



# Newsletter

Issue 375

October 2003

## Chairman's Column

### And now that the Summer's Over.....

And what a splendid summer we have had, at least for those of us who like the sun and the warm weather that goes with it. However, many of our gardens have suffered. I hope all members had an enjoyable season, whether afloat or 'on the bank'. We can now look forward to our autumn/winter programme of speakers and other events.

### Welcome back to 'Day-Star'

We are delighted to welcome back Pete (Duffy) and Jane who are, of course, 'Day-Star Theatre', making their umpteenth annual visit to the Society. This year they are presenting yet another new play "Another Fine Day" – the third and final story in the Sandy Edge trilogy. A synopsis of this play was published in our August Newsletter. After the performance we will all enjoy a tasty supper.

### Visit by National Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association

Whenever the Inland Waterways Association elects a new Chairman, the Society quickly makes contact with the new incumbent with an invitation to visit us, and, despite their busy programme, they have always managed to fit us in. I am delighted that the 'new' National IWA Chairman, John Fletcher, will be coming to talk to us at our meeting on 6 November and we will look forward to welcoming him. I hope that as many Society members as possible will be able to attend, along with our colleagues from the IWA Solent & Arun Branch and the IWA Salisbury Group.

At present I do not know the topic of John's talk to us but there is likely to be the opportunity for those present to ask questions and raise any issues of concern.

### Peter Oates Honoured

At the IWA's 2003 Annual General Meeting held at the Town Hall, Leamington Spa on Saturday 27 September, Peter Oates was awarded the Richard Bird Medal in recognition of his running the IWA stand at the Southampton International Boat Show for the last ten years, and being a volunteer on the

stand for many years before that.

Congratulations, Peter, for this well deserved recognition.

### Skittles Evening

Following the success of the Society Skittles Evening last March, Angela Faull has organised a repeat event on Friday 28 November 2003. The venue will be the same, viz. 'The Kings Head' in Hursley, though the Landlord has promised to turn on the heaters earlier this time!!! The price will be £7.50 per head, which will cover the cost of hiring the skittle alley, a buffet supper, and prizes for the winners. The event was very popular last time and we sold out and we are expecting similar success in November.

To register your interest or book your place, please contact Angela by 'phone on 023 8047 6112, or by e-mail at: [Faull@waitrose.com](mailto:Faull@waitrose.com) or by contacting me (details under the Canal Society heading later in this Newsletter).

### Gift of VCR

The Society would like to thank Mrs Freda Goodridge, a friend of Angela and Michael Faull, for her very kind donation of a Video Recorder. I have written to Freda expressing our appreciation.

### January Meeting

Because the first Thursday in January 2004 falls on New Year's Day it has been decided to change our January meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, viz. the 8<sup>th</sup>. Can you please mark this amended date in your diary. That meeting will be our annual Members Photographic Evening, details of which will be included in the November Newsletter.

### 2004 Programme

We are currently planning our programme of speakers and other events for 2004 and it would be helpful to receive from members any ideas of topics etc that you would like to be considered. Any suggestions to our Secretary, Eric Lewis, please.

*Paul Herbert*

## August Meeting (actually 31 July) Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock

Up until a few years ago our August meetings were, traditionally, poorly attended, presumably because most members were taking their holidays at that time. However, in recent times the situation has improved as we found with this year's August meeting (which had to be held on 31 July because of the hall not being available to us during August) when Peter's and Laura's talk was very well attended.

Their presentation was divided into two completely different topics. The first half of the evening concentrated on working boats on the inland waterways and the different methods of handling pairs of boats and working locks. We were shown in the region of 60 excellent slides featuring many working boats known to us; working boat gatherings; the handling of the boats; and, of course, the people who worked the boats. Throughout the presentation

Peter maintained a very informative narrative, with Laura's assistance.

The second half of their programme was devoted to a range of slides of the Itchen Navigation, many being 'before and after' shots, showing scenes of the navigation, its buildings and surroundings from the 1970s and 1980s, compared with 2003. For those of us who have lived in the area for some time it was interesting to note the changes that have taken place over the last twenty to thirty years. Unfortunately, we ran out of time that evening, and were not able to complete the Itchen Navigation presentation. However, as Peter pointed out, all the slides shown and those we did not have time for can be found on the Society's website.

Many thanks once again Peter and Laura for a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

*Paul Herbert*

## September Meeting The Macclesfield Canal and Adjoining Waterways - Tim Boddington

As the date for our September meeting approached I became rather apprehensive as to the size of audience we might expect, bearing in mind that a number of our regular attendees were still cruising their boats back to base from the National Waterways Festival and others were elsewhere on holiday. Considering that Tim Boddington and his wife were travelling down from Cheshire (though they were going to combine their visit to the Society with a short holiday break in our area) I was concerned that we might be a little light on numbers. In the event, I shouldn't have worried as we had a fantastic turnout of nearly fifty members and guests.

At the start of his high-tech visual presentation Tim explained that, normally, he only gave talks on the Macclesfield Canal but as I had asked if it was possible to widen his programme to the adjoining waterways, he would do his best. In the event he surpassed our expectations as he not only covered the

Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals, he also included slides and historic information about virtually every other waterway in the general area, including the Caldon and Leeds & Liverpool Canals etc.

Obviously, the main stream of his presentation concentrated on the beautifully scenic Macclesfield Canal and the Peak Forest Canal, including the latter's resurrection from dereliction. Of particular interest were the pictures of Bugsworth Basins, on the Upper Peak Forest Canal, in their working days. It is hard to equate those scenes with the current day picture of the basins, now largely restored and awaiting the next stage of their development and interpretation.

Many thanks Tim for a very informative and entertaining evening.

*Paul Herbert*

## A Walk along the Andover Canal?

The Thames, Berks & Andover Canal might be regarded in some circles as something of a joke (I can't think why!), but the Andover Canal is real enough – or it was, until it was closed down and a railway built on most of the route. But over the weekend of 4/5 October, IWPS (that's the Bugsworth Basin lot) are organising one of their regular 'away weekends', this time exploring the remains of the Andover Canal, and covering two stretches: Stockbridge to Andover and Romsey to Redbridge.

I am sure this event will be of interest to some Society members. If so, contact Kathy & Paul Niblett on Tel: 01782 641967 or e-mail: [kpniblet@dialstart.net](mailto:kpniblet@dialstart.net)

## Bugsworth CD-ROM

Still on the subject of IWPS (see left) – they have just produced an excellent historical **archive CD-ROM of Bugsworth Basin** and surrounding canals, covering the restoration as well as the canals in their working days.

Copies are available for £12 from the Peak Forest Canal Co Ltd., Browside Farm, Mudhurst Lane, Lyme Handley, Whaley Bridge, High Peak SK23 7BT.

*Paul Herbert*

*(The two items, above and to the left, were taken from 'Navvies' issue No. 200 – the newsletter of the Waterway Recovery Group).*

## 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 2 Oct 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	'Day-Star Theatre' with their new production for 2003	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 15 Oct 2003 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Waterways Wonders with Richard Thomas. A tour of some of the engineering marvels around the waterways. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dugate: <a href="mailto:arthurdugate@iname.com">arthurdugate@iname.com</a>
Thu 16 Oct 2003 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	From the Med to the Atlantic – Ron & Myra Glover. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812
Sat 18 October 2003	Byfleet Boat Club	Visit Chilworth Gunpowder Mills south of Guildford beside River Wey. Produced gunpowder for 300 years up to 1920.	James Bell: 01932 830493
Sun 19 October 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 7 - Wellow to Single Hill (6 miles). Meet at Wellow Church. Park in Wellow	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Wed 29 Oct 2003 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"Waterways Miscellany" - Vince Locatelli. (Vince has worked on the Wey Navigation for 40 years). Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 31 Oct 2003	Kennet & Avon CT	Garth Allen – Waterway Artist. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Thu 6 Nov 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	IWA National Chairman John Fletcher	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 15 Nov 2003 7.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT	K & A Update - Michael Goodenough. Devizes Wharf Centre.	Pete Jordan: 01380 729489
Sun 16 Nov 2003 10.00 am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk 8 - Single Hill to Radstock. Meet at the Village Hall. Park in the Village Hall car park	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Wed 19 Nov 2003 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Barging into Burgundy by Dick Allan. Problems, costs and benefits of taking a narrow boat to France and his trip south. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking	Arthur Dugate: <a href="mailto:arthurdugate@iname.com">arthurdugate@iname.com</a>
Thu 20 Nov 2003 7.30 pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Eric Lewis talking about "Around Britain by canal in the 70s" at Salisbury Rugby Club.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322
Wed 26 Nov 2003 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Brian Eighteen - "Watermills on the Kennet". Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 28 Nov 2003	Southampton CS	Society Skittles Evening - The Kings Head, Hursley. Cost £7.50	Angela Faull: 023 8047 6112 <a href="mailto:Faull@waitrose.com">Faull@waitrose.com</a>
Fri 28 Nov 2003	Kennet & Avon CT	Christmas Party. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Thu 4 Dec 2003 7.45 pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 17 Dec 2003 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Archive Films of Transport, etc - Frank Banfield. Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dugate: <a href="mailto:arthurdugate@iname.com">arthurdugate@iname.com</a>
Thu 8 Jan 2004 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening. NB this is <b>second</b> Thursday of the month!	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Wed 28 Jan 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	K & A Update - Michael Goodenough. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 30 Jan 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Jan Flanagan & Doug Small -Wilts & Berks. Canal Trust. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Wed 25 Feb 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	'Frosts, Freezes and Fairs' - Ian Currie. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Fri 27 Feb 2004	Kennet & Avon CT	Swan Lifeline. Southcote Library Hall, Southcote Lane, Reading.	Peter Crawford: 01488 608297
Wed 31 Mar 2004 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Richard Thomas - 'The Stort Navigation'. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Wed 21 Apr 2004 8pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - David Barrie (Chairman of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society). Westgate Centre, Chobham Road, Woking.	Arthur Dugate: <a href="mailto:arthurdugate@iname.com">arthurdugate@iname.com</a>
Until 19 October 2003	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Open every Sunday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday from Easter until 19 October 2003 from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 pm (last admission 4.30 p.m.) Tel. for Pumping Days.	01225 483001 <a href="http://www.claverton.org">www.claverton.org</a>
Until 5 October 2003	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Public cruises on John Pinkerton. Every 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon. 2½-hour round trip leaving at 2.30 pm from Colt Hill Wharf.	Info and Bookings: 01962 713564 (10 am - 8 pm)
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@weyandarun.freereserve.co.uk">wact@weyandarun.freereserve.co.uk</a>
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester Basin.	Bookings: 01243 670786

## Viewers will see life on the water

In partnership with British Waterways and the Environment Agency, the British Marine Federation has commissioned a new 18-part television series that will be aired on Channel 4 for four years, starting this autumn.

There will be around 200 broadcasts during the period with audiences averaging around two million viewers. These short programmes, between five and 14 minutes long, will promote the pleasures of the British marine leisure industry and its Inland Waterways, including canals, rivers, lakes and the Broads.

The focus will be on individuals whose lives revolve around their passion for the waterways. The series promises to provide a unique insight into life on the

water as well as promoting Britain's waterways network.

The series sees a colourful array of people sharing their remarkable stories such as the Mikron Theatre Company, a group of travelling players who spend their summers touring the canal network performing plays every night. Viewers will enjoy the fascinating tale of Cliff Jones who gave up a 30-year career on the buses to follow his dream of living on a narrow boat as well as an insight into the lifestyle of a wildlife photographer and the adrenaline packed stunts of Shaun Baker, the world's foremost extreme kayaker.

Details and times of the programmes will be available shortly. Look out for scheduling details in the TV listings or check out the BMF website [www.britishmarine.co.uk](http://www.britishmarine.co.uk)

*The above article was published in a paper called All At Sea in September 2003. A copy of the article was sent to the editor anonymously. Thanks anon!*

*Wearing his Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs hat, our member David Butcher has told us about the following trip to Belgium that is being organised by the Midland Region of the AWCC.*

Travelling with Skills Holidays

# Belgian Canals

13th October - 19th October 2003

Staying at the Hotel Beauregard

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Outward travel via "Le Shuttle" approx 13.00hrs.<br>Travelling on to Namur where we stay for 6 nights.  |
| Day 2 | Visiting Canal Charleroi, Ronquieres inclined plane<br>Canal du Centre, The Stre'py-Thieu, Quatre Ascenseurs.   |
| Day 3 | Visit "The Three Valleys Steam Railway" and local brewery.  |
| Day 4 | Free day. Namur is located at the confluence of the Sambre and Meuse Rivers, both major waterways. There is a lot of history and plenty of sightseeing i.e. Monuments, the Citadel, and Museums etc and 'ladies' a perfumery. |
| Day 5 | T.B.A.  |
| Day 6 | Visit Dinant & Boullion. Possible 45 min boat trip (price TBA).   |
| Day 7 | Early start to Arques Les Fontinettes lift St Omer<br>Returning via "Le Shuttle" approx 15.00hrs  |

The Hotel Beauregard is situated on the banks of the River Meuse.

Club class no smoking 44-seater coach with seat belts, air conditioning and toilet/handwash facilities. Hot & cold drinks available.

Total cost of Holiday: £349.00 per person.

Single supplement: £99.00 per person.

Insurance £24.50 Insurance is compulsory travelling for abroad. Should you have your own insurance, I will need the Company name and Policy no. Please.

A full British passport is required and should be valid for at least 6 months after the date of travel.

A deposit of £25 per person, plus £24.50 insurance (for those not having their own).

Please make cheques payable to Sheila Smith, 1 Millfield Road, Kimberley, NG16 2LJ.  
Tel: 0115 938 4129 Mob: 0780 394 5358

## 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:

1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm  
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton

### President:

Brian Evans.

### Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.  
Email: [PaulLHerbert@aol.com](mailto:PaulLHerbert@aol.com)

### Secretary:

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### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614  
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### Committee:

Martin Cripps, Peter Oates, David Townley-Jones

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### Society Website:

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

## FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

**2nd October 2003** - 'Day-Star Theatre' with their new production for 2003

**6th November 2003** - IWA National Chairman John Fletcher.

**28th November 2003** - Society Skittles Evening - The Kings Head, Hursley. Cost £7.50 Bookings: Angela Faull on 023 8047 6112 or [Faull@waitrose.com](mailto:Faull@waitrose.com)

**4th December 2003** - Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper

**8th January 2004** - Members' Slides, Prints and Photo Competition Evening. NB this is **second** Thursday of the month!

## Another Fine Day

*Here is a synopsis the new play that Day-Star Theatre are performing at our October meeting:*

It's a year since the canal embankment in Sandy Edge sprang a leak and emptied millions of gallons of water onto the allotments, the playing fields and the new executive houses. The gaping hole has been plugged, the houses have dried out and what passes for normality has returned to the sleepy canal side village in the heart of 'Middle England'.

One of the new houses has been sold on to Jeremy a director of a well known supermarket chain. The country cottage style executive home provides him with an idyllic haven where he can spend the summer weekends sitting in the garden, strumming his guitar and watching the boats go by on the embankment. His wife, Eleanor, sees it all from a different view point. After all she has to spend the week days there too and she is very, very bored.

When a boat turns up on the embankment one fine weekend carrying Holly and Rick, a couple of anti capitalist eco warriors with more than a passing interest in Jeremy then surely his weekend rural peace is about to be shattered. On the other hand a hint of impending excitement might just be what Eleanor needs.

The third and final story from Sandy Edge is a mouth watering menu of food, drink, principles and profit. All washed down with a helping of cold revenge on a fine spring day.

