



Chairman's Column

April Meeting

I am delighted to welcome to our April meeting, Peter Boyce, who is already well known to many of our members. Peter will be talking to us about 'The Moving Meadow' (transporting a small part of Britain's countryside via the inland waterways) and renovation work on his narrow tug 'James Loader'.

Itchen Navigation

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that I had received the latest issue of the Itchen Navigation News. Further details of that publication are on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Skittles Evening

A very successful Society Skittles Evening was held on 9 March. Further details are given below.

Spring Boat Trip

I am pleased to report that the Society's boat trip on the Wey & Arun Canal on Saturday 21 April is now sold out. Sorry if you wanted to come but left it too late to book, but the "Zachariah Keppel" can only accommodate 30 passengers. However, it might be worth your while to give your names to Maureen Greenham in the event of last minute cancellations,

which do sometimes occur. A report on this outing will be published in the May Newsletter.

If you haven't yet paid for your trip or booked your lunch at 'The Onslow Arms', please contact Maureen immediately. She can be contacted by telephone on 02380 406951 or by email on maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com.

Dennis Bright – A Page Three Guy!

I never thought we would see renowned local photographer, Dennis Bright, on page three of a national newspaper but..... As members are aware, Dennis makes regular visits to the Society with his superb photographic presentations on the local countryside and its wildlife. Those who attended his last talk in October will well remember his photograph of his 'pet' robin, Cheeky, balancing on Dennis's chin whilst taking a live mealworm from his mouth (ugh!!!). Well, Dennis has made it to the big time – that photograph appeared on page three of the 'Daily Mail' on 22 February and, apparently, was also published in the 'Daily Express'. That same photograph later appeared in the "Hampshire Chronicle". Congratulations Dennis!

Paul Herbert

Society Skittles Evening

On Friday 9 March a near capacity group of twenty seven Society members and guests participated in a really enjoyable evening of skittles at 'The Kings Head' in Hursley.

Organisers Rogan and Lynn Olding did a great job in arranging the event. The skittles proved to be very competitive and yet were played in a friendly and humorous atmosphere, with plenty of laughs. We were organised into teams of just two – ladies versus the men. Winners of the men's event with the highest overall score were Alan Howarth and Eric Lewis whilst the ladies' team of Angela Rose and Jan Potter came top



in that event and also were the overall runners-up. The two teams were awarded with their (liquid) prizes.

The food provided by 'The Kings Head' was excellent and plentiful with many people going back for second helpings.

This was an excellent evening, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Rogan and Lynn for organising the event and I am hopeful they can be persuaded to repeat the venture sometime in the future.

Paul Herbert

March Meeting

Ron and Myra Glover continue their exploits on the rivers of Southern Germany

Society members, Ron and Myra Glover, have been cruising the continent on their 42' Dutch steel cruiser, 'Elsa' for many years and it is always interesting to hear of their exploits. The current talk was their 6th to the Society.

On the previous occasion that Ron and Myra talked to us they showed us the top end of the River Rhine and the River Neckar. This time they recounted their subsequent visit to the River Main as far as the Main-Danube Canal and the River Lahn during 2004.

Having returned to the Rhine from the Neckar they continued downstream to the Main at Mainz. Here they ventured upstream to Frankfurt and Aschaffenburg via Würzburg to the end of the river navigation at Bamberg, in the process passing through vast locks that take 3300 ton barges, some coming all the way from the Black Sea via the Main/Danube Canal.

On returning to the River Rhine they continued downstream, passing through the spectacular Rhine Gorge before turning into the much smaller and no longer commercial River Lahn.

The Lahn, although no longer used by large barges, is well frequented by leisure cruisers, trip boats and many canoes that are hired from Bad Ems, a popular spa town. Ron and Myra

appreciated the smaller scale of this river and explored the rustic towns and villages on route.

The Glovers left us with 'Elsa' safely moored for the winter in a friendly marina at Bad Ems, recounting that the river basin was heated by a hot spring and therefore would not freeze over during the winter months.

They concluded by showing us a map that covered the following year's cruise area which included visits to Berlin, the Mecklenburg Lakes and the Polish Border. We can look forward to that presentation sometime next year.

For those of us more used to cruising the small canals of the UK, Ron and Myra's travels on the broad waterways of mainland Europe are always eye-openers. Whether it is the large scale of those rivers and canals, many of which are main commercial routes, the size of the other craft, the spectacular scenery and the charming towns and villages through which they pass, Ron and Myra give us the real flavour of their cruises. Many thanks to you both (and particularly for your valuable assistance with this write-up!).

Paul Herbert

Itchen Navigation Project – Update

As members will be aware from previous articles in our Newsletter, this project is being led by the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (the Trust) on behalf of the Environment Agency, Winchester City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Hampshire Country Council, English Nature and the Inland Waterways Association. The purpose of the project is to conserve and protect the navigation and its environs after many years of neglect and create a Heritage Trail along the Itchen Navigation to celebrate its wildlife, history and value to local people. The project publishes a regular newsletter, 'Itchen Navigation News' and the contents of this article are based upon its most recent issue published in January.

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1.6million successfully passed Stage 1 of the process. That money, which has been allocated by the HLF to the project, will be released upon successful completion of development work to draw up a detailed design of the river bank works that will be carried out on the navigation. A decision on whether the project can move on towards Stage 2 will be made in December, with implementation hopefully beginning in 2008.

The key areas of work will be:

- Enhancing the area for wildlife, improving conditions to help the plants and animals found there to thrive.
- Repairing the fabric of the navigation, including restoring banks which are currently collapsing.
- Providing learning and involvement opportunities for the public.
- Interpreting the navigation's past while preserving some of its historic features.

Wildlife surveys have been completed. Species surveys, carried out on the Itchen Navigation by volunteers over last summer, have been written up and have all shown exciting data on rare species and their distribution. The surveys will be used by the engineers who will be carrying out the improvement works, to show where

habitats can be improved and mitigation needs to be considered. Of particular note – water voles were present on 41% of the navigation, mainly between Shawford and Allbrook. Other promising news from the survey was the presence of otters and the apparent absence of American mink.

As part of the programme of improvements along the navigation, the Trust has commissioned the engineering company, Atkins, and the bio-engineering company, Saliz, to undertake detailed design works for bank protection along the navigation. The project will be detailing designs to address the issues of bank erosion using innovative bank engineering techniques which will have additional benefits for river habitats and improve the scenic beauty of the navigation.

Due to the number of protected species which live in, or around, the navigation, such as otters, water voles, bats, breeding birds and important in-channel plants, many time constraints are imposed on when work can be carried out. Because of this it is anticipated that the improvements will be undertaken over a number of years.

Itchen Navigation News also carried an interesting article about the last known owner of the navigation, William Whitear Bulpett. The information for the article was researched and written by Joanna Bulpett, William's great great great niece. The article deals with how William became owner of the navigation. He was 92 when he died in 1899 and he was thought to have left the mortgage of the Itchen Navigation to his nephew, Charles William Lloyd Bulpett. Charles died in 1939 in Kenya. As far as can be ascertained, Charles was the sole recipient of William Bulpett's estate. Charles's will has never been found. He does not appear to have submitted a will in the UK and so far the Kenyan authorities have not managed to track a copy of a will in that country. At this time the mortgage to the Itchen Navigation is still missing – so it is still uncertain who does own the navigation.

Paul Herbert

(If you would like to learn more about the Itchen Navigation Project, or be kept up to date, visit the Trust's website at: www.hwt.org.uk/itchen where you can also be added to the mailing list for future issues of its Newsletter).

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 confirm and supply further details of that 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 5 Apr 2007 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Moving Meadow" by Peter Boyce. He will also be talking about the work he has carried out on his tug 'James Loader'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri-Mon 6-9 Apr 2007 11.00am-16.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Hourly Easter Special Cruises on canal at Loxwood. Chocolate eggs and gifts for children, refreshments for adults. Tickets: £7.00. Booking essential.	Enquiries and bookings: 01403 752403 Email: easter@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat-Sun 7-8 Apr 2007	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Bridge Barn Rally, Woking Canal Festival	Tel: 01252 370073
Wed 18 Apr 2007 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The canals de l'Est and the Rhone au Rhin" - an illustrated talk by Robin Higgs. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey.	David Millett: 01252 617364 or Peter Coxhead: 01932 344564
Sat 21 Apr 2007 10.30am	Southampton CS	Society boat trip on the Wey & Arun Canal at Loxwood, Sussex aboard the 'Zachariah Keppel'. Meet at the Onslow Arms, Loxwood, Sussex.	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951. Email: maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com
Sat 21 Apr 2007	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	Boat Cavalcade, including the CSCT tug fleet and small trailable boats. Launching in the canal basin in Chichester, south of the railway station.	Dave Anderson: 01243 771363 Email: daveandcolleen@tiscali.co.uk
Sun 22 Apr 2007 10.30am	Wilts & Berks CT	Sponsored Walk from Chippenham to Lacock and back (approx 8 miles).	Peter Williams: 01249 652248 Email: peter.williams32@btinternet.com
Wed 25 Apr 2007 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Wey & Arun Canal Restoration Update with Jim Phillips preceded by AGM. The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: grahamv.smith@virgin.net
Thu 26 Apr 2007 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Roger Squires takes us to Portugal and talks about the River Duoro, from Oporto to the Spanish border. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 29 Apr 2007 10.30am	IWA Salisbury Group	Visit to Fussell's Balance lock on The Dorset & Somerset Canal at Mells near Frome. Meet 10.30am, visit the excavation site, lunch at The Talbot Pub where artefacts and plans may be viewed. Cost approx £2 per person.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 29 Apr 2007	Cotswold CT	Canamble 2007 - Sponsored walk starting at Wallbridge Lock, Stroud and following the towpath for all of Phase 1A of the restoration. Start between 9.00am and 10.30am. Walk length 6 or 12 miles.	Richard Attwood: 01453 792021 Email: richard@raash31.co.uk Website: www.cotswoldcanals.com
Wed 16 May 2007 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Pablo Haworth with "The story of Bailey Bridging" with details of bridges on the Basingstoke Canal. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey.	David Millett: 01252 617364 or Peter Coxhead: 01932 344564
Thu 17 May 2007 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Richard Thomas will be talking on "Waterway Wonders". A tour of some of the engineering marvels around the waterways system. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, Salisbury.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sat 19 May 2007	IWA Solent & Arun	The annual Gerry and Ivy Skinner memorial cruise from Pulborough to Pallingham and back, to maintain regular navigation of the tidal River Arun. For small boats and canoes. HW at Pulborough about 17:00 BST.	Peter Boyce: 07729 139765. Email: Peter.Boyce@raymarine.com
Sun 27 May 2007 (NB change of date)	Wey & Arun CT	WACT will host a small and trailable boat rally at Loxwood on the Wey & Arun Canal. Come and see the progress on the new lock and road crossing, and view the new aqueduct.	WACT: 01403 752403. Email: rallies@weyandarun.co.uk
Thu 7 Jun 2007 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Lots to do at the Soo" - A look at North American Waterways with Colin Ward. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri - Sun 8 - 10 Jun 2007 10.00		Thames Boat Show. Beale Park, Pangbourne.	0118 976 7498
Sat 9 Jun 2007	Wey & Arun CT	WACT will host a small and trailable boat rally at Lordings flood lock and aqueduct.	WACT: 01403 752403. Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 10 Jun 2007	Wey & Arun CT	The Poddle - Sponsored walk in aid of Trust funds.	WACT: 01403 752403. Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 23 Jun 2007	Kennet & Avon CT	Reading Water Fest - on the Forbury Backwater.	John and Pam Swift: 0118 9415540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Sun 1 Jul 2007	IWA Solent & Arun Br	A transit of Port Creek between Portsea Island and the mainland. This is our missing link in our bullion runs through the waterways between Portsmouth and Chichester. High water is around 13:00 BST.	Peter Boyce: 07729 139765. Email: Peter.Boyce@raymarine.com
Sun 1 Jul 2007 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society	Guided walk of part of the old Portsmouth & Arundel Canal. Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Road, Barnham. Approx. 4 mile walk, allow 4 hours & bring a packed lunch.	Tel: 01243 576701.
Wed 4 Jul 2007 5.30-8.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society	An opportunity to cross the Chichester Canal on the unique 1820 cast iron, Poyntz swing bridge, just south of the Chichester Canal basin. There will also be a short guided industrial walk starting at the Poyntz bridge at 7.00pm.	Tel: 01243 576701

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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.

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Society Website:

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Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.

Waterways Diary

(continued from page 3)

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 5 Jul 2007 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Talk on the Basingstoke Canal with Roger Cansdale. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Tue 10 Jul 2007 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	"The Past, Present and Future of the Chichester Ship Canal" by Rick Travis, Chairman of the Canal Trust. Tickets £3.	Rick Travis: 01243 530866 Email: rick@waterside.go-plus.net
Wed 11 Jul 2007 7.30pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Mikron Theatre present "Married to the Job...Thomas Telford and Civil Engineering". Fox & Hounds, Fleet, Surrey.	Tel: 01243 576701
Fri 13 Jul 2007 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Mikron Theatre present "The Lacemakers" about John Heathcote, the inventor of the lace making machine. Training Centre, Geoffrey Osborne Construction, Stockbridge Road, Chichester. Tickets: £7.00.	Tickets from: Linda Wilkinson, 1 Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester, PO18 8TL. Tel. 01243 576701.
Sat 14 Jul 2007 8.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Mikron Theatre present "Married to the Job...Thomas Telford and Civil Engineering". Tickets: £8.00 from WACT office. Free parking. Licenced bar. Cranleigh Village Hall, Surrey.	WACT Office: 01403 752403. Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk
Thu 19 Jul 2007 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules and BBQ. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, Salisbury.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Thu 26 Jul 2007 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting with supporting programme. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 29 Jul 2007	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival. Victoria Gardens, Newbury.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email : grahamv.smith@virgin.net
Thu 6 Sep 2007 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Reflections on the 50's" with Colin Scrivener. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 15 Sep 2007	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	All boats invited for the bi-annual Hamble cruise, from Swanwick to Curbridge and Botley Quay. High water around 14:30 will take us up for a pub/picnic lunch and a visit to Botley Quay on the second rise in the tide.	Peter Boyce: 07729 139765. Email: Peter.Boyce@raymarine.com
6 Apr - 30 Sep 2007 10.30am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines open every day. When not in steam admission: Adults £4.50, Seniors £4.00, Children £1.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £9.00. For steaming weekends see below.	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: egcr59103@CroftonBeamEngines.org Website: www.croftonbeamengines.org
7-9 Apr, 5-7 May, 26-28 May, 30 Jun - 1 Jul 2007 10.30am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines Steaming weekends. Admission: Adults £6.50, Seniors £5.50, Children £1.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £13.00. Also steaming on 28-29 Jul, 25-27 Aug, 29-30 Sep 2007.	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: egcr59103@CroftonBeamEngines.org Website: www.croftonbeamengines.org
8 Apr - 21 Oct 2007 10.00am - 5.00pm (4.00pm Weds)	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station open every Sat, Sun, Wed and Bank Holiday Mon. Non-pumping days admission: Adults £2.00, Children under 16 free but must be accompanied by adult. For pumping days see below.	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Website: www.claverton.org
8-9 Apr, 7 May, 27-28 May, 10 Jun, 24 Jun 2007 10.00am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station pumping days. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children under 16 free but must be accompanied by adult. Also pumping on 8 Jul, 22 Jul, 12 Aug, 26-27 Aug, 9 Sep, 23 Sep, 21 Oct Sep 2007	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Website: www.claverton.org