



Newsletter

Issue 378

January 2004

Chairman's Column

A Happy New Year to all

I hope all members had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We can now look forward to a full programme ahead with a range of interesting topics at our monthly meetings and other planned events.

Name Badges

The new policy of providing self-adhesive name badges for members regularly attending our monthly meetings was introduced last month and proved to be most successful. Thanks for everyone's cooperation. We will obviously be continuing this practice So there will be no excuse in future for not knowing to whom you are speaking!

Members' Photographs

It used to be photographs of the Lewis family often to be found peering out of the pages of the various waterways magazines, etc. More recently, Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates had taken over this mantle. However, on opening the January issue of "Canal and Riverboat" it was Anne Coleman who appears in no

A Cautionary Tale

Our members Ken and Margaret Froud tell of a problem they had whilst cruising last autumn. Margaret writes:

A piece of plastic round the propeller shaft was the cause of it all. It couldn't be fiddled off with the boat hook so the weed hatch had to come up. This hadn't been removed for ages and was difficult to open. Before it was replaced Ken gave both surfaces a clean off and fastened it down tightly.

This happened at Trentham on the Trent & Mersey Canal so there was a long lock free stretch to enjoy before reaching Stoke. After about an hour a coffee was called for and that was when I discovered the engine room was full of water above the floor boards quite a bit! It had also got under the bedroom floor as well as the carpet was wet when touched.

It took two hours and two bilge pumps to get the water out - the cause of it all being the failure of the weed hatch gasket. We don't carry a spare one of these amongst our many spare parts so a makeshift gasket was made from rubber draught excluder strip.

We got to Harecastle Tunnel without further incident and next morning took the bed to bits to inspect the damage there. The bilge was full of water level with the floor - fortunately our spare bedding and out of season clothes were still dry but it was a near thing.

less than four photographs accompanying a feature on single handed cruising.

Refreshments Rota

I understand from Angela Faull that a number of members have volunteered for the refreshments rota. Many thanks to all those who put their name forward. However, for those shy ones still holding back, I am sure that there are still some gaps on the list and Angela will be delighted to hear from you.

Computer Problems

Some time in November my computer "Crashed" and is still awaiting a visit to the clinic for treatment. This means that I have lost e-mail access. I would therefore be grateful if members could contact me by other means until further notice. In the event that you sent me an e-mail since mid-November, could you please either print off a copy of your mail and post it to me or, alternatively, give me a ring.

Paul Herbert

Once the water was drained out Ken put our electric fan heater into the bed hole and this soon dried out the steel surfaces.

Forty-eight hours later we resumed our cruise to Whaley Bridge and called at three boatyards before finding any adhesive foam rubber to make a proper job of the seal.

Inspection of weed hatches is now being carried out by everyone we told and a supply of the necessary gasket material ordered!

Ken is confident this situation will never happen again - I will let him tell you why.

After that experience I decided to fit an early warning alarm system. I found by experiment that an ordinary smoke alarm unit was ideal for the situation. I soldered a piece of ordinary twin core cable across the test button connections. The other end I stripped off the insulation with about 1/2" of bare wire and a gap of about 1/8" between them. This end was fixed into the bilge about 1 1/2" above the floor level so that any water rising would trigger the alarm as soon as it touched the bare ends of the cable. I intend to fit an isolation switch and stop the alarm while lowering the water level, hopefully not

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December Meeting Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz & American Supper

Another excellent turnout enjoyed the 2003 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz hosted by the winners of the 2002 events, Southampton Canal Society.

At the beginning of the evening, two special presentations were made. Members will recall that Peter Oates had been awarded the Richard Bird Medal in recognition of his many years service to the IWA. Another medal was awarded to Chris and Helen Davey, members of our Society and of the IWA Solent & Arun Branch and stalwart supporters of the Waterway Recovery Group.

Unfortunately, Chris and Helen had not been able to attend the IWA's AGM in September to receive their award. So the Inter-Society Quiz had been chosen as a suitable public occasion to award Chris with their medal although, again, Helen was unable to attend the presentation. This task was proudly undertaken by Mike Laishley, Chairman of the Solent & Arun Branch. Many congratulations Chris and Helen. Incidentally, both Chris and Mike were members of the Solent & Arun Quiz Team.

I then had the pleasurable task of making a presentation to Sue Lewis in appreciation of her auditing the Society's accounts over the last few years. Many thanks Sue.

And so to the Quiz ... we were very grateful to our Quizmaster, Jon Sims, who stepped into the breach at a very late stage to help us out. Despite the lack of preparation time, Jon had certainly organised several rounds of teasers that fairly taxed the old grey cells of many of us. As has become traditional, many of the audience also entered into the spirit of the occasion

by taking part in the quiz.

As usual there was a general banter between teams and arguing with the Quizmaster about the 'real' answers to some of the questions posed, but Jon kept both his cool and overall control to ensure fair play.

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

The audience winner was Oliver Lovell who, as last year when he had been a member of the Solent & Arun team, travelled from his home in Moreton-in-Marsh to join us for the evening. Oliver was presented with a bottle of wine.

The Society then made a suitable presentation to Jon Sims in appreciation of his efforts.

The 2004 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be organised by our Society at Chilworth on Thursday 2 December. Unusually, we have already received an offer to act as Quizmaster, so that should take some pressure off your Committee.

Following the Quiz, everyone enjoyed the traditional American Supper, one of our major social events of the year. Many thanks to all those who generously contributed food etc and particular thanks to all the helpers who laid out the tables, worked in the kitchen and cleared away at the end of the evening.

Paul Herbert

WATERWAYS DIARY *(continued from page 3)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 13 Jun 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Puddle 2004 (sponsored walk). Details to be announced.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
Sat 24 - Sun 25 Jul 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 2 Dec 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri 9 Apr to Sun 26 Sep 2004 10.30am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Open Days (see below for Steaming Days). Adults £3.00, Seniors £2.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £7.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org
10-12 Apr, 1-3 May, 29-31 May, 26-27 Jun, 24-25 Jul, 28-30 Aug, 25-26 Sep 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Days (10.30am - 5.00pm). Adults £4.50, Seniors £3.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £10.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday 9 Apr to 31 Oct 2004 10.00am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Telephone for pumping days.	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: enquiries@claverton.org
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: 01243 670786

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
Thu 8 Jan 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening. NB this is second Thursday of the month! Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 15 Jan 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Venturing into Germany. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 15 Jan 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	The Severn Princess Restoration Project. Civic Hall, Wootton Bassett	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 18 Jan 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Fosseway. Meet at Radstock Museum	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 21 Jan 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Pirbeck Minerals and Mining Museum - David Gerry. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Wed 28 Jan 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	K & A Update - Michael Goodenough. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 30 Jan 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Jan Flanagan & Doug Small -Wilts & Berks. Canal Trust. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Thu 5 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) British Waterways - who will be talking about the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link, the Cotswolds Canals and, probably, the Droitwich Canals. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Soton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 14 Feb 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Talk on the French Canals by Brian Poulton at Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sun 15 Feb 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Radstock and Kilmersdon. Meet at Radstock Museum	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 18 Feb 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Still to be arranged. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Thu 19 Feb 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Crofton Pumping Engines. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Wed 25 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'Frosts, Freezes and Fairs' - Ian Currie. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 27 Feb 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Swan Lifeline. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Thu 4 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Eric and Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 13 Mar 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Quiz Evening - Bring your own Bottle. Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Wed 17 Mar 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Woking Town Centre Illustrated History - Ian Wakeford. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Sat 20 Mar 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Skittles & Buffet. Booking Deadline March 6th Eastfield Inn, Henleaze.	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sun 21 Mar 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Combe Hay Locks and Caisson Site. Meet at The Avenue, Combe Down	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Wed 31 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Richard Thomas - 'The Stort Navigation'. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 1 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch. Chilworth Parish Hall. Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 3 Apr 2004 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Devizes Branch AGM with talk by Peter Potter on The Early Days of the Junior Division of K&A. Devizes Wharf Centre	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489 or Sarah Padwick: 01380 721595
Sun 18 Apr 2004	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stroudwater Canal: Easington to M5. Meeting arrangements TBA	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Wed 21 Apr 2004 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - David Barrie (Chairman of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society). Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dugate: arthurdugate@iname.com
Thu 22 Apr 2004 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	The Trireme - John Coates. Somerset Room, Saltford Hall	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Wed 28 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Brian Eighteen - 'Watermills on the Thames' + Branch AGM. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting a week early). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 1 May - Mon 3 May	Southampton CS	Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365 Paul.L.Herbert@aol.com
Sun 16 May 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Thames & Severn Canal; Daneway to Chalford. Meeting arrangements TBA	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Thu 20 May 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	The Gospel Belle - Rev Peter Atwill. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841

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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:

1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton

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Society Website:

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

8th January 2004 - Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening.

5th February 2004 - Andrew Stumpf, Regeneration Manager (South) British Waterways, will be talking about the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link, the Cotswolds Canals and, probably, the Droitwich Canals.

4th March 2004 - Eric and Sue Lewis with 'Around Britain by Canal in the 70s'

1st April 2004 - The Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation (River Gipping) with John Finch

29th April 2004 - 'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting a week early).

1st - 3rd May 2004 - Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston

2nd December 2004 - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper.

Water Resources

Recent wet weather has helped fill British Waterways' network of reservoirs that feed into the canal system. The levels of reservoirs in the southern Midlands are less critical now than they used to be, since the installation of BW's back-pumping system, which allows water to be transferred from a bore-hole into old mine workings at Bradley. This water can feed into the Grand Union Canal as far south as Milton Keynes, to Leicester via Braunston and Crick, and to the Oxford Canal summit. The boreholes near Tring can feed the southern Grand Union, relieving pressure on the reservoirs around Marsworth.

Most of the canals north of Birmingham rely either on river feeds, or on rainfall collected into reservoirs at the summits of such waterways as the Leeds & Liverpool, Rochdale, Huddersfield Narrow and Caldon canals. However, the Shropshire Union and Staffs & Worcester canals are mostly fed from the outflow of a sewage works near Wolverhampton. BW has recently signed an agreement with Severn Trent Water to preserve the long-term security of this supply.

Given an average winter rainfall, most of BW's critical reservoirs north of Birmingham are likely to fill to capacity before Easter 2004. The major exception to this is Rudyard Reservoir which feeds into the Caldon Canal summit and supplies much of the water for the Trent & Mersey Canal, as water from the Caldon Canal flows into the summit of the T&M. The water level in Rudyard remains well below what it should be for the time of year, and an average winter rainfall would only fill the reservoir to 84% capacity. Thus, the waterway most at risk of any water supply shortages in 2004 is probably the T&M between Great Heywood and Middlewich.

Stoppage Notice Information

All stoppages on British Waterways' network, the Thames and Anglian waterways managed by the Environment Agency and on the Bridgewater and Manchester Ship canals can be viewed on the internet at www.waterscape.com/boating/stoppages/. Other navigation authorities have also been contacted with a view to including stoppage details from waterways that they manage.

British Waterways' navigation information leaflets are also being included on the web site on the relevant waterway pages, for example at:

www.waterscape.com/waterwaysguide/waterways/Regent_s_Canal/Regent_s_Canal.html

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A Cautionary Tale

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forgetting to switch it back on afterwards!

Although I'm using the alarm as a water detector, the smoke alarm itself is still effective. When we get back to base I will no doubt make a permanent job of it, but at least it works as a temporary measure.

*Ken and Margaret Froud
4-10-03*