



## In this issue:

Chairman's Column	1
Celebrating Fifty Years	1
Lottery Fund Bid for Crofton	1
Waterways Events	2-3
Injured veterans restore historic canal lock	3
Memories - Part 3	4 & 5
Record level of investment and public involvement in Britain's waterways	5
Have you had a boat built recently?	6
£1 million improvement works completed on Rochdale Canal	6
Concern at spread of invasive plant	6
A Grand Day Out	7
Letter to the Editor	7
Future of the Society	8
Scotland's newest canal named in honour of The Queen	8

## Editor's Musings

The Committee's "Discussion Paper" about the future of the Society seems to have provoked some strong feelings amongst members.

It is unfortunate that it was not published a month or two before the AGM thus giving members time to mull over the options. It has seemed to some that a decision was being demanded without due notice.

Although an absentee member, after many years involvement I would be sorry to see the Society wound up. It is financially sound - if the Committee feels there's too much money, it can always follow past practice and make donations to other waterway causes.

I am prepared to continue with the Newsletter and website but I think that the membership could be more involved by contributing items for publication to show their interest in the Society.

Indeed, I would welcome members' thoughts about the Society's future or any other matter of waterway interest.

*Peter Oates*

## Chairman's Column

## August Meeting

There will be NO August meeting as the hall is closed for maintenance.

## Society AGM Fiftieth YEAR

The AGM for the year 2016-2017 was held in July and was attended by 18 members. Our President, Brian Evans opened the meeting. The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary read out their respective reports as detailed in the July Newsletter.

Aelred noted that there may be a possible increase in the hall hire this year. He also recommended to the members that the subscription will remain the same, £27 per couple and £16 single.

## The Future of the Society

On page 12 of the August Newsletter, the Committee members, after lengthy discussions, put forward a few ideas and options for the future and welcomed the lively comments from members present. This was only put in the Agenda as a discussion item at the AGM.

From the Committee's point of view, it all moved on too quickly from a general discussion.

The next committee meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup>

## Celebrating Fifty Years

On the Thirtieth and Fortieth Anniversaries of the Society we ordered commemorative clothing, a polo shirt, sweatshirt or fleece jacket with the Society logo and the occasion. If anyone is interested could they please place an order with me or Angela. Please specify: garment type, size, colour and any other wording (name of boat, etc). Depending on the numbers we will get a price and a delivery date.

*Aelred Derbyshire*  
*Hon Membership Secretary*

## Lottery Fund Bid for Crofton

On 31st May, the K&A Trust submitted its detailed bid under 'round 2' to The Heritage Lottery Fund for support to our project to conserve and improve the Crofton Beam Engines. Our project will see vital repairs to the buildings, improved facilities such as a disabled toilet, completely revamped interpretation displays and a wide range of family oriented activities to attract new visitors.

With detailed plans now prepared, the project is going to cost £845,000. Of that, £86,500 worth of effort will be provided by our amazing team of volunteers at Crofton. That leaves £758,000 of cash to be raised. The Trust is providing £76,000



from our funds. We are running a fund raising campaign to raise £123,000 (of which we have £76,000 so far). And finally, the Heritage Lottery Fund, if they are satisfied with our work, will provide £559,000.

Preparing a lottery bid is no small undertaking. It's taken

nearly 1600 hours of volunteer time in addition to a project manager paid for by HLF to help us with the design work.

We will have an answer from HLF in late September. In the meantime, there's plenty of work to be done to prepare for implementation. And we still have £47,000 to raise!

*[Kennet & Avon CT e-Butty Summer 2017](#)*

## 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
Tue 1 Aug 2017 3.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Best Foot Forward.</b> Tickets £12.50 (£8 Child Ticket Concs.) must be booked in advance from Sue 01491 835631. Bistro menu available at extra cost on the day (no need to book). Refreshments, beer and food available. Outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916).	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: <a href="http://www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk">www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Tue 1 Aug 2017 8.00pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>In at the Deep End.</b> Tickets £12.50 (£8 Child Ticket Concs.) must be booked in advance from Sue 01491 835631. Bistro menu available at extra cost on the night (no need to book). Refreshments, beer and food available. Outdoor show with shelter and indoor back up.	Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916).	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: <a href="http://www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk">www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Wed 2 Aug 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	<b>Best Foot Forward.</b> No tickets required, cash collection after show. Beer and food available. Outdoor show. Bring chairs and blankets.	The Plough, High Street, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QH (SU545937).	Tel: 01865 407738 Web: <a href="http://mikron.org.uk">mikron.org.uk</a>
Thu 3 Aug 2017	Southampton CS	<b>There will be NO August meeting as the hall is closed for maintenance.</b>		<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat-Mon 26-28 Aug 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>Crofton Engines 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>
Sat 26 Aug 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> 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 1 Sep 2017 6.00pm	Kenet & Avon CT	<b>Carnival on the Canal.</b> Devizes branch annual open evening of music and dancing beside the canal, contributing to Devizes Carnival. With food and drink and canal related craft stalls and demonstrations.	Devizes Wharf, Couch Lane, Devizes, SN10 1EB (SU003617).	K&A Trust Office: 01380 721279 Web: <a href="http://katrust.org.uk/events/">katrust.org.uk/events/</a>
Thu 7 Sep 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Family cruising in Ireland with Society member Gordon Osborn.</b>	<b>Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312</b> Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 9 Sep 2017 11.00am-3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	<b>Guildford's Treadwheel Crane.</b> Heritage open day. Come and join volunteers from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust at the Town Wharf in Guildford (opposite the White House pub and St Nicolas church - also, Church tower open during the morning for visits to the top and bell chamber) and see the Guildford Treadwheel Crane.	Town Wharf, Millbrook, Guildford, GU1 3DL (SU994494).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events23">weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events23</a>
Sat 9 Sep 2017 2.15pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	<b>Guided circular walk.</b> Heritage open day. Visit Whitley Rail Bridge and Josias Jessop's canal swingbridge, Shamley Green, and join us on the Wey & Arun Canal Trust's new Callcott Reilly walk trail. Free of charge (donations to WACT welcome). Please pre-book online, by email or phone by 8 Sep 2017.	Church car park, Church Hill, Shamley Green, Guildford GU5 0UD (TQ032434).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events22">weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events22</a>
Sun-Sat 10 Sep 2017 2.30pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	<b>Heritage open day guided walk from Gunpowder Store (Shalford) to Bramley.</b> Approx 2.5km, 2 hours, starting from Stonebridge Wharf, the walk follows parts of the course of the original canal to the former Bramley Wharf. Please wear footwear suitable for a country walk. Gunpowder Store may also open. Free of charge (donations to WACT welcome). Please pre-book online, by email or phone by noon, 8 Sep 2017.	Meet at Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharfside, Shalford, GU4 8EH (SU998465). Parking available at Broadford Business Park, Shalford GU4 8EP (SU998467) (behind the Parrot Inn) on the A248 Shalford-Godalming road.	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events21">weyaran.org.uk/drupal/events21</a>
Sun 17 Sep 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Claverton Pump.</b> By the Kennet & Avon Canal. Limited parking at Ferry Lane (please car-share if possible).	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643). Please check venue with Pete Dunn.	Pete Dunn: 07719 911421
Sat-Sun 23-24 Sep 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kenet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	<b>Crofton Engines Steaming Gala.</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 30 Sep 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	<b>Claverton Pumping Station.</b> 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>

## Waterways Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Mon 2 Oct 2017 7.30pm-9.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT (Royal Wootton Bassett Br)	<b>Crofton Beam Engines.</b> Peter Turvey will give a talk about the Crofton Beam Engines. (Peter is Chair of the Crofton Branch of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.)	The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AQ (SU068826).	Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310 Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk">jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.wbct.org.uk">www.wbct.org.uk</a>
Thu 5 Oct 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"Itchen Village, Itchen Ferry and the Diaper Family."</b> Talk about a local subject by Cheryl Butler.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Wed 18 Oct 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"History and Restoration of the Cotswold Canals"</b> - Clive and Jill Field will give a presentation consider the influences, past and present, of recreating the 36 mile link between the Rivers Severn and Thames.	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 20 Oct 2017 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"Heroes &amp; Villains of the Basingstoke Canal"</b> That this canal exists at all is largely due to a few people who appeared at critical points in its history. Their actions were in some cases soundly commercial or altruistic and in others fraudulent and criminal. Roger Cansdale tells the intriguing story of these heroes and villains.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sat 21 Oct 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	Wilts & Berks CT	<b>WBCT Annual General Meeting.</b> 10.00am Presentations and visits. 2.00pm Formal meeting.	Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9LW (SU145806).	Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre: 0845 226 8567 Email: <a href="mailto:info@wbct.org.uk">info@wbct.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.wbct.org.uk">www.wbct.org.uk</a>
Thu 2 Nov 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>"The Last Run."</b> This year's production by Day-Star Theatre. More details to follow.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Wed 15 Nov 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"The RNLI 'it's not all at sea'"</b> - Colin Brown will talk about the charity which rescues 24 people a day.	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 16 Nov 2017 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"The Thames Sailing Barge"</b> These craft were commercial vessels with flat bottoms built for the shallow waters and rivers of the Thames Estuary in the 19th century. Gareth Jones, a member of the Thames Sailing Boat Trust, will recount the history of these craft and their use today.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 7 Dec 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz.</b> IWA Salisbury Group as last year's winning team (again) will be organising the Quiz and the evening is hosted by SCS. The traditional American Supper will finish off the evening.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>

## Injured veterans restore historic canal lock

Injured servicemen and women are being given the opportunity to re-build their lives, gain qualifications and learn new skills by transforming and restoring historic canals.

The Canal & River Trust have come together with Help for Heroes to deliver an ambitious canal restoration and career recovery programme for wounded, injured or sick servicemen, women and veterans.

Veterans from across the country have joined the Heritage Heroes project and are working alongside the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust to restore Pewsham lock in Chippenham. Veterans and volunteers from the canal charity are rebuilding an abandoned stretch of canal and lock. Ironically the lock was used for military demolition practice in the lead up to the Second World War. As well as the restoration work the team are creating a nature play area on site for local children to play and learn outdoors.

The project, made possible by £500,000 funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery, aims to bring pride and purpose back to our heroic veterans while restoring canals, some of which have been left neglected for decades.

Veterans returning from service are highly-skilled and capable individuals, with a great deal to contribute to society. Too often however, they are ill-prepared for the transition back into the civilian world. The Heritage Heroes project will equip the wounded, injured or

sick heroes with City & Guilds qualifications in construction, health and safety, horticulture and land-based management which can be used to help them identify a new, purposeful career.

Phil Wearing joined the Army in 1993 when he was 23 years old and went into the Green Howards – an infantry regiment. While on a 6 month tour to Northern Ireland he damaged his spine. A year after the injury he was diagnosed with cracked vertebrae. Following rehabilitation, he was medically discharged from the military. Phil said: "I went through a tough time a few years back – I couldn't work because of the pain I was in, which left me with money troubles and I ended up feeling very suicidal. I was put in touch with Help for Heroes – and the first time I spoke to Help for Heroes I saw light at the end of the tunnel. Although I'm still in pain, Help for Heroes have also helped me with pain management, I was so determined to do this course. I've been 100% better in my own well being. I'm meeting so many likeminded people, speaking to similar people is the best therapy I've found."

Jason Leach, CRT's Enterprise and Restoration Team Manager said: "Heritage Heroes is such an exciting project for us. It gives the Canal & River Trust the opportunity to work with Help for Heroes to transform waterways as well as helping to rebuild our wounded heroes' lives."

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 6 July 2017



## Memories - Part 3



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 some members but would like to talk to 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.

Going canalling is no longer regarded as a holiday by Sue and Eric Lewis. They've had their narrow boat *Remus* since 1984, so for them they spend so many weeks on board per year that it's a home from home. But *Remus* was only a hull in 1984, say the long-time Southampton Canal Society members.

"It was just a hull and superstructure," says Eric. "The side windows were in and the engine had been dropped in. What we didn't feel competent with, [fellow former society member] Ken Froud did for us. We looked into the possibilities of secondhand boats, but most of them would have needed completely stripping out. And there was no way we could afford a new one."

*Remus* has seen much of the canals of England and Wales, in fact there's very few he hasn't been on. And his adventures have been told in children's books created by Sue and illustrated by Brian Evans.

Eric, who has served for years on the Society's committee, with stints as treasurer and secretary, prides himself on carrying out all general maintenance on *Remus* for more than 30 years. He also does the painting, "but I'm so bored after the first brush stroke" but leaves the signage and castle painting to others.

"My interest in canals began in August 1969," says Eric. "A friend of mine, Jeff Adams - we've been friends since we were knee high to a grasshopper - he was a member of the British Young Travellers Society. Well actually for that read Hampshire and a bit of Wiltshire. And they would do all sorts of things with transport - ancient bus, steam train. And twice a year they spent a week on a canal and Jeff asked me if I'd like to go on a converted working boat."

Until then, the only canal Eric had seen was the Wilts and Berks Canal at Challow. The boat of that initial trip was called *Romulus*, and was jointly owned by Oliver Lovell and David Cook. "We started at Diglis Basin in Worcester and went on a one-way trip to Braunston."

Eric recalls that he and the other members of the group were taken up from Southampton to Birmingham area in a converted ambulance. The boat went up to the Northern Stratford Canal and on to the Grand Union. "I remember seeing the old wharfs, the warehouses. I think I was completely hooked before we left our moorings at Worcester," says Eric.



Sue and Eric with *Remus* at Monkey Marsh Lock this May.

"The skipper was Oliver Lovell, who owned the boat. All the food was provided. I had change out of 13 pounds. I don't think you could do this that cheaply now."

Eric recalls seeing a number of working boats on that first trip. "The Willow Wren Canal Carrying Company had a few. There was the odd individual boater about carrying coal. The Threefellows Carrying Company were on the River Soar carrying gravel."

"Was I ever tempted by the idea of a working boat? No! In a word. Too much like hard work!"

But would girlfriend, then wife, Sue Wrapson, get the canal bug? "I'm a good persuader," laughs Eric.

They went with others on a working weekend on *Romulus*. "I had got to know Olly Lovell quite well," says Eric, who is an expert carpenter and wood turner. "I would have free trips, crew for him and do woodwork. It was Easter, 1970, and there was a bit of snow and sleet around. Sue got ill and never wanted to see a boat again."

"But I got my arm twisted," says Sue.

The first trip they did as a couple was Easter 1971 on the Shropshire Union in a 30-foot fibreglass cruiser, with a centre cockpit, called the *Rio Grande*. Since then the Lewises have pretty much covered the length and breadth of England and Wales' canals. "There aren't many canals we haven't done," says Eric. "I haven't done the River Derwent, the Pocklington Canal and the Lancaster. I haven't done the Brecon and Abergavenny. And we haven't done anything in Scotland by boat. But we've done pretty much all of the connected canals."

In the 1970s, Eric would work tirelessly with his father-in-law Wilf Wrapson helping to make lock gates out of oak for the restoration of the Basingstoke Canal and you

(Continued on page 5)



Above: *Romulus* ascending Tardebigge flight in 1969  
Below: Pair of Three Fellows boats at Brentford in 1973



## Record level of investment and public involvement in Britain's waterways

Our (CRT's) 2016/17 Annual Report, published on 24 July, records the highest levels of public support and investment in its 2,000 miles of historic waterways since they were transferred from state control five years ago.

A strong commercial performance during the year, including a further rise in the number of people donating to our work, was underpinned by a significant growth in volunteering which reached over half a million hours for the first time.

The year saw us increase the money we are able to spend on charitable activities by 6% to £157m. This included our biggest ever programme of lock repairs and gate replacements, as well as hundreds of thousands of minor repair and maintenance tasks such as vegetation management, servicing of bridges and vital inspections of embankments and hidden culverts.

Amongst other things, we made improvements at our museums, invested in flood remediation work and completed dredging across 22 priority sites. It delivered a series of major towpath upgrades across the country and fixed the damage caused during the 2015 Boxing Day floods including major repairs of a breach and land slip in the Calder Valley and the complete dismantlement and reconstruction of the Grade II listed Elland Bridge.

Overall, we improved the availability of the waterways and saw an increase in both boater and visitor satisfaction.

Allan Leighton, chair of the Canal & River Trust, comments: "Five years ago, the creation of the Canal & River Trust was a huge endorsement for the charitable sector. We were given responsibility for a national network that has the power to make such a positive impact on so many peoples' lives.

"In that time, we've seen a charity that has gone from strength to strength, and this year's Report highlights many of those successes. The Report also reminds us of the potential of our waterways to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve. With 25 million people, from all backgrounds and demographics, right on our doorstep – and around 4.3 million regular visitors each fortnight – we are uniquely positioned to make a powerful impact across the country. I look forward to working with colleagues, friends and partners to make that happen."

Richard Parry, chief executive, comments: "It has been another successful year for the Trust and I'd like to thank everyone for their support and hard work.

"We have been able to increase the amount of money we can spend on the waterways which has seen a huge output by staff and volunteers alike. Accordingly, we beat our target for unplanned navigation closures

with a further reduction year-on-year and I am pleased with the improvement in both boater and visitor satisfaction which grew to 76% and 85% respectively.

"Our education teams continue to introduce the next generation to the waterways with 92,700 children reached by the programme last year. We have also been building a high-quality STEM learning programme which reached 3,000 secondary school children to inspire a new generation of engineers and waterway supporters.

"The Annual Report shows how canals and rivers can create a strong sense of place and have a vital role in contributing to community well being. As such, we have commenced a project with leading academic and professional bodies that will, going forward, help to better quantify and measure that important contribution."

Since launching in 2012, the Canal & River Trust has made a valuable input to the waterways and communities it serves. Successes include:

- Increased annual visits by 33% to 396m with visitor satisfaction hitting 85%
- Increased volunteering by 264% to 540,000 hours in 2016/17
- Increased volunteer lock keeper numbers by 278% to 750
- 180 communities have adopted a stretch of canal or river
- Over 235,000 children have been reached through the Trust's education programme
- Numbers of Friends have grown to 22,000 and donations are now £2.9m p.a.
- Around 33,000 licenced boats on our network
- Over £645m spent maintaining and restoring our waterways
- Reduced unplanned navigation closures by 62%
- Set up partnerships with a range of household names including M&S, Google, Rolls Royce, People's Postcode Lottery, The Scout Association, Help for Heroes and National Trust
- 350,000 supporters welcomed (including digital supporters, donors and volunteers)
- Grown awareness of the Trust to 1 in 3 people

Our Annual Public Meeting will be held at the Bond in Birmingham on 21st September 2017, 10am to 1pm. A limited number of places are available to book, please visit Annual Public Meeting 2017 for more information.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 24 July 2017

## Memories

(Continued from page 4)

can read more about that in an article on working parties in the next newsletter.

Asked to perhaps pick a favourite, Eric cites the Tardebigge Locks through the village of Tardebigge in Worcestershire. "They are narrow locks, 36 of them, through absolutely glorious countryside. Sue likes the upper Thames, it's fairly narrow and winding. I also like the Napton locks. We're either about to start on our trip or we're heading home!"

When their late son, Peter was born, he soon became a reliable crew member. "Peter could steer the boat with supervision by the age of six, and he was steering with no one else by the age of eight," says Eric. "He could swing a windlass at seven."

For this article, Sue and Eric provided a photo taken earlier in the summer in front of *Remus* on the Kennet and Avon at Monkey Marsh

Lock (see page 4).

"That was taken on the Tuesday," says Sue. "On the Wednesday, we were expecting a couple of groups from the church. We had moored by a landing stage at the lock, which was convenient for picking people up." But a concrete reinforcing rod hit the engine. "There was a terrible noise, the propeller shaft slipped back, and we were heading out of control into the back of another boat."

An engineer from River Canal Rescue was able to provide parts for the engine and a couple of days later *Remus* was ready for service again.

**Next month:** Health and safety? Pah! Society members remember the hard graft of the Basingstoke Canal restoration, Lock 19, and a steam dredger called Perseverance.

Annamarie Evans



## Have you had a boat built recently?

*The following item appeared in the editorial email inbox from Alan Rose who said it came to him courtesy of Sue Derbyshire.*

And the Lord said unto Noah, "Where is the Ark which I commanded thee to build?"

And Noah said unto the Lord, "Verily, I have three carpenters off ill. The gopher wood supplier hath let me down, yea even though the gopher wood hath been on order for nigh on twelve months. What canst I do, O Lord?"

And the Lord said unto Noah, "I want that Ark finished even after seven days and seven nights."

And Noah said, "It will be so."

But it was not so.

And the Lord said unto Noah, "What seemeth to be the trouble this time?"

And Noah said unto the Lord, "The sub-contractor hath gone bankrupt. The pitch which Thou commandest me to put on the roof of the Ark hath not arrived. The plumber hath gone on strike. And Shem, my son who helped on the Ark side of the business, hath formed a rock group with his brothers Ham and Japheth. Lord, I am undone."

The Lord grew angry and said, "And what about the beasts, the male and female of every sort, that I ordered to come unto thee to keep

seed alive upon the face of all the earth?"

And Noah said, "They have been delivered unto the wrong address and should arrive by Friday."

Then the Lord said, "How about the unicorns and the fowls of the air by sevens?"

And Noah wrung his hands and wept, saying, "Lord, unicorns are a discontinued line, thou canst not get them for love or money. And fowls of the air are only sold in half-dozen lots. Lord, Thou knowest how it is!"

And the Lord in his wisdom spake, "Noah, my son, what about the insurance in case thou should run this ark aground atop Mt. Ararat?"

And Noah was downcast saying, "My independent insurance agent telleth me that there doth exist a market crunch. Companies liketh not writing insurance for an Ark; they fear it will be used for water skiing and they doubt my wisdom as Captain.

"Only one company hath said it would insure this vessel and it would charge seventy times seven pieces of silver with a 250-pound sacrificial lamb deductible. Verily, the tribute is higher than heaven and yet we cannot get delivery of the policy for nigh upon three months, for the company hath changed to an abacus and the beads are stuck fast."

Having spoken thus, Noah wept.

And the Lord went forth and did likewise.

## £1 million improvement works completed on Rochdale Canal

CRT have completed £1 million of improvement works to the Rochdale Canal between Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire.

They have rebuilt canal walls along a five-mile stretch of the 200-year-old waterway between locks 3 and 7 after they were badly damaged during the heavy rainfall in winter 2015. The work to stabilise the canal wall was completed ahead of scheduled improvements to the towpath this summer.

Richard Spencer, CRT's senior project manager said: "Thanks to funding from Calderdale Council and our supporters we've been able to carry out these vital repairs to the canal's 200-year-old wall. These improvements will ensure the canal and towpath are in good condition for the hundreds of boaters who use the canal as well as offering a clean, green traffic-free commuting and exercise route for families, cyclists and joggers.

"This is part of the first phase of improvements to the canal. We're delighted that the towpath will be upgraded during the summer, which will make a real difference for everyone who enjoys using the canal."

Cllr Barry Collins, Calderdale Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, added: "The Council has provided funding for this project as part of its continued flood recovery works following the devastating 2015 floods. It's great to see this and other flood repairs across Calderdale being completed, as it sends out a strong message that the borough is still a fantastic place to visit and enjoy. It's also important to us that local people have as many opportunities as possible to walk and cycle, as we want Calderdale to be the most active borough in the North."

Small, localised sections between Locks 7 and 8 are scheduled for completion during a navigational stoppage in November 2017.

Work to improve and resurface the canal towpath all the way between Lock 1 in Sowerby Bridge and Bridge 20 in Hebden Bridge will begin in the summer. Funded through the Department for Transport's Cycle City Ambition Grant and delivered by CRT, the scheme will create a 10km high quality route to improve connectivity between communities along the valley.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 11 July 2017

## Concern at spread of invasive plant

CONCERNED about the spread of Himalayan balsam, even beyond the rivers and canals where it has usually been found, the Inland Waterways Association has launched a new campaign to encourage everyone to get involved in controlling this invasive plant.

In addition to its series of work parties organised by various IWA branches around the country, IWA wants to see more individuals helping to control the plant following calls in national newspapers and elsewhere that the plant has become even more widespread this year.

Whether people are walking the dog or out with family and friends, everyone can help by pulling up a few plants if they see it before the seeds have started to develop. IWA has come up with a 3 stage check list, Pull Snap Stomp, to remind people what to do:

- \* Pull – Check IWA's Himalayan Balsam identification guide to be certain that it is Himalayan balsam and then pull up individual balsam stems – they pull up very easily,

- \* Snap – break off the root below the lowest growing node,
- \* Stomp – Pile it up in small heaps for it to rot down, away from the path. Bigger piles can be stamped on to assist the rotting process – small children love doing this and it makes a great sound!

And that's all there is to it, although IWA does also ask people not to trespass onto private land beyond the towpath or bank, to only pull up the Himalayan balsam where it is safe to do so, and not to pull up any plants once the seeds have developed later in the summer, in order to avoid it being spread to new locations.

Further advice and information about Himalayan Balsam and the Pull Snap Stomp campaign can be found on [IWA's website](http://IWA's website), including a downloadable poster, and people are being encouraged to share their experiences on social media using the hashtag #PullSnapStomp.

<https://www.towpathstalk.co.uk/> 12 July 2017

## A Grand Day Out



© Jude Ball



© Jude Ball

Here's two more pictures taken on the Society's "Grand Day Out" on the Basingstoke Canal that couldn't be included in last month's Newsletter. Thank you, Jude, for these.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor, Southampton Canal Society Newsletter

### Future of the Society

In the July Newsletter, the Committee gave members 5 options on how to proceed.

Before looking to the future let us consider what we already have: A Society of around 40 members with, at the end of March, a Balance at Bank of £1,703.51, a surplus for the year of £158.23. We have 10 meetings a year where members of like interests come together to enjoy good speakers and other activities.

At present we can afford to meet in a superb hall fit for all occasions. That is the status quo.

Looking closer we have 10 meetings to fill. Some dates take care of themselves.

August – we are closed.

November – there has been a performance by "Day Star" for many years. They bring along their equipment, perform and pack up. Refreshments are taken care of by American Supper.

December – "The Quiz". This usually brings three teams from other Societies/Groups to take part to win the trophy. Sometimes they bring supporters too. This is fun for more than just our own members. Publicity too since the Quiz is generally reported in "Sou' Wester" and "Cargoes" magazines.

January – The night when members get the chance to bring along their own pictorial records. This is a night of interest and variety.

May – closed, since the hall is generally used as a polling station.

July – AGM, followed by Cheese and Wine. Volunteers could be asked to help with the latter. Also, with all meetings where numerous tables have to be set up and cleared afterwards.

That leaves 6 meetings for speakers. This is what we are all about. Maybe members have ideas for speakers. Some attend meetings at other venues. If the speaker there is thought suitable and has not yet been to us then please report back.

Perhaps the AGM could be moved. My choice would be October when holidays are usually over and a better attendance could be expected.

Option 3 is surely a non-starter. This would be a massive step back from what we already have.

Option 4. Merge with another Society. What have the Committee in

mind? To my knowledge there are no suitable Societies within a practical distance. This is one of the reasons why we formed. The IWA asked us to become a branch, but we refused since we wished to have independence and kept the name Southampton as an attraction to local people. Over the years we have gained a reputation and are known to most publications. We have filled a big space on the waterways map in the centre South.

Option 5. There was a lot of talk at the AGM in favour of this, some of it by members who recently have not attended frequently. I feel if they have no more need of the Society then just leave, but do not deprive others who enjoy it. While there is a big cash balance in the bank, there is no reason why the Society should not carry on as it is. If funds in the future begin to dwindle, then that would be another story. But better the Society be closed down by positive people than negative ones.

The Future of the Society document was dropped like a bombshell. Some people away on boats at the moment may not have digital connections so could still be in the dark about it. Members who do not have a computer received the July Newsletter about half an hour before the AGM began in which the options were discussed. They would not have had the time to read and reach the back page. This is a subject which needs many months consideration and should not have been given so much time on the night it was announced.

Maybe some of the Committee have become disenchanted by not having enough support. An appeal could have been made a month or two earlier for volunteers to join the Committee so that tired members could take a deserved break.

We were formed as a campaign society and should still be one. Older members are no longer fit enough for work parties but, particularly in these days of easy communications, they can still write to Government and the Environment Agency and let them know what they think of the lack of care of East Anglian Waterways and even the Upper Thames. Members were well informed of these problems a short while ago by our Newsletter Editor.

I have told you my thoughts on the subject of the Future. Not all members will want to go public, but please do write to members of the Committee. They wish to know what you want before deciding how to proceed.

Brian Evans  
President

## 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.

### President:

Brian Evans.

### Chairman:

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: [alanjrose@btinternet.com](mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com)

### Secretary:

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: [alanjrose@btinternet.com](mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com)

### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Aelred Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7DA. Tel: 01794 651350.

Email: [aelred41@sky.com](mailto:aelred41@sky.com)

### Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

### Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 8 Field View, Braunston, Daventry, Northants, NN11 7JS. Tel: 01788 890102.

Email: [scs@sotoncs.org.uk](mailto:scs@sotoncs.org.uk)

**Society Website:** <http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

## Future of the Society

*To help members further consider the matter of the Society's future direction (including Brian Evans' letter on the previous page) this item, published last month, has been repeated this month.*

The Fiftieth Anniversary is a good time to look back at what the Society has achieved; it is also a good time to look forward as to what the Members want from their Society. The current structure of the Society reflects its past as a campaigning Society. Since it is now less active it raises a number of questions. Your Committee would like to hear the opinions of Members, so we have placed this item in the Agenda before the election of Officers and discussion of Subscription rates because the outcome may affect both those items.

To help shape the discussion, your Committee have come up with a number of alternatives for the future direction of the Society. We would like Members to consider these and suggest others.

1. Status quo. We continue to meet for 10 months of the year, with speakers, as at present.
2. We change the meeting frequency to meet only in the autumn/winter, say from September to March. We currently do not meet in May and August, so this would mean no meeting in April, June and July either. An Annual Outing could be held in this period. The year-end would stay the same but the AGM would be the September meeting. The winter program would be as at present.
3. We change to a less formal structure similar to the Salisbury Group, probably meeting in the autumn/winter as above. Each meeting would need to be financially viable in its own right; the

Society would keep no funds, any surplus on the night would be donated to another waterways charity. This would mean that the meetings would have to move from Chilworth Village Hall as the Society would not have funds to commit in advance for regular hire of the Hall.

4. We merge with another IWA society. This would mean agreeing a meeting location and program with that society and the effective winding up of the Southampton Canal Society.
5. We simply wind up the Society, possibly over a period. At the end any surplus funds would be donated to a charity of the members' choice.

If the Society is to continue, any restructuring should maintain the social aspect. An Annual Outing is one proposal; the role of the Newsletter in spanning any periods when meetings are not held is also important. Other suggestions for social activities would be welcome. All of them would require more input from the members, to organise activities and to contribute to the Newsletter.

There is also the question of the purpose of accumulating and holding financial reserves.

For all of these options members should consider how long they think the status quo could be maintained, bearing in mind that membership numbers are largely static, the membership is aging and the willingness of members to contribute actively to the Society.

*The Committee*

## Scotland's newest canal named in honour of The Queen

A NEW canal section forming the eastern gateway to Scotland's historic Forth & Clyde Canal was given a royal seal of approval as it was officially named in honour of Her Majesty The Queen on July 5.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh boarded the Seagull Trust barge the Wooden Spoon Seagull and led a small flotilla along Scotland's newest canal section, built as part of the £43 million Helix project which features the internationally acclaimed, 30m-high Kelpies sculptures, before unveiling a plaque officially naming the new section the Queen Elizabeth II Canal. The unveiling was accompanied by a breathtaking aerobatic display from the Global Stars stunt flying team.

The Queen Elizabeth II Canal forms the eastern gateway to the Forth & Clyde Canal, which carves across Scotland from Bowling in the west to Grangemouth and the River Carron in the east. One of the most complex sections of waterway ever constructed in Scotland, the Queen

Elizabeth II Canal passes underneath two major trunk roads (M9 and A905) and across utility pipelines, demanding innovative engineering solutions from a UK-wide team of experts.

The Helix project and the canal at its heart have transformed the maritime experience of sailors arriving from across Northern Europe and beyond and created a world-class marine hub into and out of Scotland. The 1km canal returns the Forth & Clyde back to its birthplace in Grangemouth some 250 years after it was built.

The QEII Canal is the final piece of the Millennium Link – an £83.5 million project that restored the nation's inland waterways to a navigable state for the first time in more than 50 years and saw the construction of the iconic Falkirk Wheel.

<https://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/> 12 July 2017