

NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Column

March Meeting

This evening we offer a very warm welcome to Stuart Fisher, editor of the Canoeist Magazine.

Sit back and enjoy the peace and quiet of drifting by canoe searching out the "Elusive Canals & Navigations" the waterways you cannot reach easily from the main system by narrowboat.

NOTE: The venue changed for this meeting to

ST DENYS' CHURCH HALL, OLD CHILWORTH VILLAGE, SO16 7NN

From our usual venue, follow the A27 towards North Baddesley and Romsey. Ignore the left turn into Chilworth Manor and the Southampton Science Park.

About 350 yards further on, turn left into a road with signs saying Chilworth Old Village. Very shortly you should see St Denys' Church on your left. The church hall is just past the church in Fowler's Walk on your left. Parking should be possible there or in the immediate vicinity. Please do not block the narrow lane.

April Meeting

This is another joint meeting with IWA Guildford & Reading Branch on 3rd April.

Peter Boyce will be talking about "The Restoration of Wooden Narrowboats" to include the work currently

being carried out on *James Loader*, *Clent* and an update on *Lucy*. Friends and visitors welcome, as they are at all of our meetings. Please support this evening.

Proposed Boat Gathering

An informal gathering for boaters in the Napton / Braunston area has been suggested to be held over the first May bank holiday weekend 3rd/5th May.

This is not an organised event, just a small number of boat owners joining up for a casual get-together. If any members in the area would like to join in, could they please contact me as soon as possible.

February Meeting

Thank you to Paul Herbert and the Committee for welcoming Geoff Watts to the meeting. Afterwards, we received this email:

At the next SCS Meeting would you please give my very grateful thanks for the reception for my Titanic talk and the donation from Gill yesterday evening. The donation will be added to other donations from my talks and used to benefit local charities.

Many thanks one again for the invitation and donation.

Best wishes Geoff.

Geoff also sent a list of his other talks for us to consider.

Alan Rose

Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society

Recently, your editor received the following email which is self explanatory:

Dear Peter,

A few years ago when I was still a member of SCS I did a talk [*in April 2006*] on the Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath. Since then we have filmed a 110 minute DVD and we also have a cut down 45 minute version. On June 2nd I am bringing this version with some talk to the Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society who meet at the Underhill Centre, St John the Evangelist Church, St John's Road, Hedge End. (start at 7.45pm).

You might like to include it in your newsletter if anyone is interested.

Regards to all

Bob Dukes

National Flood Appeal launched

The Canal & River Trust (CRT) are appealing to friends and supporters for help in coping with the continuing extreme weather that is causing major challenges right across its 2,000 miles of waterways.

- In Oxfordshire, 200 year old canal bridges on the Oxford Canal have been damaged and the towpath surfaces have washed away.
- In Somerset, the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal has been playing a significant role in efforts to relieve the flooded Somerset plains, but is now itself in flood and sections of towpath have been damaged.
- In Gloucestershire, the tidal Severn has scoured the embankment of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, the last line of defence for a large swathe of land.
- In Wiltshire and across the home counties, major floods on the Kennet & Avon and Grand Union Canals are causing hundreds of thousands of pounds of repair works.
- The River Severn has been in flood for some time and at record levels; many structures are submerged and damage is likely to be significant.
- And in Wales, the heavy rain has caused serious damage to two much-loved canals. Engineers are on site now assessing the impact to the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal and the Llangollen Canal where embankments have slipped and are being urgently stabilised.

Vince Moran, Canal & River Trust operations director, said "We are appealing for your support which will help us fund the immediate and longer-term repairs that will be necessary to bring our towpaths and waterways back into use as quickly as possible. Every penny you give will be spent directly and entirely on repairing and protecting flood affected waterways."

Further details about damage to the waterways system and the National Flood Appeal can be found on the CRT website: <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk>

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.

OS grid references and/or postcodes are shown (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event.

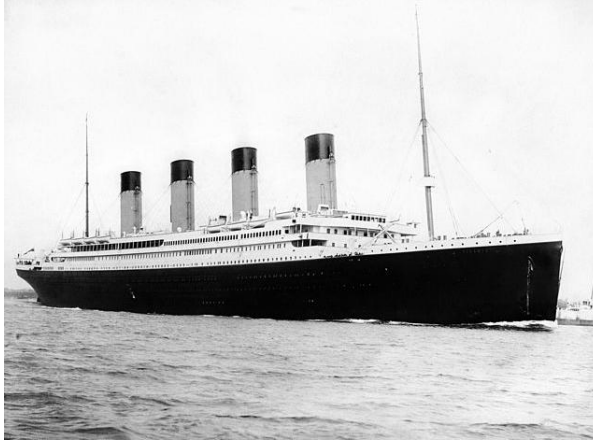
If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 6 Mar 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Stuart Fisher, editor of the <i>Canoeist Magazine</i> , will speak about "Elusive Canals & Navigations" the waterways you cannot reach easily from the main system by narrowboat. NB The venue of this meeting has changed to St Denys' Church Hall, Old Chilworth Village, Southampton, SO16 7NN (SU406187). For directions see Chairman's Column on the front page.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sun 16 Mar 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Edford to Coleford led by Derrick Hunt. Meet: Duke of Cumberland, Edford, BA3 5HQ (ST669487).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Tue 18 Mar 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	AGM followed by speaker TBA. The Grange Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation, including K&A members, £2.50 (to help with expenses).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 19 Mar 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Conserving the Waterways Heritage" by Nigel Crowe, CRT's Head of Heritage. He will explain what waterways heritage is, how heritage assets are dealt with, maintained and restored. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Mar 2014 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Disaster waiting" by Paul Barnett. This is the story of the River Severn Railway bridge. Its construction, day to day operation and its eventual destruction when it was hit by two runaway tanker barges. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover.3@btinternet.com Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 20 Mar 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"A Pictorial Journey" with Roger Halse. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sun 23 Mar 2014 10.45am - 4.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Small boat rally at Alfold (Summit section running alongside Dunsfold Park Airfield). Launch Tickners Heath side of the Compasses Bridge at the new landing stage GU6 8HY (TQ034360). Free entry but donations welcome.	John F. H. Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/AlfoldRally2014.pdf
Wed 26 Mar 2014 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	Branch AGM followed by a talk on the History of the West Mills Area by Local Historian David Peacock. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS. (SU472671)	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: kact.newbury@btinternet.com
Thu 3 Apr 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Peter Boyce will talk about "The Restoration of Wooden Narrow Boats" to include the current work on James Loader, Clent and Lucy. This is a Joint Meeting with IWA Guildford & Reading Branch. Visitors welcome. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sun 13 Apr 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stroud led by Patrick Moss. Meet: Layby on A46 south of M4 Junction 18 to car-share to Stroud. Nearest postcode BS37 6EJ (ST757779).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Tue 15 Apr 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	TBA. The Grange Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation, including K&A members, £2.50 (to help with expenses).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 16 Apr 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Inland Shipping in West Africa" by Dr David Hilling. David is a Vice President of the IWA and a member of its Freight Group and is UK representative on the Berlin-based European River Sea Transport Union and an academic geographer. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Apr 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	The Inclined Planes of the SCC and surrounding area by Derrick Hunt, Adrian Tuddenham and Mike Chapman. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sat 26 Apr 2014 2.00pm	Sussex Ouse Restoration Soc	A walk to Hamsey Lock to include the two Barcombe Locks and Pikes Bridge. Meet in Barcombe - more precise details from Hazel Lintott.	Hazel Lintott: 01444 414413 Email: info@xouse.org.uk
Thu 1 May 2014	Southampton CS	There will be NO May Meeting: Hall commandeered for possible elections.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Mon 5 May 2014	Wilts & Berks CT	Sponsored Walk starting from the Butter Cross, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3HR (ST921732) to the Bell at Lacock and back (10 miles return). Minibus available for one way walk. Also photo competition.	Peter Williams: 07745 825916 Web: http://www.wbct.org.uk/branches/melksham-calne-and-chippenham/
Sun 18 May 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Coleford to Highbury - led by Derrick Hunt. Meet: at The King's Head, Underhill, Coleford, BA3 5LU (ST687487) (but please park elsewhere).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com Web: http://www.coalcanal.org
Sun 18 May 2014 2.45pm	Wey & Arun CT	Pulborough to Pallingham Small Boat Cruise to demonstrate the right of navigation on the River Arun as far upstream as Pallingham Quay. Launch from Pulborough slipway, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184) from 2.45pm to 3.15pm. Free entry but donations welcome.	John F. H. Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/ArunWeyRally2014.pdf
Mon 2 Jun 2014 7.45pm	Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Soc	Film and talk about the Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath near Poole by Bob Dukes. Underhill Centre, St John the Evangelist Church, St John's Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF (SU488125).	Carol Burdekin: 01962 855200 Email: info@hias.org.uk
Thu 5 Jun 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	SCS member Gordon Osborn with the "Ups & Downs of the South Pennine Ring." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 3 Jul 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	AGM followed by Cheese & Wine. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

February Meeting The Titanic

At our last meeting a large number of members and visitors enjoyed a fascinating talk on the aftermath of the Titanic sinking by Geoff Watts, a Southampton Tourist Guide. This brief write-up can only skim the surface of Geoff's account of the disaster and what followed.

Whilst we all know the sad story of the Titanic's maiden journey and its sinking, Geoff's presentation concentrated on the widespread social and economic problems and deprivation caused to the city and people of Southampton by the disaster. His presentation began with a brief history of the city from medieval trading to the arrival of the railway, Royal Mail and the development of the Eastern Docks. The White Star Company transferred from Liverpool and set up offices in Canute Road for their luxury passenger liners. In 1912 Titanic arrived in Southampton in preparation for her maiden cruise, recruiting a large number of local people for employment on the liner. At that time there was a national coal miners strike, but White Star Lines purloined coal from their other vessels in the docks in order for Titanic to sail. (Just think, if those other ships had not been present, or their coal stocks too low to complete the bunkering of Titanic,



RMS Titanic departing Southampton on April 10, 1912

that ship couldn't have sailed and the disaster wouldn't have happened).

Early news of the tragedy of the vessel was very confused. One report said the Titanic was being towed, another said all were accounted for, whilst yet another mentioned rescue boats. Local people went to White Star Chambers in Canute Road and eventually saw lists of names on blackboards.

Geoff's illustrated talk showed the areas of Southampton where large numbers of crew members who were lost had lived. There were many families who had lost husbands, fathers, brothers and the situation of

the widows was particularly desperate. There were no benefits in those days but various charity funds and the Workers Compensation Act provided a little financial support for the families of the drowned men. The majority of the provisions etc for the liner were supplied by Southampton firms and they suffered badly as a result of the tragedy.

The talk concluded with the Southampton locations of the various memorials erected by the trade bodies of the lost crew.

Gill Herbert

Further Closure on the Basingstoke Canal

Many of you will be aware of the landslip at Dogmersfield that took place last Spring, which temporarily closed the Canal. After a difficult period, the navigation was thankfully reopened for much of the 2013 cruising season (though the towpath has had to remain closed), and it has remained open – that is, until last Monday (10 February). Almost inevitably, as a result of the torrential rain, the ground on both sides of the water has moved again (reactivating an old slip on the offside, *right*, and distorting the protective fence), with the result that trees now lay across the Canal and the channel has been severely narrowed. Naturally, the navigation has had to be closed for safety reasons, not least because several trees still standing on the slopes are at risk of falling. The Society's work to cut and remove logs from the area has also had to be curtailed until further notice.

When the navigation will be open again is currently unknown. Phil Allen, Hampshire County countryside manager (who only recently returned to work following an illness) issued the following response to a question about the status of the landslip from Jan Peile, of the Galleon Marine operation in Odiham:

"Jon [Green, head ranger], myself, and one of our engineers visited the site on Monday. There are around 6 medium sized trees across the upstream section of the slip, which have fallen as a result of a significant movement and extension of the offside slip. Both slips have moved, and the navigation channel is very much



smaller, and with a tighter radius at the curve. I doubt if the JP2 could get through.

The dredger is currently clearing fallen trees upstream, and staff will make their way towards the slip to clear the fallen trees there. When this is done, our engineers will need to take another view on what we do next."

The renewed closure is very disappointing. The Basingstoke CS has been working on plans to take the John Pinkerton II to Woking to showcase it and the Canal in July. We

also want to take the old JP to the dry-dock at Deepcut, so it can be prepared for sale, including obtaining a boat safety certificate (as we now have several people who are seriously interested in buying it). We are now discussing how best we can proceed with the JP1 sale, and how to meet our commitments providing trips during Farnborough Airshow week, and in Woking. The situation will also be bad news for Galleon Marine and also the Accessible Boating operation, who have a boat stranded on the wrong side of the slip.

Phil Allen adds, "We will do what we can to enable boats to pass to avoid stranding. We'll be in a better position to judge once the trees are removed and we can test the navigation."

As more information comes to hand, the page shown below will be updated. The Basingstoke Canal Society will of course do all it can to assist with returning the Canal to full navigation.

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/> 14 February 2014

Updates to this notice will appear at <http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/headline/latest-dogmersfield-landslip-february-2014/>

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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Brian Evans.

Chairman:

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Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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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.

Society Website: <http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

“Susan” and Six

Continuing our story by John Silman about his introduction to the English canal system in 1963.

From Worcester Bar to Birmingham the scenery had been decidedly industrial but at least pleasing in some respects with its functional cast iron bridges and 18th and 19th century brick factory buildings. From Tipton onwards the surroundings became even more industrial and after some time we arrived at Wolverhampton top lock. Here we knew that the canal descended by 21 locks to the level of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal. What we did not know was that these 21 were in one continuous flight. By 9pm we had reached the pound between locks 9 and 10 and having decided we had had enough for one day we three men left to sample the hospitality of the nearest pub.

Returning from here feeling a little better we were apprehended by the Lock-keeper who told us that we were likely to be awoken rudely at about 4am the following morning as we were moored right in the spot where two working boats would have to turn in order to enter the gas works cut. So now having become a little blasé about working locks we decided to move on to No.17 where we were assured the countryside began again. Moving forward into Lock 10 we dropped down to the level of the pound below and having opened the bottom gates of the lock Tony and I shouted at Tim “Off you go”.

Unfortunately we had failed to notice in the darkness and drizzle which had commenced to fall that the bottom gates, due to bricks behind them, had not swung back into the recesses in the lock walls and Susan, steaming ahead, was brought to an abrupt halt by being too fat to pass through the only part open gates. Here was a pretty pickle; we could go neither ahead nor astern and were at the bottom of a very dark and gloomy lock. Then we suddenly remembered that part of Susan's equipment consisted of 4 chains and bottle screws which could be stretched across the accommodation at strategic points along her length and when tightened acted as her 'corset'.

Having put these on we could get back into the lock but still could not go forward. So bearing in mind we could not moor between locks 9 and 10 we perforce had to go astern to Lock 9 and up through it to pound 8. Unfortunately this particular pound commanded a very fine view - on the left a magnificent rubbish dump, on the right probably the biggest marshalling yards in the Midlands and straight ahead the local Gas Works. Charmed by this entrancing vista we finally went to bed. At 5.30am the following morning I was awoken by the unusual angle at which our boat was lying, and having peered out through the hatch I was horrified to find that we were high and dry. Apparently during the night someone's idea of fun had been to open the paddles on the lock below us and we appeared to be in imminent danger of

rolling sideways into the thick mud and old tin cans left by the receding waters. Having asked, nay having begged, everyone to keep still I crept carefully ashore to try to mend the situation, but finally had to enlist the lock-keeper's aid. Having assisted the lock-keeper to remove half a house from Lock 10 and the other half from Lock 15 we finally emerged at Aldersley Junction into reasonable countryside again. Turning to the right we soon came to Autherley Junction and a signpost at last reading Chester. Going through the stop lock at the entrance to the Shropshire Union Canal we spent a few minutes with Sam Lomas, the British Waterways representative, who duly admired our craft and extolled to us the virtues of the 'Shropshire Cut'.

Soon we were admiring the cuttings and embankments of Telford's finest Canal and moored the night at Wheaton Aston at a disused wharf conveniently near the village. On Tuesday we lunched at the tiny village of Gnosall (pronounced locally as Nawzall). That afternoon, being short of provisions - and working locks works up quite an appetite - we stopped to replenish our supplies at Knighton and all six of us, plus the dog, crowded into the tiny village shop-cum-post office which appeared to be in the dear lady proprietress's front room. The size and magnificence of our order seemed to leave her somewhat shattered and she had to hastily calculate some obtruse formulae on pieces of paper before announcing dramatically that that would be £1 3s 0½d please.

The afternoon saw Susan firmly stuck in Lock No.3 of the Tyrley flight (due to last winter's frost the lock walls had moved in slightly). We hurriedly laced the old lady's corsets on again and were soon free to go. We moored the night at Market Drayton and went next day to see the weekly market. Tony and Tim wandered off and were found tasting all sorts of Cheshire cheese in the covered market and had to be practically dragged away.

Three miles from Market Drayton we came to the Adderley Locks and after passing through the haunted Betton Coppice Cutting we stopped for tea just before Audlem No.1 lock, feeling that we would work the 15 locks better with something under our belts. Personally I think I enjoyed the working of locks as much as any part of the holiday as I always walked the towpath between locks preferring to prepare the locks rather than handle the boat. We finally stopped just beyond Lock No.12 and moored conveniently under the Bridge Inn (working locks is a thirsty job). This had been one of our best days for weather and we were treated to a magnificent blood red sunset which some of the crew tried to photograph through a slightly alcoholic haze, the resulting colour transparency being definitely on the shaky side.

To be concluded next month.

Membership Subscriptions Reminder

Subscriptions for the year 2014/2015 are due on 1 April. This year the joint subscription is £27 and £16 for individuals. I would be happy to receive subscriptions at the next meeting. Many thanks.

Gill Herbert, Treasurer & Membership Secretary