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**Letter to the Chairman**

Hello Alan

In answer to the challenge thrown down in the last newsletter we have done a calculation of the locks we have done.

We already knew the total since we had our own boats that is 6379.

We have kept a record of hire boat holidays we took, and those taken on Uncle's boat, and have worked that out to in the region of 2269.

That makes a total of 8648.

I wonder how many we will do before we retire from boating!

*Jan and Malcolm Gunningham*

*Editor's Comment: So that throws down the gauntlet! Can anyone else beat Jan and Malcolm's total?*

**Busiest Locks**

The Oxford Canal is the busiest canal in the country, according to an annual survey of lock usage published by the Canal & River Trust. There were 9552 lockages last year at Hillmorton in Warwickshire from a total 3.8 million across 1586 working locks on CRT's 2000 miles of waterways.

*Towpath Telegraph April 2018*

**Chairman's Column****Cancelled March Meeting**

As much as some enjoyed seeing the snow, it was a shame, but the correct decision was made to postpone our March meeting. The good news is that Caroline Tilley, from the RNLI will visit us for our June 7th Meeting. The weather should be a bit better.

**April Meeting**

This evening we welcome Roger Cansdale and the "Heroes & Villains of the Basingstoke". The most surprising thing about this canal is that it still exists. This is largely due to the activities of a fairly small number of people who appeared at critical points in its history. Enjoy this story.

**Society shirts**

We should have all the items that have been

ordered by the April meeting. Prices are as follows

- Polo shirts £15-00
- Sweat shirts £ 17-10

It would be appreciated if you are able to collect your items at the meeting. Cash or cheque please.

**Proposed Boat Gathering for boaters in the Napton / Braunston area**

An informal gathering at Flecknoe and Braunston to be held over the weekend of the early May Bank holiday, on Saturday 5th / 7th for an afternoon BBQ. And a leisurely cruise to Braunston on Sunday morning. This is not an organized event, just a small number of boat owners joining up for a casual get-together.

*Alan Rose*

**Middlewich Branch Breach**

CRT have launched an appeal for funds following a breach on the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal on Thursday 15 March which swept away a 70-metre section of the 200-year-old canal.

The Branch connects the Trent & Mersey Canal just south of Middlewich to the Shropshire Union Canal at Barbridge Junction, a distance of about 10 miles. Constructed in 1827, it is nearly 200 years old.

The canal was initially drained between Stanthorne Lock and Wardle Lock, near Middlewich town centre, a distance of just over three quarters of a mile. This length of towpath has also been closed.

CRT are still investigating the precise reason for the breach but at this stage it is believed that it was most likely caused by an increase flow of water along the canal due to paddles at lock gates being left open. The increased flow is likely to have overtopped the canal at the breach site which, together with an already sodden embankment following a wet winter, caused the bank to wash away.

Engineers have estimated that the repairs will cost between £2million to £3million and are likely to take many months.

Ani Sutton, CRT's engagement manager said: "The Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal is hugely popular with the local community and boaters and we've been overwhelmed already by



*The breach as seen from a drone.*

*Image: [Middlewich Guardian](#)*

the love and support everyone is offering.

"Breaches like this are very rare but, as a charity, something of this scale and cost really sets us back, diverting precious resources from other work on the waterways. We've launched an emergency appeal to raise money towards the repairs. We want to thank everyone who has already donated."

**Anyone wishing to support this emergency appeal to repair the breach can log on to [Middlewich Breach](#) or alternatively text LEAK515 to 70070 to donate £5. Donations will go directly to repairing the canal.**

*[Canal & River Trust](#) 29 March 2018*

**Subscriptions for 2018-2019**

Just a reminder that the annual subscriptions for the year 2018 – 2019 are now due. As agreed at the last AGM the rate for a single membership is £16.00 and for a joint membership is £27.00. I look forward to receiving your subscriptions at the meeting on 5 April. You can also pay by EFT direct to the Society bank account, but please send me an email if you do that, so that I can expect it.

Subscriptions must be paid before the AGM in July in order to be able to vote at the AGM.

*Aelred Derbyshire - Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

## Waterways Events

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

OS grid references and/or postcodes are shown (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event.

If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Thu 5 Apr 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>The Heroes &amp; Villains of the Basingstoke Canal.</b> This canal largely owes its existence to a few people at critical points in its history. Some of their actions were soundly commercial or altruistic and some fraudulent and criminal. Roger Cansdale tells about these heroes and villains.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sun 8 Apr 2018 9.30am-5.00pm	Abingdon Rowing Club	<b>Abingdon Spring Head of the River Rowing Festival.</b> 360 boats from across the UK race 2000m against the clock from 10 am through the afternoon. BBQ, local beer, tea and cakes, Morris dancing and loads of fun. Free to watch, paid parking available.	Rye Farm Meadow, Abingdon, OX14 3HY (SU499968) and along the Thames towards Culham weir.	Paul Wenman - Tel: 01235 532406 Email: <a href="mailto:paul@wenmans.com">paul@wenmans.com</a> Web: <a href="http://Abingdon Rowing Club">Abingdon Rowing Club</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/abingdonrowingclubhead">@abingdonrc</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/abingdonrc">@abingdonrc</a>
Sat 14 Apr 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Sun 15 Apr 2018 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - A visit to Paglinch.</b>	Paglinch Farm, Shoscombe Vale, Bath, Avon, BA2 8NQ (ST711557)	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Tue 17 Apr 2018 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>To be announced.</b> Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 18 Apr 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Canal &amp; River Trust Engineering a 200 Year Old Infrastructure."</b> Neil Owen discusses the way in which CRT are managing their Engineering Assets, including future improvement and the implication on the possible adoption of waterways managed by other Navigation Authorities.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 19 Apr 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Waterspace Plus - Restoration</b> by Patrick Moss.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sat 21 Apr 2018 12 noon	Wey & Arun CT	<b>Official completion of restoration of Gennets Bridge Lock.</b> Parking available at Loxwood North Hall and it is a short (but maybe muddy) walk to the lock. A map and souvenir brochure will be available from our publicity stand at Loxwood North Hall.	Gennets Bridge Lock (SU994494). Park at Loxwood North Hall, Guildford Road, Loxwood, West Sussex, RH14 0SF (TQ038320).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://weyandarun.org.uk/content/completion-latest-lock-restoration-wey-arun-canal-trust">https://weyandarun.org.uk/content/completion-latest-lock-restoration-wey-arun-canal-trust</a>
Sat 21 Apr 2018 2.30pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	<b>45th Annual General Meeting.</b> Members only.	Loxwood North Hall, Guildford Road, Loxwood, West Sussex, RH14 0SF (TQ038320).	Tel: 01483 894606 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://weyandarun.org.uk/events31">https://weyandarun.org.uk/events31</a>
Sat 21 Apr 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Sun 22 Apr 2018 10.00am-4.00pm	Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd	<b>41st Beaulieu Boat Jumble.</b> 100s of stalls and stands selling both new and used kit, clothes and craft. Tickets online: Advance until 5pm 12th Apr: Adult £8.80, 13-16 years £5. After 12th Apr and on door £1 extra. Under 12 free but need ticket. Admission includes all Beaulieu attraction inc Motor Museum.	National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, New Forest, Hampshire, SO42 7ZN (SU385027)	Phone: 01590 614614 Email: <a href="mailto:events@beaulieu.co.uk">events@beaulieu.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/events/boatjumble/">www.beaulieu.co.uk/events/boatjumble/</a>
Thu 26 Apr 2018 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	<b>Branch AGM</b> all members welcome – followed by "Hapless in Holland", a presentation by Rob Dean on his boating adventures in Holland.	??? Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5AS (SU472671)	Email: <a href="mailto:newbury.chairman@katrust.org.uk">newbury.chairman@katrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://katrust.org.uk/events/">https://katrust.org.uk/events/</a>
Sat 28 Apr 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Thu 3 May 2018	Southampton CS	<b>NO MAY MEETING.</b> As always, there will be NO May Meeting.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat-Mon 5-7 May 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Early May Bank Holiday steaming.</b> Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 12 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Tue 15 May 2018 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>? Joint meeting with IWA.</b> Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.

## Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat 19 May 2018 2.00pm	Basingstoke CS	40th <b>Annual General Meeting</b> of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society Ltd, (aka The Basingstoke Canal Society). After the AGM there will be reports from the Chairmen of the Canal Society and Boat Company, presentation of the Robin Higgs Award and a talk by Richard Davenport of the Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group.	Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman Road, Deepcut GU16 6TB (SU908577).	Terry Inskip: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/">http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/</a>
Sat 19 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station</b> . Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Sat-Mon 26-28 May 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Late May Bank Holiday steaming</b> . Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Sat 26 May 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station</b> . Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Fri-Sun 1-3 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	See it for Real Productions	<b>Beale Park Boat &amp; Outdoor Show 2018</b> . Open until 6.00pm Fri and Sat. See website for admission charges and attractions.	Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618778).	Phone: 01296 631 273 Email: <a href="mailto:info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk">info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/">www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/</a>
Thu 7 Jun 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>The Royal National Lifeboat Institution</b> . The postponed March meeting has been rearranged for the June meeting. Caroline Tilley will talk about RNLI, the charity which rescues 24 people a day.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 9 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station</b> . Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Tue 12 Jun 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> .	Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, BA3 3EP (ST689549). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: <a href="mailto:chairman@coalcanal.org.uk">chairman@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sat 16 Jun 2018 11.00am-5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Reading Waterfest</b> . Festival of boats, entertainment and stalls. Great family day out. Admission is free.	River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG1 3AH. (SU719734)	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sat 16 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station</b> . Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Sat 23 Jun 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station</b> . Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>
Sat-Sun 23-24 Jun 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	<b>Crofton steaming weekend</b> . Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Wed 27 Jun 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Revoluting Women</b> . No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bar, food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show - shelter if bad weather.	The Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Road, Lechlade On Thames, GL7 3HA (SU223990).	The Trout Inn: 01367 252313 Web: <a href="http://www.thetroutinn.com">www.thetroutinn.com</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sun 1 Jul 2018 4.00pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Get Well Soon</b> . Bring a picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show. New venue supported by Reading Borough Council. Tickets: 0118 9372771	Abbey Ruins, Abbey Street, Reading, RG1 3HW (SU719735).	Tel: 0118 9372771 or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Thu 5 Jul 2018 8.00pm	Southampton CS	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> .	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Fri 6 Jul 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Revoluting Women</b> . No tickets required, cash collection after the show. Food & bar available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	The Waterwitch, Colt Hill London Road, Odiham, RG29 1AL (SU745515).	Tel: 01256 702778 Web: <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sat 7 Jul 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Get Well Soon</b> . No tickets required, cash collection taken after show. Food and refreshments available. Bring chairs and blankets. Outdoor show with shelter in case of bad weather. Bar and food from 5.30pm.	The Teapot Tearooms, Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7QJ (SU308871).	Tel: 07800637917 or 01367 820260 Email: <a href="mailto:rdewilton@yahoo.com">rdewilton@yahoo.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/TheTeapotTearoomandgarden">www.facebook.com/TheTeapotTearoomandgarden</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Sun 8 Jul 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	<b>Newbury Waterways Festival</b> . Display of boats; in the Park will be stalls, activities, and entertainment themed "Reach for the Skies" to celebrate the centenary of the RAF and the 80th anniversary of the Spitfire. Festival entry: free. Further info: website.	Victoria Park, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU473672).	Email: <a href="mailto:newbury.chairman@katrust.org.uk">newbury.chairman@katrust.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://katrust.org.uk/events/">katrust.org.uk/events/</a>
Sat 14 Jul 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station</b> . Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	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>

## Memories - From Torquay to Ostend and beyond: travels with the Glovers



Continuing our series to mark the Southampton Canal Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Annemarie Evans, daughter of our President and a journalist/broadcaster based in Hong Kong, has been chatting to more members but would like to talk to yet more. If you'd like to share some memories and anecdotes, please email Annemarie at: [hkhradio3@gmail.com](mailto:hkhradio3@gmail.com) and she'll give you a phone call.

Ron and Myra Glover have been boating together since 1971 but Ron's obsession with boats reportedly started a little earlier. As his mother took him for a constitutional along the seafront at Torquay in Devon in 1950, little Ron – in his pram – was fascinated by the boats. His first boat was built in the garden as a toddler out of cardboard. Then his first canoe, at age 13 made out of wood and canvas. At grammar school, he preferred building boats to cricket.

"Sailing was his passion," says Myra. "He had planned to go on to Dartmouth College to train as a navigating officer but as a colour blind diabetic that was out of the question. Instead he trained as a technology teacher."



Ron alongside Egnaro at a rally on the Kennet & Avon Canal at Bradford-on-Avon in October 1987.

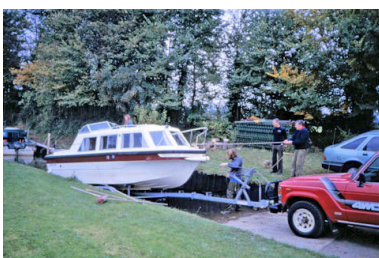
In his final year at college, students had to design and construct a special project. While others made pieces of furniture, Ron built his first cruiser - 16 feet 10 inches in length and 6 feet 5 inches wide, just right for the canals. It was named *Egnaro* and launched in 1975 from Teignmouth beach. By now Myra was on the scene. The trailer had been constructed

from the chassis of a caravan that had been rolled on Bodmin Moor. *Egnaro* was completely fitted out and ready for her first trip.

They chose to trail *Egnaro* to Tewkesbury on the River Avon. During their maiden voyage, the Johnson 25 outboard engine broke down and *Egnaro* was towed by a man on his punt taking his dog for a swim.

For the next 22 years, *Egnaro* was towed to many different waterways throughout Britain. The advantage of towing was that they could visit canals that weren't open to the main system. Their first trip on the Kennet & Avon Canal was between Pewsey and Devizes. It took eight hours in the pouring rain having to stop every few minutes to disentangle the weed from the prop. All sections of the K & A were cruised as they became navigable and very few other boats were seen on these expeditions. Over the years a great variety of waters were cruised including the River Wey, River Thames, River Thame to Dorchester, Brecon & Abergavenny, Basingstoke Canal, River Nene where they were caught up in floods, Wendover Arm of the Grand Union, Lancaster Canal, River Ouse to York and beyond, the Fens and all the Norfolk Broads.

Ron and Myra joined the Southampton Canal Society in the mid-1970s and the Inland Waterways Association in 1975. At that time the IWA had a challenge to boaters in the form of the "Silver Sword Award". This



Launching Prinsesse Estrith on the River Wey

was to encourage boaters in a calendar year to visit waterways that were underused. Points were gained for miles travelled, locks negotiated and for reaching the very end of arms, many being almost derelict. Most of the Glovers' points were gained around the back waterways of Birmingham.

When Myra's foot went through the wood on *Egnaro's* side deck as they passed through Saltford lock on the River Avon it was a sign that *Egnaro's* days were done.

"In October 1985 we purchased just the hull and superstructure of a Viking 23 [cruiser]," Myra says. "It took three years to fit out the boat and, in October 1988, *Prinsesse Estrith* was launched at Semington on the K & A. Even though she is only 23 feet, she has all the facilities of a narrow boat but much less storage space."

So who was *Prinsesse Estrith*? As a Viking cruiser Ron wanted a Viking Princess' name. *Estrith* was King Canute's sister.

By now Ron and Myra knew Britain's canals and rivers very well and wanted more of a challenge. So their adventures in France began. In 1990 they trailed *Prinsesse Estrith* over to Brittany and explored the Canal de Nantes a Brest, La Vilaine, and the Canal d'Ille et Rance. And we'll be hearing more about their travels in Europe in later "Memories" articles.

In 1985 the IWA introduced trail boat rallies, the first being held at the land locked section of the K&A at Pewsey. Ron and Myra have trailed to festivals all over Britain. One aim of these festivals is to encourage further restoration and re-opening of these waterways throughout.

The Glovers enjoyed France so much that they wanted to explore the whole of Europe. This is where *Elsa* came on to the scene. *Elsa* is a 42 feet Dutch steel cruiser that they bought on the River Thames in 1993. For the next two years, they spent their weekends on *Elsa* renovation, and then exploring the Thames and experiencing tidal waters. In that time they also gained their "Overseas Certificate of Competence", "RYA Day Skipper" and "VHF Operators" qualifications. In August 1995, the real adventure began when they crossed over the English Channel from Ramsgate to Ostend.

*Elsa* has been based in Europe for 23 years. In that time she has explored most of the waterways in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, and ventured into Luxembourg and Switzerland. Meanwhile, *Prinsesse Estrith* had a mooring at Pewsey, south of Marlborough, so could be used at weekends, trailed to festivals and brought home for the winter. This year, she is being trailed over to Southern Ireland. "The research has been done, a mooring booked and the rules and regulations read," says Myra.

"We couldn't have done all of this without being teachers," says Myra. "Even if it did mean taking school work to be done on board. Now retirement has been reached the problem will be: 'Which boat on this occasion?'"



Prinsesse Estrith waiting to ascend Caen Hill Locks on the Kennet & Avon.



Elsa moored in Holland.



East Germany: "The sun has just gone down over the yard arm".

## Berthon Collapsible Boat

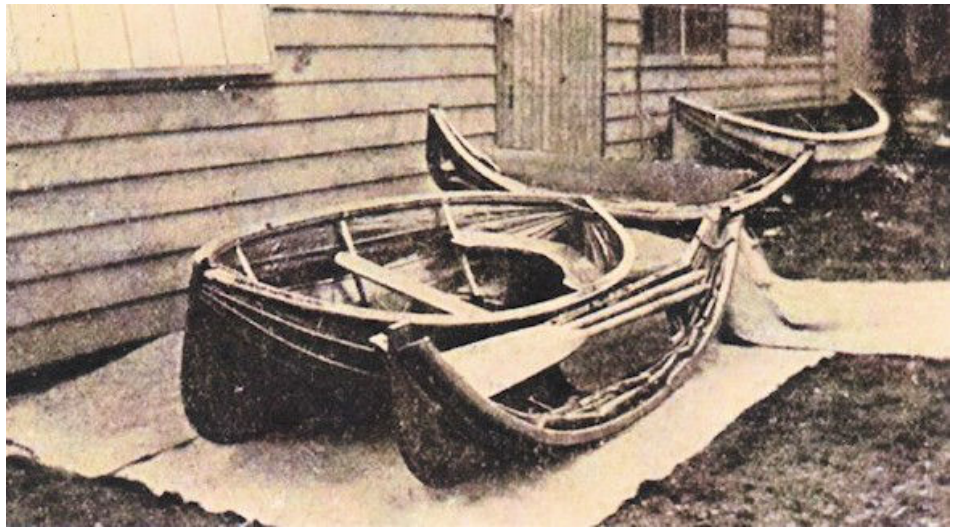
The following article originally appeared in the January 2018 issue of the Romsey & District Society Magazine and is reproduced here by kind permission of the editor, Mike Mullane.

I wonder whether like me you have walked past the plaque in Lortemore Place and questioned why a boatyard in Romsey? I decided to do some investigating thanks to the Internet and Brian May, the helpful and supportive current Managing Director of the Berthon Boat Co.

Edward Lyon Berthon was born in 1813 and as a young man studied medicine, intending to become a doctor. However following his marriage in 1834 he decided that his interest was in the church. At about the same time he invented the screw propeller but it was dismissed by the Admiralty as 'a pretty toy which never would and never could propel a ship!' In 1841 Berthon entered Magdalene College, Cambridge to take up theological studies. However at this stage his interest in Mechanical Science was reawakened and he invented the Berthon Log, a pipe like device which extended below the bottom of a boat, creating pressure as the water flowed past. This forced a column of mercury to rise in the tube, an early form of speed log. Following his studies he was ordained as a curate at Lymington.

In 1850 the SS Orion was wrecked off the coast of Scotland with considerable loss of life. The Reverend Clark, a survivor, wrote to him 'can you not think of a way in which boats, enough for all on board, can be stowed on a passenger steamer without inconvenience?' Berthon's response was to design and build a prototype collapsible lifeboat, a model of which was displayed at the 1851 International Exhibition in London. In 1854 the Prince of Wales is reputed to have commented that a cannonball would easily pass through the canvass hull to which the designer retorted 'that would be the case with any craft in current use!'

The same year he was appointed Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Fareham and Chaplain at Whale Island Portsmouth where in 1854 HMS Excellent was berthed. It was an ideal location to consider his development work on his boats. He hoped to interest the Admiralty by installing a 13" Mortar in a 32ft boat. It sank on the first trial with the loss of one seaman. The boat was either damaged or overloaded. However he continued his quest in spite of the demise of the experimental boat. He considered that larger boats than the model exhibited in 1851 could be viable and they should be unsinkable. This was achieved by providing a double canvass skin with an air gap divided into six sections. This would assist buoyancy and give protection from the possibility that the outer canvas could be



accidentally torn. In addition the deck could double as a life raft due to its support by four long air tanks. In 1855 Berthon constructed two 32ft boats for the Admiralty, one of which was fitted with a Howitzer and sent to Sheerness for evaluation. At the time it was common practice for ships' boats to be armed. However, the report when it came was adverse and he resigned his living at Fareham to get away from ships and boats!

In 1860 he was appointed Vicar of Romsey and for many years he devoted his powers to the restoration of the church. However, there were several disastrous events at sea during the 1870's with great loss of life due to insufficient lifeboats being available. As a result Berthon constructed a shed in the large Vicarage garden to meet what he perceived to be an increasing demand for the collapsible boats. His confidence was fully justified. Sizes constructed varied from 7 to 30 feet each being tested in the adjacent river. The smaller 7 to 12 feet range serving as yacht tenders and the largest mainly as lifeboats capable of carrying 75 persons. The versatility of the boats saw them being used in overseas expeditions and exploration. Their suitability for use in varying climatic conditions was claimed to be due to the coating that the flax canvass received. It was a mixture of linseed oil, soft soap and yellow ochre which resulted in a durable protection and having a distinctive yellowish brown colour. The end of the Transatlantic cable was taken ashore by a Berthon collapsible boat in 1874 from the cable ship Faraday. The same year General Gordon took collapsible boats on his Nile adventures in 1874/76 and Sir George Nares used them during his North Pole exploits in 1875.

In 1877 Berthon's son Edward was appointed as manager so that the Vicar could devote adequate time to Parish duties. At this time also the capacity of the Vicarage garden became overwhelmed making it necessary to

move to larger premises just down the road. Thus we have come full circle; the new site being marked by the plaque!

During the boatyards productive years fourteen prize medals were awarded for the innovative boat. The longevity of the boat may be attributed to the unique preparation that was applied to the canvass skin. It ensured that it was impervious and with a good degree of flexibility.

The Rev Berthon died in 1889 but his company continued production under the guidance of his son until his death in 1917. The demise of the enterprise in Romsey was not the end of the story. The assets of the company were bought by two brothers by the name of May with help from a third who had become the first senior partner of Price Waterhouse in America. They commenced trading as the Berthon Boat Co Ltd having also purchased the Lymington Shipyard. It is curious that Berthons legacy ended up there where he had resided some 73 years previously. Between 1917 and 1939 in excess of one hundred and eighty boats were subsequently produced. Although no collapsible boats were produced after that time the company bearing the Berthon name continues to flourish having built 41 lifeboats for the RNLI over the last 25 years, passing valuable marine skills on to some 30 apprentices annually.

*Lesley Mackay*

### Trips success

The Basingstoke Canal Society's trip boats enjoyed a successful season in 2017. In Hampshire, the John Pinkerton II carried more than 5000 passengers on 187 trips while in Surrey the 12-seater trip boat Kitty had a great first season of operation on the Woking Pound, carrying nearly 500 passengers on 56 trips.

*Basingstoke Canal News, Winter 2017*

## SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Events in this issue) at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184. Contact the Secretary for further information.

This Newsletter is normally published during the first week of each month in time for the Society's meeting.

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## Changes to boat licensing

The headlines include the news that an additional charge, of up to 20%, will be levied on wider boats, to be phased in over the five years. There will be three pricing bands for boat width in addition to the existing bands for boat length, which remain unchanged.

Boaters who currently receive a prompt payment discount will see that retained but at a reduced discount and, from 2020, part of this discount will apply for those who manage their payments online (for example by credit/debit card or by direct debit).

With the exception of the discount for electric boating, which will be reviewed to see if it can more explicitly encourage greener boating, all other discounts available, including for historic boats, charity boats, and unpowered butties, will remain unchanged.

There will be no difference in licence fees for boats without a home mooring. Instead, we will be undertaking further work to develop a fair means of reflecting the benefits experienced by boaters without home moorings who remain in the most popular places like London.

Jon Horsfall, our interim head of boating said: "The current licencing system has remained largely unchanged for more than two decades and there have been many changes to the waterways, and to boating, in that time.

"There were over 11,000 submissions to the consultation and I'd like to thank each boater who took part. Ultimately, we've aimed to make sure the financial contribution made by boaters is spread as fairly as possible across the boating community.

"We are going to phase the full scope of the changes over a five-year period so that there is no sudden impact on any group of boaters.

"Also, to offset the reduction in the prompt payment discount, we are

intending to freeze underlying licence fees for 2019, which will be confirmed later in the year when prevailing price inflation can be taken into account."

A summary of the changes is as follows:

1. Changes will be phased over five years, with no changes before April 2019.
2. Current length bands remain the same, and three width bands will be introduced: Band 1 being 2.16m (7ft 1") and below; Band 2 being over 2.16 to 3.24m (7ft 1" to 10ft 7¾"); Band 3 being over 3.24m width (10ft 7¾"). The two wider bands will attract surcharges rising to 10% and 20% respectively, phased in over four years from April 2020.
3. The prompt payment discount will be reduced to 5% in April 2019. From April 2020 the structure of the discount will be changed so that a 2.5% discount will be offered for prompt payment in full, and a 2.5% discount for those using automated payment methods (including monthly direct debits).
4. All other current discounts remain unchanged, with a planned review of the criteria for the electric boat discount.
5. One-day licences will be withdrawn while all other short-term licences will be retained.

No link between mooring status and licence fees, but a further review is planned to establish how the significant growth in some popular locations can be addressed.

More information and the consultation reports, can be found here: National Consultations.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 6 March 2018

## EA and CRT to work on revised transfer proposal

Defra Parliamentary Private Secretary Rebecca Pow told members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Waterways that EA officers had been instructed to work with the CRT on a revised proposal on which assets could be transferred and had been asked to report back to the Waterways Minister on April 26.

She said Dr Coffey recognised support for the transfer from APPG, IWA and many of the boating community and this remains the Government's ambition on terms which will result in the best deal to taxpayers.

Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant called for face-to-face meetings to take place between EA and CRT, blaming Government inaccessibility for the rejection of the initial proposal and Lord German added: "Now we know of the instructions given to officers of EA to work with CRT to look

at the transfer of assets, we need to put forward a timetable for that."

Canal & River Trust chief executive Richard Parry agreed that there had been a lack of feedback from Defra regarding the EA transfer and some sort of funding package would have to be agreed if CRT was expected to take on larger assets such as structures on the River Thames.

The more costly the asset, the more funding would be needed, possibly an additional £10-12 million a year on top of the £70 million required at present; for example there are 120 weirs on the Thames. Whereas the Canal & River Trust navigations comprise three quarters canals and a quarter rivers, the EA's 640 miles of navigation are all rivers. "There is quite a lot at stake in respect of the costs involved," he added.

Extracted from [Towpath Telegraph](#) April 2018