



Southampton Canal Society

# Newsletter

Issue 363

July 2002

## Chairman's Column

### 2002 Annual General Meeting

Further to the 'Stop Press' item in the last Newsletter, because Chilworth Parish Hall will not be available for our planned Annual General Meeting on 1 August, the Committee has considered a number of alternative dates and venues and it has been decided to bring the AGM forward one week to Thursday 25 July. This will be held at our usual venue, and I would be pleased if you could note this date in your diaries. The AGM paperwork will be sent out to all members in about two weeks time. As has become traditional, the AGM will be followed by waterways related videos.

### Peter Lewis

Following his operation reported in the last Newsletter, Peter started on a programme of Chemotherapy on 18 June. I have seen him recently and am pleased to report that he is looking well and has recently been able to re-start work on his thesis for his Master's Degree.

It was good to see Sue and Eric at our June meeting.

### Members' Boat Register

And we are still not quite there!!! Peter Northway, one of our newer members, also has a boat so this will be added to the Society Boat Register. This makes 19 'Society' boats so far.

Any more out there???

### Proposed Society Boat Club

I had hoped to have been able to give members an

update in this Newsletter on the interest shown in this proposed scheme. However, I must express disappointment that so few boat-owning members have responded to the letter and details sent to them. To those who have responded, many thanks. To the others, can you please let me have your views, in a written note, by the end of July so that we can decide whether or not to proceed with the establishment of a Society Boat Club.

### Subscription Fees

It is now time to pay subscription fees for 2002/03. It is normal for fees to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting and subsequently collected. The issue of the 2002/03 fees will be on the agenda for the AGM but the Committee will be recommending that there be no increase this year and therefore, subject to any changes made at the AGM, the subscriptions will remain unchanged at £12.00 Joint/Family and £8 Individual.

### Membership Records

A number of the Society's individual membership records are incomplete – for example we haven't always got Christian names, and we need to check that all addresses are current. It would also be useful to have telephone numbers and email addresses, where available, which would enable members to be contacted quickly in the event of a last minute cancellation of a meeting or event etc. Therefore, we will shortly be asking all members to complete an appropriate form.

*Paul Herbert*

## Society Branded Clothing

In a previous Newsletter there was reference to the purchase of Society Polo Shirts. In addition, there have been requests for some more sweatshirts. The Committee has discussed the issue of further branded clothing and decided to place an order with Jancraft (the Society's traditional supplier) for a number of navy blue polo shirts and sweatshirts, bearing an embroidered Society logo.

It is important to ascertain the demand for these items before placing an order. We cannot quote an exact price at present because this will largely depend on the size of our order. However, it is anticipated that we will be selling the items at around £15 each.

If you would like a new sweatshirt or polo shirt, can you please place your order with Ray on the Sales Stand (**not forgetting to state the sizes required**) or see Paul Herbert.

## June Meeting

To give our members a break from waterways topics, we were pleased to welcome Don Bradnam of the Mid-Hants Railway to our June meeting.

I am afraid that, due mainly to the half-term holiday, a large number of our regular core of members were away on holiday. This resulted in a fairly low attendance, compared to many of our other meetings this year. However, this in no way detracted from the entertaining evening and the highly absorbing illustrated talk given by Don, accompanied by his amusing anecdotes.

Don started by giving us a general introduction to railway development in the country, and the Mid-Hants Railway (the 'Watercress Line') in particular. Between 1850 and 1860 there was a lot of local demand for a railway and then in 1860 the Alton & Winchester Railway Act was passed, construction work starting in 1861.

The line opened in 1865 as a private railway, but operated by the L&SWR. In the 1870s the L&SWR took over the line. Whilst the line had been built single track, with passing loops at stations, it had been built to main-line standards.

In 1958 the line saw the demise of steam passenger traffic. February 1973 saw the final demise and closure of the line.

We heard how, in January 1928, the line had to be closed for about 10 days because of heavy snow. We saw a photograph of topiary at Ropley Station in 1930's – a practice continuing to the present day.

In 1960s the line was quite busy, including a number of diversions off the main line, including the 'Bournemouth Belle'.

Don back-tracked by explaining his origins in interest with the railways. His family started off with a live steam garden railway in a chicken run (I assume it was empty at the time!). Subsequently this was

converted to electric. The run incorporated a cool, damp tunnel which attracted a number of frogs, many of which unfortunately were run over by the trains. (I dread to think what today's environmentalists would have thought of that!)

Returning to the Mid-Hants Railway, it became known as the 'Watercress Line' of course through its carriage of watercress from the beds in the area to London – 14 tons each day at the peak of the trade! The line had also been known as 'Over the Alps' because of its 1 in 60 gradient at its highest point.

Don continued with the major efforts to reclaim and restore the line – by 1975 there was a Share Issue to buy land for the line between Alton and Alresford. British Rail had lifted all track between these Alresford and Ropley. After track-laying the job of gradually collecting locomotives and rolling stock started, including a number of the former rescued from Di Woodham's famous scrap yard at Barry Island. We heard stories of station buildings, signal boxes and footbridges salvaged from elsewhere and reconstructed on the railway. Don described the re-connection of the line to the 'main line' at Alton Station and the various measures required to run stock straight through.

To close the first part of the programme Don referred to the various projects either recently completed or in progress, and gave details of the various special events that are organised throughout the year for visitors.

After the interval Don gave a brief presentation on other more general railway issues, world-wide, including the remains of pre-historic 'railway tracks' found on Malta. There then followed the usual question and answer session.

Thank you Don for providing us with a very informative and entertaining evening.

*Paul Herbert*

## Society Trip to Crofton Beam Engines

The Society's trip to the Crofton Pumping Station will take place on Sunday 29 September 2002, a date deliberately planned as it is a steaming weekend.

The station houses two Cornish Beam Engines, the 1812 Boulton & Watt and the 1845 Harvey of Hayle. These engines have been restored and the 1812 engine is the oldest beam engine in the world, still in its original building, and still doing its original job of pumping water to the summit level of the Kennet & Avon Canal. Both engines are steamed from a hand stoked, coal fired, Lancashire boiler.

The Crofton site has a gift shop, light refreshments, a picnic area and easy access to the Kennet & Avon towing path and Crofton Locks.

The plan for the day is for members and their guests to make their way to Crofton using their own transport. Car sharing would, obviously, be beneficial. Participants should take a picnic lunch etc and we could partake of such refreshment either in the picnic area or elsewhere alongside the canal and locks. A guided tour of the

*(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
Thu 4 July 2002 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Derrick Hunt will be talking about "The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Friends, Families, Feuds, Finance, Failure and Future."	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Fri 5 July 2002 8.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Mikron Theatre Company performing Warehouse Hill - the story of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
Fri to Sun 5-7 July 2002	National Trust	Guilford Water Festival & Boat Gathering, Wey Navigation	Andrea Selley - 01483 561389
Sat 6 July 2002 6.00pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Canal Cruise - Brassknocker Bottom (on SCC) to Bradford-on-Avon (K&A). Approx 4 hour cruise with stops. Cost £5.00. Own food, licensed bar on board. Bookings with cheques (payable to Somersetshire Coal Canal Society) and SAE to Ron Brake, 33 Bradford Road, Combe Down, BATH BA2 5BL	See Details
Sat 6 July 2002 7.30pm	Chichester CS	Mikron Theatre - "All Steamed Up " about Richard Trevithick, The Cornish Steam Giant. Training Centre, Stockbridge Road, Chichester	John Cooper - 01243 671051
Sun 7 July 2002 7.30pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Mikron Theatre - "All Steamed Up " about Richard Trevithick, The Cornish Steam Giant. Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Sat & Sun 13-14 July 2002	The Waterways Trust	'Walk on Water' is a weekend of 22 sponsored fun walks nationwide. Several along Thames between Reading and Oxford. Also K&A in Bath/Bradford on Avon area.	Tel: 0845 6024565 or www.walkonwater.info
Mon to Fri 15-19 July 2002	???	Swan Upping - starts at Sunbury on 15th going up river to Abingdon on 19th	Tel: 01628 523030
Thu 18 July 2002 7.30pm?	IWA Salisbury Group	"A Pictorial Trip along the Somersetshire Coal Canal" with Roger Halse.	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 18 July 2002 7.30pm?	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Summer Wildlife Walk (evening) - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Sat 20 July 2002	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Dragonfly Walk - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Sat & Sun 20-21 July 2002	Various	Thames Traditional Boat Rally, Henley	Tel: 01932 888415 or www.tradboatrally.com
Thu 25 July 2002 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting with supporting programme of unusual canal videos	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Sat & Sun 27-28 July 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sat & Sun 27-28 July 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Days	Tel: 01225 483001
Sat to Sun 27-28 July 2002	K&A Canal Trust	Newbury Waterway Festival	Mike Elwell - 01635 569647
Sun 28 July 2002 11.00am - 4.00pm	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Portsmouth Harbour & Port Creek - Fareham to Langstone Harbour Cruise <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 18 Aug 2002	Chichester CS and IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Chichester Canal Water Fair at Canal Basin. Small boat cruise start before 11.00am <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sat, Sun & Mon 24-26 Aug 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	August Bank Holiday - Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sun & Mon 25-26 Aug 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Days	Tel: 01225 483001
Thu 29 Aug 2002 11.00am	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Dragonfly Walk - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Thu 5 Sept 2002 7.45pm	Southampton CS	John Laverick, Project Manager of the K&A Canal Partnership, will be talking about the Heritage Lottery Fund restoration of the K&A.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Thu 5 Sept 2002 7.30pm	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Bat Walk and Slideshow, - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Sat & Sun 7-8 Sept 2002	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Cavalcade of Transport, Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Sun 8 Sept 2002 11.00am	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Beaulieu River Cruise - Bucklers Hard to Beaulieu and return. Charge for use of slipway <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk

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## WATERWAYS DIARY

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Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 12 Sept 2002 8.00pm	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Bat Walk at Colt Hill Wharf, Basingstoke Canal, Odiham	Tel: 01252 370073
Fri 13 to Sun 22 Sept 2002 10.00am - 7.00pm	SIBS	Southampton International Boat Show 2002	
Thu 19 Sept 2002 7.30pm?	IWA Salisbury Group	Talk - "Exploring the Valley of the Rhone" by Frank Stokes. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sun 22 Sept 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Sat & Sun 28-29 Sept 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Last Crofton Steaming Weekend of year. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sun 29 Sept 2002	Southampton CS	Society visit to Crofton Pumping Station on K&A Canal (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter)	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365
Thu 3 Oct 2002 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre with their 2002 production - "The Moon on the Water".	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Wed 16 Oct 2002 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Richard Thomas - The Gunpowder Plot - about the former Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey. There is special emphasis on the canals that formed the backbone of the transport system. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dungate: <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
Sun 20 Oct 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Tue 29 Oct 2002 ??? am	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Autumn Wildlife Walk - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Wed & Thu 30-31 Oct 2002 ??? pm	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Halloween Walks - book early - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Thu 7 Nov 2002 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Bruce Hall MBE, Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust, will be giving the latest news on the restoration of the Stroudwater and the Thames & Severn Canals.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Wed 20 Nov 2002 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Dick Allan - The short way home from the Med - Bringing a sailing boat through the French canals. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dungate: <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
Thu 21 Nov 2002 7.30pm?	IWA Salisbury Group	Talk by Jon Sims and Colin Jones entitled "All in the Same Boat" about boat building and Waterways for Youth - a local project. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 5 Dec 2002 7.45pm	Southampton CS and IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Waterways Quiz and American Supper	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Sat to Sun, Tue to Thu 14-15, 17-19 Dec 2002	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Santa Cruises - Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett	Tel: 01252 370073
Wed 18 Dec 2002 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Robin Higgs will present one of his railway and/or canal journeys Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dungate: <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
29 March 2002 to 29 Sept 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Crofton Pumping Engines (not in steam) -open for visitors daily. Adults £2.50, Seniors £2.00, Children £1.00 (except steaming days - see above)	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
31 March 2002 to 20 Oct 2002 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Station open days - Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday	Tel: 01225 483001
4th Thursday of month	Wey & Arun CT	Series of interesting but not too arduous walks in Sussex come rain or shine. Lunch at well chosen establishment en route or at end. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
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.freereserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freereserve.co.uk</a>
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester.	Bookings: 01243 670786

## Society Trip to Crofton Beam Engines

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Pumping Station has been arranged for 12.30pm. Directions to the site will be issued in due course.

The cost of entry to Crofton is £4.00 for adults; £3.00 for seniors; and £1.00 for children. This will be payable on the day.

Many members put their names down on the original list before the date was known. I would now like to have confirmation as soon as possible from those who would like to go. Can you please let me know (in person, by 'phone, by email or even a note through the post).

Paul Herbert

## 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

### President:

Brian Evans.

### Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.  
Email: [p.herbert@ukgateway.net](mailto:p.herbert@ukgateway.net)

### Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614  
Email: [peter@whitenap.waitrose.com](mailto:peter@whitenap.waitrose.com)

### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614  
Email: [laura.sturrock@hjsgroup.co.uk](mailto:laura.sturrock@hjsgroup.co.uk)

### Committee:

Martin Cripps, Laurie Pearce, Linda Pearce, David Townley-Jones

### Newsletter distributed by:

hjs, Chartered Accountants, 12-14 Carlton Place, Southampton, SO15 2EA. Tel: 023 8023 4222

### Society Website:

<http://www.users.waitrose.com/~whitenap/index.htm>

## Annual General Meeting 2002 Variation of date

In accordance with the Constitution, notice is hereby formally given of the Southampton Canal Society's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 25th July 2002 at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth Road, Chilworth, Southampton at 7.45pm. Please note this is a change from the date previously published in this Newsletter

Any member may request an item to be included on the agenda of the AGM by giving at least fourteen days written notice of the item and its nature to the Chairman.

To speed up the proceedings, copies of the Officers' Reports to the AGM will be sent to members by post in mid-July.

## CONTACTING THE EDITOR

A reminder that my email address has reverted to [peter@whitenap.waitrose.com](mailto:peter@whitenap.waitrose.com) I apologise for any problems caused to members.

Peter Oates

## CANAL SOCIETY SALES STAND

### GEOProjects Maps:

Inland Waterways of Britain .....	£4.75
Basingstoke Canal .....	£3.00
Birmingham Canal Navigations .....	£3.75
The Broads .....	£3.75
Caledonian Canal and the Great Glen .....	£3.75
Coventry & Ashby Canals and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal.....	£3.75
Forth & Clyde and Union Canals with the Crinan Canal.....	£4.75
Grand Union Canal (each).....	£3.75

Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford

Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley

Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames

Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash

Huddersfield Broad & Narrow Canals with the Ashton Canal.....	£4.00
Kennet & Avon Canal .....	£3.75
Lee and Stort Navigations with the East London Ring.....	£4.75
Leeds and Liverpool Canal .....	£4.75
Llangollen & Montgomery Canals .....	£3.75
London - City and Docklands Atlas .....	£3.75
Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals with the Ashton Canal .....	£4.75
Oxford Canal .....	£3.75
Shropshire Union Canal .....	£3.75
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal with the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.....	£3.75
The Thames Map .....	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction.....	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal and River Trent - Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock .....	£3.75
Worcester & Birmingham Canal, with the Droitwich Canals.....	£4.00

**Ball Point Pens:** Embossed ..... 50p

**Book:** Remus the Narrowboat & his First Adventure (by Sue Lewis).....£4.99

**Burgees:** Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo on each side .....£8.00

**Decorated Mugs:** .....£2.25

**Notelets:** with drawings of canal and Romsey scenes (by Brian Evans)...£1.00

**Shopper Bags:** Cotton with screen-printed Society logo each side.....£2.25

**Society Members Badges:** Enamel ..... 75p

**Sweat Shirts:** 30th Anniversary in Light Grey ..... £16.00

with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

**Sweat Shirts:** Standard in Navy or Royal Blue ..... £15.00

with Society logo embroidered on breast

**Tea Towels:** Various colourful designs .....£2.50 & £3.25

**Tee Shirts:** Screen printed with Society logo across chest .....£6.50

in Navy Blue - medium, large & extra large; in Red - medium

Visit the Sales Stand at Society meetings and place your orders with Paul Herbert or Ray Brooks - or ring Paul on 023 8026 2365

## FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

**4th July 2002** Derrick Hunt will be talking about "The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Friends, Families, Feuds, Finance, Failure and Future."

**25th July 2002** Annual General Meeting followed by some unusual canal videos . (Brought forward from 1st August.)

**5th September 2002** John Laverick, Project Manager of the K&A Canal Partnership, will be talking about the Heritage Lottery Fund restoration of the K&A

**29th September 2002 (Sunday)** Society visit to Crofton Pumping Station on K&A Canal (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter)

**3rd October 2002** Day-Star Theatre with their 2002 production -- "The Moon on the Water"

**7th November 2002** Bruce Hall MBE, Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust, will be giving the latest news on the restoration of the Stroudwater and the Thames & Severn Canals.

**5th December 2002** Waterways Quiz and American Supper