



# NEWSLETTER

## Chairman's Column

### 2007 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to all members attending the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. The agenda and much of the supporting documentation was included in the last Newsletter. Unfortunately, it was not possible to include the report of the Treasurer & Membership Secretary or the 2006/07 Society Accounts in that issue. However, copies will be circulated at the AGM.

### September Meeting

Next month we will be welcoming Colin Scrivener to Chilworth with his "Reflections on the 50's".

### 'Day-Star Theatre'

Tickets for the 'Day-Star Theatre' production of "What's all the fuss about?" on 4 October went on sale at our last meeting and 34 have already been sold to date. A full house is expected so please don't delay in getting your tickets. Don't forget, this event is not just restricted to Society members so bring your friends, family and colleagues along. Tickets, which can be obtained from me, are priced at £5 and include the after show supper.

### 'Day-Star Theatre' – After Show Supper

There is a change of plan this year concerning the supper arrangements following Day-Star Theatre's performance on 4 October. In previous years the Committee has provided the food etc but it has been decided to change to an **American Supper** along the same successful lines as always enjoyed after the annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Wine, soft drinks and tea & coffee will be provided but each member or guest should bring along food for all to share.

## British Waterways Moorings

IWA has launched an online petition in response to the British Waterways moorings tender trial. This action is as a result of the strength of feeling expressed to the Association by waterway users against British Waterways in introducing this trial against the advice of IWA and all other major waterways user groups. The online petition can be accessed via:

[www.waterways.org.uk/News/OtherCampaigns/MooringsTendering/MooringsPetition](http://www.waterways.org.uk/News/OtherCampaigns/MooringsTendering/MooringsPetition)

The petition is open to all waterways supporters. In addition, IWA has suggested that members and other waterways supporters should write to British Waterways with their views (Sally Ash, British Waterways, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, WD17 4QA). Despite only modest publicity for the launch of the petition, it attracted over 150 signatories within a couple of days, and continues to grow. The petition is likely to be key evidence in demonstrating the unpopularity of tendering mooring spaces.

IWA expressed its concern at British Waterways' decision to proceed with a trial of tendering mooring vacancies because it is unfair to those who have been patiently waiting on lists, gradually working their way to the top and because it is socially unjust, with the less well-off and elderly being priced off the system by the highest bidder. BW decided that, for a trial period, rather than fill mooring vacancies with the first name on the waiting list, as has been the practice for many years on those moorings where demand exceeds supply, BW is to put these moorings to tender. The mooring will then be allocated for three years to the highest bidder. This new process of allocating moorings is to be trialled for twelve months, during which time the existing waiting lists will be suspended, and which is now expected to involve about 400 moorings. BW has issued a briefing on its trial, which is available at:

[www.britishwaterways.co.uk/accountability/moorings\\_tendering/index.html](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/accountability/moorings_tendering/index.html)

British Waterways has also announced that for every ten new off-line (marina) moorings, one on-line (towing path) mooring will be discontinued. For some time, British Waterways has discouraged the establishment of new on-line moorings, which, whilst popular with some boat-owners who have them, tend to be unpopular with many other boat-owners, largely owing to the need to slow down when cruising past them.

### Society Autumn Boat Trip

As you will be aware from the last Newsletter, a Society horse-drawn boat trip has been arranged on the River Wey & Godalming Navigation on Saturday 6 October and Maureen Greenham is now taking bookings. Full details of this outing are included on the back page this Newsletter. As 'Iona' can accommodate up to 48 passengers there will be plenty of room for members, their families and friends.

### Proposed Society B-B-Q

It had been hoped to organise a special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary B-B-Q this summer but as we couldn't find anyone to organise it and as our beautiful summer is fast running out it has been decided to defer that event until next year.

### Tea Time!

A reminder that we have just started a new volunteer rota for our monthly refreshments. Can you please see Gill at any meeting and add your name to the list. Many thanks.

### The 'Virtual' Newsletter

Many Society members now receive their monthly Newsletter via the Internet. This obviously reduces our printing and postage costs. However, we are aware that there are other members with Internet access who still receive paper copies of the Newsletter and it would be very helpful if some of those could consider changing over to 'virtual' copies. Please contact Peter Oates for details – or, if you are having problems accessing the Newsletter site.

*Paul Herbert*

## June Meeting: Colin Ward – ‘Lots to do at the Soo’

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Unfortunately we only had an audience of 22 members to welcome Colin Ward to our June meeting with his enthralling talk about the waterways of North America. However, it is appreciated that many of our members were no doubt taking their summer break.

Colin was obviously extremely knowledgeable about those waterways and provided us with so much information, accompanied with many slides, that I don't know how to attempt to cover his talk in the space available to me. Therefore, I can only provide the briefest outline here.

Colin described how and why canal building commenced in North America. There was very little canal building expertise and, at that time, there was no United States School of Engineering. People had to be sent over to England to view our canals and their boats.

The first canal referred to by Colin was the 363 mile Erie Canal with locks 90' x 15' with a 4' draft. The first sod was cut on Independence Day in Rome in 1817 and it took 8 years to build. However, within 9 years the canal was unable to cope with the level of trade and had to be enlarged. The canal, which was in profit after only 10 years, had to be enlarged again in the 1860s. The growth in trade was incredible – the principal cargo being people! In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the canal continued to be enlarged and improved. Commercial traffic peaked in 1960 but the main use of the canal is now for leisure.

Following the early success of the Erie Canal, on Independence

Day 1828 work started on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal – 360 miles, mainly along the line of the Pontiac River to reach Pittsburgh. ....but....not very far away the first sod was being turned for the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, following the same route of the canal to Pittsburgh.

Colin continued with tales of many other canals and river navigations in North America, right up to the Canadian Border. We heard about the successes, enlargements, subsequent detours and, of course, the decline of the waterways – many of which are now long disused and derelict. However, the USA has recognised the importance of its waterways heritage and has preserved their remains and many museums now exist along the routes of those canals which are now closed, or truncated.

And ‘the Soo’? This refers to the massive Soo Locks on St Mary's River in Michigan's oldest city, Sault Ste. Marie on the USA/ Canadian Border.

So, with apologies to Colin for such a brief report on his talk but, as always, we only have so much space available for these write-ups. Many thanks Colin for taking us to so many waterways and the beautiful countryside of North America.

*Paul Herbert*

*Members might be interested to note that we have two books in the Society Library about North American waterways – the “Chesapeake and Ohio Canal” and “The Ohio River Handbook and Picture Album” – the latter published in 1950!*

## July Meeting: Roger Cansdale – ‘The Basingstoke Canal’

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We were delighted to welcome Roger Cansdale of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society (SHCS) to our July meeting to talk to us about the history of the Basingstoke Canal and to bring us up to date with current developments. Roger started his talk by introducing himself and his various roles with that Society – he is the Talks Organiser, Editor of ‘Basingstoke Canal News’ and is a Director of the Society.

He provided a general history of canals and their development and then brought in the Basingstoke Canal, how it was originally envisaged, its building and operation and its subsequent chequered history – going through a number of bankruptcies and subsequent sales (including the infamous Bottomley Swindle!) with the many ensuing name changes. One of the strange things about the Basingstoke was that it was always a financial disaster commercially yet it was always popular for leisure use.

The last boat through to Basingstoke was in 1910 and in 1913 there was the closure scare which led to Alec Harmsworth's epic journey attempting to get his boat through to Basingstoke. The Harmsworth family had had a long association with the canal through boat building and the manufacture of lock gates and, in 1923, Alec Harmsworth purchased the canal. In the 1930's the terminal basin in Basingstoke was sold off. Alex Harmsworth died in 1947 and his four sons put the canal up for sale. The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) wanted to purchase the canal to save and restore it but it was purchased by ‘their’ bidder Mrs Marshall, who actually bought it for herself. However, despite a number of efforts, the canal remained in a semi-derelict condition and two significant breaches at Farnborough (flooding the airfield the day before the Farnborough Air Show) and at Ash Embankment seemed to sound the death knell for the canal.

However, in 1966 the SHCS was formed to commence the mammoth task of restoring the Basingstoke. During the 1970s Hampshire and Surrey County Councils purchased the canal and, in

1978, the Canal Society's trip boat ‘John Pinkerton’ made its first trip. In 1991 the canal was finally re-opened.

With some excellent historic and more recent photographs, Roger took us through the history and subsequent restoration of the canal. More recent happenings have included the proposal by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to restore the canal into Basingstoke Town Centre (quickly dropped once the financial implications were realised) and the building of the new canal aqueduct over the Blackwater Valley Relief Road.

Roger outlined the canal's problems today:

- Lack of water
- Lack of money
- Maintenance backlog
- SSSI decline
- And the important fact that the canal doesn't go anywhere.

The Basingstoke Canal Authority and the Society have been working hard to resolve these difficulties with the priorities being future management options, secure funding and providing sufficient water supplies for year round access. An old idea has also been resurrected – to provide a possible link to the Kennet & Avon Canal via a new Hants & Berks Canal!

Roger finished his talk by announcing that a new pictorial book about the Basingstoke Canal, written by Dieter Jebens and himself, is to be published shortly.

Many thanks Roger for such an interesting talk about our ‘local’ canal, which was much appreciated by the members present.

*Paul Herbert*

For further information about the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society visit their web site at: [www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk) You can also access the Basingstoke Canal Authority's website at: [www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk)

# 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
<b>Thu 26 Jul 2007 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting with supporting programme. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Sat-Sun 28-29 Jul 2007	Bristol City Council	Bristol Harbour Festival	Bristol City Council: 0117 922 3838
Sun 29 Jul 2007	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival. Victoria Gardens, Newbury.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email : <a href="mailto:grahamv.smith@virgin.net">grahamv.smith@virgin.net</a>
<b>Thu 6 Sep 2007 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>"Reflections on the 50's" with Colin Scrivener. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Fri-Sun 14-23 Sep 2007	National Boat Shows	Mayflower Park, Southampton	General enquiries: 01784 473377 Email: <a href="mailto:info@boatshows.co.uk">info@boatshows.co.uk</a>
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: <a href="mailto:Peter.Boyce@raymarine.com">Peter.Boyce@raymarine.com</a>
Thu 20 Sep 2007 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Barry Eagles, from "The Solent Steam Packet Ltd", returns with "Ocean Liners in The Solent" showing slides taken in the 60s & 70s. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, Salisbury.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a>
Fri-Sun 21-23 Sep 2007	Chichester Jazz Club	Following on from last year's first Jazz in the City festival, Chichester Jazz Club will be holding various jazz events at venues around Chichester, including on the trip boats and around the Canal Basin.	Details on <a href="http://www.chichesterjazzfestival.co.uk">www.chichesterjazzfestival.co.uk</a>
<b>Thu 4 Oct 2007 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Performance by Day-Star Theatre. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Sun 7 Oct 2007	Wey & Arun CT	A chance for portable boats to visit the summit level of the Wey and Arun Canal with the Trust's second rally at Dunsfold. Soak up the WWII fighter ace atmosphere at the pub, and avoid the plummeting acorns on the water.	WACT: 01403 752403. Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
<b>Thu 1 Nov 2007 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>"Adventures of the Tuesday Night Club" with Neil Arlidge. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Thu 15 Nov 2007 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"The Man who Ate his Trousers" - Ann Harries talks about her Great Grand Uncle, Sir George Back, whose expedition mapped the Arctic including the North West Passage. The Green Dragon, Alderbury,	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a>
<b>Thu 6 Dec 2007 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Thu 13 Dec 2007 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas Dinner at The Green Dragon, Alderbury, Salisbury.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a>
<b>Thu 3 Jan 2008 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Until 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: <a href="mailto:egcr59103@CroftonBeamEngines.org">egcr59103@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
28-29 Jul, 25-27 Aug, 29-30 Sep 2007 10.30 - 5.00	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.	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: <a href="mailto:egcr59103@CroftonBeamEngines.org">egcr59103@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org">www.croftonbeamengines.org</a>
Until 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: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
12 Aug, 26-27 Aug, 9 Sep, 23 Sep, 21 Oct 2007 10.00 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station pumping days. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children under 16 free but must be accompanied by adult.	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>

## Drink & Drive

Transport Minister Stephen Ladyman announced on 13th June that the Government is to extend the legal limit of 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood, the equivalent to that already in existence for professional mariners and road users, "to those persons involved in the navigation of a vessel greater than 7 metres in length and/or capable of a maximum speed of more than 7 knots".

The Department for Transport is due to issue a consultation on a set of draft regulations later in the summer. The government undertook a similar consultation in August 2004, to which there was an

overwhelming response that such regulations were entirely unnecessary and would do nothing to improve safety on the inland waterways – a view that does not appear to be challenged either by any accident statistics, or by government itself. It is also widely acknowledged that policing such regulations would be near impossible, and it would appear that any prosecution would be likely only in the event of a serious accident or public disorder, for which there is already existing legislation in force to control.

*IWA Head Office Bulletin - July 2007*

# 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.

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**Society Website:**

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

**Meetings:**

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

## Society Boat Trip

### River Wey & Godalming Navigation



**Saturday 6 October 2007**

aboard the horse-drawn narrow boat

*'Iona'*

hauled by one of the heavy horses: *Ben* or *Rosie*

2 hour trip from Godalming Wharf at 2.00pm

Tickets: £12.00 per person  
(includes a Cream Tea on board)

Bookings from Maureen Greenham

Telephone: 02380 406951

Email: [maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com)

## Day-Star Theatre



Day-Star Theatre with a special compilation show of extracts from some of their past plays

This will be followed by an American Supper (drinks provided but bring food for all to share)

**Thursday 4 October 2007**

7.45pm at Chilworth Parish Hall

Tickets: £5.00 per person

Bookings from Paul Herbert

Telephone: 02380 262365

## Newsletter Articles

For the last few issues of the Newsletter, the only contributions I have received have come from your hard-working Chairman. I would like to issue an appeal to our members and other readers for further articles, news items, reminiscences, notes, letters,

details of forthcoming events or indeed anything (preferably waterways related) that might be of interest to your fellow members.

*Peter Oates, Editor*