nov 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'Waterways of South Holland.' Roger Squires will describe a circular tour of the area. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Nov 2011 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Secret Canals of Britain with Stuart Fisher. A canoeist's eye view of the canal system especially the canals that cannot be reached by narrow boat. The speaker is the editor of Canoeist Magazine. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR. (SU182274)	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 17 Nov 2011 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The House of Lords' and Other Archives" by Derrick Hunt and Roger Halse. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST689549)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Fri 18 Nov 2011	Southampton CS	Skittles Evening at The Phoenix, Twyford, Hants, SO21 1RF (SU480242). Price £10.50 to include a hot meal. Names to Maureen Greenham.	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net
Sun 20 Nov 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk in the Willow area - Fullers Earth & the Canal Tunnel. Meet: Willow Car Park, BA2 8QD (ST738580)	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Wed 30 Nov 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Branch)	"Canals of Nova Scotia" by Mike & Lynn Bassett. An exploration of the Shubenacadie, the St Peter's and the Canso Canals in Canada. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 1 Dec 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. IWA Guildford & Reading Branch, as last year's winners, will be setting the questions. Followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 15 Dec 2011 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Sites and Sights of the SCC" by Patrick Moss, Derrick Hunt, Roger Halse & Adrian Tuddenham. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Sun 18 Dec 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Radstock and Welton. Meet: Radstock Public Car Park, Waterloo Road, BA3 3EP (ST689549).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Wed 21 Dec 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The Gunpowder Plot" by Richard Thomas. The background to the "Powder Treason". Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
23 Oct 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Pumping days. 10.00am - 5.00pm. Adults £5.00. Children under 16 free with adult. Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST791643)	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Every Wed, Sat, Sun & Bank Hol until 26 Oct 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Days not pumping. 10.00am - 5.00pm (4.00pm Weds). Adults £3.00, Children under 16 free with adult. Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST791643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org

Out to Lunch

When Willow Wren ceased trading commercially in the early Sixties, member Colin Huggins took groups of teenagers 'camping' on their converted narrow boats – he has photos of our own STANTON with booty BELMONT still working the main line. Fifty years later he explores local rivers and creeks in his old fishing boat, and Maureen Greenham's account of the Society's recent outing prompted this description of the upper reaches of Beaulieu River.

It's not surprising that the peace and tranquillity attracts boaters to this delightful spot, but don't stop at the crowded pontoons of Bucklers Hard, keep going upriver until the moorings finally end after several wooded bends and long catwalks joining private landings to green lawns with mini-mansions peeking out between the trees.



The last curve opens up to reveal the limit of navigation where a sluice controls runoff from the millpond; on the left Whimbrells Quay sometimes sees a group of shallow-draft yachts rallying for a barbecue.

But I prefer the wall opposite under the walls of Beaulieu Palace, driving mooring stakes into the grass where New Forest ponies and donkeys graze.



Nobody has ever demanded payment for berthing here so with that saving I usually splash out on a drink and a meal in the village where the half-timbered Montagu Arms offers a quality but pricey welcome.

Extravagant? With bangers 'n mash costing £10.50 you might just settle for a quick half and eat on board!

But the nearby attractions of Abbey, Palace and Motor Museum certainly justify the adventure for those of us with families to entertain.

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Thank you Colin for sending in this item on a local waterway.

More of Colin's creek-crawling can be found in the Out to Lunch series on Tightwad Sailor:

<http://www.troppo.co.uk/odds/odds.htm>



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.

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Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

September Meeting

'The Caldon Canal, Bridgnorth & Bewdley, etc' - Brian Evans

28 members attended this meeting plus two visitors who saw the Society advertisement in the Herald publication.

Brian, Annegret with their son and family were shown on holiday slides enjoying a very relaxing week in the Old Flint Mill near Consall Forge on the Caldon Canal. With Brian's narrative and tales we visited Froghall Wharf & Railway Station, Cheddleton working flint mill and the Churnet Valley Steam Railway. Brian also showed other slides of interesting relics that we sometimes walk past not noticing their history and purpose.

We then moved on to older slides of the Droitwich Canal restoration and a Society trip on the barge Sabrina. Whilst in the area, we saw shots of the River Severn at Bewdley and, something I had never seen, the Castle Hill Railway at Bridgnorth.

Brian then took us to the River Saar in Germany with slides of Fumay

(Annegret's home town) and also Montherme on the River Meuse in France. These small towns have grown up within the "loops" of the rivers. Brian had climbed and scrambled up the hillsides to take really good panoramic views. In the Stuttgart area we saw pictures of rusted steam, electric, diesel locos and other rolling stock standing and awaiting restoration!

We then came back "home" with slides from 30 years ago, showing the River Itchen below Mansbridge. A taster of the IWA's Jubilee jigsaw on the Itchen Navigation. Maybe to be comprehensively shown at a later date.

Many thanks Brian for such an interesting evening which I am sure we all enjoyed, not only the slides but your tales as well.

Angela Rose

Defra announces charity consultation results

Defra has published the summary of responses to its consultation about transferring the waterways from public ownership to the new waterways charity, called 'A new era for the waterways'.

The three-month consultation, which ended on 30th June, was to take into account the public's views on how the new charity should manage the English and Welsh waterways, and particularly in gaining new ideas on how to secure their financial stability in the wake of all the funding cutback of the last few years.

Defra said over 350 responses were received on the consultation, from individuals, charities and the main associations connected with the waterways.

Many of the familiar demands by waterways users were addressed, including a key one that canal towpaths would be opened up as rights of way (currently towpaths are only available for public use at 'the discretion of' BW.)

A clear majority of replies favoured the merger of EA navigations into the new charity, and Defra said this is now likely to happen, possibly by 2014 rather than the original target of 2015, "subject to affordability and the agreement of the NWC Trustees at that time".

The original consultation proposed a series of region-sized 'Local Partnerships', and while the proposal is likely to go ahead, there was criticism that their name belied their large size and that there should be more 'localism' in the partnerships. Defra has agreed, and is renaming them 'Waterways Partnerships', with an instruction that they should develop 'localism strategies' that allow a greater involvement from local communities.

The current plan is for 13 Partnerships. Eleven would be based on waterway management boundaries, one for museums and one 'All-Wales Partnership'. But the proposal should not prevent the

Partnerships from evolving into the future.

The shape of the new charity Council was also unveiled. This will initially consist of 35 members. Boaters will be pleased that five of these will come from their ranks, and others taken from various other interests – including two from boating businesses and one from employees of the charity. Four of them will come from the various other interests, such as cyclists, anglers, rambles, etc. These interests will comprise half the Council, and they will elect their members, while the other half will be appointed, including heritage and environmental appointees, and one each from the 13 Waterways Partnerships.

The name of the new charity is still under discussion. "The Government and Trustees recognise that the name of the charity must accurately represent its scope", said the report.

"Furthermore, in addition to the word 'waterways' (well understood by enthusiasts), consideration also needs to be given to words more familiar to the wider public (including 'canal' and 'river') if the name is to have the widest possible appeal.

The results of the consultation can be downloaded on www.defra.gov.uk/consult/files/110912-waterways-summary-responses.pdf

As it published the report, Defra also launched another six-week consultation about the proposed 'Transfer Order'. This will run until 24th October, and sets out the legal framework for transfer of the waterways and associated powers and responsibilities from BW to the new charity.

Details of this supplementary consultation can be seen on www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/09/12/waterways-1109/

Andrew Denny - www.waterwaysworld.com - 16 September 2011