



Newsletter

Issue 393

June 2005

Chairman's Column

June Speaker

The Society is pleased to welcome Richard Thomas to our June meeting. Richard has spoken to us on a number of occasions in the past and his topic this month is "A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug".

Society Visit to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

A party from the Society visited the Weald & Downland Museum at Singleton on Sunday 8 May. Full details of that visit are published in this Newsletter.

WaterWorld

Ken and Margaret Froud, our Warwickshire-based members, who live on their narrow boat "Duorf II" on the Old Engine Arm at Napton, have kindly recorded the latest series of TVs popular 'WaterWorld'. Ray Brooks has offered to make a copy which will then be available from Alan Howarth's library stand at Society meetings. Watch this space for an announcement about its availability.

Society Visit to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

Eighteen members and friends attended the Society's outing to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton on



Sunday 8 May. Originally a party of 23 had been booked but, due to various reasons, some members had to drop out at a fairly late stage. They missed a great day out!

Singleton (as the Museum is commonly known) contains 44 buildings from Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent, which have been saved from demolition, carefully dismantled and re-erected at the

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.

Mary Hill

Further to the item about Mary in my last Chairman's Column, I understand she is still in hospital. On behalf of all her friends and colleagues in the Society I would like to send Mary our very best wishes for a speedy recovery. Our thoughts are also extended to David in this difficult time for them both.

Annual General Meeting

An advance reminder that the Society's 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held on 28 July (our 'August' meeting). The agenda, accounts and officers' reports will be printed in a future Newsletter. As always, all Officers and Committee posts will be up for election so, if you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society, please put your name forward, either to me or the Secretary, Eric Lewis. 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

Museum. Often new timbers and other material have to be used where parts of the original could not be salvaged

because of their poor condition. Our guided tour took in a range of buildings which included large splendid farmhouses and smaller cottages, medieval houses, industrial buildings such as a smithy, watermill, saw-pit shed, a small schoolroom and a humble cattle shed. Many of the buildings have to be seen to be fully understood and appreciated. I certainly cannot give

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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.

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 2 Jun 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug' with Richard Thomas. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 4 Jun 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Langstone & Chichester Harbours - Bullion Run along the barge route from Portsmouth. Delivery of restoration funds: Portsmouth to Salterns Lock.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freemove.co.uk
Sun 5 Jun 2005 10.30am for 11.00am start	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Chichester Ship Canal - from Salterns lock to Chichester Canal Basin. Bullion run part two. To navigate and portage the complete length of the Canal from the harbour to the city basin. About 2 hours duration.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freemove.co.uk
Sun 12 Jun 2005 Starting 9.00am to 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	33rd Annual Poddle Sponsored Walk. 14 mile walk starting from Amberley Recreation Ground on B2139. Open to anyone who raises MINIMUM £15 sponsorship. Buffet lunch will be provided to walkers at Arundel.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: office@wact.org.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Tue 14 Jun 2005 8.00pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Illustrated talk - "William Smith and the Batheaston Coal Mine" by Daniel Brown. Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock. Follows Canal Society AGM.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948. Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Sun 19 Jun 2005 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The area around Fuller's Earth Works. Meet at Odd Down Park and Ride.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948. Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Sun 25 Jun 2005 11.00am - 5.00pm	Reading Borough Council/Kennet & Avon CT	Reading Water Fest. On the Kennet, Abbey Ruins, Riverside Museum.	Jo Keen: 0118 939 0373
Sat 2 Jul 2005 12.00 - 6.00pm	National Trust	Guildford Boat Gathering on River Wey at Millmead, Guildford. Admission free.	Tel: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk
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.freemove.co.uk
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.	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.freemove.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
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

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Waterways Diary 2005 *(continued from page 3)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
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
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
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Hol 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

May Meeting Valley of the Barn Owls - Dennis Bright

We were delighted to welcome back Dennis Bright on his third visit to the Society. On this occasion his programme was 'Valley of the Barn Owls' - the valley being that of the River Test.

Dennis started his talk with a photograph of a tower of a derelict church, where Barn Owls had been seen roosting. Eastleigh's original Parish Church, the Church of the Resurrection, had become surplus to the needs of the community and had been acquired by a developer, but was subsequently burnt out. When the building was recently 'restored' and converted into apartments, the openings in the tower had been glazed and the owls lost one of their roosting sites. Dennis described the dangers of urban development to barn owls and other species because of lost habitats. In Hampshire, there had been a significant loss of habitat due to the disastrous loss of trees as a result of the 1987 hurricane and subsequent winter storms. Nationally, it was estimated that the barn owl population had been reduced by 70%.

The Environment Agency and other sponsors had promoted the provision of nesting boxes for Barn Owls and Dennis described to us the various projects he had been involved with to provide new habitats for the owls. He had constructed a large number of nesting boxes and he described his various methods of construction (wooden tea chests were evidently popular in his earlier experiments) and their location in trees and barns etc. As his efforts proved more and more successful so his designs improved. The upshot of all his hard work was a significant increase in the numbers of breeding pairs of owls and, subsequently,

larger surviving broods. One particular problem he had encountered had been competition from jackdaws, who often tried to take over the boxes.

We learnt a great deal about the habits of barn owls, their breeding cycles and hunting methods etc. Unfortunately we also heard about the threats to their existence, from changes in the countryside, particularly from extensive farming methods which removed hedges and field margins, where the barn owls traditionally hunted for prey, and from collisions with motor vehicles when they swooped low over roads.

However, through the efforts of people like Dennis, the barn owl population of Hampshire, and particularly the valley of the Test, was now thriving. We learnt where to go to see barn owls at the best times of the year.

Throughout his talk we witnessed excellent examples of Dennis's brilliant photography. It was obvious that Dennis has much affection for his 'Ghost Owls' as barn owls are often known. He has often spent many hours parked in his car, with his camera at the ready, waiting to catch a particular barn owl in flight or resting on one of a number of perches that Dennis has set up.

Many thanks Dennis for a wonderful evening, your enthusiasm for your subject always comes through most strongly, and we all look forward to your talks.

Dennis will be back to talk to us sometime in 2006.

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:

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

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Museum Visit

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them full credit in this brief article.

One of the crowning parts of the day was our visit to the Downland Gridshell, the innovative construction of which celebrates the use of wood as a building material. The basement of the Gridshell houses the Museum's craft workshops and collection of 7,500 rural life artefacts and we were privileged to be allowed to wander through the latter, looking at the tools and other implements of a bygone age.

Despite the sun, the morning was quite cool and many of us were glad to have brought warm coats with us. In a couple of the buildings fires had been lit and it was good to huddle around them, if only for a brief spell. Many of us ate lunch in the Museum's café where hot, tasty food was on offer, as well as ploughmans, sandwiches, cakes and the usual beverages. The café was very busy, and the downside of this was that, unfortunately, they had run out of hot soup – something many of us were looking forward to!

Fortunately, the afternoon had warmed up considerably and the group split up into individual groups for a general look round the site and a visit to the shop.

I think everybody agreed that the outing had been a great success. The Society needs to express a big 'Thank You' to Maureen and Brian Greenham for their hard work in organising this visit.

For those who were unable to go on the outing, the Museum is open until October from 10.30am to 6pm, after which winter opening hours apply. The Museum hosts a number of special events throughout the year.

Paul Herbert

Some of the Society members on their visit to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

