



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

Time Gentlemen (and Ladies) Please!

There has been some concern over the timing of our monthly meetings and, on occasion, we have over-run the period of our hall hire. The Committee has



recently discussed this matter and it has been decided that, with effect from September, all meetings will start at the advertised time of 7.45pm. If that start time proves unpopular with members the situation will be reviewed. In addition, we will attempt to streamline the operation of our

meetings in order to ensure we finish on time.

It has also been noted that the same members are being left to set out the furniture for our meetings. If you arrive at the hall early, can you please assist. Thank you.

Rising Costs

Unfortunately the Society is being hit with rising operational costs. Many speakers now ask for expenses, in addition to a donation to their society or other good cause. In addition, we will shortly lose the



financial assistance of the Hunt Johnston Stokes Ltd which has supported the Society for many years by printing and posting our monthly Newsletter. It is also likely that the hall hire charges will rise. The Committee has discussed this issue and will be

recommending to the Annual General Meeting an increase of £2 on all subscriptions. This action is most regrettable, but unfortunately unavoidable if the Society is to continue its operations at the existing level.

Former Sales Stand – Stock

As members will be aware, for many years the Society operated a sales stand for members' benefit. However, sales dropped off, despite the introduction of new items, and a couple of years ago the Committee reluctantly had to decide to close down the stand. However, there is still some stock left and the

Committee has decided to use that for future raffle prizes. However, it will still be possible for members to purchase items direct. Details of available items will be published in the September Newsletter.

Society Burgees

Just a further reminder that the new supply of Society burgees has now been received. All orders to Martin Cripps who will be pleased to provide you with a smart pennant for your boat at a modest cost of just £8.

British Waterways Annual Report and Plan for the Future

As is usual, the Society has received an invitation to



**British
Waterways**

BW's Annual Meeting to be held on 16 September 2004. Enclosed were

BW's 2003/04 Annual Report & Accounts and 'Our Plan for the Future: 2004-2008'. Copies of those documents have been placed in the Society's library for members' perusal.

Coach trips to The Falkirk Wheel

A number of our members have taken advantage of coach trips organised by Coliseum Coaches, covering a five day trip to the Lochs and Glens of Scotland, which have included an excursion to The Falkirk Wheel. If you are interested in such a trip in the future I would suggest you look out for Coliseum



Coaches' advertisement in local free newspapers, or ring them on 023 8047 2377 or look at their website at: www.lochsandglens.com. (With thanks to member Laurie Pearce for spotting their advert. in the 'Advertiser' of 6 May).

'The Water of Life'

"A unique Festival celebrating the importance of water in the natural world, in our local communities and in our lives". That was how 'The Water of Life', held at St.Mary the Virgin Church, Eling between 18

(Continued on page 6)

May Meeting The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – Peter Smith

Hot on the heels of Peter Crawford's talk on the work of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust at our June meeting, we were pleased to welcome Peter Smith, Restoration Director of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust to our July meeting.

As has become traditional with talks on restoring closed canals, Peter first introduced the history of the Wilts and Berks Canal. The main line, which opened in 1810, ran for 52 miles from the Kennet & Avon Canal at Semington near Melksham to the River Thames at Abingdon. Branches also linked the canal to Chippenham, Calne, Longcot and Wantage. In 1819 the North Wilts Canal opened which joined Swindon to the Thames & Severn Canal at Latton near Cricklade. That 9 mile route became part of the Wilts & Berks Canal in 1820. The canal declined in use towards the end of the 19th century because of competition from the railways. Through traffic ceased when Stanley Aqueduct, between Chippenham and Calne, collapsed in 1901, and the canal was finally abandoned by an Act of Parliament in 1914.

Restoration, at least in part, commenced with the establishment of the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group in 1977. That Group became the W&B Canal Trust in 2001. Restoration got a major lift in 2003



when the Wilts & Berks was promoted to Tranche 2 of IWAAC's priority list for waterway restorations.

Peter continued by describing the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership, formed in 1997, which includes all the local authorities along the route of the canal, the Trust, neighbouring canal trusts, British Waterways, The Waterways Trust, Environment Agency, developers and waterway related businesses.

Peter described the restoration works currently in progress and those planned, including the challenges to overcome major obstacles on the original route, such as Swindon and Melksham! Peter's slides showed the canal at various locations and the ongoing restoration works.

In a humorous note at the end, Peter announced the official opening of the restored Wilts & Berks Canal on 8 September 2020 by HRH King William V.

Many thanks Peter for visiting Southampton and bringing us up to date with your Trust's valuable work towards the restoration of this important waterway which will form the core of the Wessex Waterway Network, linking the Cotswold Canals, the River Thames and the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Paul Herbert

Day-Star Theatre

2004 is Day-Star Theatre's 23rd and final annual Waterways Tour. Indeed, the performance at Chilworth on the **7th October** will be the last appearance on this tour. So this is likely to be your last opportunity to see Pete and Jane Marshall at Southampton.

Day-Star will still be based on the Shropshire Union Canal at The Old Stables, Audlem, Cheshire. As well as developing their "Rural Tours" and continuing with their "Plays and workshops for schools" and "Roses and Castles painting weekends", they will be working on other new projects.

The play, 'Taking a Chance', centres around one canal side building and is set in two different times. In the summer of 1963 the Profumo scandal had just rocked the political establishment, Kim Philby was settling down to life in the Soviet Union and Ready Steady Go was about to make it's first appearance on the telly. The building is a run down pub and Iris and Cedric are struggling for any custom at all after the longest prolonged cold spell in recent history and a general decline in canal traffic. The pub is appropriately called The Cat in Hells Chance and a lack of road access means that the beer is delivered by canal but unfortunately the canal does not deliver the

customers.

In 2004 the building is long since derelict and is up for sale. There appear to be three interested parties who would like to buy the property. However the lack of any legal road access means that the chance of owning a detached isolated canal side property could mean taking a chance. There is the smart, Porsche owning business woman. There is the couple who live on a boat and want a bit of space on the bank. And there is the un-co-operative farmer who owns the track that nearly reaches the building. He says he doesn't want to buy it..... yet

The play flits from the present day to 1963 and back and goes some way to explain the eventual demise of the Cat in Hells Chance pub. It is also about taking a chance but it is worth bearing in mind that to take a chance could mean to take a risk or it could mean to take an opportunity.

Oh yes, the other thing that happened in the summer of 1963 was the Great Train Robbery. Just about a mile from the Cat in Hells Chance pub actually.

Tickets are now available from Eric Lewis (*contact details on back page*) for just £4.00 (no concessions). Don't forget - this year is your last opportunity for "Taking a Chance" with Day-Star.

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 29 Jul 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Society AGM and Video (Caldon Canal in February 2004 with members Tony & Pauline Fry). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton (this is the August meeting one week early).	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 28 Aug - Mon 30 Aug 2004	Inland Waterways Association	IWA National Waterway Festival 2004 - Burton on Trent on the Trent & Mersey Canal	0870 2402438
Sun 29 Aug 2004 (NB corrected date)	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Rother, Midhurst - The Rother Raft Race. Charity sponsored makeshift rafts battle to navigate a length downstream of Midhurst.	Robin Shapland (race organiser): 01798 343293 or 07850 309955. Web: www.rotherrafttrace.co.uk
Thu 2 Sep 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Wisbech and Upwell Tramway and Wisbech Canal by Andrew Ingram. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri 10 to Sun 19 Sep 2004		Southampton Boat Show.	01784 223600
Sun 12 Sep 2004	Chichester Ship CT	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	Basingstoke Canal Authority: 01252 370073; Mr D Venn: 01252 668697
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' with their 2004 production 'Taking a Chance'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 17 Oct 2004 10.45am	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Guided walk along Itchen Navigation from Winchester to Bishopstoke. Guide: Peter Oates. Meet at Winchester Railway Station.	Andy Berncastle: 01962 846921
Thu 4 Nov 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'The Thames Creeks' by Roger Squires. 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
Thu 6 Jan 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Photographic Evening and Competition. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 3 Feb 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Venturing into Germany' with Ron & Myra Glover. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 3 Mar 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Eric and Sue Lewis on "Little & Large in the North West." Huddersfield Narrow, Manchester Ship Canal, River Weaver. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 7 Apr 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal with Cliff Penny. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
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: enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
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: enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
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: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org/
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
All year	Chichester Ship CT	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings and enquiries: 01243 771363 (Canal Basin)



Southampton Canal Society Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 March 2004

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 are attached for review. They have not yet been audited.

Income

Membership subscriptions have increased this year with new members joining. As at 31 March 2004 we have 43 joint and 19 single members.

Once again the revenue from the raffle has increased. This year we made £498, making this our greatest source of revenue after subscriptions.

The visit by Day-Star was a financial success. We put the price of tickets up from £3 to £4 and sold far more, resulting in a surplus of £64. The previous year there had been a deficit of £57.

Expenditure

The cost of hiring the hall went up from £22.50 to £30.50 per month during last year and this year we have seen the full effect of that increase.

Our insurance premium continues to increase.

This year a couple of speakers have asked for travel expenses in addition to a donation which has added to our costs.

Donations made by us to outside bodies during the year amount to £635. These are published in the newsletter but to recap:

Tal-y-llyn Railway	35
Macclesfield Canal	50
Inland Waterways Association	100
Residential Boat Owners Association	50
Cotswold Canal Trust	50
Cancer Research UK	50
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals	100
Droitwich Canal	100
Wey & Arun Canal	100

Deficit

The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £185 and our accumulated surpluses amount to £1,368. This is in line with the policy outlined two years ago to reduce the accumulated surplus by making donations.

Future plans

The committee has decided to transfer the value of the sales stand stock to the raffle. Using this stock as raffle prizes will be a good way of realising its value as it will reduce the expenditure on raffle prizes. The stock will also be available for sale and Paul will prepare a list of the items for publication in the newsletter.

Review of subscriptions

Hunt Johnston Stokes Limited (and previously Hunt & Co) has sponsored our newsletter for many years. Unfortunately, that is about to come to an end. The committee has considered the cost of paper, printing, copying, envelopes and postage which could become a significant cost to the society. Various ways of limiting the costs are being considered including the use of email rather than postage.

In view of this cost and the general increases in expenses noted above, it is felt to be appropriate to increase subscriptions by £2, so that they become:

Family	£15
Single	£11

Auditor

Our auditor, Sue Lewis has audited the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2003 and I am pleased to say that she found them to be correct.

Laura Sturrock

**SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2004**

	2004	2004	2003	2003
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Polo shirts & sweat shirts				
Sales	75.50		433.75	
Less: value of stock sold	<u>69.45</u>	6.05	<u>397.62</u>	36.13
Sales stand				
Sales			136.80	
Less: value of stock sold		0.00	<u>89.53</u>	47.27
Daystar				
Ticket sales	356.00		159.00	
Costs	291.73	64.27	216.15	(57.15)
Subscriptions		634.00		536.00
Raffle		498.61		422.43
Auction & raffle		0.00		105.00
Refreshments		63.42		46.67
Donations		46.00		14.00
Interest		0.59		4.02
		<u>1,312.94</u>		<u>1,154.37</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Hire of meeting room		413.00		356.00
Lecture fees and costs		60.00		50.00
Donations		635.00		430.00
Subscriptions		35.00		35.00
Trophy		0.00		6.00
Prize		10.00		16.99
Library		14.52		13.92
Postage & stationery		33.22		24.19
Insurance		199.25		147.25
IWA Chairman's dinner		33.48		0.00
Gifts		49.95		0.00
Depreciation		15.00		111.00
		<u>1,498.42</u>		<u>1,190.35</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(185.48)		(35.98)
Balance brought forward		1,553.90		1,589.88
Balance carried forward		<u>1,368.42</u>		<u>1,553.90</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2004

ASSETS			
Episcope less depreciation		64.00	79.00
Stock (raffle prizes)		192.47	192.47
Stock (sweat shirts)		23.50	0.00
Debtors & prepayments		357.47	457.50
Deposit account		705.65	705.65
Current account		26.62	169.01
Cash in hand		65.07	163.85
LIABILITIES			
Creditors		(66.36)	(213.58)
		<u>1,368.42</u>	<u>1,553.90</u>
Represented by accumulated surplus of income over expenditure		<u>1,368.42</u>	<u>1,553.90</u>

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.
Email: PaulLHerbert@aol.com

Secretary:

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Southampton,
SO40 2SS. Tel: 023 8086 0384
E-mail: sue.eric.lewis@ukonline.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire,
SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
Email: laura.sturrock@hjsgroup.co.uk

Committee:

Martin Cripps, Peter Oates, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire,
SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Newsletter distributed by:

Hunt Johnston Stokes, Chartered Accountants, 12-14
Carlton Place, Southampton, SO15 2EA. Tel: 023 8023
4222

Society Website:

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

Michael James Lanigan

We are sad to report the death of Jim Lanigan at the end of May.

Jim had been a member of the Society for many years though, through ill health, had not been able to attend meetings for some time.

Jim usually supplied some sort of contribution to Members' Night, and those with long memories may recall his 8mm films of a trip out from the Isles of Scilly to Bishop Rock Lighthouse, cruising the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness on a Caley Cruiser, and a holiday on the Douro in Portugal.

A dinghy sailor from young age, Jim was never far from boats. For many years he and his wife, Monica, used a car top dinghy (now in a museum) and there was barely an inlet or creek on the South Coast that they had not explored.

Brian Evans

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

29th July 2004 (August meeting) - Society AGM and Video (Caldon Canal in February 2004 with Tony & Pauline Fry).

2nd September 2004 - The Wisbech and Upwell Tramway and Wisbech Canal by Andrew Ingram.

7th October 2004 - 'Day-Star Theatre' with their 2004 production 'Taking a Chance'.

4th November 2004 - 'The Thames Creeks' by Roger Squires.

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.

3rd March 2005 - Little and Large - the waterways of the north-west by Eric and Sue Lewis

7th April 2005 - The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal with Cliff Penny

Chairman's Column

(Continued from page 1)

and 21 June, was described. This was truly a memorable event, enjoyed by many people including Eric and Sue Lewis and Gill and myself. Eric had provided copies of his articles on local waterways, published in 'Canal and Riverboat' for the Festival and those formed part of a display on inland waterways.

Refreshments Rota

We still need volunteers for our monthly refreshments rota. Please see Gill Herbert at any meeting. Remember – no volunteers means no tea!



Newsletter

We are still finding that our membership is not very forthcoming when it comes to contributions to the Newsletter. We know there are interesting stories out there, so please help our Editor by sending him your items.

"How Clean is Your House?"

Did you see the TV programme "How Clean is Your House" a few weeks ago, which featured a family living on a narrow boat? I have often suspected that this programme is a bit of a set up, as I find it hard to believe that people can live in the squalor so often portrayed. It is difficult enough living in the close confines of a narrow boat but the family and boat in question had to be seen to be believed. It was incredibly untidy and filthy (both very much understatement!!!).

Paul Herbert