

Newsletter

Issue 382

May 2004

Chairman's Column

David James

Our very best wishes for a speedy recovery go to member, David James. David and Margaret were cruising the Cheshire waterways in their new narrow boat when David was suddenly taken ill and had to be admitted to a hospital in Crewe. Once we heard the news a 'Get Well' card was sent to David, on behalf of his Society colleagues. I am pleased to report that the latest news is that he is on the road to recovery and Margaret hopes they will be able to come home by the end of this week. Then they will have to arrange to get their boat back to its home moorings near Napton.

Apart from the obvious health concerns, David and Margaret are particularly disappointed that they will not now be able to attend the Society Boat Gathering this weekend.

'Thank You' Letters Received



Two letters have been received by the Society thanking us for recent donations. The first from the Romsey and

Wellow Group of Cancer Research UK, is in appreciation of the £50 donation made following the talk given to the Society by Eric and Sue Lewis in March. The second letter, from Jack Telling, Treasurer of the Cotswold Canals Trust, thanks the Society for its kind donation of £50 in respect of Andrew Stumpf's talk to the Society in February. The donation will be placed in the Trust's restoration fund.



Andrew Stumpf

And, speaking of Andrew Stumpf, he is featured, complete with a smiling picture, in a double-page spread in the Spring/Summer issue of British Waterways' magazine 'Waterfront'. The article is a question and answer type feature all about restoration, and who better to talk about it than Andrew who is, of course, the Regeneration Manager responsible for restorations in the South of England.

John Ross

Members will recall the interesting and entertaining talk given to the Society in May last year by John Ross, Vice Chairman of the Residential Boat Owners



Association. John and his wife live on board their converted cement barge, 'Jason' on the River Hamble. On Easter Monday John 'appeared' on the Nick Girdler programme on Radio Solent talking about the merits of living afloat and the

various challenges that such boat owners have to overcome.

Society Clothing

I understand from Martin Cripps that the latest batch of Society branded sweat shirts and polo shirts, ordered by members, is now in stock. Can those who ordered items please collect them from Martin, at one of our monthly meetings, as soon as possible.

We have also taken the opportunity to order a limited supply of Society Burgees, and these are also available from Martin, at £8 each.

Proposed Society Outings

There has now been sufficient interest in the two proposed outings mentioned in previous Newsletters to take these proposals to the next stage. However, no one has volunteered to assist in organising these events. More work will be done to investigate costings and possible dates when time permits. More news in a future Newsletter

Members in Print

During the last few months, three of our Society members have appeared, one way or another, in print. The February issue of *Waterways World* included a photograph and enquiry about Shelton Lock on the Derby Canal, from Laurie Pearce. In March a letter from Charles Stride under the heading of "In Defence of the Red Ensign" was published in *Canal Boat and Inland Waterways*. In April's *Waterways World* the Lewis family's narrow boat 'Remus' was pictured in Limehouse Basin in the late 1980s on the occasion of the opening of the new Thames lock.

Paul Herbert

April Meeting John Finch, Ipswich & Stowmarket Navigation

Each month I usually write a fairly long synopsis about the previous month's speaker or event. I find it particularly difficult to do so this month because an article about John and the Ipswich Branch of the IWA, and a separate article 'A Potted History of the Ipswich & Stowmarket Navigation – River Gipping', both written by our member Charles Stride, appeared in our March Newsletter, by way of introductions to John's forthcoming talk to us.

It doesn't leave me much to say (which I am sure is a great relief to many of our members!!!)

John entertained us with his in-depth knowledge of the navigation and its history, illustrating his talk



with some evocative slides of the waterway long ago, together with shots of the same locations today.

He described the various efforts in progress to protect the line of navigation with the aim of eventually achieving full restoration. We wish all those involved every success.

For those members with Internet access, if you were not able to come along to the

April meeting and wish to know more about the Ipswich & Stowmarket Navigation, look up the following:-

www.purbrook.demon.co.uk/iwa/guidemain.htm or
www.purbrook.demon.co.uk/gipping.htm

Paul Herbert

Close the Gap!

Following on from Andrew Stumpf's recent talk to the Society, your editor has been asked to make members aware of a petition being organised by the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust:

Why a petition?

Because the decision to build the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway - to close the gap between the Grand Union canal at Milton Keynes and the east of England waterways which terminate at Bedford - **rests on a knife edge.**

Timing is crucial. The proposed route, and the accompanying opportunity to build the canal as economically as possible, could be lost within a few years, as new housing, the M1 and A421 road widening

schemes and the Bedford western bypass, comes under construction. Houses

and roads, once built, will not be demolished to build a canal as an afterthought.

The waterway will bring economic, social and environmental benefits across the region, as well as cost savings because material extracted to form the canal can be used to build roads. Studies show that around 75% of the build cost could come from private sector developers involved in these projects. This year the initiative needs funding of just £300,000 to keep development on track by undertaking the next stage of studies to refine costs and benefits.

The waterway already has wide regional support and the support of the full range of local community organisations. The Trust is seeking national leadership from the Deputy Prime

Minister because of his responsibilities for the regions, planning reform and the development of sustainable communities in growth areas such as Milton Keynes and Bedford. All four local councils have already written to the Deputy Prime Minister asking him to act in support of the Waterway, as has the Chairman of British Waterways, and English Partnerships. Other relevant Government Departments (Defra), Offices and Agencies (East of England Development Agency, South East England

Development Agency, Environment Agency, Highways Agency, GOEast,

GOSE) are also being asked to support the Waterway initiative and work with developers and local councils to agree a strategy to co-ordinate plans for economic regeneration, improved transport and increased housing with improvement of the environment.

We are asking all members and supporters of the Trust to bring pressure to bear, in what ever way they can over the next year, on also those who can make this initiative happen. So ... **getting as many petition signatures as you can, and sending them in soon, is vital! The back of the petition sheet includes all the information you need to ask people to sign.**





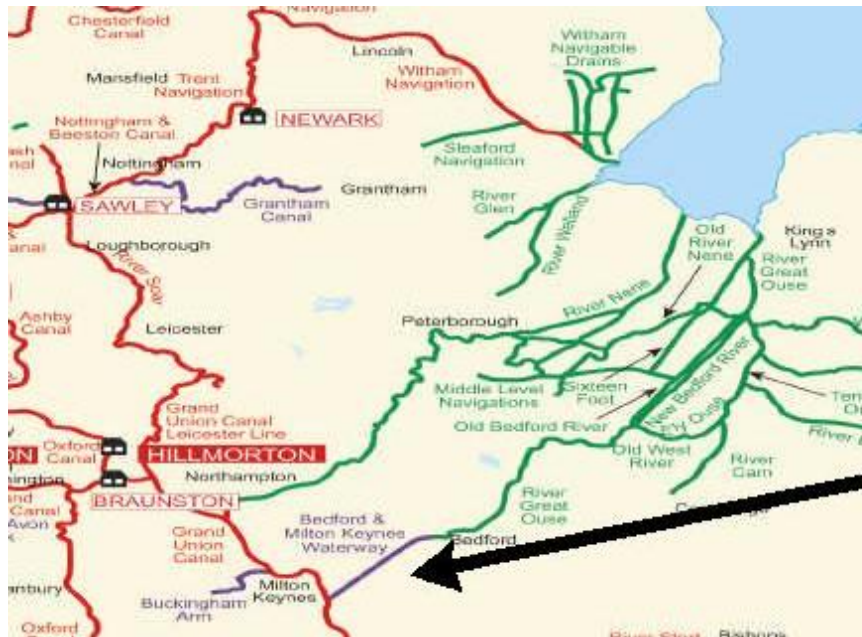
We, the undersigned, support the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway as a key element in the economic, environmental and leisure sustainable regeneration of the MK to Bedford corridor.

We urge Government and associated funding agencies; local authorities and associated developers to do everything they can to ensure its early construction in collaboration with the proposed new M1 and A421 widening, East-West rail link and major new housing developments.

Signature	Name	Post code	Address
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Please return this as soon as possible to: The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust,
PO Box 3611, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0XN; www.B-MKWaterway.org.uk

CLOSE THE GAP!!! BUILD THE BEDFORD TO MILTON KEYNES WATERWAY!



Close the Gap!!!

BACKGROUND

The Trust championed the building of this waterway in the mid-1990s to provide a broad canal link between the Grand Union Canal at Milton Keynes and the River Great Ouse at Bedford to open up the Eastern waterways to boats in each direction and provide an environment enhancing feature that would stimulate sustainable economic regeneration of the corridor between the two ends. This campaign attracted strong support from British Waterways and across the region leading to the formation of a 22 member Project Partnership of national government agencies, local government and other agencies and voluntary bodies pledged to carry the concept into reality. A major preliminary survey has demonstrated the feasibility of the waterway and led to adoption of a route. The critical path now lies through securing financial commitment of all the interested parties.

ACTION ON THE FORM(S)

Please note before obtaining any signatures:-

1. Each person must sign the petition individually - "Mr and Mrs" does not count.
2. The address information is necessary and must be written-in by the signatory.
3. If an individual signs the petition on behalf of a company, then that signature should also be accompanied by the company's stamp if it has one.
4. Signatures should follow one another, ie no blank lines, and there should be **no erasures or deletions**.
- 5 Signatures are valid only if collected on the Petition Form or a photocopy of it.

Further copies of the form may be obtained by photocopying it before completion, or downloading it from the Trust website (www.B-MKWaterway.org.uk).

Pease **return** the completed forms to

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust,
PO Box 3611,
Newport Pagnell,
MK 16 0XN.

Please keep the completed forms coming !

Close the Gap!!!

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 29 Apr 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright tells the story of the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve (this is the May meeting one week early). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri 30 Apr 2004	Kenet & Avon CT	Swanline. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Sat 1 May - Mon 3 May 2004	Southampton CS	Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston. This event is restricted to Society members and friends.	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365 PaulLHerbert@aol.com
Wed 12 May 2004 7.45pm	Kenet & Avon CT	K&A Update - Michael Goodenough. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire.	Alison Ellis: 01235 772638
Sun 16 May 2004 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Thames & Severn Canal; Daneway to Chalford. Meet Daneway village (Please do not park in pub car park!)	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Sun 16 May 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Small Boat Rally This will start from the Drungewick Slipway. Apply to the WACT office for an entry form. This event will coincide with the Official Opening of the slipway.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk
Wed 19 May 2004 7.30pm	Cotswold CT	The Fall & Rise of Chesterfield's Canal. Trout Inn, Lechlade	01285 713148
Thu 20 May 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Rev. Peter Atwill - Canal Padre (From his narrow boat "Gospel Bell"). Illustrated talk about his work around the canal system. At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sun 23 May 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Winston Harwood is organising a Small Boat Rally on the canal between Harsfold Bridge and close to Lordings Lock.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk
Sun 23 May 2004	Basingstoke CCC	Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club Marathon. Canal Visitor Centre, Mychett. Up to 150 competitive canoeists racing between Ash Wharf and Kings Head Bridge at Mychett.	01252 683584
Fri 28 May 2004	Kenet & Avon CT	Talk on Claverton by George Eycott. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Sun 30 May 2004	Basingstoke CBC	Boat Gathering at Colt Hill, Basingstoke Canal. Free parking, canal side pub with garden, boat craft demonstrations and public boat trips. Jointly organised by the Basingstoke Canal Boat Club and the Canal Authority.	Basingstoke Canal Authority: 01252 370073; Mr D Venn: 01252 668697
Thu 3 Jun 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Peter Crawford will give an update on the activities of the Kenet & Avon Canal Trust. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 5 Jun 2004	Wilts & Berks CT	Pewsey Water Carnival	Graham Lee: 01 672 564020
Sun 13 Jun 2004	Wey & Arun CT	Puddle 2004 (sponsored walk) starting from The Old Wharf, Newbridge, Wisborough Green, West Sussex.	Jo Beagles: 01483 418195 or WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freemove.co.uk
Sun 13 Jun 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Arun - Pulborough to Pallingham Cruise. Launch from 11:00am. Help maintain the right of navigation on higher reaches of river.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freemove.co.uk
Sat 19 Jun 2004	Reading Council	Thameside Festival. Thameside Promenade, Reading	Reading Council: 0118 9390373
Sun 20 Jun 2004	IWA Salisbury Group	Walk along the K&A followed by lunch at The Golden Swan at Wilcot.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sun 20 Jun 2004	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Planned route of the Dorset & Somerset Canal and its junction with the Kenet & Avon Canal. Meet Bradford on Avon Station Car Park.	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 (not after 9.00pm please).
Thu 1 Jul 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Wilts and Berks Canal Trust - update by Peter Smith. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri 2 to Sun 4 Jul 2004	National Trust	Guildford Boat Gathering. River Wey	National Trust: 01483 561389
Sat 3 Jul 2004 7.30pm	Chichester SCT	Mikron Theatre Co with "On The Line" about Richard Trevithick. Osborne's Training Centre. Stockbridge Road. Chichester. £6.50 adult. £5.00 child.	Jim Payne: 01243 372900
Sun 4 Jul 2004 2.30pm	Chichester SCT	Guided Ship Canal Walk and Strawberry Tea. Meet at Salterns Lock, Chichester Marina, walk to Canal Basin. Transport from Basin to Marina available. £3.50 adult, £2.50 child.	Jim Payne: 01243 372900
Thu 8 Jul 2004 7.30pm	Chichester SCT	Illustrated Talk about history and future of Chichester Ship Canal by John Herniman at The Assembly Rooms, North Street, Chichester. £3.00	Jim Payne: 01243 372900
Sun 11 Jul 2004 10.30am	Chichester SCT	Guided Walk along Portsmouth & Arundel Canal. 4 miles allow 3 hours. Meet at Barnham Church (grid ref: SU956033). Will show recent discoveries of Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society.	Jim Payne: 01243 372900
Thu 15 Jul 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"History and restoration of the K&A" with Graham Horn (K&A Trust). At Three Crowns, Whaddon	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net

Continued on page 6

WATERWAYS DIARY *(continued from page 5)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sat 24 - Sun 25 Jul 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Thu 29 Jul 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Society AGM and Video. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton (this is the August meeting one week early).	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Mon 30 Aug 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Rother, Midhurst - The Rother Raft Race. Charity sponsored makeshift rafts battle to navigate a length downstream of Midhurst.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Thu 2 Sep 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Wisbech and Upwell Tramway and Wisbech Canal by Andrew Ingram. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Fri 10 to Sun 19 Sep 2004		Southampton Boat Show.	01784 223600
Sun 12 Sep 2004	Chichester SCT	Civic Trust Heritage Open Day - Poyntz Swing Bridge. Accessible to the public from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Bridge is 300 yards south of Canal Basin.	01243 771363 (Canal Basin)
Thu 16 Sep 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Waterways videos on the big screen. At the Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sat 18 - Sun 19 Sep 2004	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Boat gathering at Fox & Hounds, Fleet, Basingstoke Canal	Basingstoke Canal Authority: 01252 370073; Mr D Venn: 01252 668697
Sun 19 Sep 2004	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Beaulieu River - Indian Summer Cruise. Launch Bucklers Hard at 12:30. Bring picnic lunches and parasols. Recovery around 16:00.	Pete Boyce: 02392 269642 e-mail pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Thu 7 Oct 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Day-Star Theatre' with their 2004 production 'Taking a Chance'. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 18 Nov 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Eric Lewis on "Little & Large in the North West." Huddersfield Narrow, Manchester Ship Canal, River Weaver. At Three Crowns, Whaddon.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Thu 2 Dec 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 9 Dec 2004 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas meal at the Fox & Goose, Coombe Bissett.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Fri 9 Apr to Sun 26 Sep 2004 10.30am - 5.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Open Days (see below for Steaming Days). Adults £3.00, Seniors £2.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £7.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
Apr - Sep 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Days on 10-12 Apr, 1-3 May, 29-31 May, 26-27 Jun, 24-25 Jul, 28-30 Aug, 25-26 Sep 2004 (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: enquiries@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday 9 Apr to 31 Oct 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm. Telephone for pumping days.	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org/
April and May	Frome Museum	Dorset & Somerset Canal Exhibition at Frome Museum, 1 North Parade, Frome. The Museum is normally open from 10am to 2pm, Tuesday - Saturday, or by appointment. Free entry but donations are appreciated.	Derek Gill: 01373 463494
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
All year	Chichester Ship CT	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings and enquiries: 01243 771363 (Canal Basin)

Manchester Ship Canal Cruises

Thanks to our President Brian Evans who spotted this in The Independent of 20 March 2004:

Mersey Ferries has just released its schedule of sailings along the Ship Canal between Liverpool Pool Head and Salford Quays. Between 24 April and 3 October, the vessels that normally cross the Mersey will be making 16 round trips on the 35-mile run, each taking around six hours. The standard pattern is eastbound on a Saturday (Liverpool - Manchester) and back the day after. The standard fare of £29 includes bus travel back to the port where you boarded. Book ahead on 0151 330 1444.



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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Brian Evans.

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Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.
Email: PaulLHerbert@aol.com

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Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Southampton,
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E-mail: sue.eric.lewis@ukonline.co.uk

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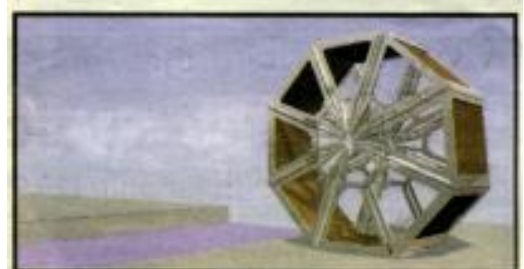
Hunt Johnston Stokes, Chartered Accountants, 12-14
Carlton Place, Southampton, SO15 2EA. Tel: 023 8023
4222

Society Website:

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

- 29th April 2004** (May meeting) - 'A Haven for Wildlife' - Dennis Bright on the Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve.
- 1st - 3rd May 2004** - Third Annual Society Boat Gathering at Flecknoe/Braunston.
- 3rd June 2004** - Peter Crawford will give an update on the activities of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.
- 1st July 2004** - Wilts and Berks Canal Trust - update by Peter Smith.
- 29th July 2004** (August meeting) - Society AGM and Video.
- 2nd September 2004** - The Wisbech and Upwell Tramway and Wisbech Canal by Andrew Ingram.
- 7th October 2004** - 'Day-Star Theatre' with their 2004 production 'Taking a Chance'.
- 4th November 2004** - 'The Thames Creeks' by Roger Squires.
- 2nd December 2004** - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper.
- 6th January 2005** - Members' Photographic Evening and Competition
- 3rd February 2005** - 'Venturing into Germany' with Ron & Myra Glover.
- 3rd March 2004** - Little and Large - the waterways of the north-west by Eric and Sue Lewis



Paddington Bridges

Following on from last month's piece about Brunel's bridge at Paddington, Brian Evans noticed in The Independent of 3rd March an article about designer, sculptor and architect, Thomas Heatherwick which mentioned his roll-up footbridge designed for the Paddington Basin Redevelopment (pictured right).

The article did not mention that Thomas Heatherwick has also won an award for another, unique bridge. This is seven metre bridge was commissioned by the developers Chelsfield for Paddington Basin in London. The Thomas Heatherwick Studio had worked along-side engineer Anthony Hunt since 1995 researching into the feasibility of building a bridge made only in glass, using advanced adhesives but no other supporting material, fixings or cables.

The deck of the bridge contains pieces of water-cut glass, set on edge and laminated together to form the arch of the bridge. Handrails are made of sheets of annealed glass. The bridge is lit from within by lights set inside each end of the span transmitting light along the length of the bridge.