



# Newsletter

## Chairman's Column

### October Meeting

This evening we welcome back Geoff Watts with his new talk "Memories of the Great War" in our area, taken from archives, letters, poems and postcards.

### November Meeting

Day-Star Theatre will be coming to Southampton to give a performance of "A Bad Penny." See [September's Newsletter](#) for a synopsis. Pete, Jane and George Marshall will be travelling down from their home and craft workshop, based in Audlem on the Shropshire Union Canal.

Bring along friends and family and enjoy the evening. Tickets available tonight at £10 each. An American Supper, kindly brought along by our members, will follow the performance.

### December Meeting

A reminder that the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be taking place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. As last year's winners, IWA Guildford & Reading will be organising the Quiz.

SCS members will be hosting the evening, with the traditional pre-Christmas occasion of an American Supper which finishes off the evening.

SCS Members: We need you to volunteer for our team!! Revision notes and homework will be offered?? ( if needed).

### New Year seasonal lunch

Time to make enquiries regarding our New Year seasonal lunch. Its early days yet but we are possibly looking at Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014. We noticed that the Blue Hayes Restaurant is under "New Ownership" - we will investigate! Please indicate to Angela if you are interested.

Thank you all again for supporting your Society.

*Alan Rose*

## Chichester Canal Trip

It was a lovely autumn afternoon when 23 members and friends of the Society assembled at Chichester Canal Basin. They had chartered the trip boat *Richmond* for



The trip boat *Richmond* approaches the restored and re-sited Poyntz Swing Bridge

a two hour cruise to see and learn about the Chichester Ship Canal. The weather was nigh on perfect; an early mist had burned off to provide a still, warm, afternoon.

Accompanying them was Barbara, an official Chichester Guide, to provide a commentary. She made this come alive by not only sketching the history and purpose of the Canal, but by providing anecdotes about some of the characters who had lived and worked along the canal. She herself lives beside the canal and has cycled the towpath, in all weathers, for more than 30 years.

During the outbound leg the crew of the *Richmond* served up a delicious cream tea, with scones and cakes made by volunteer members of the Ship Canal Society. After an hour we wended just

We saw a variety of wildlife, some of it exotic. As well as the usual mallards, coots, moorhens and swans, much excitement was caused by a sighting of one of the resident herons, perched in a tree and waiting for a quiet period to continue fishing. The canal is also home to a small colony of terrapins, which were released into the canal as a result of the Mutant Ninja Turtles craze a few years ago, and we were fortunate enough to see one sunning itself near the winding hole.

All in all it was a most enjoyable and interesting trip and we thank the organiser and crew from Chichester Ship Canal Society for providing it.

*Aelred Derbyshire*

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### Bits and Pieces

#### Happy Birthday

One of our founder members, Laurie Pearce, will be 93 this month. He comments that he's "beginning to feel it!!" All our members, I am sure, will join me to offer our congratulations and wish you a very Happy Birthday, Laurie.

#### New address

Please note that our Treasurer, Aelred Derbyshire, has recently moved house. His new address and other contact details can be found on the back page.

short of the Crosbie Bridge at Donnington for the return leg, when we had a planned stop at Hunston Junction. This enabled the party to stroll down to the site of the Poyntz Swing Bridge, now replaced by a fixed footbridge, to view Chichester Cathedral across the water meadows, a view immortalised in a famous painting by JMW Turner, now in the Tate Britain Gallery.

## 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 2 Oct 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Geoff Watts will talk about "Memories of the Great War." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>
Mon 6 Oct 2014 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"Hereford and Gloucester Canal, Past Present and Future" with Dick Skeet. Church Hall, United Reform Church, Wood Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7BD (SU065826).	Cheryll Yeowell: 01793 812708 Email: <a href="mailto:cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk">cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar/">http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar/</a>
Wed 15 Oct 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant 2012." In 2012, Nick Grundy was privileged to take part with Beatty in the River Thames Pageant. He will cover the planning and preparation for the event, followed by a full account of the Pageant day. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 16 Oct 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Boating around Vancouver". In 2013 Ron & Myra Glover flew across the Atlantic to Canada and hired a 40 foot cruiser in order to explore the islands in the waters around Vancouver. They navigated rivers and creeks and visited the islands to sample the local way of life. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 16 Oct 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening - details to be announced - contact Steve Page. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Steve Page: 01761 433418
Sun 19 Oct 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Coal mining in Coleford & Vobster. Meet at The King's Head, Underhill, Coleford, BA3 5LU (ST687487) (but please park elsewhere).	Shane Gould: 07909 882470
Tue 21 Oct 2014 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Waterways in Vietnam" with David Copley. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation (inc K&A members) £2.50 to help with expenses.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Sat 25 Oct 2014 2.30pm	Wey & Arun CT	EGM of the Trust. This meeting is an opportunity to hear the latest progress on the canal's restoration, It is also hoped that there will be a report on water issues and the lock 22 archaeological dig. Bramley Village Hall, Hall Road, Bramley, Surrey, GU5 0AX(TQ009449).	Tony Tyrrell: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:sec@weyandarun.co.uk">sec@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/autumnmeeting2014.php">http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/autumnmeeting2014.php</a>
Wed 29 Oct 2014 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"Creating the Crofton Canal Centre" by Rob Dean and Peter Turvey who will explain the Trust's ambitious project to create the Crofton Canal Centre and link it with a series of information centres all along the canal. The project is currently bidding for £2m of Heritage Lottery Funding. Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury RG14 5AS (SU472671). Free entry. Car parking £1.00.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:kact.newbury@btinternet.com">kact.newbury@btinternet.com</a>
Thu 6 Nov 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Day-Star Theatre will be presenting "A Bad Penny" to be followed by an American Supper. Further details on page 4. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>
Tue 18 Nov 2014 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"The Cotswold Canals" by Liz Payne & Christmas eats and drinks. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation (inc K&A members) £2.50 to help with expenses.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Wed 19 Nov 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Wilts and Berks Canal - The Most Ambitious Restoration." Chris Coyle will include a brief history of the canal, an overview of the restoration project, covering the reasons for it, what has been done so far, the challenges ahead and the plans for some major projects in the near future. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 20 Nov 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Barging on North East Waterways" with Nick Grundy. In the late 1970s and early 80s Nick did a number of trips as crew on a 300 ton commercial barge, carrying cargoes on the main waterways in the North East. He will tell us about his experiences of commercial barging "Where Time & Tide Wait for No Man." The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 20 Nov 2014 7.00pm for 7.30pm	Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust	"Watermills of the Sussex Ouse and its Tributaries" by Colin Smith, co-author of the "Sussex Watermills" books. Joint meeting with IWA Kent & East Sussex Branch. Upper Room, Perrymount Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3DN (TQ331243) (near the railway station and 200 yards from Clair Hall).	Hazel Lintott: 01444 414 413 Email: <a href="mailto:info@sxouse.org.uk">info@sxouse.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.sxouse.org.uk/">http://www.sxouse.org.uk/</a>
Wed 26 Nov 2014 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"Wonderful Wildlife of the K&A" (tbc). It is hoped to have a speaker describing the wonderful wildlife of the K&A and the work underway to ensure the River Kenet is a good environment for wildlife. Stone Building, Wharf Road, Newbury RG14 5AS (SU472671). Free entry. Car parking £1.00.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:kact.newbury@btinternet.com">kact.newbury@btinternet.com</a>
Mon 1 Dec 2014 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"The Claverton Pumping Station - history and restoration" by George Eycott. Church Hall, United Reform Church, Wood Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7BD (SU065826).	Cheryll Yeowell: 01793 812708 Email: <a href="mailto:cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk">cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar/">http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar/</a>
Thu 4 Dec 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Waterways Quiz organised by last year's winners - IWA Guildford &amp; Reading. To be followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>
Thu 11 Dec 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas Dinner. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841

## September Meeting

### Old Photos by Eva Drinkwater and Foxton Inclined Plane with Alan Rose

One of our longstanding and more senior members, Eva Drinkwater, presented us with a selection of her waterways photographs.

We were shown pictures on the Basingstoke Canal with her young boys, raft building, camping, boating and walking along the K&A when John Knill's goat ate the food from their tent. Also featured was an SCS trip on the River Thames along with pictures of Stoke Bruerne in 1978.

We also heard and saw about a Society trip to Bristol and the SS Great Britain (see right).

Eva also told us of her recent trips to see the Falkirk Wheel and a view of her walking the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal.

With Eva's usual sense of humour she entertained 26 members and three visitors, two of whom joined the Society on the evening.

To take us up to the tea break, Alan Rose showed and spoke about "Wrecks and Ruins" found around the country and pictures taken over a period of time by Mike Beech the Curator of Foxton Museum.

After the break, Alan was pleased to run another series of pictures supplied by Mike Beech containing the history of Foxton and the neighbouring

canals. First was the Leicestershire & Northamptonshire Union Canal. Often known as the "Old Union Canal," this waterway was intended to join Leicester to Northampton and via the Grand Junction Canal to London. Building started in 1793 but the money ran out in 1797 and the canal only got as far as Debdale Wharf, about a mile north of Foxton. Eventually an extension to a final terminus at Market Harborough was opened in 1809.

A new canal, the Grand Union (now called the Old Grand Union), was built on a different route to join the Grand Junction at Norton Junction and included the ten narrow locks at Foxton, opening in 1814.

With the coming of the railways, competition was starting to bite



Above: SCS members aboard the SS Great Britain on a Society trip to Bristol photographed by Eva Drinkwater.  
Below: Foxton Inclined Plane in 1900.



and Fellows Morton & Clayton (FMC) wanted to use bigger boats to take coal from the North to the London factories. The thought was that Foxton and Watford locks could be widened?

Engineer Gordon Cale Thomas was put in charge of the project. Wide locks were dismissed as using too much water from the summit pound. His solution was to build a boat lift to his patented design and large scale model to test the design was constructed at Bulbourne Depot in 1896.

Photographs and other information was shown of the planning and building of the Foxton Inclined Plane, plus some very interesting pictures of the flamboyant figures looking proud as the Inclined Plane opened in June 1900. Pleasure boat trips were organised on the lift,

tourists standing in the hold of a cleaned up carrying boat as the 25 horsepower steam engine is turned on and they ascend the hill. The other tank descends either loaded with boats or water. The entire operation has taken 12 minutes, and could move two boats up and two down. A big saving against the 45 minutes (plus waiting time) taken to use the locks.

The lift worked well but by 1909, the FMC steam boats worked "fly" for 24 hours a

day and the expected traffic did not increase. The plane required three men to operate it and it would have been uneconomic to keep the engine in steam overnight.

In 1911 the lift was mothballed to save money, the traffic returning to the locks which have been in use ever since.

In 1928 the lift machinery was finally sold for scrap.

In 1950 the IWA held the first Inland Festival of Boats at Market Harborough.

1980 saw the [Foxton Inclined Plane Trust](#) formed and the Foxton Canal Museum opened in 1989.

*Angela Rose*

**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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## Putting Water into Waterways

Our water management team work tirelessly to make sure that there's enough water for you to cruise on. It's a complex job and one that takes a lot of planning. What they're now doing is asking you for your views via the [Water Resources Strategy Consultation](#).

Adam Comerford, Group Hydrology Manager, comments: 'Delivering a long term security of water supply to the waterway network will help us achieve our vision of living waterways that transform places and enrich lives. To enable this, we are developing a Water Resources Strategy to allow us to plan successfully for the future. The strategy sets out our aspirations for the next five years, but looks as far ahead as 2050 to understand the longer term pressures and challenges.'

'The consultation outlines the key issues that we wish to understand and manage better, and wants the views of all our

customers to help influence the work we do in the future. It is the first time that these issues have been openly presented by us and we believe this embodies our values of being caring, open, local, involving and demonstrating excellence in our work.'

The consultation runs for eight weeks, from 9 September to 4 November 2014. Please read the [consultation document](#) and [complete the questionnaire online](#).

Alternatively you can email CRT at [water.information@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:water.information@canalrivertrust.org.uk), when responding please state your name, organisation (if applicable) and contact details. We'll publish a Statement of Responses to the consultation and the final Water Resources Strategy in due course.

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views) Boaters' Update 12 Sep 2014

## 15,000 volunteer hours restoring the canals!

September saw the end of a very productive Waterways Recovery Group Canal Camp summer season with over 2,500 volunteer days spent restoring the canals of England and Wales. Based on an average of six hours of volunteering per day that's a staggering 15,000 hours of canal restoration by Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) volunteers!

WRG has supported restoration of derelict inland waterways by co-ordinating volunteers and providing expertise and equipment since its formation in 1970. Every summer WRG organises over 20 week long working holidays aimed at giving canal restoration projects a 'big push' with extra volunteers, technical support and advice.

Over the summer WRG volunteers visited twelve restoration sites. Volunteers worked on the Cotswold Canals helping with restoration work at Bowbridge Lock and [Griffin Mill Lock](#) near Stroud; they created a nature trail on the Driffield Navigation; and installed a new landing stage on the [Basingstoke Canal](#). Volunteers also spent two weeks on the [Chesterfield Canal](#) constructing a concrete wall near Staveley Town Lock as well as digging out Ironville Locks on the Cromford Canal to allow for a restoration survey to be undertaken.

One of the highlights of the summer involved making significant progress towards the restoration of [Inglesham Lock](#), on the Cotswold Canals, with WRG volunteers contributing over 300 volunteer days to the project. Volunteers cleared a large volume of

silt and debris from the entrance to the lock chamber to allow for new stop planks and a sand bag dam to be installed. The work will allow for a full survey of the chamber to be undertaken by one of IWA's Honorary Consultant Engineers, once the rest of the lock chamber has been cleared.

Over the summer, WRG also ran working holidays on the [Shrewsbury and Newport Canals](#), [Uttoxeter Canal](#), [Pocklington Canal](#), Grantham Canal, [Lancaster Canal](#), [Swansea Canal](#) and the Monmouthshire Canal.

Amber Jenkins, WRG's new Assistant Volunteers Coordinator said 'This is my first summer with WRG and I have met so many enthusiastic volunteers who aim to have fun whilst making a big impact restoring canals. It's amazing to see how much 18 volunteers can get done in one week ... from laying a new towpath to installing stop planks and filling 2,000 sand bags!'

Although our main Canal Camps Programme ends in September that doesn't mean WRG volunteers go into hibernation. Our Forestry Team are heading to the Cotswold Canals at the end of October to carry out tree clearance work and in November (8th/9th) WRG will be holding their Reunion Weekend on the Chesterfield Canal. For more details please go to the WRG website [www.wrg.org.uk](http://www.wrg.org.uk)

WRG Press Release 15 September 2014