

Newsletter

Issue 370

April 2003

Chairman's Column

Skittles Evening

Congratulations to Angela Faull for her superbly organised Society Skittles Evening held at 'The Kings Head' in Hursley on Friday 7 March. A 'full house' of members and guests enjoyed a somewhat noisy evening, what with the background chatter, clink of glasses, and the continuous clatter of falling skittles. A splendid buffet completed the evening's enjoyment. The winners prize was awarded to David Pearce, whilst there was also a wooden spoon (but the winner of that award will be kept secret!) For those interested, whilst there wasn't a prize for the team event, the results were as follows: Team A – 178; Team B – 190; Team C – 218 and Team D – 197. However, before the members of Team C start celebrating, Teams B and C had eight players each, whereas A and D only had seven. Therefore, if one really wants to be that competitive, it is likely that Team D would have come out on top – but then, maybe they wouldn't have???

On behalf of the Society, your Chairman was delighted to be able to make a suitable liquid presentation to Angela as a token of appreciation for all her efforts. Angela has kindly offered to organise a similar event, most probably in the autumn, at a venue yet to be decided.

Second Society Boat Gathering

There has been a splendid response for 'entries' for this year's Society Boat Gathering to be held at Flecknoe and Braunston over the early May bank holiday, 3-5 May. All eight Society boats currently (or about to be) moored at Napton are expected to attend.

If anyone else would like to attend, can they please contact me as soon as possible. Proposed arrangements for the event were published in the last Newsletter.

'Unwanted' Waterways Magazines

In the last Newsletter details were published of the intention of Gill and myself, and Ken & Margaret

Froud, to dispose of a very large quantity of waterways magazines, many going back to the early 1970s.

There have been two excellent responses to date. Following a 'hit' on the Society Website, Siobhan Sherry, new Public Affairs Officer at IWA Head Office, contacted me and offered to take the whole of our collection off our hands. At this stage, I do not know whether she also contacted Ken and Margaret. Subsequently, I received a telephone call from Society Life Member, Mike Handford, who also offered to take the whole collection, which he would then dispose of to aid the funds of the Waterway Recovery Group.

Caption Competition

At the March meeting members judged the entries submitted for the Photo Caption Competition which showed a very pensive looking Chairman taken during the Society's outing to the Crofton Pumps last September. The winning caption was No.12 – "I'm certain I left my boat moored here!!" – submitted by Michael Pomeroy who was presented with a modest prize for his achievement.

Peter Glover's Canal Postcard Competition

At our January and February meetings, Peter Glover had kindly brought along a quiz board showing twenty canal postcards which had to be identified. The winner was none other than Peter Oates, whose prize was this unique collection of postcards.

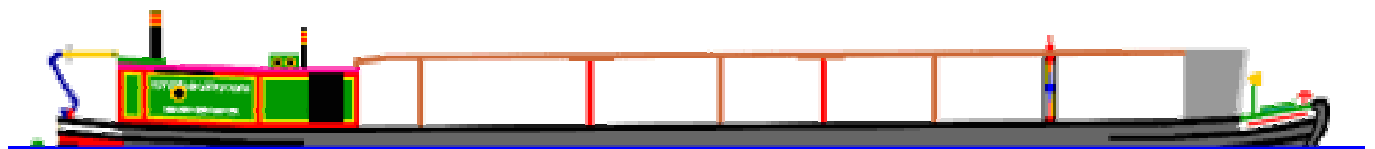
Membership Database

Please don't forget to complete your Membership Database slip and return it to Laura Sturrock.

May Meeting

Just a reminder that our May meeting has been re-scheduled for the second Thursday, viz. May 8th.

Paul Herbert



March Meeting - Tony Haynes – ‘Trip Boats on the Basingstoke Canal’

Well, I am sure that Tony will not mind me saying that this very well attended meeting turned out to be one of our more unusual ones, with some unexpected, but very enjoyable, surprises.

Tony described his working history which, amongst other things, involved him lorry driving for many years. From time to time in his early driving days his route would take him over canal bridges and he gradually became intrigued with this secret life under his wheels. As he became more and more interested he deliberately detoured from his supposed route to take him to various waterways throughout the country, and so he became hooked.

During his driving days he always travelled with his camera, taking hundreds of photographs of the waterways he came into contact with and many of these, in slide form, were shown to us. This part of his programme almost became a quiz evening as he had mislaid his notebook (shades of your Chairman!!!) identifying the photographs and he sought suggestions as to their locations.

The unexpected part of the programme was the ‘cabaret’. During the evening, Tony entertained us with his folk songs of the waterways, accompanying himself on a variety of unusual stringed instruments.

Tony and Jackie now operate the Trip Boat based at Mytchett on the Basingstoke Canal, where they are currently living aboard their narrowboat Dreamcatcher. Readers of Waterways World will recall the three articles written by Canalman (aka Tony Haynes) in successive months at the beginning of this year, describing their trip down the Thames to the Wey Navigation and then up the Basingstoke.

Tony described their experiences on the Basingstoke Canal and finished off the evening with a beautiful video, taken from the bow of the trip boat as it cruised along the canal – accompanied by Tony’s music and songs.

Many thanks again Tony for a fascinating and entertaining evening.

Paul Herbert

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 3 Apr 2003 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Frank Banfield will be showing some transport films.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 6 Apr 2003 10.00 am	IWA Salisbury Group	A guided walk along the Somersetshire Coal Canal from Midford to Combe Hay.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Wed 16 Apr 2003 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The National Trust as Navigation Owners and Operators - River Wey & Godalming Navigations. John Gibson (Navigations Manager for the River Wey & Godalming Navigations). The Navigation’s 350th Anniversary year. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking (adjacent to canal).	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Easter weekend Fri - Mon 18 - 21 Apr 2003	Wey & Arun CT	45 minute cruise on restored section of the Wey & Arun Canal. Children will receive chocolate eggs and other gifts from the Easter Bunny while adults can enjoy hot cross buns and a drink. Hourly from 11am: Last trip 3pm. Departs next to the Onslow Arms on the B2133 in Loxwood. All for only £5 each.	Reservations: 01493 752403
Sat - Mon 19 - 21 Apr 2003	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Easter rally at Bridge Barn, Woking.	Basingstoke Canal Centre: 01252 370073
3 to 5 May 2003	Southampton CS	2nd Southampton Canal Society Boaters’ Gathering	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365
Thu 8 May 2003 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Residential Boat Owners Association (speaker to be confirmed). Please note the date is the second Thursday of the month.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
3 to 5 May 2003	Southampton CS	2nd Southampton Canal Society Boaters’ Gathering	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365
Sun 11 May 2003 10.00 am	Wey & Arun CT	Annual Small Boat Cruise on the canal at Loxwood. £10 (£5 for single canoes) Lunch in Brewhurst Mill is £2.50 extra. As a bonus, if the new aqueduct is ready, our trip boat Zachariah Keppel will be crossing over at 11.00 am, and small boats will be invited to follow.	Jo Beagles: 01483 418195) e-mail: jobeagles@aol.com
Sun 18 May 2003 10.00 am	IWA Salisbury Group	Boat trip from Brassknocker basin at junction of Somersetshire Coal Canal and Kennet & Avon Canal (Dundas Aqueduct). £10.00 per person. See article elsewhere in this Newsletter.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sat 24 May 2003	Kennet & Avon CT	87 mile long Canal Party to celebrate the completion of the Heritage Lottery Project. Details later.	Devizes Canal Centre: 01380 721279
Sun - Mon 25 - 26 May 2003	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Odiham Canal Festival. Boats, stalls, boat trips on the John Pinkerton, music and fun for one and all.	Basingstoke Canal Centre: 01252 370073
Thu 29 May 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	Toat Totter. 6 miles walk. 09.45am at Pulborough Garden Centre [lunch @ White Hart] overflow car park, Stopham A283. Depart 10.00am. 3 hours. Donation to WACT appreciated	Don Gibson: 01903 201375

Continued on page 5

Canal Boat and Inland Waterways with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates & Waterways World with Peter Oates

Further to the brief item in last month's Newsletter, I promised to provide more details of the articles published in the March waterways magazines concerning our very own Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates.

“The Last Jam ‘Ole Run” – ‘Canal Boat and Inland Waterways’ – March, 2003

In October 2002 Laura and Peter boarded the butty Raymond, the last wooden working boat built in Braunston in 1958, and now fully restored, on yet another recreation of the historic Last Jam ‘Ole Run (the first recreation having been held in 1995). In October 1970 an event had taken place that marked the ending of an era in the history of the British Canals. The last five boats of Braunston's Blue Line Carriers Limited set out for Atherstone, on the Coventry Canal, to load coal for the Kearley & Tonge's jam factory in Southall, on what had become known over the years as the Jam ‘Ole Run.

Unbeknown to the boat crews, this was to be the last such run, and effectively the last regular commercial carrying on the Midland canal network. Some weeks later, Blue Line finished cargo carrying for good.

Laura and Peter are members of the Friends of Raymond organisation and are often to be seen working Raymond around the system. On this occasion Raymond, a former Samuel Barlow Coal Company boat, was paired with Nutfield, an ex Grand Union Canal Carrying Company Northwich motor.

The article described the background to the Jam ‘Ole Run and its subsequent recreations; the six boats taking boat on this occasion, and their crews; various happenings on the trip; and was accompanied by seventeen full colour photographs, some featuring Laura and Peter.

It was obvious talking to them later that Laura and Peter enjoyed their trip and working alongside former working boat people. They are soon to be off again on their travels with Raymond, this time towing her (him?) to Norbury Junction on the Shropshire Union Canal.

*With acknowledgements to
‘Canal Boat and Inland Waterways’ – March 2003 issue*

“A Waterway of Life – Peter Oates” – ‘Waterways World’ – March 2003

As regular readers of Waterways World will be aware, ‘A Waterway of Life’ is a regular feature focusing on the life of various personalities that have been connected with the inland waterways over the years. In the March issue Jon Sims talked to Peter Oates.

The article described how Peter first became

interested in the waterways in 1972, on a hire boat trip from Norbury Junction to Stourport. That innocent holiday changed Peter's whole life.

It was the then atmosphere of a semi-derelict canal network, fighting for survival against the odds, which appealed to Peter. The following year saw him working on the Droitwich Dig and, in the same year, he discovered the existence of the Southampton Canal Society. Soon, Peter heard about the fledgling restoration work on the Basingstoke Canal and jumped in with both wellies and became the Southampton Canal Society's working party organiser.

The article continued with stories of Peter's significant work and experiences on the Basingstoke, accompanied with a photograph of a beardless young man pushing a wagon of bricks along the narrow gauge railway laid on the towing path. Many years later, the restoration completed, Peter was invited to join the official party on the Surrey & Hants Canal Society trip boat John Pinkerton as she carried the Duke of Kent during the official reopening of the canal in 1991.

The story continued with Peter meeting Laura (already heavily involved with canal matters) in the mid '90s and their partnership which became even more waterways orientated, particularly with their work with the Southampton Canal Society and, later, through their acquisition of their 65' narrow Swallowdale based at Napton.

Peter and Laura sum up their boating partnership by describing Peter as ‘foolishly romantic’, dreaming about the old days and remembering with fondness the times of struggle when the canals had an air of shambling semi-abandonment. Laura is reckoned to be the more pragmatic of the two. While Peter steers all day, she likes to potter and get the boat together. Where their hearts lie is indicated by the fact that they reckon to have more friends in Braunston (and Napton too, I hope) than they do in Romsey, where they live.

Peter's other great contribution to the waterways world is his work for the Inland Waterways Association. He first helped on the IWA stand at the Southampton International Boat Show in the late '70s, taking over the running of the stand in 1994. Since then, he has taken more than a week of his own leave every year to organise the stand and the local volunteers (many from the Southampton Canal Society) who man it.

The feature concludes with “If ever a man was steeped in canal water, that man is Peter Oates”.

*With acknowledgements to
‘Waterways World’ – March 2003 issue*

St Pancras Cruising Club

Easter Cruise to the Basingstoke Canal and Rally at Woking

Option 1 - Leave SPCC on Sat 12 April and spend the week before Easter cruising to the head of navigation at Greywell Tunnel. Leader, David Pearce

- Sat 12 April - St Pancras - Brentford (overnight).
- Sun 13 April - Brentford (lock out at 10.50) - River Wey (ETA Thames Lock 14.30). Continue to Basingstoke Canal approach.
- Mon 14 April - Enter Basingstoke Canal and ascend first two flights of locks. Overnight at Brookwood.
- Tues 15 April - Ascend Deepcut flight, visit Canal Centre and overnight there, or at Frimley Park.
- Wed 16 April - Frimley Park to Odiham and overnight at King John's castle.
- Thurs 17 April - Return to Frimley Park.
- Good Friday - Descend Deepcut and St John's flights to rally site at Woking.
- Sat 19 April - Stay at rally site. Take part in parade of boats??
- Sun 20 April - Woking to Brentford, departing Teddington at 18.00
- Mon 21 April - Brentford to St Pancras.

Option 2 - Leave SPCC on the afternoon of Thursday 17 April and cruise to the rally site at Woking only, returning as Option 1. Leader, Andrew Phasey.

- Thurs 17 April (PM start) - St Pancras - West London Motor Cruising Club.
- Fri 18 April - WLMCC - Brentford (for 15.30 locking) and on to the Wey Navigation, mooring overnight in the outer pound to Thames Lock.
- Sat 19 April - Enter River Wey Navigation and proceed to Basingstoke Canal and ascend first flight of locks to the rally site.
- Sun/Mon 20/21 April - As Option 1

DON'T FORGET YOUR GOLD LICENCE FOR BW AND THE THAMES!

(Also, a Wey transit licence may be bought at Thames Lock, but a Basingstoke visitor's licence should be bought in advance.)

The above notice of this event came from our member David Pearce who is also Commodore of the St Pancras Cruising Club. All Southampton Canal Society members are most welcome.

WATERWAYS DIARY

(continued from page 2)

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sat 31 May 2003	Wey & Arun CT	Drudgework Aqueduct Opening	WACT Office: 01403 752403
Thu 5 June 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting with supporting programme.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 8 June 2003	Wey & Arun CT	The Poddle (sponsored walk) will start and finish at Loxwood North Hall, and will visit the new Drungewick Aqueduct. Start between 8.30 and 10.30 am.	Jo Beagles: 01483 418195) e-mail: jobeagles@aol.com
Thu 26 June 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	Howzat? for a Walk. 6½ miles walk. 09.45am Wisborough Green on the Green Durbans Rd off B2133. Lunch @ Cricketers. Depart 10.00am. 3 hours. Donation to WACT appreciated	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 3 July 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Tal-y-llyn Railway - film and slides with Peter Kent Mason.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 17 July 2003 7.30 pm ???	IWA Salisbury Group	Robert Hughes (artist) talking about "Canals in Miniature" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Thu 24 July 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	Not just Manure. 5 miles walk. 9.45 am Limeburners Inn [and lunch]. Lording's Road, Newbridge B2133. Depart 10.00am. 2½ hours. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 31 July 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	To be confirmed. Please note that this meeting will be held the week before the first Thursday of August.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 28 Aug 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	Bay Bridge Canal. Where? 6 miles walk. 09.45am The Partridge, Partridge Green [lunch] Junction B2135/B2116. Depart 10.00am. 3 hours. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 4 Sept 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Tim Boddington on the Macclesfield Canal and adjoining waterways.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 18 Sept 2003 7.30 pm ???	IWA Salisbury Group	Barry Eagles on "Wessex Steam" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Thu 25 Sept 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	The Border Party. (5 miles). 09.45am Sir Roger Tichbourne [lunch] 1 mile north Loxwood B2133. Depart 10.00am. 2½ hours. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 2 Oct 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	'Day-Star Theatre' with their new production for 2003	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 6 Nov 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	IWA National Chairman John Fletcher (to be confirmed).	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 20 Nov 2003 7.30 pm ???	IWA Salisbury Group	Eric Lewis talking about "Around Britain by canal in the 70s" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Thu 4 Dec 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
All summer	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines - Open daily from 18 April to 28 September inclusive from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Steaming weekends: Bank holiday weekends plus the last weekends of June, July and September.	01672 870300
All summer	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Open every Sunday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday from Easter until 19 October 2003 from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m (last admission 4.30 p.m.) Tel. for Pumping Days.	01225 483001 www.claverton.org
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester.	Bookings: 01243 670786

Inland Waterways Association - Salisbury Group is organising a boat trip. There are some places left so any members of SCS will be welcome. Please see Jon Van de Geer at the April meeting or contact him on 01722 412841.

Date	Sunday 18 May 2003
Canal	Kennet & Avon
Starting Point	Brassknocker basin at the junction of the Somersetshire Coal Canal (Dundas Aqueduct) and the K&A
Start Time	10.00 am
Duration	All day
Distance	Possibly to Bath top lock and return
Boats	3 Electric boats, open with a canopy
Cost	£10 per person
Refreshments	Picnic lunch or pub on route—possibly The George at Bathampton
Sightseeing	Possible stop at Claverton pumping station

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:

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

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

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Society Website:

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

3rd April 2003 - Frank Banfield will be showing some transport films.

3rd to 5th May 2003 - 2nd Southampton Canal Society Boaters' Gathering. Details from Paul Herbert.

8th May 2003 - Residential Boat Owners Association (speaker to be confirmed). Please note the date is the **second** Thursday of the month.

5th June 2003 - Annual General Meeting with supporting programme.

3rd July 2003 - Tal-y-llyn Railway - film and slides with Peter Kent Mason.

31st July 2003 - To be confirmed. Please note that this meeting will be held the week **before** the first Thursday of August.

4th September 2003 - Tim Boddington on the Macclesfield Canal and adjoining waterways.

2nd October 2003 - 'Day-Star Theatre' with their new production for 2003

6th November 2003 - IWA National Chairman John Fletcher (to be confirmed).

4th December 2003 - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper

Membership Database

In the December and March Newsletters, a form was included to help us to update our membership

database. In case you've mislaid your last Newsletter and have not yet completed the form, it is reproduced again below. It will be greatly appreciated if you use **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

Surname and the forename(s) of each member covered by your membership subscription:

Home address

First member

.....

Second member

.....

Third member

.....

Fourth member

.....

Fifth member

.....

Postcode

Telephone number(s):

Daytime

Mobile

Eve / Weekend

Email address