

Southampton Canal Society

Newsletter

Issue 373

July 2003

Chairman's Column

Summer Holidays

Whilst I am sure that a number of members have already enjoyed a summer break, I know that many others are still looking forward to getting away somewhere, either home or abroad, during the next few months. For those who have already been away, I hope you had a great time. For those who have yet to take their main holiday of the year, I hope you have an enjoyable time with good weather.

The Inland Waterways National Festival & Boat Show 2003

This year's National Waterways Festival takes place on the River Thames at Beale Park, between Pangbourne and Goring, from 22-25 August. I am sure that a number of Society members will be visiting this year's Festival, particularly as it is being held in the South again.

At the time of writing, I am aware that five Society boats are booked into the event. Perhaps if you are visiting the show you might like to pop along and visit with your water-borne colleagues. The berth numbers can be provided in due course to interested persons.

2003 Visit by 'Day-Star Theatre'

Don't forget to order your tickets for the 'Day-Star Theatre' visit to the Society on 2 October 2003. The ticket price is £4.00 which includes a light supper.

Society Visit

Talking of special events, we are currently trying to organise either a Brewery Tour or Boat Trip during the early autumn. Please watch this space for details as they become available.

More Waterways Magazines for Disposal

Another Society member needs to dispose of a large quantity of waterways magazines, in this case 15 volumes of 'Waterways World' from 1983 to 1997, all in binders. If you are interested, please 'phone: 023 8060 0202.

Society 'August' Meeting

Just another reminder that our August meeting has had to be brought forward to 31 July because the hall won't be available in August.

Paul Herbert

WHY NOT 'WALK ON WATER' AND HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY?

Britain's canals and rivers will be echoing to the sound of marching feet this autumn when 'Walk On Water', a national sponsored walk held on the inland waterways, gets under way for the second time. The event, which takes place from August to October, is organised by national charity The Waterways Trust in partnership with Burdens Charitable Foundation.

Backed by the actor David Suchet, famous as TV's Hercule Poirot, 'Walk On Water' aims to raise sponsorship to help improve access for people with disabilities to the UK's beautiful canal and river network and to fund the building of a school for blind children in West Africa.

Thousands of people are expected to take part in the event, many in fancy dress and other outrageous costumes. With 9 individual waterway walks across the whole of the UK, passing through some of our most beautiful countryside as well as towns and cities, there's bound to be a walk that's right for everybody. Most walks range from 3 to 10 miles in length.

David Suchet, ITV's 'Hercule Poirot', said: "Our canals and rivers wind their way through some of the most beautiful and tranquil parts of the UK. I am delighted to be supporting this year's 'Walk On Water', which will help to raise much-needed funds for charity at home and abroad.

"This autumn I hope as many people as possible will put on their best walking shoes and get out onto the towpath. With walks across the country - from Scotland to the Cotswolds - there's something for everyone.

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June Meeting - The Society's 2003 Annual General Meeting

Thirty-four members attended the Society's 36th Annual General Meeting held at the Chilworth Parish Hall on Thursday 5 June 2003. This was a good attendance which surpassed that of the previous year. The AGM was chaired by the Chairman, Paul Herbert, with the exception of the election of officers and committee, when our President, Brian Evans, took the Chair.

The meeting followed normal procedure but unfortunately, on this occasion, it had not been possible to send the paperwork out in advance so the various reports and accounts etc were tabled at the start of the meeting.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer & Membership Secretary presented their reports on activities over the past year. The Chairman took the opportunity through his report to thank all those in the Society who contributed to its management and organisation. It was apparent that the Society had enjoyed another successful year with a varied programme of monthly speakers and events and, in addition, three special activities. From the financial point of view the Society remained healthy, with a balance of approximately £1,665 being carried forward into the new financial year.

It was necessary to recommend increases in the annual subscriptions and the AGM agreed that those for 2003/04 should be increased to £9 for individual membership and £13 for family membership.

The Chichester Canal

In case Society members are not already aware, our friends in Chichester are now known as The Chichester Ship Canal Trust and the Trust held its first annual meeting in May. The organisation has moved on from being a charitable Canal Society to a Limited Company Trust, but still registered as a charity.

Earlier this year members of the Trust's Board met up with a representative of the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss a possible bid for HLF funding.

The aims of the Trust are 'The preservation, maintenance and improvement of canals, navigable rivers and inland waterways for the public benefit, in particular the navigation between Chichester and the harbour, the Chichester Ship Canal and the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal'.

The Trust consists of a large number of people actively working towards its aims and a regular programme of events is organised – see our own Newsletter 'Waterways Diary' for details. A very

We then came to the election of officers and committee and the existing incumbents were returned unanimously, as follows:-

Chairman	Paul Herbert
Vice-Chairman	Laura Sturrock
Secretary	Eric Lewis
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Laura Sturrock
Committee Members	Peter Oates Martin Cripps David Townley-Jones

Peter Oates confirmed that he was still willing to edit the Society's monthly Newsletter and act as Webmaster.

Following the completion of the AGM and the subsequent refreshments break, we were entertained by the recently released video 'The Lost Wey To The Sea' (kindly provided by Eric Lewis). This was a very entertaining, informative, and often humorous programme which took us by canal and overland (where the canal is not yet currently navigable) down the Wey & Arun Canal from Guildford to the South Coast. Further details of this video were published in our May Newsletter.

Paul Herbert

informative Newsletter is published, a copy of which is provided to our Society.

The Trust is currently working towards the construction of a new trip boat, see the separate item on the back page of this Newsletter.

Among the many new and renewed members of the Trust is the man who, for over half a century has become the leading authority on the waterways of South East England, the author P.A.L.Vine. Paul Vine of Pulborough is currently completing his 12th book on inland waterways, *London's Lost Route to Portsmouth*, an historical account of the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal Navigation. This new book is due out next year or early in 2005.

For those with access to the Internet, further details of The Chichester Ship Canal Trust can be found on: www.chichestercanals.co.uk

Paul Herbert

(With acknowledgement to The Chichester Ship Canal Trust's Summer 2003 Newsletter).

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 3 July 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Tal-y-llyn Railway - film and slides with Peter Kent Mason.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri - Sun 4 to 6 July 2003	National Trust	Guildford Festival Boat Gathering	National Trust - 01483 561389
Fri - Sun 4 to 6 July 2003	Cotswolds Canal Trust	Saul Canal Festival at junction of Gloucester & Sharpness Ship Canal and Stroudwater Navigation.	Dudley Greenslade 01453 825515
Sun 6 July 2003 2.30 pm	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	Guided Canal Walk & Strawberry Tea. Salterns Lock, Chichester Marina. 4 mile walk to Chichester Basin. Adults: £3.50; children £2.50	Ann Lowther - 01243 787183
Wed 9 July 2003 7.30 pm	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	History & Future of the Chichester Ship Canal. Illustrated talk by John Herniman Edes House, County Hall, Chichester. £2.00	Ann Lowther - 01243 787183
Sat 12 July 2003 7.30 pm	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	A Woman's Place - Mikron Theatre & canalside BBQ. Geoffrey Osborne Training Centre, Stockbridge Road, Chichester. Adults: £7.50; children £6.00	Ann Lowther - 01243 787183
Sun 13 July 2003 2.30 - 5.00 pm	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	Teddy Bears' Picnic. Chichester Canal Basin	Ann Lowther - 01243 787183
Thu 17 July 2003 7.30 pm ???	IWA Salisbury Group	Robert Hughes (artist) talking about "Canals in Miniature" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Sat 19 July 2003	Byfleet Boat Club	Visit to Newark Priory and Woking Old Palace close to Wey Navigation.	James Bell: 01932 830493
Sun 20 July 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 4 - Dunkerton to Camerton (6 miles). Meet at Dunkerton Church. Park in Dunkerton village. Please do not park in the road leading to the church.	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Thu 24 July 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	Not just Manure. 5 miles walk. 9.45 am Limeburners Inn [and lunch]. Lording's Road, Newbridge B2133. Depart 10.00 am. 2½ hours. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 31 July 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Peter Oates & Laura Sturrock will be showing various pictures from around the system. Please note that this meeting will be the week before the first Thursday of August.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat - Sun 16 & 17 August 2003	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	Chichester Canal Water Fair with a Pirate Theme - Canal Basin. All day fun and frolics on the Chichester Canal. Chance to cruise the basin and waterway on Sunday.	Fair: Ann Lowther 01243 787183 Cruise: Peter Boyce: 02392 269642, pete@greensleeves.freereserve.co.uk
Sun 17 August 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 5 - Camerton to Timsbury (5 miles). Meet at the entrance to the Camerton Heritage Centre. Park in Durcott Lane	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Fri - Mon 22 to 25 August 2003	IWA	National Waterways Festival at Beale Park near Pangbourne on the Thames. IWA Solent & Arun Branch stand to be transported to and from site by working narrow boat. Peter Boyce wants help with this and manning stand.	Festival Hotline: 0870 240 2438. Peter Boyce: 02392 269642. E-mail pete@greensleeves.freereserve.co.uk
Thu 28 Aug 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	Bay Bridge Canal. Where? 6 miles walk. 09.45 am The Partridge, Partridge Green [lunch] Junction B2135/B2116. Depart 10.00 am. 3 hours. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 4 Sept 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Tim Boddington on the Macclesfield Canal and adjoining waterways.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 14 September 2003 12.30 to 17.00	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Hamble River Cruise - Swanwick to Curbridge and Botley Quay.	Peter Boyce: 02392 269642. E-mail pete@greensleeves.freereserve.co.uk
Thu 18 Sept 2003 7.30 pm ???	IWA Salisbury Group	Barry Eagles on "Wessex Steam" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Sun 21 Sept 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 6 - Midford to Wellow (6 miles). Meet opposite the Hope & Anchor. Park in/off Twinhoe Lane. Please do not park in pub car park.	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Thu 25 Sept 2003 9.45 am	Wey & Arun CT	The Border Party. (5 miles). 09.45 am Sir Roger Tichbourne [lunch] 1 mile north Loxwood B2133. Depart 10.00 am. 2½ hours. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
Thu 2 Oct 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	'Day-Star Theatre' with their new production for 2003	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 18 October 2003	Byfleet Boat Club	Visit Chilworth Gunpowder Mills south of Guildford beside River Wey. Produced gunpowder for 300 years up to 1920.	James Bell: 01932 830493
Sun 19 October 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 7 - Wellow to Single Hill (6 miles). Meet at Wellow Church. Park in Wellow	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Thu 6 Nov 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	IWA National Chairman John Fletcher	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 16 Nov 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 8 - Single Hill to Radstock. Meet at the Village Hall. Park in the Village Hall car park	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Thu 20 Nov 2003 7.30 pm ???	IWA Salisbury Group	Eric Lewis talking about "Around Britain by canal in the 70s" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322

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WATERWAYS DIARY

(continued from page 3)

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 4 Dec 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Until 28 September 2003	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Beam Engines - Open daily from 18 April to 28 September inclusive from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Steaming weekends: Bank holiday weekends plus the last weekends of June, July and September.	01672 870300
Until 19 October 2003	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Open every Sunday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday from Easter until 19 October 2003 from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 pm (last admission 4.30 p.m.) Tel. for Pumping Days.	01225 483001 www.claverton.org
Until 5 October 2003	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Public cruises on John Pinkerton. Every 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon except Bank Holiday weekends plus Weds, Fris and Suns 19 & 31 in August. 2½-hour round trip leaving at 2.30 pm from Colt Hill Wharf. Sun 24 & Mon 25 Aug 1¼-hour return trip starting at 11.30 am, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm from Fox & Hounds, Fleet.	Info and Bookings: 01962 713564 (10 am - 8 pm)
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.freemove.co.uk
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: 01243 670786
Until 26 July 2003	National Trust	1653 & All That! -The History of the River Wey Navigations. An exhibition at the Surrey History Centre, Goldsworth Road, Woking.	NT Dapdune Wharf: 01483 561389

'Walk On Water'

(Continued from page 1)

Whether you're a serious walker, ambitious amateur or nervous novice, there's a walk for you. Who knows, you might even get the chance to stop off in a secluded waterside pub for a drink or two!

"For those with an adventurous streak, why not 'Walk On Water' in fancy dress. Last year we had a fish and a pantomime horse."

'Walk On Water' was launched in 2002 attracting thousands of walkers from across the country and raising more than £80,000 for charity. This year's 'Walk On Water' has already attracted the attention of the British Veterinary Nurses Association, with many of its members preparing to turn out walking with their pets.

Anyone wishing to join in should telephone 0151 373 4387, visit www.walkonwater.info or email jill.watson@thewaterwaystrust.co.uk for a registration form and walk details. Entry is free and walkers raising £50 or more will receive a free limited edition 'Walk On Water' T-shirt.

The 'Walk On Water' walks will take place as follows:

- Sat 9 August - Grand Union Canal, Leicestershire -starts Foxton Inclined Plane - 3 or 7 miles
- Sun 7 September - Thames & Severn Canal, Cotswolds - starts Cricklade - 6 miles
- Sun 7 September - River Thames - starts Reading - 10 miles
- Sun 7 September - Lancaster Canal Northern Reaches, Cumbria - starts Crooklands, Nr Kendal - 8 miles
- Sat 27 September - Droitwich Barge Canal, Worcestershire - starts Salwarpe, Nr Droitwich - 4 miles
- Sun 5 October - Union Canal, Scotland - starts Winchburgh, Nr Edinburgh - 8 miles
- Sun 5 October - Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, Gloucestershire - starts Gloucester Docks - 6 miles
- Sun 26 October - Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal - starts Radcliffe, Nr Bury - 8 miles
- Date tbc - Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, Wales

The Waterways Trust is working to restore and conserve Britain's canals and rivers for the enjoyment of all. To make a donation or to request more information, please call us on 0845 0700 710.

Burdens Charitable Foundation owns 40% of WTB Burdens Ltd using dividends to make grants and donations to charities chosen by the Trustees. WTB Burdens Ltd are the largest UK distributor of civil engineering materials, incorporating a specialist national distribution network and transport infrastructure.

3rd Society Boat Gathering ?

During the bank holiday weekend of 24-26 May an impromptu get-together of Society members and some of their boats occurred. This coincided (not by accident) with the Crick Boat Show. A number of Society members worked at the Show whilst others were just visiting.

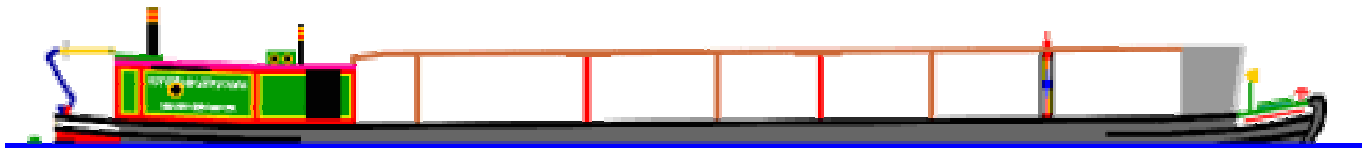
On the Sunday, three Society boats met up in Braunston - Michael and Angela Faull on 'Laura'; Sue and Eric Lewis on 'Remus'; and Gill and me on 'The Evelyn Broadbent'. That evening we all went up to the 'Old Plough' for an evening meal where we were joined by the Boat Show contingent of Peter Oates, Laura Sturrock and Ray Brooks, together with Peter Page and Julie Unwin (who both steer boats for Calmore Junior School's 'Adventure Afloat').

The following morning, Peter and Laura drove over from Crick to join the crews of the three Society boats moored in Braunston for the second of the guided Braunston walks, before they had return to their duty on board 'Raymond', leaving the six of us left to go once more to the 'Plough' for lunch. **(We can all very much recommend their splendid home cooked ham, eggs and chips!!!)**

After lunch, Michael and Angela departed for Napton Marina and home whilst 'Remus' and 'The Evelyn Broadbent' continued up the North Oxford Canal for a few days cruise in increasingly improving weather.

Whilst this weekend get-together hadn't been planned as such, it just sort of came together and we all had a very enjoyable time.

Paul Herbert



Waterways Trust Launches Volunteer Training Grants Scheme

The Waterways Trust is pleased to announce the launch of a new waterways grants scheme for volunteers wishing to undertake training in support of their work on inland waterways. The scheme - nicknamed 'VOLE grants' (Volunteer Learning & Experience) - is expected to increase the skills and expertise of waterway volunteers and strengthen the vital contribution they give to waterway causes.

'VOLE grants' are open to any individual or organisation that makes a voluntary contribution to waterways either directly or indirectly. Successful applications to the scheme will receive a grant of up to £100 to undertake a course of their choice. In return volunteers will be expected to commit at least 10 days of voluntary work in support of inland waterways in the year after the training.

Courses attended by successful applicants to the 'VOLE grants' scheme will be wide ranging and are likely to include: practical conservation skills; charity administration and development techniques; fundraising skills; health and safety training; and, running community projects

Roger Hanbury, Chief Executive of The Waterways Trust, said:

"The Waterways Trust's 'VOLE grants' scheme is all about supporting volunteering on Britain's inland waterways. Through the scheme we will be able to increase the skills and experience of waterway volunteers and enhance the important role they play in the conservation and development of our

waterways heritage. We hope the 'VOLE grants' scheme will generate at least 1,000 days of volunteering for the UK's inland waterways."

Mike Woodhead, Volunteer Coordinator, The Waterways Trust, said: "We welcome applications from all volunteers interested in waterways - from traditional canal trusts and societies to local community groups. The course a volunteer attends is completely up to them as long as there is a real benefit for Britain's canals and rivers and that they give at least 10 days of volunteering in support of waterways."

The number of grants awarded will depend on the quality of applications and on funds available. The Waterways Trust estimates that at least £10,000 of grants will be given over the next year, funding at least 100 courses and generating at least 1,000 days of volunteering for the UK's inland waterways.

In the case of applications by individual volunteers a contribution of £15 is required towards the total cost of the training. In the case of applications by voluntary organisations it is up to the individual organisation to decide whether they require a contribution from the volunteer being trained.

Anyone wishing to receive an application leaflet should telephone 01926 626 124 or email mike.woodhead@thewaterwaystrust.co.uk.

Waterways Trust Press Release - 25 June 2003

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.

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Society Website:

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

3rd July 2003 - Tal-y-llyn Railway - film and slides with Peter Kent Mason.

31st July 2003 - Peter Oates & Laura Sturrock will be showing various pictures from around the system. Please note that this meeting will be held the week **before** the first Thursday of August.

4th September 2003 - Tim Boddington on the Macclesfield Canal and adjoining waterways.

2nd October 2003 - 'Day-Star Theatre' with their new production for 2003

6th November 2003 - IWA National Chairman John Fletcher (to be confirmed).

4th December 2003 - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper

THE SHIP CANAL'S NEW BOAT

Work on a new, exciting and prestigious attraction for Chichester is surging ahead under the direction of the Ship Canal's Trading Company.

By November of this year, it is hoped construction will begin on a £60,000, 50ft long, 12ft 6in wide beam boat to cater for increasing demand from both our regular trippers and city visitors. With the city expanding as an attraction for both big business and leisure, the Company's directors believe the time is ripe to expand.

The two directors have been spurred on by the West Sussex County Council's Ten Year Plan to link Chichester with its harbour, and by the enthusiasm of the Trust's many volunteers who have worked to restore the waterway for almost a quarter century.

The new boat will compliment the Trust's 12-seater trip boat, the Egremont, but will also have the versatility to cater for corporate hospitality. There will be disabled access, picture windows, an inboard diesel engine and both tiller and remote hydraulic steering forward for use in inclement weather. The boat will also have a bow thruster to enhance manoeuvrability.

The Company originally considered a traditional narrow boat, though these were never in use in Chichester. But they finally agreed a wide beam to be more versatile. The new boat will have enough space on board to store the stackable seats and the folding tables. For celebration meals in the passenger lounge, the tables will be placed in a central line surrounded by up to 24 seats, yet still leaving enough space for people to move around. Main meals will be brought on board in heated containers, but on ordinary trips drinks and light refreshments may be served from the bar.

Funding for the project has already been achieved. £15,000 is to come from the Trading Company's own funds, £15,000 as a loan from the Chichester Ship Canal Trust, and £15,000 from Chichester District Council's Large Leisure Grants Budget. A final boost of £15,000 recently came as a grant from the F Glenister Woodger Trust of Itchenor. But the Company is still seeking further charitable donations to avoid borrowing from the Ship Canal Trust.

The new boat will be licensed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, unlike Egremont, which operates under license from the District Council. The boat is expected to be in service soon after Easter next year and will turn at Hunston with hopes of longer trips in the future.

Designed by marine architect Ian Darley of Salisbury, it will be built in Trowbridge, Wiltshire of steel construction with wood ply and pine interior and a carpet tiled floor.

Chichester Ship Canal Trust's Summer 2003 Newsletter