



# Newsletter

Issue 389

February 2005

## Chairman's Column

### Belated Greetings

As this is our first Newsletter of 2005 I wanted to take this opportunity to wish all members a 'Happy New Year'. Hope you all had a good Christmas. We are well on with the booking of speakers for this year and one has even been engaged for 2006! In addition, we are considering plans for a Society Outing or two. Maureen Greenham, who organised the successful visit to Gales Brewery in Horndean and the boat trip on the Chichester Canal last October, is organising a trip to the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton. See below for further details. Society member, John Silman, who is also a member of the Hampshire Mills Group, has also come up with ideas for a future visit, with a 'milling' flavour. More details of that proposal in due course.

### Newsletter

As I announced at our January meeting, it had not been possible, for a variety of reasons (including the Christmas and New Year festivities and disruptions to normal life) to publish a Newsletter last month. Items planned for that Newsletter have therefore been carried over to this issue.

### E-mail Contact

I am in the process of changing my internet Service Provider, which is causing me and my computer a few

## Weald and Downland Museum

Set in 50 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside is a very special place to wander amongst a fascinating collection of nearly 50 historic buildings dating from the 13th to the 19th century, many with period gardens, together with farm animals, woodland walks and a picturesque lake.

Rescued from destruction, the buildings have been carefully dismantled, conserved and rebuilt to their original form and bring to life the homes, farmsteads and rural industries of the last 500 years.

The exhibits include a majestic timber framed farmhouse from Kent; a striking market hall from Hampshire; a Victorian school; a medieval shop; carpenters, plumbers and brick-makers workshops; barns; a granary and a tread wheel from the South Downs.

Pause at the working water mill where stone ground flour is produced daily, experience a recreated Tudor farm, enjoy a picnic by the millpond or a walk in the woods.

difficulties. I am currently 'offline' so will not be able to receive e-mails for a while. Therefore, I would be grateful if members could refrain from using that method of contact until I advise otherwise, most probably with notification of my new e-mail address. If anyone has sent me an e-mail in the last ten days, I would not have received it. Would they please mind printing off a copy and sending it to me via 'snail mail'. Many thanks.

### Change of Date

There has been a problem with our hall booking for October. Apparently this was due to a 'hic-cup' in the hall's booking system. Will members please note that our meeting for that month will be now held on the second Thursday, viz. October 13.

### Refreshments Rota

Many thanks to those members who have volunteered to assist with the refreshments for our monthly meetings. We do have gaps on the rota from May onwards so are still looking for your offers of help.

### Raffle Prizes

Our members must be amongst the most generous in any organisation. We are all grateful to those who continue to donate prizes for the monthly raffle, thereby swelling the coffers of the Society.

*Paul Herbert*

For a complete contrast visit the Downland Gridshell, the Museum's workshop and store for supporting collections - in an amazing award-winning architectural tour de force, the first timber gridshell in Britain. Tours daily at 1.30pm.

### Society Trip

It is planned to arrange a trip to the Museum on Sunday 22nd May, meeting there about 10.15am.

Maureen Greenham is arranging a guided tour at 10.30am taking in the main exhibit buildings lasting for about 1½ to 2 hours. Lunch would follow this and is available at their restaurant by the lake or we can picnic in the grounds. After lunch we would regroup at 1.30pm for the Gridshell tour until about 2.10pm. After this people will be free to wander around on their own as desired.

Our group will probably be limited to 25 and will cost £7.50 each to include the tour. More next month.

## December Meeting Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz & American Supper

A large audience welcomed the teams competing in the 2004 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz hosted by Southampton Canal Society, winners of the 2003 event.

Despite invitations being sent out to every canal society etc in the region, it was the usual three teams taking part, viz. IWA Solent & Arun Branch, The Salisbury Group, and our own Society. We are very grateful to the two other teams for continuing to support this long-running event. Our quizmaster was Chris Davey, a figure well known to all taking part. He had offered to take on this role following the 2003 quiz and we were very appreciative of his offer and the hard work he had obviously put in to make the quiz both entertaining and exacting, on teams and audience alike.

Chris had introduced some new 'angles' to the quiz, including questions to individual team members, which I am sure some found rather nerve wracking. There was all the usual banter between the teams and the quizmaster, and the occasional cries of 'foul', but all in very good nature, of course. As usual, the audience was able to take part and Chris had devised separate questions for them.

## January Meeting Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening

Another very successful Photographic Evening was held in January and, as has become traditional, we were entertained with a wide variety of topics with slides and photographs exhibited by members: Frank Stokes, David James, John Massey, Alan Howarth, Laurie Pearce, Andy Berncastle, Brian Evans and Eric Lewis.

Subjects covered included a wide range of views on the northern waterways, including the Shropshire Union and Trent & Mersey Canals, the River Trent, the Stainforth & Keadby Canal, the Aire & Calder and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal; a range of assorted canal craft, including some very strange ones!!! Seattle, Lake Washington and the Hiram M Chittenden Locks; the Northern (closed) Reaches of the Lancaster Canal; the Millennium Link (Ribble Brook); a further miscellany of canal scenes; Chatham Dockyard and Waterworks; the Queen Mary in dry dock in Southampton and her final trip to her new home in the USA. The show continued with a holiday cruise on the River Charonne in France (including a view of shops bearing the name legend 'Paul

The result of the team event turned out to be a re-run of the previous year with the Southampton Canal Society team, consisting of Laura Sturrock, Peter Oates, Eric Lewis and John Silman, taking the honours, closely followed by Solent & Arun Branch and the Salisbury Group. The trophy was awarded to Southampton's team captain, Peter Oates.

The audience questions had proved to be very tough with the winner being Lynn Olding, who was presented with a bottle of wine. The Society then made a presentation to Chris in appreciation of his splendid efforts. Congratulations and many thanks to all those who took part, and particularly to the team and individual winners.

The 2005 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be organised by our Society and will be held at Chilworth on Thursday 1 December.

Following the Quiz, everyone retired to the ancillary hall and enjoyed the traditional American Supper. Many thanks to all those who generously contributed food etc, and particularly to all the helpers who laid out the tables, worked in the kitchen and cleared away at the end of the evening.

*Paul Herbert*

Herbert'); more on the French waterways – the Canal du Berry; the waterfront and Telford's bridge at Bewdley on the River Severn and the locks and basins at Stourport. That part of the evening concluded with the South Oxford Canal; the Falkirk Wheel; and the final Calmore Junior School's 'Adventure Afloat' cruise in 2004.

After the conclusion of the exhibition, we came to the annual competition, which this year attracted 11 entries. There was a very close result, with two entries running neck and neck. However, there can, of course, be only one winner, which was Eric Lewis with a photograph of modern development in the once derelict Salford Quays. Eric was duly presented with his prize – a bottle of wine.

Many thanks to all those members who took part in another very entertaining evening.

It has been suggested that next year we include a special section of humorous or unusual photographs, something that proved to be very popular many years ago.

*Paul Herbert*

## "TORY PLANS FOR BRITISH WATERWAYS WOULD BE A DISASTER"

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA), Britain's leading waterway charity, has sharply criticised plans announced by the Conservative shadow chancellor, Oliver Letwin MP, to sell off British Waterways assets, as being "unworkable, unrealistic and deeply damaging".

The Association believes the political proposals are ill considered, and that they would undo much of the good work to rebuild and regenerate Britain's waterways that has taken place in recent years.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 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
<b>Thu 3 Feb 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>'Venturing into Germany' with Ron &amp; Myra Glover. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Sat 5 Feb 2005 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT and Devizes Boat Club	'Russian Canal Trip' - talk by Ron Smith. At Devizes Wharf Meeting Room.	Roger Hollands: 01249-650952. Email: rd.hollands@tiscali.co.uk or K&A CT: 01380 721279 Email: katrust@btconnect.com
Thu 10 Feb 2005 8.00pm	Blackwater Valley Country-side Partnership	'About Hedgehogs' - talk by Dr Nigel Reeves. Canal Centre, Mychett, Surrey.	Tel: 01252 331353 Web: <a href="http://www.blackwater-valley.org.uk">www.blackwater-valley.org.uk</a>
Wed 16 Feb 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	President 195 - Richard Thomas. Talk about the steam powered narrow boat. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey.	Peter Coxhead: 01932 344564
Thu 17 Feb 2005 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch	Severn Area Rescue Association - Dave Walker. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina, Saltford, near Bath.	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 20 Feb 2005 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Pumping Engine Adit, Combe Hay. Meet The Avenue, Combe Hay. Chance to explore the surface features which led to the discovery of the underground adit.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 23 Feb 2005 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Talk on the Devizes Westminster Canoe race by Stuart Fisher, Editor and Publisher of Canoeist Magazine.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Tue 1 Mar 2005 7.30pm	Bath & Bristol branches of the Kennet & Avon and Wilts & Berks CTs	A broad review of the prospective canal scene in the South West in the 21st Century. It is hoped that we will be joined by other canal societies. Speakers will be Ian Jarvis, General Manager, and John Laverick, Operations Manager, of British Waterways South West. At the Saltford Village Hall, near Bath.	Michael Davis: 01225 448576
<b>Thu 3 Mar 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Eric and Sue Lewis on "Little &amp; Large in the North West." Huddersfield Narrow, Manchester Ship Canal, River Weaver. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Thu 10 Mar 2005 8.00pm	Blackwater Valley Country-side Partnership	'The Greening of the Blackwater Valley' talk by Steve Bailey. Canal Centre, Mychett, Surrey.	Tel: 01252 331353 Web: <a href="http://www.blackwater-valley.org.uk">www.blackwater-valley.org.uk</a>
Sat 12 Mar 2005 7.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Restoration of Claverton Pumps - Radstock Museum, Radstock	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org
Wed 16 Mar 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'Cruises around the country' - Eric Lewis who will illustrate a variety of cruises on different boats around the country in a logical sequence and show where significant changes have taken place over the years. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, Woking	Peter Coxhead: 01932 344564
Thu 17 Mar 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Further Adventures in Germany. River Main, through the Rhine Gorge and onto the River Lahn with Ron & Myra Glover. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sat 19 Mar 2005 2.00pm	IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch AGM. Venue: The Three Crowns, Whaddon, near Salisbury, Wilts.	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 20 Mar 2005 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - William Smith & Combe Down. Meet Shaft Road, Combe Down.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
26-27 March 2005	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Woking Canal Festival at Bridge Barn pub, Bridge Barn Lane, Woking.	01252 37003 Email: info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk
Sat 2 Apr 2005 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Devizes Branch AGM followed by talk on Antarctica Cruise by Alan West. At Devizes Wharf.	Roger Hollands: 01249-650952. Email: rd.hollands@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Thu 7 Apr 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>The Herefordshire &amp; Gloucestershire Canal with Cliff Penny. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Wed 20 Apr 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Barging through Eastern Germany with Robin Higgs. The Society's own Vice President returns with another of his holiday travels. This one showing his cruise through Eastern Europe on his friend's barge.	Peter Coxhead: 01932 344564
Thu 19 May 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Southampton & Salisbury Canal. History and pictures of this local canal with Peter Oates. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
<b>Sun 22 May 2005</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Society trip to the Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, West Sussex. Please note that this is currently a provisional date. See front page.</b>	<b>Maureen Greenham: 023 8040 6951 Email: <a href="mailto:maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com">maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com</a></b>
Sun 22 May 2005	IWA Salisbury Group	Visiting sites on the Southampton & Salisbury Canal by car and a walk along some of the remaining canal led by Peter Oates. Followed by lunch at the Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
Sun 22 May 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Small Boat Rally. Further details not known.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freereserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freereserve.co.uk</a>

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## 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:

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### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614  
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### Committee:

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### Society Website:

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

## TORY PLANS . . . A DISASTER

(Continued from page 2)

In response to Oliver Letwin's comments on BBC radio yesterday, IWA national chairman, John Fletcher, explained:

"British Waterways has a portfolio of properties that supports its management of the nation's canals and river navigations in its care. Many of these properties are historic and integral to the waterways themselves, and in other cases they provide income without which it would be impossible to maintain the waterways to standards required for Health & Safety, as well as meeting minimum legal maintenance requirements. If a future elected government, of any persuasion, were to confiscate these properties from British Waterways and sell them off, as Mr Letwin suggests, in order to reduce taxes, the move would simply backfire, since a much bigger annual government grant-in-aid would be required to fund the deficit."

John Fletcher continued:

"Whilst IWA is a national charity with no political allegiance, we simply could not allow any political party to pursue such a damaging policy without the most determined opposition. The Association enjoys many good friends at Westminster and I am sure Mr Letwin would find that some of his fellow Members of Parliament within his party would find it extremely difficult to support such a policy. We would also recommend to our 18,000 members and the many associated organisations and waterways groups to strongly oppose such a policy and to lobby against it wherever they could. I am sure it would become a major election issue. I fear that Mr Letwin has been extremely ill advised on this issue, and I hope the suggestion will quickly be withdrawn as a misunderstanding."

*IWA Press Release - 18th January 2005*

## Waterways Diary 2004 - 2005 (continued from page 3)

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
28-29 May 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Boat Club Gathering at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham.	Tel: 01252 663674
Sun 12 June 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Puddle 05 - Sponsored walk on and near Wey & Arun Canal.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Fri 15 July 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Mikron Theatre at Fishers Park, Wisborough Green, West Sussex.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Sat 16 July 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Haybarn Bridge re-opening.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Thu 21 July 2005 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules and BBQ at The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
31 Jul 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Water Festival, Victoria Park, Newbury.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 15 Sept 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	The Canal Canal. Talk and video with Tony Fry. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>
All year	Chichester Ship CT	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: Jenny Pine 01243 670786 Enquiries: 01243 771363