



NEWS LETTER

Chairman's Column

May Meeting: 28th April 2011

As Angela and I are away at the moment, our Vice Chairman, Paul Herbert, is looking after you all tonight. Thank you, Paul.

We welcome back Roger Squires with his presentation of "The Suez Canal - Past and Present". Roger recently cruised through the Suez Canal on a northbound convoy. He will share his experience's with us and we look forward to an evening of superb photography and detail.

Society Burgees

These are available at £12.50 each or £13.50 posted. For further details contact Angela, Club Secretary (contact details on the back page).

June 2nd Meeting.

Our June meeting will take the form of a Social Evening to include Bring & Buy, a Silent Auction and a Quiz running through the evening. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Is there anything else you, as members, would like to include? If so please see any Committee member.

July 7th Meeting

This will be a talk by Pablo Haworth about the History and Design of the "Bailey Bridge."

All for now, enjoy this lovely Boating and Outdoor weather.

Alan Rose

£110 million to improve water and wildlife

The government is to make £110 million available to improve the environmental condition of 'lakes, streams and other water bodies', the Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman has announced.

£23 million per year will be provided over four years to fight non-native invasive species, clear up pollution, and remove redundant dams, weirs, landings and other man-made structures so that wildlife can thrive in 'water catchments across' England.

An additional £18 million this year will help farmers to protect water courses and prevent agricultural pollution. The funding will be shared between the Environment Agency, Natural England and civil society associations such as the Association of Rivers Trust.

Some canal and waterway observers have been quick to note that no mention was made of navigation authorities such as British Waterways. However, the money appears to have been granted under the EU Water Framework Directive for improving general



Invasive species Floating Pennywort on the River Soar near Leicester

environmental water quality, and early reports in the press that it was just for 'waterways' (i.e. canal and river navigations) and 'otters and salmon' may have been misleading.

www.waterwaysworld.com - 13 April 2011

Review of "Britannia Rules the Cut"

This small 60 page book details the Naval Fleet used for recruiting during the 1970's. Details show how the vessels came to be built and their limited success in convincing young people of 1970's Britain to join the Navy.

They were not, as most people thought, ex commercial hulls, but were built new by John Pinder & Sons who had premises in Horninglow Basin where they were completed to "sailaway" hull and engines. The power plants being by Thornycroft. These bare hulls were delivered to British Waterways' Bulls Bridge Yard for fitting out as model Naval Vessels.

The first year only two "ships" were completed as H.M.S. RENOWN, a submarine, and H.M.S. LONDON, a guided missile destroyer.

The idea was that the Royal Navy could recruit from other than its traditional coastal cities like Southampton, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham,

using the "Fleet" as publicity to go aboard and learn about the modern Royal Navy when miles from salt water.

In the second year RENOWN and LONDON were joined by a Type 42 Destroyer H.M.S. SHEFFIELD and H.M.S. CLEOPATRA a Frigate.

The vessels operated as pairs although all had engines and travelled separately. They must have completed long hours to keep to a schedule that included Little Venice to Bulls Bridge via (amongst others) Birmingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Foxton, Abingdon and Nottingham. This was "pair A", "pair B" operated a similar timetable, their calls included Rickmansworth, Gloucester, Chester, Leeds and Coventry finishing also at Bulls Bridge. They attended as many canalside events as possible and were very popular with Dads and Grandsons in particular.

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April Meeting Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

The annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz is usually held at the December meeting. However, the snow was too bad to make contestants (and audience) drive to Chilworth and the meeting was cancelled that morning.



The Quiz was re-arranged for the meeting held on 7th April and it was well supported.

Nick Grundy was Quiz Master for last year's winners: IWA Salisbury Group. He and Myra Glover ran a very enjoyable evening.

Left: Quiz Master Nick Grundy.

Right: Myra Glover presenting the trophy to the victorious IWA Guildford & Reading team.

Top marks were scored by the IWA Guildford & Reading Branch team, followed by IWA Solent & Arun Branch joined with SCS, closely followed by the Salisbury team.

Angela Rose



Local Partnership Boards search for members

After appointing chairmen last week, the two latest trial Local Waterway Partnership Boards - North West and West Midlands - are now on the hunt for suitable members to help influence and advise the management of the canals and rivers in their local area.

These trial Partnerships will work with local waterway managers until the new waterways charity becomes fully operational in 2012. The Waterways Trust is looking recruit at least seven members to each of these Partnerships. Members of the Partnership will have a range of knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the development of waterways for the widest public benefit. Relevant interests and expertise will include:

- ◆ Boaters
- ◆ Waterway users - including walkers, anglers, cyclists
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Volunteering
- ◆ Finance

- ◆ Commerce
- ◆ Planning and regeneration
- ◆ Environment and heritage
- ◆ Engineering and asset management
- ◆ Community engagement
- ◆ Working with partners in local government, commercial and charitable sectors.

Candidates should be locally based, approachable, team players, credible, knowledgeable and willing to take a lead in one or more of the relevant areas of expertise. They must also be able to commit adequate time to ensure the success of the Trial Partnership.

The duty of all members of the Partnership will be to act in the best interests of the waterway rather than to represent any particular interests or causes.

www.waterscape.com - 7 April 2011

The Royal Navy

(Continued from page 1)

From 1973 to 1977 the "ships" were visited by over 200,000 visitors each year, but it was realised that they were attracting the "wrong" type of visitors and the fleet was sold off.

The Author, when writing of their fate became a detective and managed to find 3 of the 4 boats and is still looking for the fourth.

Altogether an interesting read. Hampshire County Library has at least one copy. The publisher is Appin Press and the ISBN Number is 9781906205263 and the price is £5.

John Silman

Thank you John for providing this review of a book about an intriguing part of waterway history.

Right: The Royal Navy's in town! The canal fleet at Little Venice, London.



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 28 Apr 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Suez Canal Past & Present" by Roger Squires. 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
Mon 2 May 2011 10.00am for 10.30am	Wilts & Berks CT	Sponsored Walk and 'Walk a Boat' from Chippenham to Lacock and back (approx 10 miles). Entrance fee £4 per group/individual /family. Start at Buttercross, Market Place, Chippenham. Nearest postcode SN15 3HG. (ST921732)	Peter Williams: 01249 652248 Email: contactmcc@melkshamwaterway.org.uk Web: www.melkshamwaterway.org.uk
Wed 4 May 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Branch AGM followed by a discussion : The K&A Canal Trust - The Way Ahead with Dr Mike Rodd, Trust Chairman. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
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
Sun 15 May 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Shareholders [of the canal] in Bath. Meet: Sawclose, outside Theatre Royal, Bath, BA1 1ET. (ST748648)	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Sun 15 May 2011	IWA & Wey & Arun CT	Cruise up the River Arun from Pulborough to Pallingham. Launch from Pulborough Slipway.(TQ046184) Nearest post code RH20 2BJ.	John F. H. Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Fri 27 May 2011 7.30 for 8.00pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group' - John Morgan. 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
Thu 2 Jun 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Social Evening" - Bring and Buy, Silent Auction, Quiz, Games and a light supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 12 Jun 2011	Wey & Arun CT	39th Annual Puddle - 13 mile circular sponsored walk to raise funds for restoration. Ploughman's buffet lunch provided. Start at Cranleigh Leisure Centre, Village Way, Cranleigh, GU6 8AF. (TQ058389)	Joanne and Kevin Holcombe: 01483 418195 Email: holcombe79@btinternet.com
Sat 18 Jun 2011	Kennet & Avon CT	Annual Reading Water Fest. Chestnut Walk, Reading, RG1 3BA (SU720734).	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Sun 19 Jun 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Site of the Dunkerton Pumping Engine. Meet: Dunkerton Sewage Works (Below Engine Bridge, Withyditich) (ST701589)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Sat 25 Jun 2011 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	Guided Walk (3 miles) from Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham, PO22 0BP to Ford. Walk along the old tow path of the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal and see many engineering remains. Parking available at the start. (SU956035)	Adge Roberts 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 26 Jun 2011 10.00am - 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	Poyntz Bridge open. Situated approx 200 metres south of the canal basin, Poyntz bridge is possibly the only single span 1820 cast iron swing bridge in the UK. Plus a display of photos and artefacts. 2.00pm: Guided walk around the canal basin led by Alan Green, illustrating the history of past industry around this canal feature. (SU858038)	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Thu 30 Jun 2011 7.30pm	Chichester Ship Canal Trust	Chichester Canal Restoration talk at the Council Chamber, WSCC, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RG (SU858049). An update on the restoration of the canal from Chichester to the sea. Tickets £3.00 on the door.	Chichester Canal HQ and Shop: 01243 771363
Thu 7 Jul 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Pablo Haworth with "The History and Design of the Bailey Bridge." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sat 9 Jul 2011 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Mikron Theatre production of Hell and High Water. Tickets £7.50 (sponsored by Linden Homes). Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester, PO19 8QT. (SU854034)	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 10 Jul 2011	Wey & Arun CT	"Gun's Mouth, Shalford, Small Boats Rally". Come and have a look at what the Trust have been doing at Gun's Mouth Island just off the A281 at Shalford. (SU999463) Suitable only for small boats, kayaks, canoes, rowing boats, etc. Further details from contact.	John F. H. Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: tractor1936@btinternet.com Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 10 Jul 2011 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society	A 4 mile linear guided walk from Salterns Lock, Chichester Marina, PO20 7EJ (SU827011), along the canal towpath to the basin at Chichester seeing the engineering features / remains. Parking available at Marina.	Adge Roberts: 01903 721762 Email: adgeroberts@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 17 Jul 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Timsbury Basin - detailed site assessment. Meet: Paulton Sewage Works (ST654576).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com

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.

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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.

Long Awaited Canal To Open Paris Freight To The Sea



Originally proposed in the 1990's, construction of the canal was due to commence last year with completion by 2016 after suffering the usual wrangles such grandiose schemes seem to inevitably engender (think Channel Tunnel), realistically traffic should start to use the system around 2020 if no more obstacles are met. Politically the plans are important to several vested interests, not least President Sarkozy who is keen to woo voters in the North East of the country where he faces stiff opposition from left and right alike.

The canal will stretch just over 100 kilometres joining the rivers of Seine and Scheldt and increasing the sizes of lighters using the current available waterways by more than six fold making the use of freight by water a more realistic economic proposition. The canal will open Paris traffic to all the major ports in the region including Dunkerque, Antwerp and Rotterdam and acting as an avenue into the Rhine system and beyond.

The project will require the construction of seven locks and two major aqueducts and will be funded using cash from the EU, French local and state government funds and private capital

Sarkozy Finally Gives the Go Ahead to Seine-Nord Waterway

FRANCE – Battle lines are being drawn up by those in the rail freight sector after this week's announcement that the much mooted plan for a canal linking Paris to the North Sea ports via the Belgian system of waterways is to proceed. With an estimated cost of €4.5 billion (£3.9 billion) the canal is being touted as a major carbon saver aiming to take half a million trucks off the roads of France, in truth the 4,000 tonne barges are likely to affect the track borne logistics of the country to a far greater degree.

with bids now being taken for sections of the works. The proposed route passes through areas revered for memories of the First World War, particularly the two Battles of Cambrai. By 1918 there had been more than a million casualties in the area and this has led to assurances that no war graves will be disturbed by the development.

www.handyshippingguide.com - 8 April 2011

Hungry fish are given their marching orders

Half a tonne of fish have been removed from the Caen Hill flight of locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The fish, which included large carp and pike, were netted and relocated along the canal while a proportion were taken to Toddbrook Reservoir in the Peak District.

The fish were removed because British Waterways was concerned at the amount of younger fish and wildlife being eaten.

Ecologist Oda Dijksterhuis said: "In 2009 we removed the first

batch of big fish from the ponds and installed silt screen curtains.

"The results of this habitat management work have been fantastic with aquatic plants, such as the rare potamogetons and hornworts, returning to the ponds that we haven't had in the waterway for years.

"In addition to these plants we have seen an increase in dragon and damselfly populations."

www.gazetteandherald.co.uk - 6 April 2011