



NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column

March 2011 Meeting

This evening we offer a very warm welcome to Tony Pratt. He is taking us on a journey, "Horsham to Littlehampton in 100 years". Also he's also giving us a short update on the Wey & Arun Canal's progress.

February Meeting

24 Members attended and enjoyed the presentation on the Talyllyn Railway, the write up of which is in this month's Newsletter.

Next Month's Meeting

This will be on Thursday April 7th and will be the Inter-Society Waterways Quiz that was postponed from last December. As reigning champions Salisbury IWA are organising the Quiz.

As usual the evening will finish off with an American Supper. We would all appreciate our members bringing along food to share. Plus volunteers for our own team, please.

Society Burgees

These are available at £12.50 each or £13.50 posted.

Competition winner



After a technical hitch (the press date arrived before the picture), we can now bring you Pam McKeown's winning photo in the competition held at the Society's January meeting.

Well done, Pam.

Canal Society Chairman Dies

Peter Redway, Chairman of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society, died on 7th February following a long period of poor health.

Peter, his wife Marguerite and their two sons lived in a row of cottages built by his grandfather beside the Basingstoke Canal in St John's near Woking, so it was perhaps inevitable that he should get drawn into the restoration that took place during the 1970s and 80s. It was in fact Marguerite who entered a national competition for local environmental improvement proposals and won £5000, which enabled work to start on the five locks at St John's. However it was not long before Peter was leading the work parties there.

After the canal re-opened in 1991, Peter became the



Society's Vice-Chairman and subsequently Chairman. Although the canal was open, he continued to lead volunteer work parties doing work to improve the navigation. His leadership technique was simple and very effective – work incredibly hard on the canal and shame everyone else into following.

It earned him the admiration and respect of the County Council owners of the canal, who nominated him for the MBE that he received in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2007. The admiration,

respect and affection were shared by everyone who knew Peter and his parting will leave a huge gap that will be very hard to fill.

www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

For further details contact Angela, Club Secretary (contact details on the back page).

Ideas wanted!

It has been put forward that our June 2nd meeting should be a Social evening to include Bring & Buy, Silent Auction, with a Quiz running through the evening. Is there anything else you, as members, would like to include?

Please see any Committee member with any comments or ideas.

Boat trip

Maureen Greenham has proposed a Society boat trip for this summer. More details on page 2.

Day-Star Theatre

Members will be interested to know that the Day-Star Theatre has been booked to give a show at Chilworth on Friday 7th October 2011. Further details will be published in due course but put the date in your diaries now.

Alan Rose

February Meeting

The Talyllyn Railway - Alan Inder

The Talyllyn Railway was the world's first preserved railway.

In 1865, permission was granted by Parliament to construct a 2ft 3in gauge railway to carry slate from quarries at Nant Gwernol, 700ft above sea level to Tywyn on the Mid Wales Coast, between Aberystwyth and Barmouth.

Originally the slate was transported by pack horse but this soon changed when the railway was built in a year including engine sheds and workshops at Pendre Hey.

The early 1900's brought strikes in other mines in the area. However, Nant Gwernol was not effected and so increased its work. A picture was shown by Alan of the last wagon of the day, coming down full of folks "joy riding" on a summer's evening.

In 1911 the railway was sold to Mr Haydn Jones who ran it until his death in 1950.

Times were hard and plans were being made to sell off the railway for scrap when Tom Rolt took an interest. He found the building and tools just as the work men had left it. Mr Rolt encouraged other enthusiasts and wrote in 1943 to the press for more supporters. Ex-engine drivers on the line volunteered, other experienced engineers and machinists also came on board.

Whit Monday 1951 saw the first steam train in the world to run on a preserved railway. Alan's collection included photographs from the 1950's taken by Dick Sainsbury an old volunteer.

Ken and Margaret Froud leaving NB Duorf

Ken and Margaret have been living the "Good Life" for 31 very happy years at the Engine Arm on the Napton flight.

They made this very hard decision recently, due to this long and hard winter. Margaret had breathing difficulties and had to call out the emergency services, not good when you have to cross the top gate of a lock to get to the ambulance.

Ken and Margaret are now having a shopping spree, to buy a new cooker, fridge, washing machine as everything on the boat is 12

Since the 1950's other historic locomotives, the 1866 Guinness and Russell loco from the clay line nr Swanage have joined the stock, plus a new locomotive



'Dolgoch' at Tywyn Wharf in 1949, with the complete passenger stock

has been constructed in the railway's Pendre works.

This year the Talyllyn Railway celebrates 60years of success, it offers a wonderful experience for all, on a journey through the Snowdonia National Park.

The Rev William Awdry, an early volunteer guard, best known for his stories of the tank engine called Thomas: 2011 is the centenary of his birth.

Tom Rolt's book "Railway Adventure" refers to the Talyllyn Railway's early years. Also have a look at the railway's web site for more details: www.talyllyn.co.uk

Angela Rose

volt. Plus they need a new bed!

They are setting up home in Southam, new address to follow.

On behalf of all our members we wish them Good Luck and lots of laughs in their Twilight years.

Eric and Sue Lewis, Terry and Ann Phippard and ourselves will miss our chats and the cup of tea, as we walk pass their boat to our own moorings on the Engine Arm.

Alan and Angela Rose

Government responds to 'Protect Our Canals' petition

The government has finally replied to the 'Protect Our Canals' petition on the No.10 e-petition website of over a year ago, with a statement issued today.

The new 'charitable model' for British Waterways was announced last October, with full transition to the new charitable organisation by April 2012, with a longer term guaranteed funding model. Today's statement confirms not only the transfer of BW's existing property portfolio, but an annual fixed grant giving support at the preannounced 2014/15 level (£39 million) through to 2022/23 - a much longer timescale than previously hinted.

This long-term fixed commitment is something BW has long requested, to allow it to plan more comprehensively for the future.

The official statement concludes:

Summer Boat Trip

The SCS outing this year will be a sea cruise from Gosport to the Beaulieu River and Bucklers Hard on Tuesday 19 July, returning along the north shore of the Isle of Wight and ending with a trip round Portsmouth Harbour.

The cost will be £20 which includes a ploughman's or jacket potato

"The Government will give the new charity the best start it can afford, with the transfer of the property portfolio and a long term contract. As a first step, the Government has provided a new long term commitment to a grant allocation at the 2014/15 level (£39m) to 2022/23 inclusive (covering the next two Spending Review periods) that will enable the development of a funding plan which gives confidence to the incoming Trustees of the new charity. The amount and length of the contract will be subject to negotiation with the Trustees, who will be appointed this April."

The petition wording was "We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to protect our canals by not selling off property owned by British Waterways." This petition attracted 22,310 signatures.

www.waterwaysworld.com and www.hmg.gov.uk/epetition-responses/petition-view.aspx?epref=protectourcanals

lunch (we are no longer able to eat our own food on board). The trip leaves at 11.30am and returns at 4.30pm.

Will interested parties please give Maureen Greenham your names at the next meeting or by phone on 02380406951 or email to maureen.greenham@talktalk.net

Maureen Greenham

Waterways Diary

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 3 Mar 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Horsham to Littlehampton in 100 years" with Tony Pratt, including a short update on the Wey & Arun Canal Trust progress. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Wed 16 Mar 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The Hidden Avon" with Roger Clay from the Stratford and Warwick Trust, will talk about the River Avon above Stratford-upon-Avon up to Warwick and the proposed restoration scheme. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Mar 2011 10.00am	Wey & Arun CT	5.5 mile guided walk taking in locks 12 to 6 on the canal near the Surrey/Sussex border. Sir Roger Titchborne pub car park, Alfold Bars, Loxwood, Sussex, RH14 0QS. (TQ 037334)	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: office@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Thu 17 Mar 2011 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Why Archives?" Elaine Kirby is an archive administrator at the K&A Trust museum at Devizes. She will explain the job of an archivist. We will see old photographs and documents relating to the K&A. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3AR (SU182274).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 17 Mar 2011 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Structures of the Dorset & Somerset Canal" talk by Derrick Hunt. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 20 Mar 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Structures of the Dorset & Somerset Canal, a guided tour. Meet: Radstock Museum, Waterloo Road, Radstock BA3 3EP (ST689549).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Sun 20 Mar 2011 1.00pm	Friends of Purton	Guided tour through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett. Tour fee £3.50 per person. Approx 2 hours weather permitting. Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (SO692044). This is the last guided site tour until further notice.	Paul Barnett: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com Web: www.friendsofpurton.org.uk
Wed 23 Mar 2011 10.30am	Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust	Guided Walk - Mansbridge. 10.30am - 12 noon. Meet at White Swan Pub, Mansbridge Road, West End, Southampton, SO18 3HW (on the A27, SU449156) for a stroll around the Navigation and Itchen Valley.	Polly Whyte: 01489 774413 Email: PollyW@hwt.org.uk
Thu 24 Mar 2011 7.30pm	Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society	"An Engineering Connection - James Brindley/Josiah Clowes." The life of Brindley and his tutoring of other engineers including Clowes. Keynsham British Legion, Charlton Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JA (ST653686).	Roger Davis: 01275 847522 Email: rogerdavis962@btinternet.com Web: http://www.b-i-a-s.org.uk
Fri 25 Mar 2011 7.30 for 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	AGM and speaker - Trust Chairman, Dr. Mike Rodd. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 to cover room hire and tea / coffee.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 30 Mar 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Details not to hand. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 7 Apr 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz (postponed from last December). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184). Questions set by Salisbury IWA.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 14 Apr 2011 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"No Caisson to Answer" talk by Jeremy Gibson and Martin Horler. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Sun 17 Apr 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Skinner and the Mendip Barrows. Dr. Jodie Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Worcester. Meet: Priddy Village Green, near Wells. (ST526509). Bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £2.00. This walk is not about waterways.	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Wed 20 Apr 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'Roses and Castles - Canal Boat Decoration' with John Ross who is a fully accredited journeyman in decorative painting with the Waterways Craft Guild. He will be discussing the history of canal art and will demonstrate the painting of Roses and Castles. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sat & Sun 23 & 24 April 2011	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Woking Canal Festival 2011. Boat trips, stalls and live entertainment. Bridge Barn pub, Bridge Barn Lane, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6NL (SU994585).	Verna Smith: 01252 517622 Email: verna.smith@virgin.net
Wed 27 Apr 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Details not to hand. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 28 Apr 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Suez Canal Past & Present" by Roger Squires. 7.45pm Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Fri 29 Apr 2011 7.30 for 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'Ontario Canals' with David Copley. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 to cover room hire and tea / coffee.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Sat 30 Apr 2011	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Dawn Chorus walk led by Canal Ranger Peter Bickford down the Canal, listen and learn about birdsongs. Peter will be focusing on resident birds for this walk. Booking essential £3.00. Howfield Cottage, Brookwood, Surrey, GU24 0AG. (SU943568) (Deepcut Bottom Lock)	Basingstoke Canal Centre: 01252 370073
Wed 18 May 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'The Making of the Forth Bridge at Walton-on-Thames' by Pablo Haworth who will talk about the history of the bridge at Walton-on-Thames which was designed in 1933 but built in 1953. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 May 2011 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Mike & Lynn Bassett will give an illustrated talk about Nova Scotia in Canada and the navigations of this area. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3AR (SU182274).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841

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.

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Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

Last ditch effort to save steamship

A LAST minute appeal has been launched to save one of the country's most important historic steam ships that is struggling for survival.

Budget cuts mean that grants are no longer routinely available to pay for maintenance work on heritage ships.

Since the historic SS Shieldhall, launched an emergency appeal last month to save her from the scrap yard £20,000 has been raised but an additional £60,000 is now urgently required.

Without an essential 'MOT' in May the steam ship will be refused a licence to sail, and could be broken up.

Captain Peter Roberts, Master of the SS Shieldhall, said: "There are no longer grants available to help us keep the Shieldhall afloat. Our financial reserves have already been hit by the huge rise in fuel costs and if we lose our licence to sail, then we've already carried our last fare-paying passenger."

The SS Shieldhall, based at the Port of Southampton, is the largest remaining sea-going steamship in the UK and the last fully operational coastal passenger/cargo steamer in Europe.

She's one of a small number of vessels recognised by the UK's ship 'listing' body, known as the National Historic Ships Unit, and was named their 'Flagship' in 2009.

She is recognised as being of significant national importance and operates as a heritage attraction. All vessels 'listed' are considered a high priority for preservation, but unlike historic buildings, the UK's heritage ships aren't guaranteed financial support.

By way of comparison, English Heritage is planning to spend over £11 million on properly maintenance this year and The National Trust recently spent over £166million on routine property running costs, according to the last available figures.

Maritime historians fear that if the money can't be found to get the SS Shieldhall through her May inspection, she will suffer the same fate as the Mersey-based MV Wincham, which was scrapped in



April 2009 for want of £60,000 dry-dock costs.

In October 2010, the Grimsby paddle steamer, Lincoln Castle, was also broken up after a failed rescue attempt by enthusiasts.

The ship is crewed by fully qualified but unpaid volunteers and relies solely upon revenue from fares and donations for survival.

Over the past 18 years, approximately 25,000 passengers have enjoyed supervised access to SS Shieldhall's bridge, engine and boiler rooms.

To donate or for membership go to www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk or www.justgiving.com/shieldhall

"All at Sea", February 2011

Thanks go to Laurie Pearce to spotting this article and sending it for publication here. Although this is not an item related to the waterways, it is of local (and national) interest and it would also be criminal for the Shieldhall to be scrapped.

2011/2012 Subscriptions

Just to remind all members that we are coming to that time of the year again when we pay our annual subscriptions. At the 2010 AGM it was agreed that, with effect from 1 April this year, the subscriptions should be:-

- Joint Membership - £25.00
- Individual Membership - £15.00

I will be pleased to receive payments from the March meeting onwards.

Many thanks,

Gill Herbert

Gill's contact details may be found at the top of this page.