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The Society's website

The update to the Society's website about the Andover Canal mentioned in last month's Newsletter was published on 6 July. If you haven't had a look at it yet, you can find out about this local canal [here](#).

I said last month that I would also be updating the part of the website about the Southampton & Salisbury Canal. Much of this upgrade is almost ready but I feel further research is needed on part of this old waterway and this will probably take a number of months.

I have therefore decided to publish part of the update to the S&S Canal in the next few weeks. The remainder of the update should appear during the winter.

Peter Oates

Chairman's Column

Dear Friends,

Another month has passed and we are eventually doing a little boating.

I am writing this note, on a wet day, from the back cabin of Purton at Ventnor Marina.

It has been a busy last two weeks as we had arranged to have our boat Liberty lifted out for inspection. We have owned Liberty since Christmas 1984 as a bare shell.

We decided that we needed to lift her out and inspect the base plate for problems. We found a yard on the North Oxford that could lift her high enough to do this. So last week we set off with our son's little dog Poppy and took her and Liberty to Lime Farm Marina just a mile the other side of Newbold Tunnel.

They lifted her out, on a boat hoist that started its days at Southsea Marina, washed her off and we had a good inspection of the hull. To our relief we found the bottom plate in good condition. We

have always painted underneath over the years.

It was decided though that we would shot-blast the sides and give her a coat of two pack epoxy, the bottom plate will have another coat of blacking.

Unfortunately rain has stopped play on Liberty so we are preparing Purton for showing at the Crick Boat Show, then to the Welford Arm gathering on the Leicester line, followed by a run to Brownhills on the BCN a week later for a boat festival organised by the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Society. A busy few weeks.

A couple of nights ago we had Ron and Myra Glover on board for aperitifs. They have just got back after an interesting tour of the East Midlands over the last 3 weeks. We will be welcoming them in November with their talk on boating in Ireland.

We look forward to meeting some of you in October.

Alan Rose, Current Chairman

Boom in boating as restrictions lift

Boats are returning to the water in fleets as restrictions lift and the sun shines. With school holidays starting, it could be a record-breaking summer for boating.

Boats cruising the canals pass through locks when they need to go up or downhill, filling and emptying the lock with water. These 'lockages' are monitored by CRT as an essential part of its water resources management to understand the changing patterns in use across the waterways.

Comparing lockages

Comparing the weekly lockages in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for the three busiest lock sites in each of CRT's six regions indicates that the numbers of boats out cruising have recovered and in some regions are higher than before the pandemic.

The data compares the latest figures from mid-July, which covers the final week of Step 3 of the UK Government's coronavirus roadmap, and shows a 5% increase in average lockage counts compared to 2019 and an 11% increase compared to 2020 when boaters were able to take

advantage of the reopening after the first national lockdown.

The fastest way to slow down

Matthew Symonds, CRT's national boating manager, said: "It is said that boating is the fastest way to slow down, and it is clear to see that boaters are keen to get back out on the water cruising after a year that has seen them moored up for months at a time, or unable to take their hireboat holidays. The four-mile an hour maximum speed gives people the perfect opportunity to unwind, take in the changing landscape, spot wildlife, and let the stress of the past year float away."

"With recent research showing that regularly spending time out on the water has a beneficial effect on mental wellbeing, it's heartening to see boaters exploring the canals once again. As we head into the summer holidays, this could be a record-breaking year for boating on our inland waterways."

Canal & River Trust News - 23 July 2021

Finishing touches put to Birtley Bridge site

In June, a weekend working party installed the temporary bridge deck at the site. The bridge deck had been constructed last October and overwintered at Tickner's Heath awaiting the end of lockdown to allow volunteers the opportunity to finish the job.

The two-tonne deck was made from timbers utilised at Drungewick Lock, where they had been put into action as props during lock repairs, alongside many metal joining pieces and bolts.

The structure was transported to its new home late last month when volunteers spent several days installing it and fitting the kickboards,

Douglas Fir timber planking and hand railings.

The bridge's completion means walkers will be able to experience the circular walk that the Trust has created in this particularly stunning part of the countryside. The walk will be flanked by the Downs Link path above and Cranleigh Waters in the valley below.

A chance to see this bridge will be available on a guided walk to be held on 19 September (see Waterways Events on page 2).

Wey & Arun CT website - 1 July 2021

Waterways Events

The following is a list of waterway events due to take place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton plus other major events.

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. If YOU know of an event taking place that you feel should be in this list, but isn't, then please contact the editor (details back page).

OS grid references and/or postcodes are shown (where known but not

guaranteed) to aid location of the event.

As a result of the pandemic and the related restrictions put in place by the Government, virtually all events since April 2020 have been cancelled. However, most Covid restrictions were lifted on 19 July and it is expected that more events will be announced soon. Some or all of these events may be cancelled or amended if Covid-19 regulations require such action. Currently, details of further events are not known.

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Every Sat, Sun & Bank Holiday Mon 10.15am - 4.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Beam Engines - Non-Steam Days. Admission: Adult (16+): £5.00, Concession (60+ & Students): £4.50, Child (under 16) & K&A Trust members: Free. See website for further details. Usually, the beam engines will not be in steam. Occasionally the pumps are run in steam but these are only announced shortly before the event.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: crofton@katrust.org.uk Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Most days	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Open for pre-booked visits only - day or evening. Pump in action. 90 minute conducted tour. Adults: £10.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free. Minimum spend £40. See website for further details.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: bookings@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Fri-Sun 20-22 Aug 2021 10.00am - 6.00pm (5.00pm Sun)	Waterways World	Crick Boat Show. Britain's biggest inland waterways festival. One day tickets: Adult on the gate £17.50, advance price £14.00, WW subscribers in advance £12.60. Children 16 or under free. Advance ticket sales close on at midnight 15 August 2021. See website for further details.	Crick Marina, West Haddon Rd, Crick, Northants, NN6 7SQ (SP596725).	Tel: 01283 742950 Web: https://www.crickboatshow.com Email: subscriptions@wvonline.co.uk
Fri-Mon 27-30 Aug 2021 10.00am - 11.00pm	TTBR Ltd	The 2021 Thames Traditional Boat Festival. A celebration of all that's best in British boatbuilding and craftsmanship, family fun also includes food, drink, music, shopping and antiques stalls. Adults: Friday £8.00 to four days £38, Children: 13-17 half price or less, under 13 free. Online discounts. Free car parking. Further details see website.	Fawley Meadows, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2HY (SU761835).	Web: https://www.tradboatfestival.com Email: admin@tradboatfestival.com
Sat-Mon 28-30 Aug 2021 10.00am - 6.00pm (Mon 5.00pm)	Inland Waterways Association	IWA Festival of Water 2021 - postponed from last year, a bank holiday weekend of fun for all who love spending time by the water. Entry to the festival and car parking is free.	Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road, Worcester, WR3 7SN (SO855572).	IWA Office: 01635 414567 Email: event.enquiries@waterways.org.uk Web: www.waterways.org.uk/support/ways-to-get-involved/events/
Sat 11 Sep 2021 10.00am - noon & 1.00pm - 3.00pm	Chichester Ship CT	Heritage Open Day. Volunteers will be helping families to learn more about the Canal. Award-winning Heritage Centre open, offering two different trails (age appropriate). There will be crafts on offer and a display about the Canal. No need to book and no charge, simply drop in. Waterside Cafe will be open.	Chichester Canal Basin, Canal Wharf, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8DT (SU858041).	Chichester Canal Centre: 01243 771363 Web: https://chichestercanal.org.uk
Sun 19 Sep 2021 2.30pm - 5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Heritage Open Day. A figure-of-eight guided walk along canal towpath and Downs Link Path (former Guildford-Horsham railway) approx 1.5 miles (2.4 Km). Pre-booking essential by noon Saturday 18th September (see website).	Birtley Courtyard, A281, Bramley, Guildford, GU5 0LF (TQ017434).	WACT Surrey Office: 01483 505566 Email: support@weyandarun.co.uk Web: https://weyarun.org.uk
Thu 7 Oct 2021 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Get Together. For our first meeting since March 2020 we thought that we would have a get together and meet up again. We shall consider the future of the Society.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 19 Oct 2021 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Details of meeting to be advised. 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).	Graham Puddephatt: 07802 154504
Wed 20 Oct 2021 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	Details of meeting to be advised.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstokecanal.org.uk Web: www.basingstokecanal.org.uk
Thu 21 Oct 2021 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Details of meeting to be advised.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 4 Nov 2021 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Irish Waterways. Ron and Myra Glover will talk about their boating experiences over in Ireland.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 16 Nov 2021 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Details of meeting to be advised. 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).	Graham Puddephatt: 07802 154504
Wed 17 Nov 2021 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	Details of meeting to be advised.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstokecanal.org.uk Web: www.basingstokecanal.org.uk
Thu 18 Nov 2021 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Details of meeting to be advised.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841

Grant of £1.7 million from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund

CRT have received a grant of £1.7 million from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

- CRT's partnership will develop a nature recovery network across the West Midlands
- One of 90 initiatives nationwide awarded grants to accelerate the implementation of nature-based projects, from new 'insect pathways' in our countryside and towns, to tree planting projects in deprived urban areas
- Second funding round of Green Recovery Challenge Fund backed by £40 million, with over 1,000 jobs to be created or retained in England



change. Connecting people with nature is another priority theme: by increasing access to nature and greenspaces, projects will support both physical and mental wellbeing.

The Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies.

The grant

The grant of £1,726,300 will be used to develop a Green Recovery network across West Midlands canals. CRT's work will deliver environmental enhancements including the creation of wildlife corridors reconnecting fragmented habitat for endangered species such as water voles. 50kms of canals will be improved linking seven nature reserves. Seven SSSIs will be enhanced, a 20km community orchard will be planted between Birmingham and Wolverhampton and canals around the Commonwealth Games sites will be improved, helping to make it the greenest games ever.

The canal project will also form a partnership with the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, supporting up to 500 schools with environmental learning, to inspire the next generation. Eight new environmental roles and four apprenticeship opportunities will also be created. Walsall, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire local authorities are all part of the partnership.

Playing a crucial role

Richard Parry, CRT's chief executive, comments: "Canals are playing a crucial role bringing nature into our towns and cities. As well as supporting nature recovery, which is so important for wildlife, the funding will also help more people to connect with the canal network across the West Midlands and improve the wellbeing of waterside communities – where the canal is a vital green and blue space for people to use and enjoy for better health and happiness."

The funding for the West Midlands' canals is one of 90 nature projects across England to have been awarded grants to create and retain over 1,000 green jobs, backed by the Government's £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Work will be carried out on over 600 sites from North Northumberland to the tip of Cornwall, and combined with the first round, almost a million trees will be planted, contributing towards the Government's commitment to treble tree planting rates across England by the end of this Parliament.

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a key part of the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan to kick-start nature recovery and tackle climate

Plans for London's first new shipyard in a century

The Port of London Authority (PLA) is working with property developers, London & Regional, and the Royal Docks Team (RDT) to deliver the first new shipyard on the Thames for over a century at Albert Island in the London Borough of Newham.

Use of the Thames has been growing rapidly in recent years, with increasing passenger services, barge movements and deep-sea trade. The planned shipyard forms part of Albert Island, London & Regional's 25-acre, multimillion-pound industrial regeneration scheme in the Royal Docks. The whole area is undergoing significant transformation as

The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, said:

"The diverse and ambitious projects being awarded funding today will help environmental organisations employ more people to work on tree-planting, nature restoration and crucially, help more of the public to access and enjoy the outdoors.

"Through our £80 million Fund, we are on track to support over 2,500 jobs, plant almost a million trees and increase nature recovery at a huge scale across the country, which will help us deliver against our 25 Year Environment Plan."

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"From wetland restoration, to creating wildlife-rich habitat for bees, it is vital that we value, protect and rebuild our natural heritage. This new funding will not only allow projects to carry out direct conservation which is essential in protecting our biodiversity, but it will increase awareness of how and why we need to change our behaviours in order to protect our future."

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said:

"By supporting jobs from Northumberland to Somerset, the Green Recovery Challenge Fund will help deliver a nature positive future. The fund supports young people to develop skills needed to protect nature, build back greener and prepare for climate impacts, like floods and heatwaves."

Natural England Chair Tony Juniper said:

"Our environmental and conservation charity sector does an incredible job in protecting, improving and restoring the natural environment for the benefit of communities and the economy."

Forestry Commission Chair Sir William Worsley said:

"This funding will help deliver thousands more trees and help us achieve our target of trebling tree planting rates in England by the end of the Parliament. We need to work towards net zero emissions by 2050; to address biodiversity loss; to better connect people with nature; and to create more green jobs in doing so. Trees are central to this and the projects being awarded these grants will have a hugely important role in helping us realise these objectives."

[Canal & River Trust News - 28 July](#)

[Maritime Journal - 28 June 2021](#)

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

Repairing the Dundas Aqueduct

A specialist abseiling team is working with CRT to repair the historic Grade I listed Dundas Aqueduct on the Kennet & Avon Canal near Bath.

Suspended on ropes 12m (40 feet) above the Avon Valley, the team of stone masonry conservators will be carrying out specialist conservation repairs to the Georgian Bath stone mouldings of this iconic structure. Decades of exposure to the elements have left their mark, with some mouldings showing signs of cracking caused by freeze and thaw damage. Extensive restoration work was carried out in the early 2000s but the elements continue to take their toll on the fragile carved and decorative stonework of the classical detailing.

Conserving the aqueduct

Morgan Cowles, CRT's heritage and environment manager, explains: "For decades this elegant structure carried narrow boats bearing coal, timber, Bath stone and other goods between Reading and Bristol. Commenced in 1796 it was built to take the canal across the Avon Valley, thus allowing a nine-mile long stretch from Bath to Bradford on Avon be completed without locks.

"In 1954 it developed a leak and was taken out of use. In the 1960s and 70s it was completely drained, meaning people were able to walk along



it. It was re-opened, complete with water, in 1984 and since then has taken on a new life, welcoming hundreds of leisure and lived-on boats to gently cruise along its 140m length.

"The Canal & River Trust is conserving the aqueduct for future generations and ensuring it survives another 200+ years to give more people the chance to enjoy life by water on this stunning

piece of canal history."

Dundas Aqueduct

Built c1805 by John Rennie, [Dundas Aqueduct](#) is the architectural jewel in the crown of the structures on the [Kennet & Avon Canal](#): a classically designed masterpiece on a monumental scale carved from local Bath limestone. It is an iconic landmark of the waterways, carrying the canal over the River Avon Valley below, and is designated both as a Grade I Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (with an equivalent level of importance and protection to monuments such as Stonehenge).

Dundas Aqueduct was named after Charles Dundas, the first chairman of the Kennet & Avon Canal Company. In 1951 it became the first canal structure to be designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

[Canal & River Trust News](#) - 20 July 2021

Hammersmith Bridge reopens but waterways heritage at risk

The closure of Hammersmith Bridge – and the delay to repairs – raises concerns for other historic bridges and waterways heritage structures.

In May, IWA joined the Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames to call for unrestricted navigation under Hammersmith Bridge to be allowed at the earliest possible date, in a [letter to the transport minister, Baroness Vere](#).

Following on from Baroness Vere's response, the bridge reopened to cyclists, pedestrians and all boat traffic in mid-July. However, traffic signals are still in operation and will prevent river passage if sensors on the bridge detect a problem.

The closure highlights the importance of long-term funding for repairs and maintenance of historic bridges and other heritage infrastructure. Many of the 200- to 250-year-old heritage assets of the waterways system are at risk from ongoing lack of funding. Similarly, higher summer



temperatures from climate change will continue to increase that risk, particularly for heritage structures made of iron.

Likewise, responsibility to maintain waterways heritage structures can often fall inbetween several different agencies with room for dispute. For Hammersmith Bridge, the Department for Transport announced it is willing to pay a third of the cost of reopening the bridge, expecting

[Transport for London](#) and [Hammersmith & Fulham Council](#) to also pay a third. The Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce are currently reviewing options for how the bridge repairs will be funded.

Hammersmith Bridge project updates

[Transport for London – Hammersmith Bridge](#)

[Hammersmith & Fulham Council – Hammersmith Bridge](#)

[Department for Transport – Hammersmith Bridge](#)

[IWA News](#) - 28 July 2021