



NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column

September Meeting

We give a very warm welcome to our President, Brian Evans, who will show us slides of Cheddleton Flint Mill, & Consall Forge on the Caldron Canal. He'll also include Bewdley and Bridgnorth and the railway between them. May be a bit of Continental too!

October Meeting

On Friday 7th October, Peter and Jane Marshall, in the guise of Day-Star Theatre, will be bringing their excellent production "A Long Weekend" to Chilworth.

Tickets available now £8 each from Angela, Gill or Maureen. The Show will be followed by an American Supper.

Please support your Society, let us have a "full house." Please note that this meeting is on a Friday, not Thursday.

Society's AGM

A necessary and worth while AGM was held on 28 July. This will have helped our Society to continue

Water shortages mean boating restrictions

Due to an exceptionally dry spring and summer so far, the reservoir levels for the Oxford and Grand Union Canals are close to the minimum at which they can operate.

On Monday 15 August the BW Oxford/Grand Union hydrological unit was recording 33% reservoir capacity. From the following day the estimated current water availability in reservoirs was:

- **Saddington reservoir** - serving the northern section of the GU Leicester Line - 2 to 4 weeks stock.
- **Naseby, Sulby & Welford reservoirs** - serving the rest of the Leicester line (including the Foxton and Watford lock flights) - 4 to 5 weeks stock
- **Daventry & Drayton reservoirs** - supplying the Braunston summit - overall around 7 to 8 weeks stock
- **Boddington, Wormleighton & Clattercote reservoirs** - serving the South Oxford - 4 to 5 weeks stock.

All the above forward estimated capacities are clearly based on usage and on nil support from rainfall.

Some restrictions had been in place since the beginning of August but now become much more restrictive. BW is giving a strong message to boaters to avoid the affected areas and reduce boating activity overall, if boating is to survive to the end of the season; quoted as the end of October, now some 9 weeks away.

At the time of going to press (26 August) the following restrictions are in place (or will be by the end of the month):

- ♦ **GU Leicester Line** - Lock 18 Kibworth Top (pound at Foxton Bottom) to Lock 38 Kings (Leicester) open only 10.00am to 2.00pm. Boats with a draught greater than 2ft 4in are being advised not to travel. The Foxton and Watford flights are being locked overnight between 4.00pm and 9.00am.
- ♦ **Grand Union Canal Main Line** - Calcutt Locks (near Napton) are open only 9.00am to 4.00pm.

forward in the present economic climate, in Health, Wealth and Age, it effects us all.

The cheese and wine which followed was much appreciated, thanks to Gill and Maureen.

Thank you to Paul Herbert for writing up all the notes from the evening's discussions.

Future Events

Maureen Greenham has arranged two treats for us! The first is another popular Skittle Evening on the 18th November when we return to The Phoenix in Twyford. Price £10.50 to include a hot meal. Please give your names to Maureen. See Waterways Diary for contact details.

On Saturday 14th January 2012, the Society's Christmas / New Year Lunch at The Blue Hayes has been booked. Fuller details will appear in a later edition of the Newsletter.

Here's to an enjoyable Indian Summer.

Alan Rose

- ♦ **South Oxford Canal** - Napton and Claydon lock flights (at each end of the summit) will only be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm daily. This tightening of an earlier restriction on 9th August has delivered a 1/3rd reduction in lockage volumes.
- ♦ **North Oxford Canal** - the double locks at Hillmorton are manned from 9.00am to 4.00pm. The offside chamber of each pair is being locked overnight between 4.00pm and 9.00am.
- ♦ **Coventry Canal** - Atherstone Locks are open only 8.30am to 16.00pm.

In the south west, the River Severn continues to be in drought regulation and water resources feeding the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal are limited. The current and predicted river flows and tide cycles will reduce BW's capacity to pump water to support lock usage. As a result, it will be necessary to implement certain restrictions at Gloucester Lock and Sharpness Lock.

Leisure users are being asked to plan their journeys and wherever possible to share these two locks. Whilst not formally restricting the opening times, it may be necessary to delay journeys on occasions.

BW say boaters can help the situation by "ideally restricting movement altogether. If you absolutely need to boat, please try and avoid the affected area." Boats should share locks where possible and not fill an empty lock or empty a full lock unnecessarily.

Unless serious amounts of rain fall soon, some sections of waterway will probably have to be closed: in particular the GU Leicester Line north of Foxton Locks.

Tim Coghlan, managing director at Braunston Marina, said that Northamptonshire's historic canal network is "grinding to a halt" due of a chronic lack of rain and too many boats on the water. The water level in his marina, he said, had fallen by around eight inches. He said the problem was being exacerbated by the number of marinas being planned along the canals in the county.

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
Thu 1 Sep 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Brian Evans will show us slides of the Caldon Canal. Also featured will be the Severn Valley Railway. Maybe a bit of Continental waterways too! Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Tue Sep 6 2011 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT (Swindon Branch)	John Farrow will give an illustrated talk about the Wilts and Berks Canal, especially around Swindon. The Kings, 20 Wood Street, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 4AB (SU156837).	John Farrow: 01793 490672
Wed 7 Sep 2011 7.15 - 8.30pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Itchen Bat Walk - Find out about bats living along the river and learn how to use a bat detector. Please bring a torch. Meet at the White Swan Pub, Mansbridge Rd, Southampton, SO18 3HW. (SU449156) To book a place, please call Polly. Suggested donation £1.50	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Sat 10 Sep 2011 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	Guided Walk (6 miles) from Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham, PO22 0BP to Hunston. Walk along the old tow path of the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal and see many engineering remains. Parking available at the start. (SU956035)	Adge Roberts 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sat 10 Sep 2011 2.00pm - 5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	As part of national Heritage Open Weekend 2011, Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharfside, Shalford, near Guildford, Surrey, GU4 8EP (SU997465) will be open to public for first time ever.	Wey & Arun CT office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 10 Sep 2011 3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Guided walk (approx 2 miles) from the Gunpowder Store, Shalford (see above) following part of the old route of the Wey & Arun Canal, to the old Bramley railway station. Bookings for the guided walk from Guildford TIC.	Guildford Tourist Information Centre: 01483 444333 Email: tic@guildford.gov.uk
Sat 10 Sep 2011 11.00am - 4.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	As part of national Heritage Open Weekend 2011, Brewhurst Mill, Loxwood, West Sussex open to the public. Please use car park behind Onslow Arms, RH14 ORD (TQ041311) and then follow signs.	Wey & Arun CT office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat-Sun 10-11 Sep 2011	Somersetshire Coal CS	Heritage Open Weekend 2011 - Combe Hay Locks and Engine site - a series of guided tours.	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Sun 11 Sep 2011 10.00am - 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	Poyntz Bridge open. Situated approx 200 metres south of the canal basin, Poyntz bridge is possibly the only single span 1820 cast iron swing bridge in the UK. Plus a display of photos and artefacts. 2.00pm: Guided walk around the canal basin led by Alan Green, illustrating the history of past industry around this canal feature. (SU858038)	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 11 Sep 2011	Wey & Arun CT	'Lording's Small Boats Rally' to celebrate re-opening of Lordings Waterwheel. Meet Lordings Farm, Lordings Road (B2133), Ardversane, Billingshurst W Sussex, RH14 9JE. (TQ071241).	John F H Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Mon 12 Sep 2011 7.30 - 8.30pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Itchen Navigation Evening Talk - Join Polly Whyte to learn about the otters, water voles and other wildlife that live on the Navigation and the effects of it's history on today's river. Townhill Park Community Centre, Meggeson Avenue SO18 2FH. (SU451147) Suggested donation £1.50.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Tue 13 Sep 2011 10.30 for 10.45am	Wey & Arun CT	Guided Canal Walk - from Sydney Wood car park (GU6 8HU?)(TQ026351) to visit a disused but pretty part of the canal where we can walk along the towpath for some distance before returning. Around 4 miles.	Wey & Arun CT office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Tue 20 Sep 2011 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Branch)	'Caversham Court Gardens by the Thames' - Emily Waters, Head Gardener. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 28 Sep 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Branch)	"Tom Rolt Celebration Cruise". Ron & Mary Heritage will be talking about their re-enactment of Tom Rolt's "Cressy Cruise". Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Mon 3 Oct 2011 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	A talk by Martin Buckland covering the design, function and development of world canals from 500BC to the present, including the Wilts & Berks. Cross Keys, High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AY (SU067825).	Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310
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 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.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
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

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July Meeting

'The History and Design of the Bailey Bridge' - Pablo Haworth

23 Members gave a very warm welcome to Pablo and his wife Gill. We all enjoyed a very interesting talk and digital presentation about the Bailey Bridge that was designed by Donald Coleman Bailey (1902-1985).

Slides were shown of the busy Drawing Offices at the British War Office. The Bailey Bridge was finally tried, tested and adopted as the Standard Military Bridge in 1941 and proved to be one of the greatest inventions of WWII.

We learnt about the modular, light but strong and versatile steel bridge system. This and the fact that it could be assembled with minimal aid from heavy equipment made the bridge so successful. Most, if not all, previous designs for military bridges required cranes to lift up the pre-assembled bridge and lower it into place. The Bailey parts were made of standard steel alloys, and were simple enough that parts made at a number of different factories could be completely interchangeable.

Each individual part could be carried by a small number of men, enabling army engineers to move more easily and more quickly than before, in preparing the way for troops and materials advancing behind them.

Finally, the modular design allowed engineers to build each bridge to be as long and as strong as needed, doubling or tripling up on the supportive side panels, or on the roadbed sections.

Pablo showed slides of women welding the sections in a factory in West Bromwich. He talked about the type and size of steel used. He mentioned that if sulphuric acid was in the paint it was found to crack the welds.

Further pictures were shown taken in 1942 in North Africa where

the first operational bridge was built and from May 1943 in Italy showing the Royal Engineers under constant fire building a bridge in 2 days.

An old movie taken in 1947 at Berwick on Tweed showed a bridge that was constructed 438feet across the river in only 3 days.

Pablo thought that perhaps Mr Bailey visited the Basingstoke Canal and saw the Pyramid style bridge carrying grey water built in 1916 for his idea.

Bailey bridges local to us are Bridge 39 on the Kennet & Avon, bridges at Walton on Thames, Brooklands track at Weybridge, Chertsey at Thorpe Park and at Sherborne on the A357 built in 1942.

A new Museum in Caen at the Pegasus Bridge has been opened with a Bailey Bridge on display, plus other WWII relics.

Donald Bailey moved locally to Christchurch working at MEXE (Military Experimental Establishment). The local Bailey Bridge Pub and the Red House Museum both in Christchurch are worth a visit.

A recent example of an emergency bridge was built by the army at Workington, Cumbria after the floods when a Compact 200 bridge was constructed over the River Derwent.

We received an e-mail from Pablo the next day: "Just remembered, I said that three Bailey Suspension Bridges were built in the last war. Last year Pakistan Army ordered six. I presume to cross flood plains."

Yes it was a good evening.

For further information, Pablo suggested some books to read: "A Bridge to Victory" by Brian Harper and "One More River to Cross" by J H Joiner.

Angela Rose

August Meeting

Society's 44th Annual General Meeting

Nineteen members attended the Society's 44th Annual General Meeting held at Chilworth Parish Hall on 28 July 2011. There were sixteen apologies for absence. The meeting was chaired by our Chairman, Alan Rose. The meeting followed the usual tried and tested procedure and all documentation had been published in the August Newsletter which had been provided to all members.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer & Membership Secretary presented their reports, the latter including the final and audited accounts in respect of 2010/2011. It is not the intention to fully summarise those reports here as members will have had access to the full documents in the August Newsletter.

In his report Alan indicated he had had quite a learning curve in his first year as Chairman and appreciated the support of the Committee. We had enjoyed a varied and interesting programme of speakers and special events and an equally good programme had been organised for the current year. Unfortunately attendances at our monthly meetings had declined. The Society remained in a sound financial situation.

Both in his report and at the meeting Alan thanked the other Officers and Committee Members together with all those other members who contributed to the running of the Society. He also thanked those who donated prizes for the monthly raffle which provides our highest regular income.

The Secretary, Angela Rose, gave a resume of her report in which she thanked the Chairman for leading the Society through the last year and also thanked the other Officers and Committee for their

support and members who regularly assist the Society. She also referred to the marketing of Society activities and wider media coverage of the waterways in general.

The Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Gill Herbert, presented her report on the accounts which had been audited. Despite increasing running costs, particularly for increased hall hire charges, speakers' fees and insurance, the 2010/2011 financial year had broken even and at 31 March 2011 the Society's assets totalled £1,226.

The AGM concurred with the Committee's recommendation not to raise membership subscriptions at the current time.

There being no other nominations, all the current Officers and Committee Members were re-elected for a further year. Both Alan and Paul made it clear that they were not prepared to commit themselves at present to continue beyond next year's AGM. Maureen Greenham had already advised that this would have to be her last year as a Committee Member.

Concerned at the falling attendances at our meetings the Committee had discussed this matter and had recommended to the AGM that the number of monthly meetings be reduced to ten. We have not been able to use Chilworth Parish Hall during May (because of its possible use for election purposes) or in August (when it was kept clear for annual maintenance). Therefore we have had to hold two meetings in April and in July. It was

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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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

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Email: info@apas-engineering.com

Vice-Chairman:

Paul Herbert. Tel: 02380 262365. Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 675312 (eve)
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Society Website:

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Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Gill Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, S053 1TB. Tel: 02380 262365. Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

Committee:

Maureen Greenham, David Townley-Jones

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Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798.
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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.

August Meeting

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suggested that the second meeting in each of those months be discontinued. Following a debate at the AGM members unanimously agreed with the recommendation.

Because of the increasing hall hire charges it was suggested we consider looking for an alternative and cheaper venue for our activities. Eva Drinkwater referred to a hall which, apparently, was free for community use. The Chairman advised that this matter

would be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

Alan Howarth thanked the Committee for all their work on behalf of the Society and for their willingness to continue to serve for the ensuing year.

Following the AGM we enjoyed a Cheese & Wine Evening – the second year running we have held such an event after the AGM and it is obviously very well received.

Paul Herbert

Waterways Diary

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Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
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 403982 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
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
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 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
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
24-25 Sep 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines - Steaming Days. 10.30am - 5.00pm Adults £8.00, Seniors £7.00, Children £3.00, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £18.00, K&ACT Members free. Crofton Pumping Station, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Every day until 23 Sep 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines - Not in steam. 10.30am - 5.00pm Adults £5.00, Seniors £4.50, Children £3.00, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £12.50, K&ACT Members free. Crofton Pumping Station, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
11, 25 Sep, 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