



NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column

Michael Pomeroy

At our January meeting I referred to a telephone call I had received from Brenda Pomeroy explaining that Michael was very ill and they would no longer be able to attend our meetings. Two days after that meeting Brenda rang me again with the very sad news that Michael had passed away. A Service of Thanksgiving, which was held at The Parish Church of St Barnabas Church, Winchester on 22 January, was attended by representatives of the Canal Society, both past and present. Michael, a retired pharmacist, had many interests and the packed church was an indication of how popular he was.

Michael and Brenda had been popular members of the Society for many years and had been regular supporters of our events. We will all miss Michael's companionship and gentle humour. Our thoughts go to Brenda and her family at this time.

If members wish to make a donation these should be made to Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity c/o Richard Steel & Partners, Alderman House, City Road, Winchester, SO23 8SG

First Newsletter of the New Year

Because December is always a very busy month for most of us it wasn't possible to publish a January Newsletter. Therefore, as this is our first Newsletter of 2009, I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, and you have managed to miss the many bugs that are going around. It gives me great pleasure to send all our members my best wishes for the ensuing year.

Welcome to our Speakers

It is a delight to 'welcome back' our members and regular speakers, Ron and Myra Glover, who on this occasion will be taking us across Germany, from West to East.

Society (Late) Christmas/New Year Lunch

The Society held a belated Christmas/New Year Lunch at The Blue Hayes Restaurant at Shootash near Romsey, on Saturday 31 January. Details and photographs will be published in the next Newsletter.

Frank Stokes

As mentioned at our December meeting, Frank Stokes is no longer able to get to our meetings and, regrettably, has had to give up his membership of the Society. In a letter he said "Over the years I have enjoyed very many interesting talks, quizzes, outings etc, and met many speakers with fascinating stories to tell. Of course, this has been possible only as the result of the very hard work put in by the Chairman and Committee of the day.....". Frank has been a popular member and great supporter of the Society and its activities, and we will miss his company.

Itchen Navigation News

Bank restoration work at Allbrook in Eastleigh has recently been delayed by the weather. Work is now due to be finished in February.

Tree works at Brambridge, Otterbourne and Shawford started in January. The aim of the work is to remove

Proposed Boat Gathering

It has been suggested that we hold another informal Boat Gathering during this year's early May bank holiday. This would not be an organised event, just a small number of boat owners joining up for a casual get-together. If any members with boats moored in the Napton / Braunston area would like to join in, please contact me as soon as possible.

Date of June Meeting

We have been advised by Chilworth Parish Council, who own Chilworth Parish Hall, that they might need the use of the premises on our date in June. The hall is a designated Polling Station and there is a possible Parish election on that date. They will not know for certain until nominations close in May, but that does not help us at all. So, we have moved our meeting back a week to Thursday 11 June. Can you please make a note of that amended date.

Next Skittles Evening

And, while you have your diaries out, can you please note that our next Society Skittles Evening will be held on Friday 9 October.

Hard of Hearing?

At our 2008 AGM the subject of assisting members who experience hearing difficulties at our monthly meetings was raised and we agreed to look into the issue. Committee member David Townley-Jones has offered to take this on board and will be investigating the problems and how to overcome them. I would be grateful if any members with hearing problems, or anybody who has any information on suitable equipment, could contact David direct on: Tel: 023 9246 7312 or Email:

david.townleyjones@ntlworld.com

Membership Database

Have you completed the membership information form published with recent Newsletters? We became aware as a result of recent events how important it is for the Society to have an up to date database of its membership. We now want to complete this exercise without further delay, so if you haven't yet handed your form to Anne Coleman, can you please do so by the end of February (see page 5). If you have access to email you can always send your information to Anne by that medium. Her email address is elsewhere in this Newsletter (see page 3).

Next Month's Speaker

In March we can look forward to hearing about "*The Life and Times of a Thames Lock-keeper Today*" with Peter Paine who is the lock-keeper at St John's Lock near Lechlade.

Paul Herbert

trees which are hazardous to the public, which are damaging the river bank or which may jeopardise the success of repair works scheduled for this winter.

These have led to various footpath closures. Further info on www.itchennavigation.org.uk

December Meeting

Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper

The annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz is always a popular event which finishes our year off in style. In addition to the 'usual' teams from IWA Solent & Arun Branch, IWA Salisbury Group and Southampton Canal Society, we were delighted to welcome a team from IWA Guildford & Reading Branch. As winners of the 2007 Quiz it was Solent and Arun's responsibility to organise the following year's event, the Quizmaster being their Mike Laishley.

The 2008 contest was hard fought with Southampton Canal Society winning by just one point from Guildford & Reading, with the Salisbury Group and Solent & Arun taking third and fourth places, respectively. Mike had pleasure in presenting the trophy to the Southampton Team Captain, Peter Oates. Well done to the Southampton Team of Peter, Laura Sturrock, Anne Coleman and Alan Rose.

Many thanks to our Quizmaster, Mike, who was presented with a bottle of wine, and to all members of the teams who took part.

The 2009 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz, which will be organised

by Southampton Canal Society, will be held on 3 December. Eric Lewis has kindly agreed to be the Quizmaster.

Many thanks to all those who generously provided prize donations for our Christmas Raffle. A special 'thank you' to Pam McKeown who again had baked another of her splendid Christmas cakes especially for the raffle, the prize going to Pauline Fry.

After the quiz we all enjoyed the traditional American Supper which, as always, was generously provided by Society members. Many thanks to all those who provided the food, assisted with furniture moving, worked in the kitchen and cleared away at the end of the evening.

Paul Herbert

Postscript: A rather strange fact about the Quiz – with the exception of the team from IWA Guildford & Reading, it appeared that all the other teams consisted wholly (or largely) of Southampton Canal Society members. Just goes to show how integrated we all are.

January Meeting

Members' Photographic Evening

A good crowd enjoyed our annual Members' Photographic Evening in January.

We were shown images in various formats from Alan Rose, Anne Coleman, Eric Lewis, Aelred Derbyshire, Peter Oates, David James, Tim & Jennie Symington and David Townley-Jones. As usual, we had a large number of photographs, far too many and varied to be able to list here.

After the interval we held the annual photographic competition which attracted six entries – four of which contained birds and animals! This year the contest was extremely close, with Eric Lewis coming out in front by a single point with a superb close-up photograph of a heron (*reproduced alongside*). Eric was awarded his prize of a bottle of wine.

We then continued the evening with more images from members.

Many thanks to all those who participated in both parts of a very entertaining evening. Apologies to Andy Berncastle - sorry that time did not permit the showing of your photographs.

A special 'thank you' is due to Peter Oates, who travelled specially down from his home in the Midlands, complete with his laptop and digital projector, to enable the wide variety of images to be shown. As usual he had a complex task loading onto the laptop the various digital formats presented to him by participants.



Paul Herbert

© Eric Lewis 2009

Drama as cows are pulled from canal



Teamwork between fire crew, farmers, a vet and staff at Napton Narrowboats Marina saved the lives of two cows on Christmas Day.

Several cattle had strayed from a nearby farm overnight and two - one of which was pregnant - had fallen into the Oxford Canal.

Four fire engines and a rescue boat were called to the scene shortly before 10am.

Marina staff worked quickly to move boats to allow the firefighters to gain access to the canal, and local farmers helped with the rescue.

The cows were removed from the water just after 11am and a vet from the neighbourhood sedated one of the animals which had a considerable amount of water in its lungs. Both animals are now said to have recovered from their ordeal.

Onlooker Patrick Bradley, who sent us this image, said: "This is another example of the dedication of the unsung heroes of the emergency services who are on call all day, every day, when everyone else is enjoying themselves."

Thanks to Ken & Margaret Froud who spotted this in the Leamington Spa Courier of 9 January 2009.

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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.

Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, Hilo, Hungerford, Bursledon, Hampshire, SO31 8DF. Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 403982 (home)

Email: info@apas-engineering.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Anne Coleman, 14 Redmoor Close, Bitterne, Southampton, SO19 4DH. Tel: 023 8044 2552. Email: wiseowl@tcp.co.uk

Committee:

Maureen Greenham, Peter Oates, Alan Rose, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798.

Email: scs@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

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

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

River Arun Trips 2009



Littlehampton visitors



The Pies



Ebb Tide

Rounding Selsey Bill through the Looe Channel from our base in Chichester can only be safely accomplished in daylight and fair weather so we are dependent on the forecast. Accordingly the programme may be subject to delay or cancellation at short notice.

We start upriver at Littlehampton LW + 2 to carry the flood through Arundel but must anchor above Amberley to wait for enough water over the shallow mud 'Pies'.

Our destination is the Swan Bridge at Pulborough where a slip enables us to land by dinghy. Here an ancient wadeway blocks the river and prevents us proceeding further.

Local HW (Littlehampton +4) is the best time to start downstream and though the ebb will carry us over the shallows a stop is required to wait for clearance under Houghton Bridge.

Upstream or down the passage lasts about four hours including time spent at anchor on the way.

Trains between Pulborough and Littlehampton (hourly on Sundays and two every hour on weekdays) take 20 minutes calling at Amberley and Arundel.

Plans include weekends April 18/19 and May 9/10, also the Whitsun Bank Holiday May 22-25. Itineraries can be adapted to suit so do make contact NOW if interested.

COLIN HUGGINS Email: tidereach@tiscali.co.uk and gzhayling@yahoo.co.uk
Telephone: 02392 467828 Mobile on board: 07514 904454.



Pulborough landing



Houghton Bridge

EBB TIDE was designed for sea-angling not pleasure cruising but there is comfortable seating for 6-7 with galley and WC. You should be fit enough to climb ladders or into dinghies and must bring a lifejacket, also wet weather gear plus drinks and snacks. There will be an RNLI collection for expenses.



Waterways Diary

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.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (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.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 5 Feb 2009 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Ron & Myra Glover with "Crossing Germany West to East". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184)	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Fri 13 Feb 2009	Itchen Navigation Project	Mansbridge Lock Work Party Day. (SU448157) More information about work parties at www.itchennavigation.org.uk	Polly White: 01489 774400 (work) Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Sun 15 Feb 2009 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	WALK - Ralph Allen's Stone Tramway. Meet: Widcombe bottom lock, Bath (ST754643). (NB This walk is 4 miles long & steep)	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 18 Feb 2009 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"Of Puffers, Ferries and Islands- A Scottish Tale" Robin Higgs talks about 'VIC 32', a restored 65 year old Clyde trading boat. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Wed 25 Feb 2009 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"The Wilts & Berks Restoration" by Brian Stovold . A selection of slides of the canal covering the years 1960 to 1990. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS (SU473671).	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Fri 27 Feb 2009 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"The Thames from Oxford to Windsor - shaping history through the centuries" - Peter Halman. All Saints Church Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NH (SU704729).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Sat 28 Feb 2009 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	"WACT Walkfest" - 2 linear walks over a weekend walking the Wey South Path. Meet: Millmead Lock, Guildford (SU995491). Lunch: Grantley Arms, Womersh. Finish: Cranleigh. Please book either/both days walks.	Bridget Glynne-Jones: 01403 752403. Email: office@weyandarun.org.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/walks.php
Sun 1 Mar 2009 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	"WACT Walkfest" - 2 linear walks over a weekend walking the Wey South Path. Meet: Cranleigh Leisure Centre, GU6 8AF (TQ058389). Lunch: The Compasses, Alfold. Finish: Loxwood. Please book either/both days walks.	Bridget Glynne-Jones: 01403 752403. Email: office@weyandarun.org.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/walks.php
Thu 5 Mar 2009 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Life and Times of a Thames Lock keeper Today" with Peter Paine (lock-keeper at St Johns Lock, Lechlade). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184)	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 15 Mar 2009 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	WALK - Clandown Pits. Meet: Radstock Public Car Park, Waterloo Road, Radstock. (ST690549) (3 miles walk)	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 18 Mar 2009 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The Highland Canals" with Richard Thomas taking a passage along the Crinan and Caledonian Canals in Scotland. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615)	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Mar 2009 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Chris Witts "My life on the River Severn". Chris Witts will talk about his forty years working on commercial craft on the River Severn. Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR. (SU183274)	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Tue 24 Mar 2009 7.30pm	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	IWA Solent & Arun Branch AGM. Norfolk Centre, Mill Road, Arundel, BN18 9PA. (TQ020071)	Brendan Whelan: 01903 816012 Email: solentandarun@waterways.org.uk
Wed 25 Mar 2009 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"Local Wildlife and the West Berks Living Landscape Project" by Jacky Akam. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury RG14 5AS. (SU473671)	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Fri 27 Mar 2009 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Reading Branch AGM followed by "Fish & Crayfish in rivers and canals" with Bob Preston. All Saints Church Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NH (SU704729).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Thu 2 Apr 2009 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Alan J Smith will talk about "Alaska and the Yukon". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184)	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Wed 15 Apr 2009	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Talk. Details not to hand. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8AZ. (SU974615)	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sun 19 Apr 2009	Arundel Boat Club	Arundel Boat Club river trip to Black Rabbit PH. Start from Pulborough. (TQ046184)	Colin Huggins. See item on page 3
Sun 19 Apr 2009 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	WALK - Wellsway Pit. Meet: Radstock Public Car Park, Waterloo Road, Radstock. (ST690549) (3 miles walk)	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Fri 24 Apr 2009 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"Energy efficient Narrowboats" with Dr. Hugh Swann. All Saints Church Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NH (SU704729).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Wed 29 Apr 2009 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	K&ACT Newbury Branch AGM. Followed by "Crofton Pumping Station" by Ray Knowles. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury RG14 5AS.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 30 Apr 2009 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Panama Canal" with Roger Squires. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184) NB This is the "MAY" meeting!	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 10 May 2009	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	IWA Solent & Arun Branch river trip on River Arun to Pallingham. Start from Pulborough. (TQ046184) See also article on page 3.	Brendan Whelan: 01903 816012 Email: solentandarun@waterways.org.uk
Sun 17 May 2009 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	WALK - Kilmersdon Pit & Inclined Plane. Meet: Radstock Public Car Park, Waterloo Road, Radstock. (ST690549) (3 miles walk).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Thu 21 May 2009 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Peter Dunn & George Eycott will be talking about "The Claverton pump & Burbage crane." Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR. (SU183274)	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 15 Feb, 15 Mar 1.00pm, 19 Apr, 17 May, 21 Jun 2009 2.00pm	Paul Barnett	Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett, Marine Historian. Donations in aid of Severn Area Rescue Association. or £3.00 per person. Approx 2 hours weather permitting. Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (SO692044).	Paul Barnett: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com

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NARROW BOAT TRUST CO. LTD.



**“Look! Real working
narrowboats!**

**Look! You can even crew
them! How good is that!”**

Exclaimed Dave shortly before joining the
Narrow Boat Trust in 2003

**For those seeking a more authentic
experience of the waterways of Eng-
land, then discovering its heritage
aboard a pair of vintage working boats
is an excellent way to do it.**

After Dave joined the Trust and after many
memorable hours at the tiller is now a
trusted Captain who, with crew members, is
responsible for delivering essential heating
fuel to inaccessible islands on the Thames.

Established in 1970, the Trust strives to
uphold the time-honed methods and

experience of carrying cargo on the 1930's
'Town Class' pair Nuneaton & Brighton.
This trading on the waterways also raises
income for this registered charity by
carrying cargoes like coal from the Midlands
down to the Thames. The butty Brighton
with its detachable stairway allows the
general public access at waterway events to
our authentic boatman's cabins that also
serves as cosy accommodation for crew. But
the NBT is no preservation society with
floating museum pieces, but a charity that
earns a honest income from canal carrying
by using the boats as they were intended.

The membership consists of all ages and
gender and there are a number of
experienced couples, some accompanied
with their children who enjoy crewing as a
family, along with a growing number of
younger enthusiastic individuals from all
walks of life, eager to crew and work on the
boats whatever the weather! Some are ex-
commercial boatmen who pass on their
many hard-won techniques to new members
who all receive a comprehensive boat
'familiarisation' and health & safety
instruction before first casting off. This
'familiarisation' can be a lot more convivial
during the winter weekend work parties for
hands-on restoration and maintenance on
the working pair.

With nearly forty years of campaigning with
all the other principle waterway
organisations to keep the canals viable, the
Trust sustains the pressure - especially to
demonstrate using it for carrying cargoes.

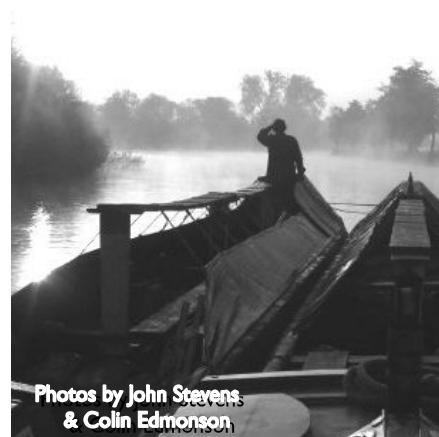
Opportunities to crew the boats are many
as they are frequently moved from one
place to another carrying cargo or to be
welcomed at waterway rallies and events
countrywide and this allows boating skills to
be learnt quickly if one has ambitions to
become a captain like Dave.

The experience of crewing the pair of
boats, smoothly and efficiently through the
waterway system is incomparable to any
other canal experience and one that gives a
profound appreciation of what the canals
were originally built for.

Explore the Narrow Boat Trust's website

www.narrowboattrust.org.uk

to discover more about
its activities, opportunities
and to download a membership form.



Photos by John Stevens
& Colin Edmonson

Fore & Aft



Lost Memories of the River Severn

A programme of guided tours through the
remains of the Purton Hulks

In the company of L. P. Barnett, Marine Historian

Winner of the Nautical Archaeology Society's
National Adopt a Wreck Award 2007

Meet Purton Lower Bridge

Approx tour time 2 hours weather permitting

Donations in aid of Severn Area Rescue Association or
£3.00 per person

Scheduled site tours

Sunday 18th January 2009 1pm

Sunday 15th February 2009 1pm

Sunday 15th March 2009 1pm

Sunday 19th April 2009 2pm

Sunday 17th May 2009 2pm

Sunday 21st June 2009 2pm

Sunday 19th July 2009 2pm

Sunday 16th August 2009 2pm

Sunday 20th September 2009 2pm

Sunday 18th October 2009 2pm

Sunday 15th November 2009 1pm

Sunday 20th December 2009 1pm



Slide show presentations also available upon request

Tel. 07833 143 231 or Barnadillo@aol.com

See website for further information about the Purton Hulks:

www.friendsofpurton.org.uk