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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

As editor of the Newsletter, I would like to ask ALL of you to send me news items, articles, reminiscences, notes, letters, details of forthcoming events or indeed anything (preferably waterways related) that might be of interest to your fellow members. These can be of local, national or even world-wide importance.

As this newsletter is produced on a computer, submissions are probably most easily made by email. These items may be also submitted on any scrap of paper, back of a fag packet or whatever - provided I can read it. However, the cost of a stamp to post these to me is probably greater!

If you don't feel confident about your writing style, I can always 'knock it into shape' for you. I will endeavour to use all pieces I feel to be of interest. Please include your name and address or telephone number with each item so that I can clarify any doubtful points. It will be greatly appreciated if submissions can be made as early as possible (at least a week) before the date of publication.

Don't forget that this is YOUR Society's newsletter - YOUR help is needed to keep it interesting!

Peter Oates

Chairman's Column

We certainly cannot complain about the weather this year. The sea is warm plus the Canal Water. The gardens are blooming and our raspberries' are plentiful.

September meeting

As I shall still be away, Gordon will be looking after you for the meeting on Thursday 5th. On my behalf please give a warm welcome to Bob Marshall. He is a



volunteer, with plenty of knowledge about the history and workings of Bursledon Brickworks.

October Meeting

For the 3rd of October meeting, David Farthing will be telling us about William Walker the diver who helped save Winchester Cathedral from sinking.

November Meeting

On Thursday 7th November, Aelred has invited Andy Lester from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to update us on the continual work being carried out.



William Walker getting ready for work

Alan Rose

Toddbrook Reservoir

As members are no doubt aware from press reports, the overflow spillway on the dam at Toddbrook Reservoir near Whaley Bridge suffered substantial damage after days of intense rain and flooding at the end of July especially on the 31st. To avoid the possible danger of the loss of life in the town below the dam, roads were closed and residents evacuated.

Following a multi-agency around-the-clock effort, which saw over a billion litres of water pumped from the reservoir, just after lunchtime on 7 August, it was declared safe for residents of Whaley Bridge to return home. The water level in the reservoir was lowered by over 10 metres to reduce the pressure on the weakened dam.

Pumps remain on site to remove any further rainfall from the reservoir.

An RAF Chinook helicopter placed over 500 one tonne bags filled with aggregate to further stabilise the spillway. These bags were then grouted together to consolidate them.



Top: The spillway on 31 July. Middle: The damaged spillway. Bottom: the drained reservoir

A major fish rescue is needed to re-home an estimated 30,000 fish (about 5,000kg) which have been affected by the draining of the reservoir. Whilst a few have been captured in large nets, the remainder will only be removed and re-homed in a few weeks' time when the weather is cooler and it is much better for the health of the fish.

Coarse fish, such as bream, roach, perch and pike, have been captured in large nets by fish specialists and transported mostly to Upper

Bittell Reservoir, near Birmingham. This reservoir has low fish stocks after it was drained and refilled following maintenance works two years ago and therefore is able to accommodate the large amount of fish without upsetting the local ecosystem.

Project manager Rob Jowitt commented: "Moving on from the emergency response, our job is to find out what went wrong and prepare a detailed plan for repairing the damaged dam wall. It is a huge job which is likely to take some time."

Based on Canal & River Trust News updates.

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	Venue	Contact
Thu 5 Sep 2019	Southampton CS	Bursledon Brickworks. Mr Bob Marshall will tell us about the brickworks where he is a volunteer.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat-Sun 7-8 Sep 2019 10.00am-18.00pm	Wilts & Berks CT	Mary Archard Boat Trips on the wheelchair-accessible 'Mary Archard' will run hourly starting at 10.00 with the last departure at 17.00. Prices £5 adults, £2 children aged 2-15, and £12 for family (2 adults + 2 children). Infants under 2 and not occupying a seat are free. Refreshments available.	Templar's Firs slipway, Royal Wootton Bassett. The canal car park is off Marlborough Road almost opposite Templars Way Industrial Estate at SN4 7SE (SU071814).	Bookings can be made phone: 07749 215741 or email: steve.bacon@wbct.org.uk
Sat 7 Sep 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day CANCELLED.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sat 14 Sep 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sun 15 Sep 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Camerton Hopyard to Dunkerton - guided walk.	Dunkerton Sewage Works - location uncertain.	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: workparty@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 15 Sep 2019 2.30pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Heritage open day guided walk from Gunpowder Store (Shalford) to Bramley. Approx 2.5km, 2 hours, starting from Stonebridge Wharf, the walk follows parts of the original canal to the former Bramley Wharf. Gunpowder Store may also open. Free of charge (donations to WACT welcome). Pre-booking required: online, by email or phone by noon, Thu 8 Sep 2019.	Meet at Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharfside, Shalford, GU4 8EH (SU998465). Parking available at Broadford Business Park, Shalford GU4 8EP (SU998467) (behind the Parrot Inn) on the A248 Shalford-Godalming road.	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: weyarun.org.uk/events47
Tue 17 Sep 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Wildlife of the Kennet Valley with Adrian Lawson. 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.
Sat 21 Sep 2019 11.00am-dusk	National Trust	Wey River Festival, Dapdune Wharf. Boaters and visitors alike are welcome. There'll be plenty to do such as crafts and many other foodie and activity stands. The illuminated pageant at dusk is the highlight, lighting up the river from the centre of Guildford.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992502).	National Trust Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk Web: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/
Sat 21 Sep 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sat-Sun 28-29 Sep 2019 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Crofton Steam Gala. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 28 Sep 2019 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day CANCELLED.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Thu 3 Oct 2019	Southampton CS	William Walker. David Farthing will be telling us about the diver who helped save Winchester Cathedral from sinking.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 15 Oct 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Somersetshire Coal Canal with Adrian Tuddenham. 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 16 Oct 2019 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Basingstoke Canal Manager." Fiona Shipp (Canal Manager) will describe the day to day operations of the Basingstoke Canal Authority and how they work with neighbouring local authorities, volunteers and the Canal Society to manage the Canal.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Oct 2019 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"London's Lost Route To the Sea." A speaker from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust will inform us about the history, original function and restoration of this navigation.	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
Sun 20 Oct 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Dunkerton, including the Aqueducts - guided walk.	Dunkerton Parish Hall, The Hollow, Dunkerton, Bath BA2 8BG (ST709596).	Adrian Tuddenham: 01225 335974 Email: editor@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 24 Oct 2019 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Midford - 2 Counties, 3 Parishes, 2 Railways and The Somersetshire Coal Canal" by Roger Halse.	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

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat 26 Oct 2019 10.00am	Wilts & Berks CT	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust AGM The usual format is visits and exhibition in the morning, formal meeting and forum in the afternoon.	Sheldon School, Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham SN14 6HJ (ST908742).	Trust Office: 0845 625 1977 Email: info@wbct.org.uk Web: https://www.wbct.org.uk/
Thu 7 Nov 2019	Southampton CS	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Andy Lester will talk about the leading nature conservation charity in the two counties, protecting local wildlife and inspiring people to love nature.	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 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
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

Locking restrictions lifted

The torrential rain conditions might have caused a one-off near-disaster at Whaley Bridge, but they have been a relief to much of the rest of the country.

The deluge that disrupted the Peak Forest Canal caused restrictions to be lifted in the Midlands within the week, particularly thanks to reservoirs across the Braunston and Leicester summit quickly refilling, although the Canal & River Trust also claimed credit for reducing demands by introducing local water saving restrictions, and doing some short-duration summer stoppage works such as relining lock gates.

Historic canal mills destroyed by fire

The historic Walkley Clogs Mill alongside the Rochdale Canal at Mytholmroyd has been demolished after being devastated by fire on 1st August. Although the blaze was quickly brought under control, the local council took the decision to demolish the building for safety.

Previously home to clog manufacturers Walkley, the Victorian building had been turned into a World of Clogs tourist attraction when the company moved its manufacturing to another mill nearby.

Successive plans to convert it to housing or find a canal-related use fell through and it had become derelict.

The building was better known to succeeding generations of working

CRT used the occasion to issue this plea to Midlands boaters: "It's helpful to aim for minimal contact when navigating through locks by ensuring gates are fully open when passing through as pushing gates open using a boat can damage the gate lining, increasing its leakage. Thank you for your help."

Restrictions on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal were lifted in late July, while water pumping problems on the Kennet & Avon Canal summit were mastered by early August.

[Waterways World website](#) 30 August 2019

boatmen as Maude's Clog Mill, and was built to take advantage of the canal. As Maude's it was the largest manufacturer of clog soles in the world, reaching a peak of 1.2m pairs by World War II, although the canal's role in their production ceased in the 1920s.

Barely a week after the blaze destroyed the Walkley Clogs building on the Rochdale Canal, another historic canalside mill was destroyed on the Ashton Canal on 6th August.

Oxford Mill, at Ashton-under-Lyne, was the creation of Hugh Mason, a pioneering and enlightened mill owner and later Liberal MP.

[Waterways World website](#) 7 & 19 August 2019

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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Seeking new homes for boats

The National Waterways Museum is seeking new homes for 12 vessels following a review of the historic importance of all boats currently in its collection.

We will first offer the boats free of charge to accredited museums and then to individuals and private organisations who are able to meet the demands of caring for the vessels.

Like all museums, the [National Waterways Museum](http://www.nwmuseum.org.uk) faces the challenge - from funding and conservation to exhibition options and storage - of looking after large numbers of objects in its care, and following a review by an expert panel, plans to focus its resources on a reduced number of the most historically significant vessels.

The decision to let any object go is not taken lightly. However, the Trust has identified the boats it needs to re-home. These range from the iron hulls of icebreakers to a salmon fishing boat. In some cases, the museum already has better examples of that type of vessel, while other boats don't play a significant role in telling the history of the waterways that the museum focuses on, and so are likely to better suited to a new home. Some boats are of less interest as they have been changed so much over the decades that very little original material remains.

Graham Boxer, head of collections and archives explains: "As a collection of national significance we have specific obligations around the 68 boats in our care. Our dedicated staff and volunteers have strived to find solutions to the many challenges in caring for such a large fleet, but ultimately, with limited funds and storage space, we need to reduce the number of boats in the collection to focus our efforts on those of the greatest historic importance, and so re-homing some is the right option. We anticipate that there are museums that may be interested to take some vessels, and there are many enthusiasts who could provide the right loving homes for these displaced vessels, as they do for many of the most historic boats still in use on the waterways today.

"By re-homing some of the vessels we'll be better able to safeguard the

overall future of the National Waterways Collection. Our review concluded that it is far better to have a representative collection of fewer items, comprising the most historically significant, cared for in the most appropriate way and in the best possible condition, than many in a poor state."

Hannah Cunliffe, Director of [National Historic Ships UK](http://www.nationalhistoricalships.org.uk) said: "We support the approach being taken by the Canal & River Trust in reviewing its large collection and implementing changes necessary to ensure a sustainable future for the most significant craft. We are pleased that the Trust has chosen to adopt the principles set down in our guidance publications to inform this process and are happy to work with them during the decision-making period. We hope that a heritage solution is found for the vessels made available to re-home and would be glad to offer further advice to any individuals or organisations considering taking these craft on."

It is hoped that new homes will be found for all twelve boats. If this is unfortunately not possible, some may have to be recommended for documented deconstruction, applying the Trust's expertise in recording historic vessels to compile detailed records of the boat to preserve the boat's story for future reference and potentially inform future conservation or restoration work on other historic boats.

The vessels are being offered free of charge, with the new owner being asked to pay only the transport costs. **The deadline for expressions of interest is 2 November 2019.** Details and an application form can be found on the Canal & River Trust website www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Canal & River Trust 14 August 2019

Details of the boats on offer can be found at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/refresh/media/thumbnail/40667-boat-disposal-faq-sheet.pdf>

A senior's perspective of Facebook

This piece first appeared in the October 2017 Newsletter:

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog, of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the 'thumbs up' and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook.

I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.