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Southampton & Salisbury Canal

The editorial office recently received the following email from Annegret Evans:

I am a member of the Romsey Local History Society, LTVAS Group, and have received the Programme for 2020.

Jon Sims is giving a talk to the Romsey Local History Society, LTVAS Group, on the Southampton and Salisbury Canal on Thursday, 20th February, at 7.30pm, in the Romsey Town Hall Court Room, Market Place, Romsey, SO51 8YZ.

All meetings are free to members and visitors are welcome. £2 donation per visitor appreciated. The Court Room is downstairs.

New Year Luncheon

This will be on Saturday 11th January, meet at 12.00 hours at Keates Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ. Tel No 01794 368252. More details can be found in [last month's newsletter](#).

All payments to be made direct to Keates by cash, card or cheque on the day.

Your food choices can also be ordered on the day or to Angela or myself no later than our January meeting.

!! Please confirm your reservation to Angela or myself no later than our January meeting !!

Chairman's Column

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society, I wish you all a very Happy New Year in this new decade of 2020, and trust that you had a good Christmas.

Meeting on 2nd January 2020

We all look forward to our annual Members' Photographic Evening and especially our competition.

This evening gives you all the opportunity to share your boating experiences that have occurred while boating our wonderful waterways.

Just before the interval, entries for the competition will be shown. One picture per person, please, to do with the waterways.

As previously we hope to accommodate any format to include slides and photographs.

Thanks to David Doulton for use of his expertise and equipment.

SCS New Year Luncheon

This will be on Saturday 11th January. For more

December Meeting
Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

Once again the Society's year finished with our annual inter-society quiz. As last year's winners it was down to Southampton to arrange the evening. We did this by obtaining the well known quiz-master, our very own Mr Peter Oates with assistance from Laura Sturrock.

Once again we welcomed a team from Guildford and Reading IWA made up of Ben Scott, David Daines, Mike Lewis and Don Barber.

We also welcomed from Salisbury IWA with team members Eric and Sue Lewis plus Rosemary and Colin Davis.

The Southampton team consisted of Tony Fry, Jan Gunningham, Gordon Osborn and Alan Rose.

The quiz consisted of five rounds of questions with photos and multiple choice answers consisting of:

Round 1: Aqueducts - with questions like "How many cast iron aqueducts on CRT's waterways?" and "Which was the first cast iron one?" Ten questions in all.

Round 2: Tunnels - had questions like "Which is this tunnel with towpaths?" There were ten questions in all.

Round 3: Home and Away - This consisted of 10 questions on waterways both in this country and abroad such as "What country has the highest vertical boat lift?"

Round 4: Locks - these questions required answers to "Which flight of locks?" or "Which canal?" There were 8 questions but 10 points available.

details please see the item at the bottom left of this page.

6th February meeting

This will be an interesting talk by Peter Boyce on the very comprehensive rebuild of the wooden ex-Fellows Morton & Clayton boat CLENT.

March 5th Meeting

Colin Van Geffen will give us a talk on Lucy Houston: The Lady that saved a Nation.

Thank you all for your support over my last year as Chairman, and here's to pleasant boating in 2020 and to all our other activities that we enjoy.

Please though, if you have any comments or suggestions, let me or any committee member know.

Can I also remind you that the Society will need a new chairman at the AGM, so please think seriously about it as the society does need a committee to continue!

Alan Rose

Round 5: Junctions - the 10 questions here were either "Which two waterways meet here?" (10 points available) or "What is this junction called?" (5 points).

All the questions had been very well thought out and all the contestants, including the audience participation, thought as much.



The winners were Salisbury IWA (pictured above) followed closely by Southampton and IWA Guildford and Reading. The audience prize was won by Malcolm Gunningham.

Many thanks to Peter and Laura for setting up an enjoyable quiz and of course for travelling down from Braunston to be with us

The evening was then finished off with an American Supper and thanks to you all for supplying an excellent selection of food and drinks and to those assisting in the galley and setting up the furniture.

Well done everyone.

Angela Rose

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
Thu 2 Jan 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members Photographic Evening and Competition. This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain / amuse / educate your fellow members.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 9 Jan 2020 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	"Bristol Channel pleasure steamers" by Richard Clammer.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ. (ST678674).	Geoff Brown: 07980 279929 Email: geoff.brown@waterways.org.uk
Fri 10 Jan 2020 7.00pm-9.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	"Living on a Nuclear Submarine." A talk Michael William Pitkeathly MBE that takes you into life on board an operational submarine during the cold war. Tickets £10.00 by email, phone, on-line or on the door. To include light refreshments. Cash bar available.	The Assembly Rooms, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, SN8 1AA. (SU188691).	Tel: 01672 870300. Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org Tickets: crofton.manager@katrust.org.uk
Sat 11 Jan 2020 12.30pm for 1.00pm	Southampton CS	New Year Lunch. The menu selection will be arranged during our December / January meeting. Please see Angela with your choices and requirements. See the December 2019 Newsletter for the menu. Booking essential.	Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com December Newsletter: December Newsletter
Wed 15 Jan 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"When London had an inland Port." Lester Hillman will talk about the arrival of the completed Regent's Canal with a huge terminal at City Basin a game changer for London. Hear about the politics, engineering marvels, commerce and crime. What of the future of the City Basin?	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sat 18 Jan 2020 11.00am-3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Winter Works Open Day. See and meet some of our dedicated volunteers carrying out essential maintenance tasks on our wonderful old engines. Admission free but donation welcome.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Tue 21 Jan 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Bruges to Paris by slow boat" - a presentation by Rob Dean CMG (K&ACT President). 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).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Fri 31 Jan 2020 7.00pm-9.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	"The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway - The Best Way to See Snowdonia" by Mark Temple, Bristol Branch of the Ffestiniog Railway Society. Tickets £10-00 available on-line, by phone or email. To include light refreshments. Cash bar available.	Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, Nr Marlborough SN8 4EL (SU141678).	Tel: 01672 870300. Web: Tickets: crofton.manager@katrust.org.uk
Thu 6 Feb 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Reconstructing the FMC wooden motor boat CLENT" - a talk by Peter Boyce.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 13 Feb 2020 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	"Manchester Canals" by Steve Bacon.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ. (ST678674).	Geoff Brown: 07980 279929 Email: geoff.brown@waterways.org.uk
Sat 15 Feb 2020 11.00am-3.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Winter Works Open Day. See and meet some of our dedicated volunteers carrying out essential maintenance tasks on our wonderful old engines. Admission free but donation welcome.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sun 16 Feb 2020 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Combe Hay Tunnel to Engine Wood - guided walk.	The Avenue, Combe Hay, BA2 7EH (ST732598).	Adrian Tuddenham: 01225 335974
Tue 18 Feb 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Long Life Lock Gates" - a presentation by Laurel & Hardy (Bill Fisher & Terry Kemp). 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).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 19 Feb 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"100 years under the flightpath." Ms Jo Gosney will talk about Farnborough and the impact of aviation on the people, workplace and economy for over a century.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Feb 2020 7.30pm	Romsey Local History Society, LTVAS Group	Southampton & Salisbury Canal - a talk by Jon Sims. All meetings are free to members and visitors are welcome. £2 donation per visitor appreciated.	Romsey Town Hall Court Room, Market Place, Romsey, SO51 8YZ (SU351211). The Court Room is downstairs.	Tel: 01794 513751. Email: romsey.history@gmail.com
Thu 27 Feb 2020 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Bridgwater Canal and the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal" by Steve Bacon.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 5 Mar 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Lucy Houston : the Lady that Saved a Nation" will be the subject of the talk by Colin van Geffen.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Thu 12 Mar 2020 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	A.G.M. followed by a brief talk by Roger Francis, our new IWA region chairman.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ. (ST678674).	Geoff Brown: 07980 279929 Email: geoff.brown@waterways.org.uk
Sun 15 Mar 2020 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Combe Hay Lock Flight - guided walk.	Layby opposite Bridge Farm, BA2 7EE (ST745604).	Derrick Hunt: 07986 972984
Tue 17 Mar 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Branch AGM followed by talk by Chris Sims, Trust Chairman. 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).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 18 Mar 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Woking's Railway." Alan Norris will describe the coming of the railway to Woking in the 1830's. The talk will also include the Brookwood Cemetery railway and the Bisley Tramway.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 26 Mar 2020 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Cleveland Pools -- Another Georgian Achievement" by Sally Helvey & Dr Linda Watts.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Mon 30 Mar 2020 7.30pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	Branch AGM at the National Trust's premises.	Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992503).	Chris Jones: 07711 784374 Email: chrismjones10@btinternet.com
Thu 2 Apr 2020 7.45pm	Southampton CS	To be arranged.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 4 Apr 2020 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sat-Mon 11-13 Apr 2020 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Easter steaming. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free. Further details on website.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Wed 15 Apr 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Electric Boat Association." Tim Knox is a committee member of the Association. He will tell about it, the advantages of electric propulsion for canal boats and the current state of the technology.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sat 18 Apr 2020 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Accompanied Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sun 19 Apr 2020 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Combe Hay to Midford - guided walk.	Layby opposite Bridge Farm BA2 7EE (ST745604).	Derrick Hunt: 07986 972984
Tue 21 Apr 2020 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	TBA.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.

Tree and hedge management

This winter CRT are carrying out three quarters of a million pounds of work to tackle overhanging trees and hedges.

The works will focus on preserving navigation and ensuring sightlines are kept clear, rather than cutting back every metre of overgrowth. We actively manages vegetation all year round, but large-scale activities are best suited to winter when the waterways are quieter and disturbance to wildlife is minimised.

While most of the national programme of work is carried out by specialist contractors, CRT are working alongside volunteers to deliver the work.

Matthew Symonds, national boating manager at the Trust, said: "We know how important keeping trees and hedges under control is to boaters and we're committed to tackling those places where overgrowth is causing problems whilst ensuring that important wildlife habitat is maintained.

"We've listened to customer feedback and worked with boaters to identify the places that need the most attention and, this winter, we're investing three quarters of a million pounds into a programme targeting the areas that will make the biggest difference for our boating customers.

Canal & River Trust News - 23 December 2019

Updates on winter works programme

CRT are carrying out a £43.6 million programme of repairs on waterways across England and Wales this winter. This is an update on the first six weeks of works and what's coming up in the New Year.

Of the 118 hand-crafted lock gate leaves due to be replaced, over 100 have been made and about half are now on site either having been fitted or about to be put in place. Our teams have completed 14 of the published winter improvement works with another 36 due to be finished by the Christmas break. A further 92 repair and refurbishment projects will be completed in the new year.

In terms of major projects that the we are carrying out, work has been completed to replace gate cylinders on the Tees Barrage. On the Lancaster Canal, the Lune Embankment is being relined, while on the Macclesfield Canal similar work is being carried out at Palmerston Street Embankment. At Hurleston on the Llangollen Canal, where movement in the lock walls has restricted passage through the lock, we are carrying out work to rebuild the affected wall, halt movement, and increase the width of the lock chamber. Work is ongoing at Winterburn Reservoir, and at Blackbrook Junction Bridge in the West Midlands.

In the New Year we have scheduled a programme of works that includes repairs to mechanical swing and lift bridges, embankment relining, and culvert repairs, amongst others. Two pumping stations are

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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 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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

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

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Secretary:

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

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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

Email: aelred41@sky.com

Committee:

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

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

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

Long-life lock gates to be trialled

Canal & River Trust (CRT) are to trial a set of new 'long life' lock gates on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Currently being installed at Picketsfield Lock near Hungerford in Berkshire, the innovative new gates are intended to bring efficiencies and long term environmental benefits.

The new 'long life' lock gates are an evolution of the composite gates – made out of steel and timber – that are used in some places on our waterways. In developing the gates the CRT has been consulting with the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust (KACT) about the design and construction.

Made predominantly out of steel, the innovative new gate design is intended to last at least twice as long as a standard lock gate, with an anticipated life span of over 50 years.

The robustness of the metal construction will reduce the need for repairs saving time and money and reducing disruption for boaters. The gates have been designed with sacrificial parts such as the sections where the gates meet to be watertight. But by being sacrificial they can be easily removed and replaced without draining the canal or removing the gates; bringing environmental benefits by reducing the need to mobilise heavy plant and materials at often remote locations.

The gates at Picketsfield Lock retain the same paddle gearing, the same fixings and the same steel balance beam and so the proposed gate will resemble the gate that it is to replace giving boaters and visitors the

look and feel of a 'classic' lock gate.



Richard Wakelen, head of asset management at CRT, said: "The canals were built over 200 years ago and it's a testament to the original engineers that their designs have stood the test of time. Now, with modern technology, we can trial some improvements that could make things better for boaters while making the best use of our resources. It's exciting to be trialling something new and innovative on the canals and imagining that, in generations to come, engineers could be looking at our designs and building on them."

"As the charity that looks after 2,000 miles of waterways across England & Wales, we're always searching for innovative ways to look after the locks, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure in our care and welcome the support of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust."

Chris Sims, chair of KACT said: "Timber lock gates are renewed every 20 to 25 years, however we can see that these newly designed trial gates lasting over 50 years."

"The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust has been looking at innovative new designs for some while now and we see this exciting trial as a first step of change that we are undertaking in partnership as two canal charities."

Canal & River Trust News - 12 December 2019

NB: There will be a presentation at the meeting of the Reading Branch of the KACT on 18 February about these gates (see page 2).

Updates on winter works programme

(Continued from page 3)

also on the list for special attention. Bowyer Street Pumping Station, a key water supply to the Grand Union Canal, will see works to upgrade and replace life-expired pumps. On the Wendover Arm, a similar project at Tringford Pumping Station will replace the pumps, pipes, electrics and gantry.

Dredging has been completed on the Macclesfield Canal and on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, where we have removed 27,000 tons of contaminated sediment at Titford Pools. Further dredging, bank protection and tree works are planned in the new year. On the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal at Pontymoile,



Winter works at Quoisley Lock on the Llangollen

4km of dredging has been completed, with a further 2.2km planned in the new year.

Spot dredging on the Llangollen Canal is ongoing with around 1700 cubic metres of silt removed from the 2km length between Frankton Junction and New Marton Locks, with some dredgings reused to repair offside erosion. The work will continue into the new year, along with reactive spot dredging across the country and projects at

Sharpness Dock, Ribble Link, Liverpool Dock approaches, and on the Upper & Lower Peak Forest and Chesterfield canals.

Canal & River Trust News - 13 December 2019