



## Chairman's Column

### April Meeting

This evening we welcome Tony Shadick. Tony often accompanied us on our Society outings, taking photographs and joining in with our activities. Tonight we will see footage of SCS boat trips including our trip to the Thames by bus. Also railways, classic cars, air shows and the rebuild of the old Coast Guard boat.

Brian Evans will be on hand with more details as required.

Rob Unsworth is celebrating a birthday and spoiling us by treating you all to nibbles, etc.

### Tim Symington

I briefly announced at the March meeting that sadly Tim died at the end of February. He and his wife Jenny were also members of Salisbury IWA and we last saw Tim on the Salisbury quiz team in December

Tim had a few health problems during the last year. He emailed some friends, including Paul Herbert, on the 31<sup>st</sup> January with a positive update on his health. Complications set in which led to his unexpected passing away aged just 61.

## Reservoir Watch in March

Very limited rainfall was observed in February across much of southern and central England, with only 38% of long term average for the month experienced in Southern England.

The continued low rainfall has meant that river flows in many of the drought-affected areas are below those normally expected in the late summer and in some rivers late-winter flows were below the corresponding flows during the extreme drought of 1975/76. According to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, groundwater recharge over the winter has been meagre across many of the major aquifer outcrop areas and February groundwater levels were close to the lowest on record over wide areas.

### Reservoir holdings

In terms of reservoir holdings, most groups showed an increase (albeit very modest in some locations) during the month, but a small number of reservoir groups are still a cause for concern, being at levels well below normal for this time of year. The drought schemes being implemented by British Waterways in the affected areas, in an attempt to augment reservoir refill and reduce canal demands for water during the main 2012 boating season have progressed reasonably well to date. A number of reservoir refill schemes are well underway in the South East and Midlands, and reservoir holdings are increasing at an increased rate as a result of these measures.

### Restrictions on lock use

British Waterways has made the decision to introduce restrictions to lock use at a number of locations. These include a series of overnight lock closures, restricted opening hours and an obligation on boaters to share locks where possible, to help eke out critical reservoir

Such a shame, they had both retired and planned to go cruising in their new boat.

A number of our members attended his woodland funeral.

Our thoughts go to Jenny and family at this very sad time.

### Chairman & Secretary AWOL

I must apologise for Angie's and for my absence at this meeting as we are taking our boat *Purton* to Droitwich, for the Easter HNBOC boat gathering. We hope by the time you read this we will be there.

Last weekend we worked the 29 locks up to the top of the Hatton flight. We were paired up with Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock on their boat *Stanton*, another Big Northwich.

### May Meeting

A reminder that there is No May meeting as the hall is commandeered for any possible elections.

Have a good evening tonight.

Alan Rose

levels.

Currently, six areas have a 'critical' water situation:

- The Kennet & Avon, east of Devizes
- The River Stort, north of London
- The Grand Union on the Chiltern approaches to London
- The Grand Union's Leicester Summit
- The Grand Union summit between Braunston and Buckby (Norton Junction)
- The South Oxford, south of Napton Junction

The Northampton arm of the Grand Union (down to the River Nene) will also close from mid-April, opening only briefly on specific dates for boat festivals. This will protect the water supply on the more critical route from Buckby locks down as far as Milton Keynes. The Hillmorton and Calcutt locks drawing their water from the 'Braunston pound' will also see restrictions.

BW staff will consider other special openings at certain peak times, such as bank holidays, the Crick Boat Show or boaters attending the Olympics or the Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Vince Moran, operations director, is urging boaters to go to other areas of the country: "Only a small proportion of the network will be affected so if boaters don't need to be in the South East then what better opportunity to explore another hidden corner of the nationwide canal system?"

The purpose of these restrictions is to ensure efficient use of water and conserve precious reservoir storage for later in the main boating season.

[www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com) and [www.waterwaysworld.com](http://www.waterwaysworld.com)

Links to further information can be found at:

<http://www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/features/british-waterways-reservoir-watch>

# Waterways Diary

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 5 Apr 2012 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Tony Shadick will show film footage of SCS boat trips; Railway at war; Classic Goodwood; Air shows; the rebuild of an old Coast Guard boat and a trip to the Thames by bus. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>
Tue 10 Apr 2012 7.30pm	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Branch AGM followed by talk by Peter Boyce on his ongoing restoration of wooden boat Lucy. Norfolk Centre, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9PA (TQ019071).	Mike Laishley: 023 92325000 Email: <a href="mailto:mike.iwa@ntlworld.com">mike.iwa@ntlworld.com</a>
Sun 15 Apr 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Combe Hay Top Lock and Tunnel. Meet: The Avenue, Combe Hay, BA2 8RD. (ST729599).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Sun 15 Apr 2012 10.30am - 5.00pm	Wilts & Berks CT	Canal Open Day at Dauntsey Lock. Boat Trips, Stalls and Displays, Raffle, Children's Games. Talk on "The History of the Canal and Families associated with it" (for further details see page 4). The Peterborough Arms, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 4HD (ST995801)	Rachel Banyard: 01249 892289
Tue 17 Apr 2012 10.00am	Wey & Arun CT	4 mile guided walk from the Limeburners Arms, Lordings Rd, Billingshurst, RH14 9JA (TQ072254), visiting parts of the canal. Meet in pub car park. Please check permission if you intend to park in the pub car park.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Tue 17 Apr 2012 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"K&A Archives" with Elaine Kirby, the Trust's archivist. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Wed 18 Apr 2012 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"Southampton Shipping with Railway Connections" by Paul Gosling. The story of shipping in Southampton Water and Docks from 1970 to the present. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a>
Wed 18 Apr 2012 7.30pm	Cotswold CT (Eastern Branch)	"East End Restoration Work" with John Maxted & Martin Thompson. Trout Inn, Faringdon Road, Lechlade on Thames, GL7 3HA (SU223991).	Peter Payne: 01367 253 352 Email: <a href="mailto:peterlizanodyne@aol.com">peterlizanodyne@aol.com</a>
Thu 19 Apr 2012	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Somerset Coalfield" by Shane Gould. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882. Email: <a href="mailto:lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk">lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Fri 20 Apr 2012 9.30am - 4.30pm	Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project	Itchen Navigation Conference at Shawford. Aims to provide an opportunity to look at the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project's successes and to discuss the challenges still faced by the Itchen Navigation. Conference fee £10. Booking deadline 2nd April.	Further information and booking form at <a href="http://www.hwt.org.uk/pages/conference.html">www.hwt.org.uk/pages/conference.html</a> Polly Whyte: 01489 774400 Email: <a href="mailto:pollyw@hwt.org.uk">pollyw@hwt.org.uk</a>
Sun 22 April	Chichester Ship CT	A re-enactment of Dashwoods Bullion Run with a cavalcade of small boats as part of the 190th anniversary of the opening of the canal. Along the canal and ending at the basin at approx. 2.00pm for a display of model boats. Chichester Canal Basin, PO19 8DT (SU858041).	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@chichestercanal.com">membership@chichestercanal.com</a>
Wed 25 Apr 2012 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	Branch AGM, followed by a discussion about the future of the Canal and the Trust lead by Trust President David Bruce. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net">GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net</a>
Sat 28 Apr 2012 2.30pm	Wey & Arun CT	AGM. Pulborough Village Hall, Swan View, Pulborough, RH20 2BF (TQ053185). Further information: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/agm2012.php">www.weyandarun.co.uk/agm2012.php</a>	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
<b>Thu 3 May 2012</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>There will be NO May Meeting as the hall is reserved for use as a polling station</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>
Sat - Mon 5 to 7 May 2012	Byfleet Boat Club	Weyside 2012 - live entertainment, competitions, variety of stalls, BarBQ, boat jumble and Bric-a-brac. The New Inn, Send, GU23 7EN (TQ017560).	Byfleet Boat Club: 07500 718262
Mon 7 May 2012 10.30am	Wilts & Berks CT	Sponsored walk (5 miles) starting from Chippenham Market Place, SN15 3HF (ST921732) to the Bell, Lacock, much along the canal towpath. Entry is just £4 per family/group. Sponsorship is optional.	Peter Williams: 01249 652248 Email: <a href="mailto:peter.williams@wbct.org.uk">peter.williams@wbct.org.uk</a>
Tue 15 May 2012 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT / IWA Reading & Guildford	"A Tale of Two Steamers" - Roddy McKee talks about the 'Waverley' & 'Kingswear Castle'. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Thu 17 May 2012 10.00am	Wey & Arun CT	4 mile circular walk from the Bat and Ball, Newpound Lane, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst, RH14 0EH (TQ060267) visiting parts of the canal. NB: There are many stiles on this walk and a short section will be on fast road. Meet in pub car park. Please check permission if you intend to park in the pub car park.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Thu 17 May 2012 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"European Locks, Lifts & Structures". Ron and Myra Glover will show slides and explain the function of many of these structures found on the European waterways. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR (SU182274).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a> or Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sun 20 May 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Paulton Basin and the Dry Dock. Meet: Paulton Sewage Works, Paulton BS39 6JU (ST654576).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com">derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com</a>
Sun 20 May 2012	Wey & Arun CT	Pulborough to Pallingham Cruise. The aim of this cruise is to demonstrate each year that there is a right of navigation. Further details and entry form see page 4.	John Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: <a href="mailto:tractor1936@btinternet.com">tractor1936@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Thu 7 June 2012 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Speaker to be confirmed. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>

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# March Meeting

## “Ellesmere Port and Liverpool 2011” with Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock

Peter began with the Easter 2011 historic boat gathering at Ellesmere Port which he and Laura attended in their Large Northwich *Stanton*. He showed pictures of some of the boats attending the event.

Peter described the traditional boatman’s games, such as the tug of war featuring the tug *Worcester* with its 30hp 11 litre single cylinder Bolinder engine.

There were also excellent photographs of the butty *Gifford* just recently painted by Phil Speight and *Mendip*, Chocolate Charlie’s boat, back in the water after a major rebuild in the Heritage Boatyard. There were also photos of the opepe timber being loaded aboard *Lamprey* to be taken to Brinklow to re-bottom *Sculptor*, the boat usually on display at the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum.

The weather looked warm and sunny which added to the hustle and bustle around the Dock area.

The time moored here gave Peter and Laura time to prepare for their trip along the Manchester Ship Canal to Eastham en route to Liverpool across the tidal River Mersey.

With a start at around 5.30am some of the pictures were a bit blurry, but eight boats assembled ready to go to Eastham. Here the “big” lock, the largest canal lock in the country, dropped them



Above: The newly painted *Gifford* paired with Thos Clayton motor boat *Spey*  
 Below: About eighteen historic boats moored in Salthouse Dock close to the centre of Liverpool

Photos copyright © Laura Sturrock

around 20ft to the Mersey for the 4½mile trip across to Liverpool.

There were shots of the passage through Brunswick Lock into the Docks. Then we moved on through interesting views of various docks and finally into Salthouse Dock with the Liver Building as the backdrop for the “Spring on the Waterfront” festival. By 9.00am they were moored up after an exhilarating cruise. They were later joined by more boats.

The leaving of Liverpool involved cruising along the recently opened Liverpool Link. A 8.00am start led initially through the famous Albert Dock. Built in 1846 it is surrounded by brick and cast iron grade 1 listed warehouses, a world heritage site. Further along the Link we saw the 1902 Tobacco Warehouse, when built it was the largest brick building in the world with 27million bricks. It has lain derelict for 30 years but recently a £30million grant towards restoration has been announced.

Peter and Laura’s evening was very relaxed and enabled us to take in the atmosphere, in pictures, of their trip. Thank you both.

Angela Rose



# Waterways Diary

Continued from page 2

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 10 Jun 2012	Wey & Arun CT	40th Annual Poddle Sponsored Walk. Start at North Hall, Loxwood, Sussex, RH14 0SF (TQ038319). Details and sponsorship form from <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/PoddleForm2012-s.pdf">http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/PoddleForm2012-s.pdf</a>	Joanne & Kevin Holcombe: 01483 418195 Email: <a href="mailto:poddle@weyandarun.co.uk">poddle@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Sat 16 Jun 2012	Kennet & Avon CT and Reading Borough Council	Reading Water Fest. Chestnut Walk, Reading, RG1 3AH (SU720734).	John or Pam Swift (K&ACT): 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Sun 17 Jun 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Aqueduct to Viaduct. Meet: Brassknocker Bottom, Monkton Combe, Bath, BA2 7JD (ST781621).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Wed 20 Jun 2012 10.00am	Wey & Arun CT	3½ mile circular walk from the Sir Roger Tichborne, RH14 0QS (TQ036333) visiting parts of the canal including Southlands Lock currently under restoration. Meet in pub car park. Please check permission if you intend to park in the pub car park. Towpath can be very muddy.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>

# 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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Brian Evans.

**Chairman:**

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**Meetings:**

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Diary). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

## Pulborough to Pallingham Cruise

The aim of this cruise is to demonstrate each year that there is a right of navigation.

High water at Littlehampton on that day will be around 11.55am (5.7m) so HW at Pulborough will be approximately 15.30. A late morning launch at Pulborough (12.00 – 12.45) is planned. Boats will be launched from the Pulborough slipway with a view to getting up to Pallingham Quay, or canoes can travel from Stopham Bridge.

No fee, but donations towards costs on the day would be welcome. Any cheques to be payable to "The Wey & Arun Canal Trust".

The aim is to reach the point where the Wey & Arun reached the junction with the River Arun and then on to Pallingham Quay, the highest navigable point for boats on the Arun. If time permits, we will stop for a drink at the White Hart, Stopham Bridge but this depends on the amount of water flowing down the river.

The slipway is located on the A29 about 100 metres south of two small roundabouts in Pulborough. Travelling south it is on the left hand side of the road adjacent to a cafe (please keep this area clear for their customers). Trailers can be left adjacent to the slipway and cars may be parked either on the other side of the river or in the pay-and-display car park adjacent to Pulborough station. The slipway is very steep but boats up to around 14 feet long can be launched as everyone mucks in to help. The channel is quite variable in width so some of us will take bow saw and tree loppers. It is recommended that people wear wellingtons for launching and to disembark at Pallingham. The few hundred metres before Pallingham can be a challenge if there hasn't been much rain – the wellingtons often come in useful!

- Take your litter home
- Respect the countryside

Please send this form to the address below to enter

Name ..... Type of boat \_\_\_\_\_  
Address ..... Length of boat \_\_\_\_\_  
..... Name of boat (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
..... Number on board \_\_\_\_\_

Send form to the organiser: John F. H. Taylor-Cram, 7 Hart Plain Avenue, Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hants, PO8 8RP. Tel: 02392-250463  
Email: [tractor1936@btinternet.com](mailto:tractor1936@btinternet.com)



## The History of the Canal and Associated Families

As part of the Canal Open Day at Dauntsey Lock on 15th April 2012 (see Waterways Diary), Jan Flanagan will be giving an illustrated talk on the above subject. Jan has undertaken a lot of research on the Wilts & Berks Canal and the genealogy of the families who worked and lived on it.

She will give 2 talks during the Day inside the Peterborough Arms at 11.330am and 3.00pm.

As seating will be limited, these will be ticket only events. Please book your tickets by e-mail: [pa.jo.harrod@btinternet.com](mailto:pa.jo.harrod@btinternet.com) or by post to: Cuckoo Pen, Avonweir Lane, Christian Malford, Chippenham, SN15 4AY (an SAE would be welcome).

There is no charge for this event. Donations towards the cost of local canal restoration will be welcomed.

We are running a Raffle for restoration funds and the top prize is a trip on Dragonfly on the Swindon canal stretch for up to 12 people to be taken during 2012. Also many other prizes will be available.

