

# Newsletter

Issue 381

April 2004

## Chairman's Column

### Skittles Evening

Another most enjoyable Society Skittles Evening was held at 'The Kings Head' in Hursley on Friday 12 March and, again, we had an excellent turnout. [Overall winner was Brenda Pomeroy with 44, Team 5 had the highest score with 199, and David Butcher received the booby prize!]

Many thanks to Angela Faull for organising the event and she has kindly offered to organise another Skittles Evening in the autumn.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Society Boat Gathering

Further to the item in last month's Newsletter, I am now able and delighted to report that we are expecting a 100% turnout from the ten Society members' boats moored in the Napton area for the Society's third boat gathering to be held at Flecknoe and Braunston over the early May bank holiday weekend. In addition, there is a possibility of one or two other Society boats joining us. This will be our largest Boat Gathering ever – for further details see the item in the March Newsletter or contact me.

### Proposed Society Outings

Further to the item in the last Newsletter concerning the possibility of organising one or two Society

## Wey & Arun Canal Trust

IWA has announced that the winner of The Kenneth Goodwin Trophy for 2003 is The Wey & Arun Canal Trust. Vaughan Welch, chairman of IWA's Restoration Committee, is due to make the presentation of the Trophy immediately following the official opening of the Drungewick Slipway on Sunday 16th May. The award was made with particular recognition for the Trust's new aqueduct over the river Lox at Drungewick Lane, Loxwood in West Sussex. The aqueduct is the concluding phase of the three-part Drungewick Crossing, which joins the existing Loxwood Link of almost 13/4 miles and the Drungewick Pound of 1/2 mile to Drungewick Lock. The work was financed from a wide range of grants assembled by The Wey & Arun Canal Trust, including substantial funding from IWA.

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust has also, with the help of a grant from IWA, constructed two slipways at Drungewick. These will allow craft to enter and leave the canal from the winding hole just north of the

outings – a combined boat trip on the Kennet & Avon Canal followed by a Brewery Tour and/or a visit to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton. A number of people put down their names at the March meeting and if there is sufficient interest, we will investigate those ideas further. If you are interested, please put your name on the list available at our monthly meetings, or contact me direct.

### Waterworld

I was speaking the other day to Ken and Margaret Froud, our live-aboard members from Napton. They confirmed that they have videoed the whole of the new series of 'Waterworld' which has just finished its run on Central/Carlton TV. If possible we will try and get a copy for the Society Library.

### Brunel's Lost Bridge is Found

During Eric Lewis's presentation at our March meeting, there was reference to the recent discovery of Brunel's original 1838 iron bridge over the Grand Union Canal at Paddington, discovered during demolition works. The 'Daily Mail' of 4 March included an item regarding that discovery, and this has been reproduced in this Newsletter.

*Paul Herbert*

aqueduct. One will allow larger boats to be hauled up for servicing, etc, and the other will provide access to the canal for small trailed boats.

The Kenneth Goodwin Trophy is determined annually by IWA's Council from a recommendation from Council's Restoration Committee and is made in recognition of progress on a waterway restoration scheme.

The Wey & Arun Canal comprises the Arun Navigation, opened in 1787, which gave trading vessels from the south coast access to Newbridge Wharf near Billingshurst, and the Wey and Arun Junction Canal, authorised in 1813, which extended the navigation from Newbridge up to Stonebridge Wharf south of Guildford on the Godalming portion of the river Wey. The canal was abandoned in 1871, largely due to competition from the railways.

The Wey & Arun Canal Society was formed in 1970 and was reformed in 1973 as a charitable Trust Company, the Wey & Arun Canal Trust Limited. The

*(Continued on page 7)*

## March Meeting

### Eric & Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'

An excellent turnout again for our March meeting to see a very interesting slide show presented by our worthy Society Secretary, Eric Lewis, ably assisted by wife, Sue. As the title suggested, all of the scenes were of the inland waterways during the early to mid 1970s.

On this occasion the slides were not Eric's own work but had been taken by the late Graham Capelin, a long term friend of Eric's and Sue's and a former member of our Society and of the St Pancras Cruising Club. Regrettably, Graham passed away in 1997.

With such a wealth of slides to comment on, it is hard to know where to begin my review. We started at the Old Limehouse Ship Lock, Regents Canal Dock and finished with a view of the railway swing bridge that used to cross the Sheepwash Channel linking the River Thames with the Oxford Canal. In between we travelled through the outskirts of London, up the Grand Union to Braunston where we turned up the North Oxford, arriving at Sutton Stop/Hawkesbury Junction. We then made for the Coventry basins. After a brief visit to the end of the Ashby Canal we visited the Trent & Mersey and the Peak Forest

Canals before dropping down to Manchester and the Rochdale Canal.

We visited the Anderton Lift and the River Weaver and then moved to the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum before visiting Chester and the Dee Branch and then on up the Llangollen with a brief stop at the entrance to the derelict Montgomery Canal.

Later, after returning to the Shroppe Main Line we moved on to the Staffs and Worcs Canal and down to Stourport Basins. We then jumped to Napton Junction where we journeyed down the South Oxford Canal to the end of navigation at Oxford before dropping down through Isis (Louse) Lock to the Sheepwash Channel and the Thames.

Many thanks to Eric and Sue for sorting Graham's slides into such an evocative and entertaining show. For many Society members who have been cruising the inland waterways over many years, the slides certainly brought back memories of how things used to be!

*Paul Herbert*

## Red Diesel

The government Budget announcement on 17th March included an increase in the duty on rebated gas oil ('red diesel') and fuel oil of 2.42 pence per litre from the previous rate of 4.22 to 6.64 pence per litre. The Treasury announcement said that this was "to narrow the differential between these and the main road fuels and reduce the overall attractiveness of oils fraud. When combined with the ongoing impact of other measures under the UK oils strategy, this will assist Customs in achieving the aim of reducing the illicit oils market in England, Scotland and Wales to no more than 2 per cent in 2006."

As well, as the duty rate mentioned above, VAT is also charged. The VAT position for marine fuels is complex, but for most recreational craft it is currently charged at 5%, which adds another 1p to 2p per litre.

Prior to the budget, the duty on diesel for road fuels was 53.27 pence per litre, and VAT at the full rate of 17.5% added a further 11p to 12p to the price - the diesel on its own costing only about 13 pence per litre. The European directive 2003/96/EC, from which the UK has an exemption until the end of 2006, requires fuel for recreational craft to be subject to tax at 0.302 euros (about 21.2 pence) per litre, and to VAT at the full rate.

*IWA HEAD OFFICE BULLETIN - April 2004 - Issue No 86*

## Daventry Canal

*Our member Margaret Froud sent your editor the following letter:*

The enclosed caught my eye in the Daventry Express dated 26th February. It was at a meeting of Community Groups in the town.

We certainly hadn't heard anything about it.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Flecknoe in May.



Daventry District Cllr Chris Over urged people not to get too concerned about ideas in the plan for a canal in the town.

The proposal to build a canal round the country park, along Eastern Way and end it in a basin near the town centre was one of the most discussed issues at the meeting.

Cllr Over said people were 'flogging the canal to death' and should focus on the wider issue of commenting on the more important overall sites.

*Editor's comment:* To reach a basin adjacent to Daventry Reservoir and near the town centre, the canal would have to rise some 40 or 45 feet (six or seven locks). It is not a proposal your editor has seen before. Thanks, Margaret, for the clipping.

## 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 1 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 3 Apr 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Devizes Branch AGM with talk by Peter Potter on The Early Days of the Junior Division of K&A. Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sat 3 - Sun 18 Apr 2004	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	Easter Bunny Boat Trips - Hot cross buns for all and a surprise for each child. £6.50 each. Early booking essential!	Alison Slaney: 01243 536933
Fri 9 - Mon 12 Apr 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Easter Bunny cruises. Children will receive chocolate eggs and other gifts from the Easter Bunny, while adults can enjoy hot cross buns and a drink to celebrate the return of spring. Hourly from 11.00am to 4.00pm. £6 each.	Phone: 01403 752403 Fax: 01403 753991 Credit cards accepted
Sat 10 - Sun 11 Apr 2004	Surrey & Hampshire CS / Basingstoke Canal Authority	Woking Canal Festival and Easter Rally. Decorated boat competition, procession of illuminated boats (8.30pm Sat evening from the town quay), free parking, canalside pub with play area and garden, craft and charity stalls, model boats and public boat trips. Bridge Barn PH, Woking, Basingstoke Canal.	Basingstoke Canal Authority: 01252 370073
Sun 18 Apr 2004	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stroudwater Canal: Easington to M5. Meet at Blunder Lock, Easington.	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Wed 21 Apr 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - David Barrie (Chairman of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society). Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: 01252 622101 or arthurdungate@iname.com
Thu 22 Apr 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	The Trireme - John Coates. Somerset Room, Saltford Hall	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 25 Apr 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Adur - Cuckoo's Corner Cruise. Meet at Emerald Quay, Shoreham from 13:00. Suitable for craft from canoes to powered trail boats.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freemove.co.uk
Wed 28 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Brian Eighteen - 'Watermills on the Thames' + Branch AGM. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting <b>one week early</b> ). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 1 May - Mon 3 May 2004	Southampton CS	Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston. This event is restricted to Society members and friends.	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365 PaulHerbert@aol.com
Sun 16 May 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Thames & Severn Canal; Daneway to Chalford. Meet Daneway village (Please do not park in pub car park!)	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Sun 16 May 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Small Boat Rally This will start from the Drungewick Slipway. Apply to the WACT office for an entry form. This event will coincide with the Official Opening of the slipway.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk
Thu 20 May 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Rev. Peter Atwill - Canal Padre (From his narrow boat "Gospel Bell".) Illustrated talk about his work around the canal system. At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sun 23 May 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Winston Harwood is organising a Small Boat Rally on the canal between Harsfold Bridge and close to Lordings Lock.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk
Sun 23 May 2004	Basingstoke CCC	Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club Marathon. Canal Visitor Centre, Mytchett. Up to 150 competitive canoeists racing between Ash Wharf and Kings Head Bridge at Mytchett.	01252 683584
Sun 30 May 2004	Basingstoke CBC	Boat Gathering at Colt Hill, Basingstoke Canal. Free parking, canalside pub with garden, boat craft demonstrations and public boat trips. Jointly organised by the Basingstoke Canal Boat Club and the Canal Authority.	Basingstoke Canal Authority: 01252 370073; Mr D Venn: 01252 668697
Thu 3 Jun 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Peter Crawford will give an update on the activities of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 5 Jun 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Pewsey Water Carnival	Graham Lee: 01 672 564020
Sun 13 Jun 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Puddle 2004 (sponsored walk) starting from The Old Wharf, Newbridge, Wisborough Green, West Sussex.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk
Sun 13 Jun 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Arun - Pulborough to Pallingham Cruise. Launch from 11:00am. Help maintain the right of navigation on higher reaches of river.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freemove.co.uk
Sat 19 Jun 2004	Chichester SCT	Water Fair/Festival - date unconfirmed.	01243 771363 (Canal Basin)
Sun 20 Jun 2004	IWA Salisbury Group	Walk along the K&A followed by lunch at The Golden Swan at Wilcot.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sun 20 Jun 2004	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Planned route of the Dorset & Somerset Canal and its junction with the Kennet & Avon Canal. Meet Bradford on Avon Station Car Park.	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 (not after 9.00pm please).
Sat 3 Jul 2004 7.30pm	Chichester SCT	Mikron Theatre Co with "On The Line" about Richard Trevithick. Osborne's Training Centre, Stockbridge Road, Chichester. £6.50 adult, £5.00 child.	01243 771363 (Canal Basin)

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## WATERWAYS DIARY *(continued from page 3)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 4 Jul 2004 2.30pm	Chichester SCT	Guided Ship Canal Walk and Strawberry Tea. Meet at Salterns Lock, Chichester Marina, walk to Canal Basin. Transport from Basin to Marina available. £3.50 adult, £2.50 child.	01243 771363 (Canal Basin)
Thu 8 Jul 2004 7.30pm	Chichester SCT	Illustrated Talk about history and future of Chichester Ship Canal by John Herniman at The Assembly Rooms, North Street, Chichester. £3.00	01243 771363 (Canal Basin)
Sun 11 Jul 2004 10.30am	Chichester SCT	Guided Walk along Portsmouth & Arundel Canal. 4 miles allow 3 hours. Meet at Barnham Church (grid ref: SU956033). Will show recent discoveries of Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society.	01243 576701
Thu 15 Jul 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"History and restoration of the K&A" with Graham Horn (K&A Trust). At Three Crowns, Whaddon	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sat 24 - Sun 25 Jul 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Jul 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Society AGM and Video. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton (this is the August meeting <b>one week early</b> ).	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 22 Aug 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Chichester Ship Canal - From Harbour to City. Hoping to get as many portable boats from Birdham Harbour to Chichester Basin. Start 11:00	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Mon 30 Aug 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Rother, Midhurst - The Rother Raft Race. Charity sponsored makeshift rafts battle to navigate a length downstream of Midhurst.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 12 Sep 2004	Chichester SCT	Civic Trust Heritage Open Day - Poyntz Swing Bridge. Accessible to the public from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Bridge is 300 yards south of Canal Basin.	01243 771363 (Canal Basin)
Thu 16 Sep 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Waterways videos on the big screen. At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sat 18 - Sun 19 Sep 2004	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Boat gathering at Fox & Hounds, Fleet, Basingstoke Canal	
Sun 19 Sep 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Beaulieu River - Indian Summer Cruise. Launch Bucklers Hard at 12:30. Bring picnic lunches and parasols. Recovery around 16:00.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Thu 7 Oct 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Day-Star Theatre'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 18 Nov 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Eric Lewis on "Little & Large in the North West." Huddersfield Narrow, Manchester Ship Canal, River Weaver. At Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Thu 2 Dec 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 9 Dec 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas meal at the Fox & Goose, Coombe Bissett.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Fri 9 Apr to Sun 26 Sep 2004 10.30am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Open Days (see below for Steaming Days). Adults £3.00, Seniors £2.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £7.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org">enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/">www.croftonbeamengines.org/</a>
Apr - Sep 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Days on 10-12 Apr, 1-3 May, 29-31 May, 26-27 Jun, 24-25 Jul, 28-30 Aug, 25-26 Sep 2004 (10.30am - 5.00pm). Adults £4.50, Seniors £3.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £10.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org">enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/">www.croftonbeamengines.org/</a>
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday 9 Apr to 31 Oct 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm. Telephone for pumping days.	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org/">www.claverton.org/</a>
April and May	Frome Museum	Dorset & Somerset Canal Exhibition at Frome Museum, 1 North Parade, Frome. The Museum is normally open from 10am to 2pm, Tuesday - Saturday, or by appointment. Free entry but donations are appreciated.	Derek Gill: 01373 463494
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 Ship CT	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings and enquiries: 01243 771363 (Canal Basin)

### Montgomery Canal

British Waterways has published a consultation document *The Montgomery Canal: A Sustainable Restoration* covering its future plans for the canal and seeking comments. The proposals have been prepared from work undertaken over eighteen months to provide an overall framework for future restoration, and included conservation surveys, a rural regeneration study and consultation at local community events.

The published document is a final draft and includes a questionnaire for comments. There is a very short consultation period, with comments requested by 7th April. See page 13 for details of how to obtain a copy. Members of IWA's Restoration Committee have been involved in earlier stages of production of the report and, in association with members of IWA's Shrewsbury, District and North Wales Branch, are providing detailed comments to BW.

## River Avon (Warwickshire)

Over the past thirty years, the Upper Avon Navigation Trust and other bodies have put forward proposals to create a navigable link between the Avon and the Grand Union Canal in the Warwick and Leamington Spa area - and consequently create a safe, tide- free, broad-beam link between the rivers Thames and Severn.

The relative technical ease with which this could be achieved has been dwarfed by political problems, mainly caused by well-organised opposition from local environmental and riparian interests who have expressed concerns about the environmental impact of boating. However, Warwickshire County Council is now reviewing the situation and the views of the public are being sought in a consultation exercise, which has an unfortunately short period for comment, closing on 12th April.



## Stop Gates

British Waterways has installed four sets of a new style of stop gates in the midlands. The gates comprise steel plates that normally lie in a recess on the canal bed. The gate rises when compressed air is pumped into a collapsed plastic cushion situated in the recess underneath the steel plate. The gate can be operated in about five minutes by a single person without any manual effort. The compressed air supply is contained in an underground chamber.



A number of pro-navigation interests - including IWA - are co-operating and coordinating their specific group responses. However, a wider range of individual responses would greatly assist, providing they are succinct, and submitted on a specific form, available along with some background notes from: (Regeneration Projects - Avon Navigation, Planning Transport & Economic Strategy, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4SX. All data can also be downloaded from the County Council's Internet site: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/C1CD6CB6C13AAD6580256E450057C10E](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/C1CD6CB6C13AAD6580256E450057C10E)

The response form for written representations, along with further information and guidance on submitting a response to the consultation, is also available from IWA's Internet site at:

[www.waterways.org.uk/branch\\_new/warwickshire/river\\_avon/background.htm](http://www.waterways.org.uk/branch_new/warwickshire/river_avon/background.htm)

One point that respondents may wish to bear in mind is that the proposed link is seen within the county as being something of national significance, but of no real benefit to the county and its residents. In order for the project to gain local support, this view will need to be counteracted, along with perceptions that boaters are inconsiderate and do not care about the environment.

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The gates, which have a life expectancy of about 30 years, have been installed at Catshill Junction and at Tongs Meadow on the Rushall Canal, at Marston Junction on the Ashby Canal, and near to Hawkesbury Junction (where the Oxford Canal joins the Coventry Canal). The purpose of the gates is to isolate sections of long pounds of water and thus to stop water escaping from the entire level in the event of a breach or other unforeseen circumstance that drains part of the canal.

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## After a span of 165 years, Brunel bridge is found

FOR years drivers thought they were passing across just another modern bridge over a canal. But encased within its bricks was a secret that had remained hidden for decades. The structure contained the earliest surviving iron bridge built by the celebrated 19th century engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Amazingly, the valuable piece of history was discovered only a week before it was due to be demolished.

It was found over the Grand Union Canal near Paddington Station in West London by English Heritage expert Dr Stephen Brindle. He had been leafing through Brunel's notebooks to research a history of the station when he found the designs for the 1838 bridge. Letters about the structure, from Brunel to the Grand Junction Canal Company, were also discovered, confirming his authorship beyond doubt.

Yesterday Jeremy Clarkson, who championed Brunel on the BBC's Great Britons programme, said: 'What a sensational discovery. It is astonishing to think that in a city like London, such an extraordinary part of our industrial past could lie unknown and undiscovered.'

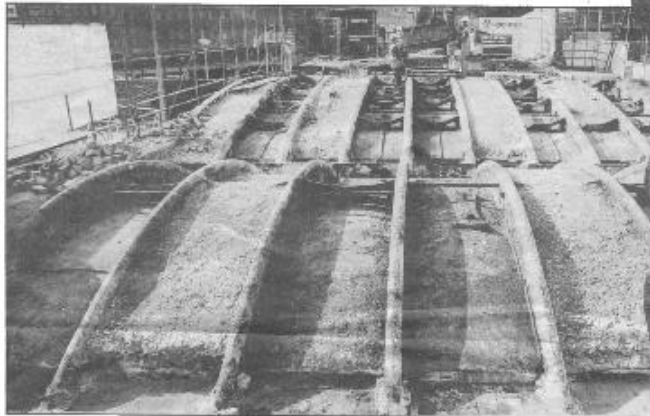
The bridge - the earliest of only eight Brunel iron bridges in the country - was discovered days before contracts were due to be let to demolish it as part of a road improvement scheme. Westminster City Council halted its demolition plans and gave instructions for the bridge to be carefully dismantled and moved out of harm's way.

The iron bridge had long ago lost its railings, but was perfectly preserved under brick parapets. It was unrecognisable except from below, where the construction exactly matches Brunel's sketches and notes.

Now it is hoped the bridge will be rebuilt as a pedestrian footway further along the canal in time for the 200th anniversary of the engineer's birth in 2006. Councillor Colin Barrow of Westminster City Council said: 'The next stage will be to secure funding for its full restoration and confirm its new location. One option we are considering would be positioning it as a public footbridge over the canal, where it would enhance Brunel's magnificent legacy in this area.'

Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage, said: 'This unique bridge will be saved and, at the same time, all the planned public benefits will go ahead.'

The Brunel bridge will be removed next month, and the new road will reopen in 2006.



Part of the 1838 iron bridge designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, right



### The 5ft tall giant of the Industrial Revolution

- ISAMBARD Kingdom Brunel was a key figure of the Industrial Revolution, building tunnels, railways, bridges, docks and ships.
- BORN in 1806, he was the son of the French engineer, Sir Marc Brunel, who came to England during the French Revolution.
- WHEN only 20, Brunel took control of the Thames Tunnel at Rotherhithe. He staged a dinner party in the tunnel for businessmen in 1827 wearing full evening dress.
- A YEAR later, he almost drowned when the same tunnel collapsed and water poured in.
- AT 26, he was appointed Engineer to the Great Western Railway. His works on the line between London and Bristol are still used today.
- HE designed the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, but it was built after his death in 1859.
- BECAUSE he was only 5ft, he always wore a top hat to make himself look taller.
- EACH of his three ships - the Great Western (1837), the Great Britain (1843) and the Great Eastern (1858) - represented a major step forward in naval architecture.
- DURING the Great Western's maiden voyage to America, he issued instructions from his sickbed after falling off a ladder.
- HE designed the 700ft Great Eastern to carry enough coal for a return journey to Australia - unaware that there was coal Down Under.
- BRUNEL came second to Sir Winston Churchill in the BBC's poll to find the Greatest Briton.

*Reproduced from the Daily Mail of 4 March 2004 with acknowledgements*

## 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:

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

### President:

Brian Evans.

### Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford,  
Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.  
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### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire,  
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Email: [laura.sturrock@hjsgroup.co.uk](mailto:laura.sturrock@hjsgroup.co.uk)

### Committee:

Martin Cripps, Peter Oates, David Townley-Jones

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### Society Website:

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

## FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

- 1st April 2004** - The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch.
- 29th April 2004** (May meeting) - 'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright on the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve.
- 1st - 3rd May 2004** - Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston.
- 3rd June 2004** - Peter Crawford will give an update on the activities of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.
- 1st July 2004** - TBA.
- 29th July 2004** (August meeting) - Society AGM and Video.
- 2nd September 2004** - TBA.
- 7th October 2004** - 'Day-Star Theatre'.
- 4th November 2004** - TBA.
- 2nd December 2004** - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper.
- 6th January 2005** - Members' Photographic Evening and Competition
- 3rd February 2005** - 'Venturing into Germany' with Ron & Myra Glover.

## Prize for Caldon Canal Society

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) today announced that the winner of the Christopher Power Prize for 2003 is Caldon Canal Society. The prize is awarded to a person, society or trust that has made a significant contribution to the restoration of an amenity waterway and is determined annually by IWA's Council from a recommendation from Waterway Recovery Group (WRG).

Mike Palmer, WRG chairman, said, "We are pleased to recognise the society's huge increase in profile based on the Destination Froghall project, which involves the restoration of the top lock and basin of the Uttoxeter Canal at Froghall. This is the first section of the Uttoxeter Canal to be worked on, there having been previously no serious proposals for the restoration of any part of this canal. When completed the basin will provide valuable moorings and increase the attractiveness of cruising the full extent of the Caldon Canal. It should provide an added attraction for local people and other visitors to the area, as well as helping to preserve an important feature from the industrial revolution that was previously hidden from public enjoyment."

The Society started work on the overgrown site in spring 2003 with two tree felling and clearance weekends. With a WRG Canal Camp in August 2003, the lock chamber and adjacent railway siding were dug out and stonework around the basins exposed. The second lock leading out of the basin was also partially excavated, and repairs to the stonework in the first lock and the railway siding were started. A follow-up weekend was held in September, with the society hosting one of the WRG regional groups. Three further volunteer workparty weekends have been held between December 2003 and February 2004.

Graham Churton, chairman of Caldon Canal Society, said, "The Uttoxeter Canal is increasing in interest as a potential restoration scheme, with the Society considering a change of name, to include the Uttoxeter Canal, at its forthcoming AGM. The restoration of the first lock and basin of the canal is, therefore, a small but important step in this greater aim. The award of the Christopher Power Prize will help the society fulfil its future aims."

*IWA Press Release - 24th March 2004*

## Wey & Arun Canal Trust

*(Continued from page 1)*

Trust aims to achieve the restoration, as a public amenity, of the navigable link between the rivers Wey and Arun, and so recreate the direct water link between London and the south coast. The Trust has reached agreement with landowners that restoration work may take place on over half the 23-mile total length. So far, 22 bridges have been reconstructed, nine locks restored, one aqueduct and many culverts rebuilt and several miles of canal bed cleared and dredged.

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