



# NEWS LETTER

## Chairman's Column

### November Meeting

On behalf of the Society, I offer a very warm welcome to Pete, Jane and George Marshall of the Day-Star Theatre. We do appreciate their yearly visit.

Tonight, we are keeping an eye out for 53 year old Geoffrey Phelps, as he faces life changing events, some of which are very pleasant and unexpected.

After the performance we will, as usual, be enjoying an American Supper.

### Next meeting - December 6<sup>th</sup>

This will be the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. As last year's winners, Guildford & Reading will be organising the quiz. SCS members will be hosting the evening, with the traditional pre-Christmas occasion of an American Supper.

As on previous occasions, thank you all who bring along a variety of food to share, which finishes off the evening.

SCS Members: We need you to volunteer for our team!!

### SCS Christmas/ New Year Lunch

Our traditional, seasonal lunch will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the Blue Hayes.

Please let Angela know if you are interested.

### Future Meetings

The following meetings have been arranged for the first part of the New Year:

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 - Members Annual "Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition".

6<sup>th</sup> February - Geoffrey Watts, a member of the "Titanic Society" will speak about the Tragedy and the effect on the people of Southampton, showing the various memorials around the town.

6<sup>th</sup> March - Stuart Fisher, editor of the Canoeist Magazine, gives a canoeist's view of the canal system with particular emphasis on the canals that cannot be reached by narrow boat.

### Many Happy Returns

Congratulations to our member Laurie Pearce who celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in October.

Alan Rose

## Gennets Bridge Lock Appeal

*The latest major restoration project on the Wey & Arun Canal is the reconstruction of the next lock northward from Loxwood. The Canal Trust treasurer explains:*

We have begun the work of restoring Gennets Bridge Lock. Nothing remains of the original lock. The lock is No 8, the numbering starting from Newbridge where the Wey & Arun Junction Canal extended the 4.5 mile long Arun Navigation (built in the 1780s). The restoration will include a bridge to take the Surrey/Sussex Border Path over the tail of the lock - hence we need to fund Gennets Bridge & Lock.

This will be the last lock to be completely rebuilt in Sussex. Locks 9-16, which will take the canal up to the summit level, will all be in Surrey.

We expect a contractor's quote of £175,000 to construct the concrete floor and walls of the lock. It is



The site of Gennets Bridge Lock after initial clearance. (Photo: Dave Verrall)

not possible to split this large sum into smaller bites as this would mean increased costs if the contractor had to muster his kit and take it away more than once.

Once the contractor has withdrawn, volunteers can - as at Southland - take on the bricklaying and the many other tasks needed to complete the work. We have bought, and have in store, 40,000 bricks

Apart from the construction costs of the Bridge & Lock, there are costs of about £55,000 for "enabling works". These costs are being met outside this appeal.

The "enabling works" include laying on electricity and water from the nearest supply and a 'haul road' which is strong enough to take the ready-mixed concrete lorries and other heavy plant which the contractor will use.

The entire project cost is estimated at £365,000.

Jim Phillips  
Hon Treasurer  
Wey & Arun Canal Trust

See page 3 of this Newsletter for a way to make the Government help pay for this restoration.

## Record numbers visit the waterways

Record numbers of people have made a trip to the nation's canals and rivers this summer. During August, 5.4 million people visited a canal or river over our busiest fortnight, breaking previous visitor records as people took advantage of the good weather to come down to the waterside.

The previous record visitor numbers to the canals and rivers across England and Wales were in August 2009

when an average of 5.1m people visited in the peak fortnight.

The Trust also measures the number of boats using its canals and rivers. While definitive figures will only be available in the New Year, early indications are that there were more boaters out taking advantage of the sunshine compared with 2012.

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/17-Oct-2013>

# 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 7 Nov 2013 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Day-Star Theatre will be performing a new play "The Awakening of Geoffrey Phelps." Tickets £10.00 from Angela Rose. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sun 17 Nov 2013 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Carrying Coals from Radstock - 4. Wellow area. Meet: Wellow Village Car Park, BA2 8QB (ST738580).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Tue 19 Nov 2013 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"The Ribble Link" with David Saady. 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Wed 20 Nov 2013 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>NB Change of speaker.</b> 'Canal and River Cruising US Style' with Alan Smith who will give an account of a small ship cruise in 2012 from Montreal along the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Saguenay River, Lake Ontario, the Erie Canal and the Hudson River to New York. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 21 Nov 2013 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Changes on the Kennet and Avon" by Elaine Kirby. She will show how the K&A looked in the past compared with today. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR. (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 21 Nov 2013 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Southern Branch of the SCC & the Conversion to the Somerset & Dorset Railway" with Duncan Harper. Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com">derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.coalcanal.org">http://www.coalcanal.org</a>
Wed 27 Nov 2013 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"Rivers, Canals and SSSIs" by Paul St Pierre of the Environment Agency. The Rivers Kennet and Lambourn were designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in 1995 because of their unique nature as chalk watercourses. Paul will talk about the issues this involved. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS. (SU472671)	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:kact.newbury@btinternet.com">kact.newbury@btinternet.com</a>
Mon 2 Dec 2013 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"More on the Restoration of the Cotswold Canals" by Liz Payne, Vice-Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust. Admission, £2.00 to include refreshments. Church Hall at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7AH. (SU069828)	Cheryl Yeowl: 01793 812708
Thu 5 Dec 2013 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Inter Society Waterways Quiz: Hosted by SCS and run by last years winning team, IWA Guildford and Reading. An American Supper will finish off the evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Thu 12 Dec 2013 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Branch Christmas dinner. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR. (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sun 15 Dec 2013 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Carrying Coals from Radstock - 5. Wellow to Midford. Meet: Wellow Village Car Park, BA2 8QB (ST738580).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Wed 18 Dec 2013 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The London Water Ring Main" with John How. The main now supplies drinking water to 8m people in London from a tunnel 40 - 60m below ground. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 19 Dec 2013 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Beginning of the Beginning of the Restoration of the SCC" by Tim Wheeldon. Meet: The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com">derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.coalcanal.org">http://www.coalcanal.org</a>
Sat 28 Dec 2013 10.30am	Wilts & Berks CT	Walk off the Christmas Turkey. Starting at Childrey Village Green (nearest postcode: OX12 9UA) (SU361875) and finishing at the same location give or take a few yards. Bring boots, and a mince-pie! Allow a couple of hours.	Brian Stovold: 07946 524928 Email: <a href="mailto:brian.stovold@wbct.org.uk">brian.stovold@wbct.org.uk</a>
Thu 2 Jan 2014 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Members Annual "Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sat 11 Jan 2014	Southampton CS	<b>SCS Christmas/ New Year Lunch. The Blue Hayes, Salisbury Rd, Shootash, Nr. Romsey, Hampshire. Please inform Angela Rose if you are interested in attending. Cost not confirmed yet but last January it was £20.50.</b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Wed 15 Jan 2014 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	'The Canals and Navigable Rivers of Southern France.' Dr Roger Squires will describe a unique blend of historic waterways and amazingly scenic river navigations. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 16 Jan 2014 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Dorset and Somerset Canal & Fussell's Boat Lift" with Derrick Hunt. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: <a href="mailto:derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com">derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.coalcanal.org">http://www.coalcanal.org</a>
Sun 19 Jan 2014 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The Twin Tunnels (Somerset & Dorset Railway). Meet: Bear Flat, Bath. Further details from Mike Chapman.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Tue 21 Jan 2014 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Wed 29 Jan 2014 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"More on the Restoration of the Cotswold Canals" by Liz Payne, Vice-Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust. The Stone Building, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS. (SU472671)	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:kact.newbury@btinternet.com">kact.newbury@btinternet.com</a>

## October Meeting

### “Archives recording the past for the future” with Elaine Kirby

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Our speaker at the October meeting was Elaine Kirby, Archivist for the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust based at Devizes.

The Kennet & Avon Canal covers three counties, is 86¾ miles long, with two rivers: the Avon runs west and the Kennet runs east.

France has the oldest and largest National Archive, founded in 1808. Great Britain's National Archive is centred on Kew and is followed by the National Trust and English Heritage archives all in great looking buildings.

In contrast, the K&A archives are held in a “Portakabin” at the top of the Caen Hill flight, in the Canal & River Trust complex.

To date, there are 9500 entries on their database which, incidentally, uses the MODES(Archive) computer system to catalogue the material in the archives. Elaine showed us a selection of drawings by the K & A's engineer John Rennie.

All books in the archive are now numbered and can be easily located as requested. The massive photograph collection is an ongoing digitising task and hundreds of slides have yet still to be tackled.

To ensure the archived material is kept in the correct atmosphere, the thermograph (an instrument that records temperature) is changed monthly. Other measures are taken to prevent deterioration of the archives. For example, pure cotton string is used for tying up documents. For writing a 2B pencil is used, as it rubs out if needed without marking the document. Micro crystalline polishing wax is used to preserve metal objects. And all this carried out in a Portakabin!

Elaine, with the help of her husband John went through a selection of slides showing some of the artefacts held in the archives:

- × A 1763 book “How to build a Canal.”
- × A transcript of a note book by John Ward, clerk to the K&A Canal Company. Charles Dundas was a former Chairman of the K&A.
- × Southcott lock No. 104 (now gone) - Bill Smith was the lock

keeper, his grandson Harry Fox supplied the photo.

- × Devizes Wharf in 1964.
- × Lock No. 49 at Devizes being used as the town swimming pool.
- × A reminder, all locks from Aldermaston to the Thames were “Turf Sided”.
- × “Skew Bridge” by Lock 99 at Tyle Mill which was built by Lloyds of Bedwyn.
- × The steam dredger that was operated by the K&A Reading Branch, and later used on the Basingstoke Canal and is now at Ellesmere Port.
- × A picture of John Gould on his working boats “Colin & Iris”.
- × A 1950's work party east of Devizes. Brian Evans mentioned that SCS also joined in with a work party, 1967 near Newbury.
- × A silent film which showed a young Bill Fisher working through a lock.
- × The Kennet & Avon Horse Boat Company with the 8ft beam boat Kennet Valley.
- × The old Dundas paddle boat looked hard work!
- × A shirt & tie group fitting Crofton lock gate with hammer and chisels.

To finish off we were treated to a 1990's helicopter flight by the Royal Army Air Corps, Devizes to Marlborough and the return, which we all said yes too, in case we missed anything the first time!

After the meeting, this e mail was received from Elaine:

Thank you we did enjoy the evening, a lovely group of people. I hope to spend your donation, (SCS cheque for £45) towards the digitisation of the Crofton Film as mentioned.

Best Wishes, Elaine & John.

*Angela Rose*

## Restoration donations work harder through match funding

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Donating £10 to the Wey & Arun Canal through Localgiving.com will soon result in £20 going towards the work to restore the canal and reconnect the Rivers Wey and Arun.

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust has already raised £16,000 through the Grow Your Tenner match funding scheme and has signed up again in a bid to gain a further £11,000 share of the £500,000 funding available under the initiative over the next six months.

The funding is a result of a grant from the Office for Civil Society and is being administered by Local Giving. Donations made to WACT under the scheme will be matched pound-for-pound up to £10 per donation from 10am on Tuesday 15 October and, by using Gift Aid, the donation will be worth 25% more too.

According to WACT chairman Sally Schupke, the initiative presents a great opportunity to raise funds for essential restoration work and money from this new phase of Grow Your Tenner could go towards schemes like the reconstruction of Gennets Bridge Lock.

"The scheme matches single donations of £10 but the most valuable way people can help would be to pledge up to £10 per month for six months through what localgiving.com calls a monthly donation," said Sally.

"You are only allowed to set up one monthly donation to any one charity but perhaps other family members and friend could also register to make a donation too."

To find out more about donating to WACT and Grow Your Tenner, please visit:

<https://localgiving.com/charity/wact>

and click either the "Give Monthly" or the "Single Donation" button.

*WACT Press Release 15 Oct 2013*

*Note: The Office for Civil Society is a government body which holds responsibility for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office.*

## Itchen Navigation Footpath Closures

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Whilst the Itchen Navigation Footpath is still closed at Withmead Lock north of Bishopstoke as result of vandalism to the footbridge, the section of path further north at Brambridge between Kiln Lane and Highbridge Road has been reopened although there is still work to do to improve the surface of the footpath.

# 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.

**President:**

Brian Evans.

**Chairman:**

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312 Email: [alanjrose@btinternet.com](mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com)

**Secretary:**

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312 Email: [alanjrose@btinternet.com](mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary**

Gill Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 02380 262365. Email: [p\\_herbert1@sky.com](mailto:p_herbert1@sky.com)

**Committee:**

David Townley-Jones, Aelred and Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

**Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:**

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798. Email: [scs@sotoncs.org.uk](mailto:scs@sotoncs.org.uk)

**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>

## 'Water' perfect gift for Christmas

Looking for the perfect gift for the canal enthusiast who has everything? During November and early December the Canal & River Trust are auctioning over 100 items of waterways memorabilia.

The memorabilia came to light when a trawl to identify important canal artefacts and documents hidden away in the our yards across the South East also turned up memorabilia which may be of interest to canal lovers. None of the items have been assessed as being suitable to add to our national collection.

We now plan to auction items ranging from disused British Waterways signs, to copies of prints of a Grand Junction Canal distance table and cross section profile. Each will be available for people to view and buy via eBay and could make a great gift for Christmas.

### Noteworthy items

Assessing which items are acceptable for sale has involved a range of experts and volunteers, including specialists in heritage and archives. Important artefacts are being retained and transferred to our national collection and archive. So far, this includes over 16 artefacts

including the original Grand Junction Canal distance table and cross section profile.

Nigel Crowe, head of heritage at the Canal & River Trust, says: "It's great that canal lovers can own a piece of waterways memorabilia which could make some great gifts for Christmas.

"And more significantly, the trawl of offices and yards has unearthed some particularly noteworthy items with heritage value which we are transferring to the national collection and archive where they can be proudly made available for public display."

The proceeds from the memorabilia sale will be used to help look after our waterways.

Anyone with questions should get in touch with [Jennifer.green@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer.green@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Each item will be listed on eBay for seven days. Auctions for the first items will start on 4th November and the final lots will end on 10th December. To see the live auctions go to <http://ebay.eu/Hh81Lj>

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/>  
24 October 2013

## Water voles caught on camera

One of the UK's most secretive mammals, the water vole, has been captured on camera this week as part of CRT's conservation work to improve the Kennet & Avon Canal in Wiltshire.

Most people associate the use of CCTV camera technology with catching speeding motorists and street surveillance. However, we've been using hidden cameras to help track the movements of the UK's fastest declining mammal, the water vole.

Laura Plenty, Canal & River Trust ecologist, explains: "The water vole is such a special creature but it is threatened by a combination of habitat loss and predation by American mink. We've been working hard to create the right habitat for water voles to survive and reverse the decline in their population.

"We knew there were some colonies of water voles on the canal near Devizes, but during a maintenance visit to a different site on the Caen Hill Flight, we spotted a water vole 'latrine' which is basically a big pile of droppings, and decided it would be a fantastic place to test out our heat and motion sensitive camera to catch them in the act!"

The shy water vole needs a particular habitat to thrive. They like to live along canals and rivers where dense vegetation and steep banks offer both food and protection from predators. As a nationally protected species we have a duty to ensure our maintenance of the nation's historic waterways protects fragile water vole colonies.

Laura continues: "The Canal & River Trust, with the help of many volunteers, spends a lot of time and money caring for the canal for

the benefit of people and wildlife. Viewing the footage of the vole proves that this hard work has been worthwhile. The fact that there's a new colony of voles living on the canal is the best reward we could ask for."

This summer we spent eight weeks rebuilding a 500m stretch of the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath and soft bank near Pewsey, Wiltshire, using an innovative design which creates the perfect home for water voles. The work benefits a range of other wildlife too, like dragonflies, butterflies and nesting birds. It also helps stabilise the canal bank securing the towpath, making it better for boaters, walkers and cyclists.

Tamsin Phipps, chair of the Canal & River Trust's Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership said: "It costs around £138,000 to improve just one mile of canal bank and we're appealing for people and organisations to help us ensure the canal remains a great place for wildlife now and in the future. Everyone benefits from this important work."

We're asking the public to support our 'Give a vole a home' appeal. Just £3 could provide four reed plants to be used by the team rebuilding the water vole friendly habitat. For more details about how to give and what your money will be used for visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/volehome](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/volehome)

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/>  
25 October 2013

To view videos of the water voles visit: <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/water-voles-caught-on-camera>