

Newsletter

Issue 394

July 2005

Chairman's Column

July Speaker

We are grateful that Leah Mathias, Project Officer for the Itchen Navigation, has kindly agreed to speak to the Society about the Project, and its aims for the future protection and improvement of the navigation. Welcome Leah.

June Newsletter

Apologies for the non-availability of the June Newsletter at our last meeting. This was due to a communications difficulty (excuse the pun) but you should, by now, have received that Newsletter by post.

April Meeting - Cliff Penny

Members will recall Cliff's very interesting talk to us about the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal at our April meeting. We have received a letter of appreciation from Cliff and this has been reproduced in this Newsletter.

Colin Huggins

Our very best wishes to newish member, Colin Huggins, who is recovering from recent heart surgery. In a recent e-mail to Laura, Colin states "I'm back at home feeling rather weak and groggy with an annoying throat infection which cramps my vocal cords, otherwise able to communicate as well/badly as

Basingstoke Canal

IWA has announced that it is to hold its 2006 National Campaign Rally at Brookwood on the Basingstoke Canal in Surrey from 27th to 29th May. The objective of the rally is to promote awareness of the need to safeguard and ensure the long-term future of the Basingstoke Canal as a navigable waterway.

The rally will celebrate the voluntary sector's achievements in the installation of back pumping over the first ten miles of the canal to ensure the water supply at Woodham and St John's Locks, and to acknowledge the support from Woking Borough Council. However, much more needs to be done to enable good water supplies further up the canal, and to secure lasting commitments of funding for better maintenance.

Daily access from the national inland waterways network is vital to the sustainable future of the Basingstoke Canal. Owing to its unreliable water supply, which often results in the canal being closed at short notice, few boats make the journey to visit this canal.

before! The boat is also in dock having essential repairs, and it will be a couple of months at the earliest before we're afloat again." Get well quickly Colin, you don't want to miss all this lovely summer's cruising!

Monthly Raffle

I want to place on record the Society's appreciation to those generous members who regularly provide prizes for our monthly raffle. The raffle is our main regular fund raiser and, therefore, every donated prize reduces its running costs. Once again, many thanks to all those concerned.

Annual General Meeting

A final reminder that the Society's 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held on 28 July (our 'August' meeting). The agenda, accounts and officers' reports, together with the minutes of the 2004 AGM, have been published in this Newsletter. As always, all Officer and Committee posts will be up for election so, if you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society, please contact me before the date of the AGM. If you would like to know what such duties might entail, just have a word with me – my contact details are on the last page of this Newsletter.

Paul Herbert

The rally is being held in association with the Surrey & Hants Canal Society, Byfleet Boat Club and the Basingstoke Canal Boating Club, and with the support of the Basingstoke Canal Authority. The rally site at Brookwood Country Park is 10 miles along the Basingstoke Canal at Brookwood, near the A324 near the A322 junction. Woking Borough Council, which is the local authority for Brookwood, and has been very supportive of voluntary activities on the canal for many years, owns the Park and will host the event.

The rally will take place over the 27th to 29th May (the late May bank holiday weekend). Activities planned include an illuminated procession of boats. A commemorative plaque will be available at £5, and a special licence fee of £15 has been negotiated for those attending the rally, which will cover use of both the Wey Navigation and the Basingstoke Canal.

The need for further campaigning and fundraising is demonstrated by the frequent restrictions caused by

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May Meeting 'A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug' - Richard Thomas

We were very pleased to be able to welcome back Richard Thomas, for his fourth visit to the Society, though the first for some years. On this occasion his topic was 'A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug'. I was delighted to see such a large audience that evening, particularly so since a number of our regular attendees were absent.

Richard's talk was centred on the Thames River Tug "General VIII", built in 1965. Her vital measurements are: length 86', beam 22' with an underwater draft of 10'6". She has a 1200hp turbo-assisted diesel engine, and has to carry 17 tons of diesel (c.20, 000 litres = 4,500 gallons) to feed the beast. In addition, her sump holds 66 gallons of oil. She has a folding mast to enable her to operate under the lowest bridges on the river etc.

The tug's layout was described to us, accompanied by a visual tour showing the crew quarters, engine room, galley and wheelhouse.

General's crew consists of a Captain, Mate, Engineer and a number of hands. The actual number depends upon the barges being towed, when each barge requires one crew member.

Before getting fully immersed in his talk, Richard showed us one of General's tow ropes, which are of a woven manmade material, perhaps of about 4" diameter. They are surprisingly light for their size but this is because they have to float. One of these green and white striped ropes only has a life of about 3 weeks! (See postscript).

Richard explained that the 'day' in question was set in late spring, early summer. He was not a member of the regular crew but both he and his wife were permitted to accompany 'General' on some of her trips and had to work their passage. Of necessity, the photographs he showed us had been taken on a number of trips.

So, what is 'General' used for? She and her sister ships are owned by Cory Waste Management, who also employ their crews. Their base is at Charlton Wharf and they are in the business of transporting domestic rubbish from Atlas Roads in central London, and from various other London pick-up depots, down to the dumping ground at Mucking in Essex. All the rubbish is containerised, each container being capable of holding 16 tons. There are usually up to 30 containers in a barge and a tow can be up to 6 barges.

This flow of traffic is constant, all year round, with 'General' and her sisters either being used towing full containers down-river, or returning with empties.

The dumping ground at Mucking Creek is large, at some 87 acres. In the region of 1,000,000 tons of rubbish are deposited at that site each year, resulting in an annual rise in ground level of 1 metre. Specialist equipment is employed at the unloading wharves and on the site itself. One major problem though is that Mucking is due to close in 2007 and alternative disposal arrangements, including incineration, have yet to be finalised!

Richard demonstrated this day in the life of 'General' with a large number of superb slides showing the tug at work, either picking up and dropping off her tows, or making her way on the tideway. He included many of the Thames' sites that we know so well, including a number of her famous bridges and other landmarks, far too numerous to detail here. He described the working of the river and those who work on it. Of particular interest were Richard's many anecdotes and his sense of humour really shone through.

Of particular interest was a photograph of a large sand dredger, badly damaged and sinking in one of the gates in the Thames Barrier, after having collided with same. Having disgraced themselves by the collision, the Captain and crew made things even worse by jettisoning their load of sand and gravel on top of the immersed gate, in a vain attempt to save the ship from sinking. It took four days to salvage the ship and remove the dumped material, at a cost of two million pounds. I am sure that pleased the ship's owners and their insurance company.

Many thanks Richard for a thoroughly enjoyable and informative talk. We will look forward to welcoming you back in due course.

Paul Herbert

(Postscript: A few days after Richard's talk I was present at a non-waterway event and was in conversation with somebody who, until fairly recently, owned a 100 year old Dutch Barge on the Thames. He mentioned how he went downriver on his barge, accompanied by a narrow boat. They were due to enter Limehouse Basin but, as they had a couple of hours to kill, decided to cruise down to the Thames Barrier. However, in the vicinity of the barrier the barge's engine stopped dead and refused to re-start. Not the ideal place for a breakdown – luckily the narrow boat was able to take them in tow back to Limehouse. Subsequently, they were able to examine their propeller shaft (Dutch Barges not having a convenient weed-hatch, of course) and discovered a large diameter green and white striped rope wrapped around the prop and shaft. Now, I wonder where that had come from???)

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 7 Jul 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Itchen Navigation Project" by Leah Mathias. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 9 Jul 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Adur, Shoreham to Upper Beeding and back. A cruise to campaign for the retention and provision of public slipway access to the River Adur at Shoreham. Launch by 12:00 with 4 hours on the water.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 10 Jul 2005 10.00am	Chichester Ship CT	4 mile conducted walk along part of the Portsmouth & Arundel Navigation from Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham to the River Arun at Ford. Bring packed lunch. Collection taken. Frequent trains for return.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Fri 15 Jul 2005 8.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Mikron Theatre Company. 'Wheel of Fortune' - story of the Falkirk Wheel. Fishers Farm Park, Wisborough Green, West Sussex. Tickets £8 each from the W&A Office, The Granary, Fritchfold Farm, Billingshurst, RH10 0RH.	Sally Schupke: 01483 503029 Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk Email: info@wact.org.uk
Sat 16 Jul 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Haybarn Bridge re-opening.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: office@wact.org.uk
Sat 16 Jul 2005 7.30pm	Chichester Festivities	Mikron Theatre Company. 'Wheel of Fortune' - story of the Falkirk Wheel. The Training Centre, Geoffrey Osborne Construction, Stockbridge Road, Chichester. £6.50 (Children under 16 £5)	Box Office: 01243 780192 from 31 May. Email: info@chifest.org.uk
Sun 17 Jul 2005 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre Company. 'Wheel of Fortune' - story of the Falkirk Wheel. Fox & Hounds, Crookham Road, Fleet.	
Thu 21 Jul 2005 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules and BBQ at The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts. (Note slightly earlier start than normal.)	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Thu 28 Jul 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	AGM and Waterway Videos. Please note that this is the "August" meeting. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
31 Jul 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Water Festival, Victoria Park, Newbury.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Sun 7 Aug 2005 11.00am	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Itchen at Winchester. A cruise on the top pound of the Itchen Navigation for unpowered and electric powered boats. Launch over bank at Tun Bridge.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Fox and Hounds Boat Rally at Fleet.	Tel: 01252 663674
Thu 1 Sept 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'The Work of the Upper Severn Trust' with Jeremy Coles. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 8 Sept 2005 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Guided bat walk. Canal Ranger Paul Hope will give a talk about bats at the outset then lead the group on a guided walk. There will be a limited number of bat detectors for you to use. Booking essential - £3 per person.	Tel: 01252 370073
Sat 10 Sept 2005 10.00am	Chichester Ship CT	4 mile conducted walk along part of the Portsmouth & Arundel Navigation from Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham to the River Arun at Ford. Bring packed lunch. Collection taken. Frequent trains for return.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 11 Sept 2005 10.00am	Chichester Ship CT	Conducted walk along Chichester Canal from Salterns Lock to Chichester.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 11 Sept 2005 10.00am - 4.00pm	Chichester Ship CT	Poyntz Bridge (the only remaining swing bridge on the Chichester Canal) will be swung.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 11 Sept 2005 11.00am	Chichester Ship CT	Raft races at the canal basin, Chichester.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Thu 15 Sept 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	'The Caldon Canal'. Talk and video with Tony Fry. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Fri 16 - Sun 25 Sept 2005	British Marine Federation	Southampton Boat Show.	Tel: 01784 223600
Sat 17 - Sun 18 Sept 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Boat Club Moving Rally. Narrowboats, cruisers, steam boats and more will cruise together between Frimley and Odiham as part of a spectacular moving boat rally.	Tel: 01252 663674
Sun 18 Sept 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Hamble: Swanwick to Curbridge & Botley. Cruise to celebrate the completion of the Bark Store restoration at Botley, and its use as a canoe and boat club centre for the Upper Hamble. Launch Warsash 10.00am, Swanwick 11.00am, out by 6.00pm	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Thu 13 Oct 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'So you think you know about Industrial Archaeology?' with John Silman and Tony Yoward. NB: this date is the 2nd Thursday of the month. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384

Continued on page 3

Waterways Diary 2005 *(continued from page 3)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 3 Nov 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'South Coast Circular Cruise' by James Griffin. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 17 Nov 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	'Lots to do at the Soo'. A look at some North American waterways with Colin Ward. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Thu 1 Dec 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Hol 25 Mar to 30 Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm (Weds 4.00pm). Pumping days: 27-28 Mar, 24 Apr, 2 May, 29-30 May, 25-26 Jun, 23-24 Jul, 28-29 Aug, 25 Sep, 23 Oct. Admission: Pumping days: £3 Static days: £2	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org/
Every day 25 Mar to 2 Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm. See below for Steaming Days. Admission: Adults £3.00, Seniors £2.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults & 2 children) £7.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
Mar to Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Days on 26-28 Mar, 30 Apr - 2 May, 28-30 May, 25-26 Jun, 30-31 Jul, 27-29 Aug, 1-2 Oct 2005 (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: eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
1 May - 31 Jul 2005	Museum of Bath at Work	Somersetshire Coal Canal Exhibition within the Museum, Julian Road, Bath. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the official opening of the Combe Hay flight of locks. Open 10.00am to 4.00pm 7 days a week - adult: £4.00, concessions: £3.00, family (2 adults, 2 children): £10.00.	Museum: 01225 318348. Web: www.bath-at-work.org.uk

Annual General Meeting 2005

In accordance with the Constitution, notice is hereby formally given of the Southampton Canal Society's Annual General Meeting on the 28th July 2005 at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth Road, Chilworth, Southampton at 7.45pm.

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.

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE PRESENT, TO REVIVE THE PAST, AND SECURE A BETTER FUTURE

30th May, 2005

Dear Laura,

I have just returned from holiday and in the massive pile of post was your kind letter and the two cheques from the Southampton Canal Society - the donation of £75 plus the £35 for my travelling expenses. Thank you very much indeed for the generous donation to the H&G CT funds which I know will be equally appreciated by my colleagues on the H&G CT Council of Management.

Also appreciated were your kind comments regarding the talk and the generous praise contained within your May Society Newsletter. It is very gratifying to speak to organisations such as your own who have common aims and objectives regarding the Inland Waterways Network; and for such knowledgeable audiences to understand the trials and tribulations (and the teamwork that is necessary to overcome them) of canal restoration.

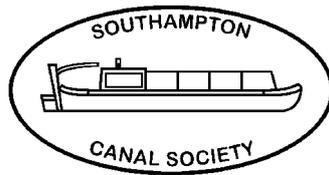
Please pass on our appreciation to your Committee and the news that the ground floor of **The Wharf House** is now open 7 days a week. So any members of your Society who are in the Gloucester area will be made very welcome. And by this time next year we should be able to offer very high standard B&B for those who wish to have a Canal side base to explore Gloucestershire/Herefordshire/The Cotswolds.

Once again repeated thanks.

Yours sincerely,

CLIFF PENNY, C.Eng., FICE., MRTPI.,

Director/Voluntary Planning Liaison Officer/Editor, **The Wharfinger**.



**SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY
2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton

Thursday 28 July 2005 at 7.45 pm

AGENDA

1. Announcements.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Minutes of 2004 Annual General Meeting held on 29 July 2004 (herewith) and matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report (herewith).
5. Secretary's Report (herewith).
6. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report (herewith). (Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2005 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2005).
7. Review of Annual Subscription Rates.
8. Election of the following Officers:-
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer & Membership Secretary
9. Election of Committee (the Officers plus up to three other Society Members. Additional Members may be co-opted as required).
10. Any other business relevant to an Annual General Meeting, where prior notice of the item has been given.

Note: In accordance with the Society's Constitution, only fully paid up members are eligible to vote at a meeting of the Society. Individual members and affiliated member organisations are entitled to one vote. Joint or family membership entitles that category to a maximum of two votes. Only members aged 18 or over are eligible to vote. All votes have to be cast in person, no proxy votes being permitted.

SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY
37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 29th JULY 2004
MINUTES OF MEETING

1. CHAIRMAN

The Annual General Meeting was chaired by Paul Herbert, Chairman of the Southampton Canal Society.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from:-

Martin & Dawn Cripps

Linda Pearce

David & Margaret James

John & Olive Whitehouse

3. ATTENDANCE

An attendance register was circulated and 31 members recorded their attendance. The attendance register forms part of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

4. MINUTES OF 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on 5 June 2003 had been provided to all members attending the meeting and it was proposed by Peter Oates and seconded by Paul Taylor that the minutes be accepted. On being put to the vote the minutes were accepted by the members present. The Chairman signed the minutes as an accurate reflection of the business discussed at that meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report had been provided to all members attending the meeting. Therefore, Paul Herbert presented his report, as read, just highlighting items of particular note. There were no questions.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report had been provided to all members attending the meeting. Therefore, Eric Lewis presented his report as read, just highlighting items of particular note. There were no questions.

7. TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report, which included the un-audited income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st March 2004 and the balance sheet as at 31 March 2004, had been provided to all members attending the meeting. Therefore, Laura Sturrock presented her report as read, just highlighting items of particular note. There were no questions. It was proposed by Annegret Evans and seconded by Laurie Pearce that the Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report and the accounts be accepted and this was approved by the members present.

MINUTES OF 2004 AGM (continued from page 6)

8. REVIEW OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary advised that the Committee had taken into account the Society's current financial situation and anticipated future increased costs, which included the rising costs of speakers, many of whom now requested expenses in addition to a donation; anticipated increased hire costs in respect of Chilworth Parish Hall; and in particular the printing and postage costs appertaining to the Society Newsletter. Hunt Johnston Stokes Limited (and previously Hunt & Co) had generously sponsored our Newsletter for many years but, unfortunately, that situation would shortly come to an end. The Committee had considered the cost of future printing and postage which would become a significant additional cost to the Society. Various production and distribution methods were being considered in order to limit future costs. In view of all those increased cost commitments the Committee was recommending that an across the board increase of £2 be made on all membership categories.

The Society's increasing costs and the Committee's recommendation was discussed by the membership and it was felt by some members that it would be more prudent to increase all membership subscriptions by £3 at this time rather than piecemeal increases, year on year. That amendment was proposed by Paul Taylor and seconded by Alan Howarth. On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried by a majority of 16 votes for and 10 votes against.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

This part of the Annual General Meeting was chaired by the President, Brian Evans, who advised that all the current officers were willing to stand for nomination for a further year. No other nominations had been received prior to the meeting or were put forward at the meeting.

The following appointments were therefore proposed:-

Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Paul Herbert	Annegret Evans	Peter Oates
Vice-Chairman	Laura Sturrock	Sue Lewis	Laurie Pearce
Secretary	Eric Lewis	Paul Taylor	Tony Fry
Treasurer & Membership Sec	Laura Sturrock	Sue Lewis	Viv Taylor

Upon being put to the vote, the above officer appointments were approved by the members present.

The President advised that existing committee members Peter Oates, Martin Cripps and David Townley-Jones were willing to stand for nomination for a further year. Other nominations were invited for places on the Committee. There was an additional nomination of Paul Taylor, proposed by Maureen Greenham and seconded by Tony Fry.

It was proposed by Alan Howarth and seconded by Gill Herbert that Peter Oates, Martin Cripps, David Townley-Jones and Paul Taylor be appointed to the Committee. Upon being put to the vote, the above committee appointments were approved by the members present.

Peter Oates confirmed his willingness to continue as the Society Webmaster and Editor of the Newsletter.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There had been no notice of any other business, relevant to an Annual General Meeting. However, the President wished to place on record his appreciation of the valuable work carried out for the Society by its Officers and Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Chairman's Report - 2004/05

Surely it cannot be twelve months ago that I wrote my 2003/04 Chairman's Report, or four years since I took over the mantle from Brian Evens – but it is, on both counts.

As I write this fourth report, looking back over the last year I feel that the Society has been incredibly fortunate in having had yet another very successful year. This is due, in no small part, to the Society's membership who regularly support the monthly activities and the occasional special events, and particularly to that small band who provide active assistance, whether in their capacity as a Society Officer or Committee Member, event organiser, or who work in a variety of other ways. I would like to place on record my personal appreciation for the support I have received from the Society and its members.

I am delighted again with the Society's performance during 2004/05. On the membership front we have lost some members, due to a variety of reasons, but have managed to attract new members, thereby sustaining our membership numbers and, therefore, the strength of the Society. I remain encouraged by the high attendances at our monthly meetings throughout the year.

We have maintained the usual variety of events and topics at our monthly meetings. For those interested in closed navigations we had the Wisbech Canal and the Itchen Navigation; for restoration buffs we had the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal and the Itchen Navigation (though the latter not fully restored for through navigation); for 'living' waterways and boating in this country we had 'Little and Large in the North-West, The Thames Creeks, and 'The Day in the Life of a Thames Tug'; for those more interested in waterways abroad we had 'Venturing into Germany'; whilst for those more interested in nature we enjoyed the 'Valley of the Barn Owls' and the Itchen Navigation Project. For railway enthusiasts we saw pictures of the long defunct Wisbech and Upwell Tramway. Theatre wasn't omitted with DayStar Theatre's 'Taking a Chance'. Our own members came up trumps with presentations by Eric and Sue Lewis and Ron and Myra Glover, whilst many others took part in the Members' Photographic Evening and Competition, and the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz (with the winners trophy being taken by Southampton Canal Society again). We mustn't forget the two very enjoyable social events viz. the suppers following DayStar's performance and the Quiz. Last but by no means least, we had two most successful outings during the year, both ably organised by Maureen Greenham, with the assistance of husband, Brian. The first of those was the combined tour of Gales Brewery at Horndean and a boat trip on 'Egremont' on the Chichester Canal last October followed by the visit to the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton in March. To date we have not yet been able to hold our annual Boat Gathering. It was not possible to organise that event over the early May bank holiday weekend, as in previous years, due to other unavoidable commitments of a number of likely participants. However, it is hoped to be able to fit this in sometime in the autumn.

Members of the Society have continued their involvement with other activities on the waterways. For example, Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates continue their association with the working boats 'Nutfield' and 'Raymond'; Ray Brooks is heavily involved with the London Narrow Boat Project, both as a committee member, marketing officer and as a cover skipper on their community boats. David Pearce continues as Chairman of the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs and as Commodore of the St Pancras Cruising Club. A number of Society members assisted Peter Oates on the IWA Stand at the Southampton International Boat Show, as they have for many years. Apologies to any other members whose involvement with the waterways I may have overlooked. Sadly, Society members' involvement with Calmore Junior School's 'Adventure Afloat' came to an end in June 2004 as, following Gill's retirement as Head Teacher and that of her Senior Teacher who had responsibility for the organisation of the visit for some years, the School decided to bring its 28+ year association with the canals to an end.

Despite increasing running costs the Society's financial position remains sound and this is due in no small way to our Treasurer, Laura Sturrock, to whom we all owe a debt of thanks.

The Society continues to attract much publicity through the waterways press and particularly via our monthly Newsletter and excellent website.

We have been one of the consultees regarding the Itchen Navigation Project and have been represented at three consultation meetings.

The Committee has worked well considering our programme of events, reviewing our financial position, planning for the future, and the plethora of tasks that fall to such bodies.

Now I turn to one of the most enjoyable and rewarding task of Chairman, that of thanking those Society members who do so much to aid our success. As is traditional I will start with my fellow officers and committee members. Laura continues to excel in her triple roles of Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary; Peter Oates doubles up as our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, bringing his many skills to the advantage of both; Eric Lewis (ably assisted by wife, Sue) puts together our interesting and varied programme of

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Chairman's Report

(Continued from page 8)

speakers (a difficult job, as anyone who has done something similar will be aware). We all owe those three officers a big 'thank you' for all their hard work and success. Thanks are very much due to Martin Cripps who has helped the Society out of a very difficult situation since we lost the sponsors of our Newsletter. Martin has undertaken this temporary task and we are grateful to him; it is extremely doubtful that we would have been able to continue production of the Newsletter in its current format if we had to go to a commercial printer. Many thanks also to David Townley-Jones who runs our raffle so well. This is not the easiest of tasks and David has accomplished much, and this has contributed significantly to the Society's coffers. Thank you also to our remaining Committee member, Paul Taylor. He joined the Committee at last year's AGM and, whilst he has not been able to attend the last few meetings due to family difficulties, his contribution at meetings he was able to attend was most valuable. Many thanks also to those other Society members who have contributed to the work of the Society – to Gill Herbert and her band of helpers for the management of our monthly refreshments; to our Librarian, Alan Howarth, and of course his wife, Adrienne, for looking after our fairly large collection of books, videos etc. Special thanks to Maureen and Brian for volunteering to organise the two outings during the year. Often overlooked are those members who regularly arrive at the hall early and set out the furniture, and assist with its storage at the end of the evening. A big 'thank you' to them also

There are many other members who assist in various ways, especially those who have donated raffle prizes and items for the library. My thanks go to them all.

Our thanks must also go to Laura Sturrock's former company, the Hunt Johnston Stokes Group who, until her retirement from that organisation, sponsored the production and distribution of the Newsletter.

A very special thank you to Gill for supporting me in my work as Chairman. She does quite a lot of 'backroom' work for the Society, which is much appreciated.

And so, what for the future? The future looks bright for the Society if we are able to maintain our membership numbers and our sound financial position. Our programme of speakers for 2005/06 is almost complete, there being only a few dates still to fill. I am hopeful that more outings can be organised plus some other social events, including further skittles evenings. We are going to try and entice 'DayStar Theatre' back to Southampton. Whilst they are no longer operating their waterways tours, they are still very much in business. If you have any ideas for possible inclusion in our future programme, please do not hesitate to discuss these with me or any committee member.

It just leaves me to conclude by thanking all members for your continued support to the Society as we prepare to enter our 39th year.

Paul Herbert

Chairman

Secretary's Report - 2004/05

As Secretary my thanks go first to Paul Herbert, our Chairman, for successfully leading the Society through its 38th year.

Thanks also go to the many speakers who have made our meetings possible. Speakers have included Andrew Ingham, talking about the Wisbech and Upwell Tramway and associated Wisbech Canal; Cliff Penny, describing the activities of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust; Richard Thomas, illustrating a "Day in the life of a London Tug"; Dennis Bright with more excellent photography, this time in the "Valley of the Barn Owls"; and Peter Smith with an update of progress on the Wilts and Berks Canal restoration.

Theatre was once again brought to us by Pete and Jane Marshall of Daystar Theatre Company, in their final year of touring, with "Taking a Chance".

Once again our own members must not be overlooked. They provided an excellent evening of prints and slides in January as well as retaining for the Society the coveted Waterways Quiz trophy in December for the third consecutive time. David Pearce stepped in at short notice for Roger Squires with slides of "London's Creeks"; Ron and Myra Glover treated us to a "Venture into Germany"; and Sue and I showed our slide presentation "Little and Large" about the waterways of the North West.

Monthly attendances remain good, which is encouraging. Our meetings continue to be publicised on local radio and in local newspapers as well, as in the national waterways magazines.

Another very successful year.

Eric Lewis

Secretary

Southampton Canal Society

Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 March 2005

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 are attached for review. Both the 2004 and 2005 accounts are currently with Sue Lewis for auditing.

Income

Subscriptions have increased this year due to an increase in the rate of £3 for families and £2 for individuals. We have also welcomed a couple of new members.

After several years of increasing revenue, the income from the raffle dropped a little this year. This is our greatest source of revenue after subscriptions.

Daystar made a small surplus. Our trip to Gales Brewery broke even, as planned.

Expenditure

After increases in previous years, the insurance premium and the cost of hiring the hall have levelled out.

Donations during the year amount to £325. These are published in the newsletter but to recap:

IWA Ipswich	£50
K & A Canal Trust	£50
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	£50
Leukaemia Research	£25
AWCC "buy a boat" campaign	£50
Donation yet to be confirmed	£50
Donation yet to be confirmed	£50

This year we have spent less on donations as we considered it prudent to retain funds because of uncertainty regarding the future cost of the newsletter.

Sales stand stock

At the time the sales stand closed down there was stock of £192. Some of this will be used for raffle prizes. The committee has agreed to write the value of the stock down over four years. Currently it is shown as an asset of the society and it is good accounting practice to write it down as it is not being sold.

Review of subscriptions

For the last few months of the year ended 31 March 2005, we have paid to post the newsletters at a cost of about £10 per month. This is equivalent to approximately £2 per annum per member. Part of the increase in the subscription last year was to pay this. One of the committee has sponsored the paper and printing. However, we may have to pay for this in the future.

The committee considers there are two options regarding the newsletter;

- **Option (a)** Continue with monthly newsletters and increase subscriptions (family £2, individual £1) to contribute to the possible costs of paper and printing.
- **Option (b)** Change to bimonthly newsletters which would half the postage cost and provide funds to contribute to the possible costs of paper and printing. This would allow the subscriptions to remain unchanged for this year.

These two options will be discussed at the AGM.

Laura Sturrock

**SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005**

	2005 £	2005 £	2004 £	2004 £
INCOME				
Polo shirts & sweat shirts				
Sales	267.10		75.50	
Less: value of stock sold	<u>247.58</u>	19.52	<u>69.45</u>	6.05
Daystar				
Ticket sales	324.00		356.00	
Costs	<u>310.81</u>	13.19	<u>291.73</u>	64.27
Subscriptions		701.00		634.00
Raffle		448.00		498.61
Refreshments		59.47		63.42
Donations		27.00		46.00
Interest		1.15		0.59
		<u>1,269.33</u>		<u>1,312.94</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Hire of meeting room		399.00		413.00
Lecture fees and costs		138.00		60.00
Equipment hire		44.65		0.00
Write down of surplus sales stock		50.00		0.00
Donations		325.00		635.00
Subscriptions		38.50		35.00
Trophy		7.50		0.00
Prize		0.00		10.00
Library		0.00		14.52
Postage & stationery		53.13		33.22
Insurance		215.25		199.25
IWA Chairman's dinner		0.00		33.48
Gifts + prizes		56.75		49.95
Depreciation		10.00		15.00
		<u>1,337.78</u>		<u>1,498.42</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(68.45)		(185.48)
Balance carried forward		<u>1,368.42</u>		<u>1,553.90</u>
		<u>1,299.97</u>		<u>1,368.42</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2005

ASSETS

Episcope less depreciation	54.00	64.00
Stock (raffle prizes)	142.47	192.47
Stock (sweat shirts)	5.29	23.50
Debtors & prepayments	283.00	357.47
Deposit account	312.89	705.65
Current account	659.36	26.62
Cash in hand	35.22	65.07

LIABILITIES

Creditors	(192.26)	(66.36)
	<u>1,299.97</u>	<u>1,368.42</u>

Represented by accumulated surplus
of income over expenditure

1,299.97

1,368.42

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:

Normally 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: paul@herbertpaul.wanadoo.co.uk

Secretary:

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Southampton, SO40 2SS. Tel: 023 8086 0384
E-mail: sue.eric.lewis@ukonline.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
Email: laura@whitenap.plus.com

Committee:

Martin Cripps,
Peter Oates,
Paul Taylor,
David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

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

Basingstoke Canal

(Continued from page 1)

lack of water for the canal. Rainfall in the first six months of this year, measured at Fleet, has only produced 56% of the 30-year average for the same period and, coupled with low ground water conditions, has caused serious water control problems resulting in stoppages. Projects to back-pump water used when boats navigate the locks are necessary to sustain use of the canal. Back pumping has been installed on the first two lock flights.

The Society also hopes to secure and increase the canal's future use with plans to create a mooring basin at the Canal Centre in Mytchett, and is investigating a possible new link with the Kennet & Avon Canal, which would expand the navigation by an additional 16-18 miles, from North Warnborough to the arc of the Kennet between Aldermaston and Reading, and create a Surrey, Hants and Berks cruising ring.

IWA Head Office Bulletin - July 2005

IWA Solent & Arun Branch Campaign Cruises 2005

Saturday 9 July

River Adur, Shoreham to Upper Beeding and back

A cruise to campaign for the retention and provision of public slipway access to the River Adur at Shoreham. The redevelopment of Ropetackle for housing has affected access to and the quality of the old public slipway. We will be using the Emerald Quay AND Ropetackle slipways, and viewing potential new slipway sites. The target is Upper Beeding Bridge and back. Launch at Emerald Quay or Ropetackle in Shoreham by 12:00 with four hours on the water; to Upper Beeding for a swift pint and picnic lunch.

Sunday 7 August

River Itchen at Winchester

A cruise on the top pound of the Itchen Navigation for unpowered and electric powered boats. This is a first for the Branch. The launching is over the towpath bank, not via a slipway, at Tun Bridge on Garnier Road and we will explore the Navigation from Winchester Wharf to St Catherine's Lock. The Itchen Navigation is now the subject of a study and proposal to repair and conserve the Navigation structures from Winchester to Woodmill, Southampton, by a partnership including the Environment Agency, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and local authorities. Our cruise is in support of the proposals, which, although stopping short of restoration, will preserve the route and remains of the Navigation for the future. Launch over bank at Tun Bridge on Garnier Road from 11:00.

Sunday 18 September

River Hamble to Curbridge & Botley

Our two yearly visit to the Hamble, this time to celebrate the completion of the Bark Store restoration, and its use as a canoe and boat club centre for the Upper Hamble. Lighter craft launch at Swanwick public slipway, larger powered boats can launch at Hamble or Warsash, and visiting trailboaters could use a visitors' berth in one of the various River Hamble marinas or with the Harbourmaster and make a weekend of it. We visit the pub at Curbridge for lunch, then Botley and its Parish Quay for tea and to inspect the Bark Store, courtesy of Botley village and the Upper Hamble Canoe Club. Launch at Warsash at 10:00, Swanwick at 11:00, lunch at Curbridge and teas at Botley Parish Quay on second high water, out by 18:00.

For details of locations and times, please contact Pete Boyce and request the 2005 Solent & Arun cruise guide.

Write to: Greensleeves Cottage, Hambledon Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 6PW. Tel. 023 9226 9642 Email. pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk