



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

May Meeting

As usual, there will be **NO** May meeting as the hall will be in use as a polling station for the General Election.

Last Month's Meeting

We received a telephone call, from Eric and Sue Lewis to say how interesting they found the April meeting with David Doulton, especially the part on Southampton Docks.

Thanks also to Aelred and Sue for running the evening including the refreshments.

Boater's Gathering

An informal gathering for boaters or SCS visitors in the Napton / Braunston area was due to be held over the first May Bank Holiday weekend of the 2nd May. However, in the end, the gathering was cancelled as Eric and Sue Lewis were unable to attend with the engine on their boat *Remus* giving problems and Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates unable to get *Stanton* to the venue at Flecknoe in time.

June meeting

John Ross will be giving his talk on The History of Canals and Traditional Narrowboat Painting with a demonstration of his painting skills.

July meeting

This meeting on 3rd July will be our AGM. Full details will be in our June/July Newsletter.

August meeting

As usual, there will be no meeting in the month of August.

September Meeting

Our September will now be held at St Denys Church Hall, Old Chilworth, SO16 7NN (SU406187).. We have just been informed that the Chilworth Parish Hall will be closed for the refurbishment that was postponed last year. St Denys Church Hall is the hall that we used last March 2014 for Stuart Fisher's talk on "Elusive Canals & Navigations".

In September Aileen Butler will present her Magic Lantern Show of the Manchester Ship Canal Construction, plus other canal related pictures, etc.

Our President

We were glad to hear recently that our President, Brian Evans, is recovering well after surgery for an aneurism. He emailed on May Day, "Improving and getting stronger. Today I had my first walk to town and back. Can't yet ride a bike since I still have hernia to be operated."

However, we were sorry to hear that Brian's older brother Don died on 10th April. Don was also a canal enthusiast with a particular interest in freight on waterways. He could frequently be found on IWA stands at rallies and festivals promoting the carrying cause. Our sympathies go out to Brian.

Thanks once again for your support and enjoy the warm and sunny months ahead.

Alan Rose

Subscriptions are now due

The Society year ended on 31 March 2015, so subscriptions are now due for the year 2015 - 2016. The subscription rates are £27 for joint membership and £16 for a single membership.

I will be pleased to receive your cheques or cash at the monthly meetings. If you wish to send me a cheque by post, my address is on the last page of this Newsletter. Please let me have your address so that I can send you a receipt. If you wish to pay by electronic bank transfer the Society's bank details are:



Sort code: 40-44-25

Account number: 41289373

Account name: Southampton Canal Society

Please use your surname as a reference and send me an email so that I can expect the payment. My email address is also on the last page of this newsletter. I will not have the details until I receive the bank statement for the following month. I will then send you an email to acknowledge your payment.

Aelred Derbyshire

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Bits and Pieces

Luxury homes for water voles

VOLUNTEERS in Newbury have created new luxury waterside apartments for the country's fastest declining mammal as part of a project to improve the towpath along the historic Kennet & Avon Canal. Working with the Canal & River Trust, they have planted water vole friendly coir rolls along the bank of the canal, that protect against erosion, and at the same time provide food and shelter for the animals known to live on this popular part of the canal.

National Historic Ships Photo Competition

NOW in the sixth year National Historic Ships UK's Photo Competition is aimed at all photographers of all ages and dedicated to encouraging everyone to engage with historic vessels or maritime themes in their local area.

With some great prizes including an overall prize of £1000 to be awarded on a theme or activity involving an historic vessel. Other prizes include a GoPro Camera, wet weather gear and an iPad for a school.

Submissions for the contest will be accepted online until 31 August 2015.

For further details visit <http://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/pages/photography-competition-2015.html>

Waterways Events

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.

| Date / Time | Organiser | Details | Contact |
|---|---|--|---|
| Thu 7 May 2015 | Southampton CS | No meeting - hall in use as a polling station in the General Election. | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sun 10 May 2015 10.00pm | Wilts & Berks CT (Melksham Branch) | Sponsored Walk - from Buttercross in Market Place, Chippenham, SN15 3HD (ST921732) to The Bell in Lacock. Either return walk (10 miles) or provided minibus back from Lacock. Registration £5 for individuals, free entry with £20 or more sponsorship. Further info from Trust website. | Malcom Hitchingson: 01373 859207 Email: Walk@wbct.org.uk Web: http://www.wbct.org.uk/home/full-calendar/ |
| Tue 12 May 2015 2.00pm - 6.00pm | National Trust | This will involve a trip on the Trust's electric boat to Millmead Lock and a tour of the Toll House where the Guildford Borough Council Hydro Project harnesses the power of the River Wey using a reinstated turbine. Return trip to Dapdune followed by tea & cake. Cost £12.00 (Booking essential). Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU993502). | Navigation Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk |
| Sat 16 May 2015 2.00pm | Basingstoke CS | Society AGM followed by a talk by Fiona Shipp, BCA Canal Manager, who will talk about her time working on the Canal. Non-members welcome. Deepcut Village Centre, Cyprus Road, Deepcut, Surrey, GU16 6TB (SU909577). | Philip Riley: Email: chairman@basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Sun 17 May 2015 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - "The K&A Canal at Bradford on Avon" by Derrick Hunt. Meet: Avoncliff (south) car park BA15 2HB (ST804599), accessed via Westwood. | Derrick Hunt 01225 863066 Email: workparty@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Tue 19 May 2015 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br) | "Basingstoke Canal" with Philip Riley, chairman of Basingstoke CS. Joint meeting with IWA Guildford & Reading and Oxfordshire Branches. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading RG30 3HD (SU691719). Entry donation (inc K&A members) £2.50 to help with expenses. | John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com |
| Thu 21 May 2015 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | Richard Thomas is returning to talk to us about "A day in the life of a ... Thames Tug." This is a look at the work done by the Cory tug "General V I I I," engaged in the movement of refuse lighters. The talk features a voyage from Wandsworth to the aptly named Mucking in Essex. 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 |
| Sun 24 May 2015 | Basingstoke CS | Magna Carta Rally at Odiham Wharf, Colt Hill, Odiham, Hants, RG29 1DH (SU747517). More info at http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/headline/magna-carta-boat-rally-24th-may-2015/ This will be part of the Magna Carta celebrations in Odiham – more details of local events can be seen at http://magnacarta800th.com/events/odiham/ . | Enquiries: 07817-897446 (please leave a message) Email: enquiries@basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 4 Jun 2015 7.45pm | Southampton CS | NB: Change of talk. John Ross will talk on "The History of Canal and Traditional Narrowboat Painting" with a demonstration of his painting skills. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Fri 5 to Sun 7 Jun 2015 10.00am - 6.00pm | See it for Real Productions | Beale Park Boat & Outdoor Show. Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618781). For ticket prices see website. | Web: http://www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/ |
| Sun 7 Jun 2015 | Wey & Arun CT | The Annual Poddle. Sponsored walk from St Michael's Church Hall, in Amberley to Warningcamp Heritage Centre Sefton Place BN18 9QY where lunch will be provided. Return to Amberley via Arundel, South Stoke and Bury. Shorter option available. See website for further details. | Margaret Darvill: 01483 894606 Email: poddle@weyandarun.co.uk Web: http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/events2.php |
| Tue 9 Jun 2015 2.00pm - 6.00pm | National Trust | This will involve a trip on the Trust's electric boat to Millmead Lock and a tour of the Toll House where the Guildford Borough Council Hydro Project harnesses the power of the River Wey using a reinstated turbine. Return trip to Dapdune followed by tea & cake. Cost £12.00 (Booking essential). Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU993502). | Navigation Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk |
| Sat 13 Jun 2015 11.00am - 5.00pm | Reading Borough Council | Reading Water Fest. River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG1 3AH. (SU719734) | Tel: 0118 937 2771 Web: http://beta.reading.gov.uk/article/2973/Reading-Water-Fest---13-June-2015 |
| Sat 13 - Sun 14 Jun 2015 | Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Runnymede Borough Council | Celebrations of 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta. A river pageant comprising a flotilla of boats of all shapes and sizes will make its way downstream from Hurley Riverside Meadows to Runnymede on 13 and 14 June. The international celebration will take place on 15 June at Runnymede Meadows with the Queen in attendance. For more details see website. | Web: www.thamesalive.org.uk/magnacarta |
| Sun 14 Jun 2015 | Chichester Rotary Club | Chichester Dragon Boat Challenge. Chichester Canal Basin, Canal Wharf, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU859041). | Email: chichesterdragons@btinternet.com Web: http://www.chichesterdragonboats.org.uk/ |
| Tue 16 Jun 2015 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | Annual General Meeting. Radstock Museum, Waterloo Road, Radstock, Avon BA3 3EP (ST689549). | Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: chairman@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Thu 18 Jun 2015 7.45pm | IWA Salisbury Group | "Trail Boat Festivals on Isolated Waterways around Britain" by Ron & Myra Glover. 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 |
| Sat 27 Jun 2015 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | William Smith Event by Sue Langdon. The Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0JQ (ST668589). Further details from Sue Langdon. | Sue Langdon: 01761 470972 |

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April Meeting

David Doulton: British Transport

A select group of twelve members, plus David Doulton as presenter, attended the meeting on 2nd April. In the absence of our Chairman and Secretary, and also of Brenda, Sue and Gill, who normally provide the refreshments, your humble scribe was general factotum. David and Laurie did their usual sterling work with the raffle, which raised a surprising £21.

David showed five historical films, now transferred to DVD, which covered different aspects of life in the late 20th Century. The first was Ocean Terminal, (1952, b/w) which reflected on the lives of some of the people who worked at Ocean Terminal. This was followed by Age of Invention, (1975, colour) a film made to illustrate the British Tourist Authority's sites of Industrial Heritage. The third

film in the first half was Snowdrift at Bleath Gill (1955, b/w) a classic film about the recovery of a snowbound freight train on the Westmoreland Hills.

After the usual break for refreshments and the raffle, David continued with Every Valley (1957, b/w) an impression, from daybreak to midnight, of contemporary life in a South Wales industrial valley. The final film was Blue Pullman (1960, colour) a promotional film showing the testing and initial service of a high speed businessman's express train from Manchester to London. A thoroughly enjoyable nostalgic evening.

Aelred Derbyshire

Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations

The Basingstoke Canal Society will be holding an event and boat rally at Colt Hill, Odiham on Sunday 24th May as part of the Magna Carta 800th anniversary celebrations.

The rally will host visiting boats and there will be activities on the wharf including:

- Decorated boat competition
- Prize for furthest travelled boat by water
- Prize for furthest travelled boat by trail
- Heavy Horse Display
- Music by Cactus Brass Band (pm)
- Canoe Demonstrations
- Morris Dancers
- Catering (there will be a bar provided by Andwells Brewery)
- Children's Entertainment: Punch & Judy and Kids Magic Show
- Canalia and Sales Stalls

Boats will also be departing from the wharf to take visitors to King John's Castle where there will be a number of activities throughout the day including:

- Archaeology Dig in field adjacent to the castle (23-25 May)
- Boat Rally Hog Roast (24 May)
- Medieval Re-enactments 11.00–4.00pm (23-25 May)
- Feudals Living History Group in fields near the castle
- Falconry

- Archery demonstrations and sword fighting

The rally will also provide the society with an opportunity to publicise their plans for the Colt Hill area which include a new boat basin and a visitor centre.

Visiting boats will be welcome. The BCA Licence fee will be £45 for 10 days allowing time to explore the Basingstoke Canal. A trail boat licence costs £3 per day. There is a booking fee to reserve a mooring at Colt Hill of £10. Space will be limited - first come, first booked! For more details see: <http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/?p=1976> (or contact Jan Byrnes on 07747 000519).

The Society boat rally is part of wider celebrations going on in Odiham during May and June. These include:

- Exhibition, All Saints Parish Church, Odiham (22-25 May)
- Embroidery at Library in the Bridewell (22-25 May)
- Food and Ale Trail (from 1 May)
- Art Festival (from 1 May)
- Heritage Medieval Market
- Flower Festival All Saints Church (22- 25 May)
- Village Festival in The Bury 6-8.30pm, (22 May). Grand Parade starts 6.30pm from Close Walk

For more information, please see the Odiham Magna Carta website <http://magnacarta800th.com/events/odiham/>.

There will also be celebrations on the Thames on 13 & 14 June. See page 2 and www.thamesalive.org.uk/magnacarta for more details.

More Many Happy Returns

Omitted accidentally from last month's Newsletter, was this picture of Brian Evans congratulating Eva Drinkwater on reaching her 90th birthday at the meeting in March.

Brian (on the left) is a mere stripling as he is Eva's junior by 13 years. Also pictured is Laurie Pearce who is just a few years older than Eva and is the Society's oldest member.

Brian and Laurie are both founder members of the Society and were voted Society Chairman and Secretary respectively at the Society's first meeting in June 1967. (See Brian's notes on page 4 for details of events leading up to that meeting.)

Although Eva did not attend that first meeting, she has been a member since the Society's early days - probably longer than she cares to remember.

Once again, Eva, may we wish you Many Happy Returns.



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 are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Events) at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184. Contact the Secretary for further information.

This Newsletter is normally published during the first week of each month in time for the Society's meeting.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com**Secretary:**

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com**Treasurer & Membership Secretary:**

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Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, NB Stanton.

Tel: 07792 635110. Email: scs@sotoncs.org.uk**Society Website:** <http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

Waterways Events

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| Date / Time | Organiser | Details | Contact |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Thu 2 Jul 2015 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Society's AGM. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sat 4 - Sun 5 Jul 2015 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | Radford Canal Festival. See restored canal between Paulton Basin and Radford. Pictures at http://www.coalcanal.org/restoration.php | Richard Fox: 01761 479391 Web: http://www.radfordmill.co.uk/canal.html |
| Tue 7 Jul 2015 2.00pm - 6.00pm | National Trust | This will involve a trip on the Trust's electric boat to Millmead Lock and a tour of the Toll House where the Guildford Borough Council Hydro Project harnesses the power of the River Wey using a reinstated turbine. Return trip to Dapdune followed by tea & cake. Cost £12.00 (Booking essential). Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU993502). | Navigation Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk |
| Thu 16 Jul 2015 7.45pm | IWA Salisbury Group | Boules and BBQ. 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 16 Jul 2015 7.30pm | Basingstoke CS | Mikron Theatre - 'One of Each' A savoury tale of Fish and Chips. The Fox and Hounds, 71 Crookham Road, Fleet, GU51 5NP (SU803530). | David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Sat 18 Jul 2015 11.00am - 4.00pm | National Trust | 'Puffing-A- Wey.' The Steam Boat Association of Great Britain show off their magnificent steam powered craft. Themed activities for children and some free steam boat rides on the river. Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU993502). | Navigation Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk |
| Sun 26 Jul 2015 10.00am - 5.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br | Newbury Waterways Festival. Victoria Park, Newbury, RG14 1DS (SU473673). | Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@btinternet.com |
| Thu 6 Aug 2015 | Southampton CS | No meeting. | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Thu 3 Sep 2015 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Aileen Butler will present a Magic Lantern Show of the Manchester Ship Canal construction, plus other canal related pictures, etc. NB change of venue: St Denys Church Hall, Old Chilworth Village, SO16 7NN (SU406187). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |

Start of the Society

I was 29 and had been an IWA member since 1962. Laurie Pearce was a K&A member and probably IWA. I think we came together through writing to the Evening Echo.

Mike Smetham lived in Mill Lane, Romsey, with his parents. Again we both wrote on different waterways, Mike local, I national, in the Romsey Advertiser. I was invited to their house for a chat with Mike.

Annegret travelled by bus to work at Southern TV. On the way home she had seen a young man showing a young lady a book about canals. He got off the bus at Maybush, Southampton. Later he wrote a waterways letter to the Echo and we got in touch; he was David Kessler-Lyne.

Sometime in spring 1967 Annegret and I invited them to our house

for an evening. I had made a little film of a boat trip on my brother Don's 20 footer in 1966. I showed that and a few slides. Present were Laurie and Joan Pearce, Mike Smetham, David Kessler-Lyne, Annegret and me. We felt that there would be enough support in the area to form a society. Mike Smetham wrote a letter to the Evening Echo inviting anyone interested in a canal society to come along.

A colleague and friend of ours at the OS, Ron Antley, offered his Scout hut for the meeting. It was small – over the railway footbridge at Millbrook – probably now part of the container terminal.

The meeting was in June 1967 - details will be in the Minute Book. [A copy of that meeting's minutes can be found in the June 1997 Newsletter - see the Society's Newsletter Archive on the [website](#).]

Brian Evans