



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

October 1st Meeting

Tonight we give a warm welcome to SCS members Ron & Myra Glover who will be showing their "Cruising around Vancouver" trip. This is a well detailed account of the coastal and industrial areas, including local crafts and wildlife.

Ron & Myra also organise the IWA Salisbury Group their details are always on our SCS Waterways Events page in the Newsletter.

November Meeting

Day-Star Theatre's yearly visit will be on Thursday 5th November. Pete & Jane Marshall have a change of programme for us with a series of sketches about aspects of ...yes... the Canals! Some bits are being taken loosely from past shows. They simply call it "A Short Waterways Comedy" - it went down well at its first performance. I meet George Marshall at the Southampton Boat show and he said it was very good. Pete & Jane will be travelling down from their home and craft workshop, based in Audlem, Cheshire on the Shropshire Union Canal.

Bring along friends and family and enjoy the evening.

Tickets are available tonight at £10 each to include an American Supper kindly brought along by our members, (the wine is included this year.) See also the item by Aelred Derbyshire on the right.

December Meeting

A reminder that the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be taking place on Thursday 4th December. As last year's winners, Southampton Canal Society will be organising the Quiz and, SCS members will be hosting the evening, with the traditional pre-Christmas occasion of an American Supper which finishes off the evening.

SCS Members: We need you to volunteer for our team!! Revision notes and homework will be offered?? (if needed)

New Year Seasonal Lunch

Time to make enquiries regarding our New Year seasonal lunch. Early days yet but possibly looking at Saturday 9th January 2016 or on the following Saturday, the 16th Jan.

The "feed" back last year about Keats Restaurant cited the excellent food & service. Are you all happy for Angela to make the necessary enquiry again? Please indicate to Angela if you are interested.

Happy Birthday

It gives me pleasure to tell you that it is Laurie Pearce's 93rd birthday on Trafalgar Day, 21st October and I am sure that we all wish him a very Happy Birthday.

Thank you all again for supporting your Society.

Alan Rose

Share the Space, Drop Your Pace

The recent [alleged death-threat made to a dog walker](#) by a speeding cyclist along the Basingstoke Canal in Woking once again highlights the difficulties that continue to arise with the use of the restricted shared space by canals in the UK.

It was the view of the Basingstoke Canal Society that, once [8 or more miles of towpath were upgraded](#) a few years ago by Cycle Woking, conflicts between cyclists and other users were likely to rise. Signs were installed along the Saturn Trail (as the towpath is called) that give distances between locations in minutes, assuming a cycling speed of 9 mph. The Society believes these exacerbated the problem as they might have encouraged speeding (as well as being of little use to walkers and also unsuited to a historical canal environment), and campaigned to have these signs removed, which has now been done.

In response to increasing numbers of reports of user conflict on the

canal towpath particularly through Woking, the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) approached the Canal & River Trust last year to gain permission to roll out their successful shared use campaign.

This initiative is intended to promote better shared use of towpaths. Although different user groups have access to the towpath, pedestrians have right of way. It's about ensuring everyone slows down and shows consideration to other users.

BCA Staff and volunteer [Canal Society lengthsmen](#) are driving forward

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Daystar Theatre Tickets

At the next meeting in November we will be welcoming Daystar Theatre for their annual visit. They are bringing a new show this year: "A Short Waterways Comedy". I am told it went down well at its first performance.

I received the tickets just before the September meeting so I did not have an opportunity to publicise it in the last Newsletter. Despite this I sold some tickets at the September meeting.

The October meeting is the best chance to obtain your tickets, and I will be at the meeting awaiting your custom; the tickets are £10 each. If you cannot get to the October meeting you can secure your tickets by sending a note of how many you want, a cheque and your address, to me at my contact address (see back page). I can either retain the tickets for you to collect on the evening or post them out to you.

Tickets will also be available on the door at the November meeting.

The performance will be followed by the usual American Supper.

Aelred Derbyshire, Hon. Treasurer

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 1 Oct 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Ron & Myra Glover will talk about their "Cruising around Vancouver" trip. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 8 Oct 2015 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	"Barging on the North-East Waterways" with Nick Grundy on his experiences of crewing gravel barges on the River Trent and Yorkshire waterways. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Thu 15 Oct 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Joeys, Joshers and James" by Phil Clayton. This will cover the beginnings, growth, working years, decline and revival of the BCN including the BCN Society. 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 15 Oct 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "More from the Archives" by Roger Halse. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For further details please contact Steve Page.	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 18 Oct 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Timsbury Pits (tbc). For further details please contact Mike Chapman.	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 20 Oct 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Boating over Grass in Poland" - David Copley. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 21 Oct 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"History and Restoration of the Wey and Arun Canal" by Graham Lewington who will cover the canal's history and detail all the latest restoration work. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sat 24 Oct 2015 2.30pm	Wey & Arun CT	EGM of Trust which will follow the official opening of the Hunt Nature Park viewing platform at Shalford. This meeting is your opportunity to hear the latest progress on the canal's restoration. The business part should not last more than 30 minutes. Alfold Hall, Dunsfold Road, Alfold, Surrey, GU6 8JB (TQ039353).	Tony Tyrrell: 01483 505566 E-mail: sec@weyandarun.co.uk Web: http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/autumnmeeting2015.php
Thu 5 Nov 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre will present "A Short Waterways Comedy". Further details on page 1 in this Newsletter and in the August Newsletter. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 12 Nov 2015 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	"Didcot Railway Centre" with Martin Baker, Great Western Society. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Sun 15 Nov 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Dunkerton Aqueducts. Meet: Dunkerton layby on A367, BA2 8BS (ST715597).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 17 Nov 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Speaker (to be confirmed) plus Christmas eats and drinks. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 18 Nov 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Leonardo's Canals - Waterways of Milan and the Papia Region" by Roger Squires. Milan was one of the leaders of early canal building in Europe and Roger will talk about waterways dating from 1177 to 1485. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Nov 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Elaine Kirby, archivist of the Kennet & Avon Trust, is returning with "Anything that Floats". In her work Elaine has discovered photos of a large variety of craft that have plied the K&A since 1887. 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 19 Nov 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. Meeting (TBA). The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For further details please contact Patrick Moss.	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: chairman@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 19 Nov 2015 7.00pm for 7.30pm	Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust	"The Restoration of Isfield Lock (including design, archaeology and the history of the associated paper-mill and wharf)" by various members of the team. Upper Room, Perrymount Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3DN (TQ331244). Ample parking at rear. Please enter via side door.	The Secretary: info@sxouse.org.uk Web: http://www.sxouse.org.uk/
Thu 3 Dec 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. The traditional American Supper will finish off the evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 10 Dec 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Christmas Dinner. 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 10 Dec 2015 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	Christmas Quiz with seasonal refreshments. Quiz set by Tim Wheeldon. Entry £10 for team of four, to cover quiz prizes and refreshments. Avonfield Room, Somerdale Pavilions, Cross Street, Keynsham, BS31 2FW (ST656693).	Geoff Harman: 01179 623812 Email: geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
Wed 16 Dec 2015 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Trail Boat Festivals on Isolated Waterways around Britain" by Ron & Myra Glover who detail the trailing of craft around Britain since the mid-1970s and attending festivals on waterways narrow boats can't reach. The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: david.millett@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 17 Dec 2015 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Social Evening. "Working the SCC" by Patrick Moss. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For further details please contact Steve Page.	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk

September Meeting Magic Lantern Show - Aileen Butler

Sixteen Society members met at St Denys Church Hall in Chilworth Village last month for Aileen Butler's Magic Lantern Show, ably assisted by Alan Bridle, both members of the Magic Lantern Society.

Aileen started her presentation outlining the history of the Magic Lantern. It originally got its name from charlatans who set up their 'lanterns' at séances etc and then hid behind the curtains. They proceeded to project images and called the procedure 'magic' – hence 'magic lanterns'.

Aileen had grown up with her grandfather's 1850 lantern, lit by a paraffin light inside, later converted to electricity. She still has that lantern which predates Queen Victoria. However, she was using Alan's more 'up to date' lantern for her presentation.

Returning to the history of the early lantern shows, for the first time the population of this country saw images, including moving scenes, by courtesy of travelling magic lantern operators. Their most popular period was between 1890 and 1930 but then went into decline with the advent of cinema and interest in magic lanterns was relegated to collectors.

The first part of Aileen's show was dedicated to 'Pleasures of the River Thames: Source to the Sea' starting at Thames Head and ending at Southend-on-Sea Pier. The Thames had become a popular tourist

destination especially after the publication of 'Three Men in a Boat'. The 1860's slide tour of the Thames illustrated many well known landmarks and river crossings. Members of the audience attempted to identify some of the changed locations or earlier constructions.

The second half of the evening related to the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal. At the time of the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 Manchester trade was encountering problems due to increased river and rail transport costs. The concept of constructing a ship canal into the heart of Manchester evolved, a Company was formed in 1882, land was purchased and five years later work began on the construction of the canal.

We saw slides of navvies digging and building the canal using the latest machinery, hand tools and equipment. They encountered many problems with flooding, solid rock, landslides and accidents. Costs soared to £15m. The canal took six years to build and was officially opened by Queen Victoria in 1894. It became very successful reaching its peak in 1958, making Manchester the 3rd largest port in the country. It declined in usage when the canal was found to be too small for later container shipping.

Members were entertained to a very enjoyable evening.

Gill Herbert

Grow a Tenner for the Wey & Arun Canal Trust

The Trust is asking its members and supporters to consider making donations via a fundraising website which doubles donations of up to £10.

This unmissable opportunity comes through the Localgiving.com Grow Your Tenner initiative, with the potential to raise £10,000 on top of money given to our good cause.

Grow Your Tenner 2015 launches at 10am on Tuesday, October, 13th. It ends when the match-funding money runs out or at 5pm on Wednesday, November 18th.

Localgiving will be matching one-time donations pound-for-pound up to £10, and monthly direct debit donations up to £10 per month. This time, though, the campaign continues for three months instead of six as last year.

The charities taking part are eligible to receive up to a maximum of £10,000 of match-funding, made up of £9,000 for direct debit donations and £1,000 for one-time donations. There is a limit of five

one-time donations per individual.

With Gift Aid added, a donation of £10 will be made up to a total of £22.50, so please make sure you are registered for Gift Aid if you make a donation. Three monthly donations of £10 can grow to a total of £67.50 for the Trust.

Last year, we received more than £8,200 through Grow Your Tenner.

To double a tenner – or tenners – visit the Wey & Arun Canal Trust page at www.localgiving.com/charity/wact as soon as possible after 10am on October 13th. Any donations made through the website before then will not benefit from match-funding, so please wait until the launch time.

Click on either the Donate Now or Give Monthly button to make a pledge, and remember to click that you are registered for Gift Aid.

Thank you for your support – we will keep you informed about the progress of Grow Your Tenner.

Wey & Arun Press Release—24 September 2015

Chilworth Village Hall

I recently attended the opening of the newly refurbished Chilworth Hall. The committee laid on a very good Wine and Cheese Party together with a variety of demonstrations from other village hall users.

The young dance club presented a very good display. We had dog obedience classes on the stage which was interesting.

Over the last 2 months the hall has undergone a remarkable transformation. This was Phase 1 of a two phase refurbishment.

This year's phase was confined to the southern half: the main and small halls.

We now have new fire proof stage curtains, new stage lighting, a drop down projector screen, an overhead projector and associated equipment, a wireless sound system, new microphones and more.

The floor has had a major clean up together with a new floor in the small hall which has had new acoustic dividing doors.

For the benefit of our ballet members, the small hall has had a mirror wall and bars fitted. The mirrors can of course be used for brushing our hair as well.

There is now a telephone line and broadband fitted. New lighting and window curtains have all been installed plus complete redecoration.

The next phase next year will be the entrance hall, galley, toilets etc.

In all they have done a very good job which you will all see at our October meeting.

Angela and I attended an instruction meeting last week for the operation of the projector etc, so we will see whether we remember it all.

Chilworth Village Hall is completely run by volunteers from the local community and primarily funds itself.

Alan Rose

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.

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Brian Evans.

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Luckily, it didn't go with a bang!

An eight-year-old boy pulled out an unexploded grenade during a fishing trip on Grand Union canal. Schoolboy Brando Smith, was fishing along with his twin brother Jacopo and best friend Nour, from a canal boat with their nanny James Bolton.

The trio were fishing with a magnet, and after pulling out an assortment of spanner and wrenches, pull out a rusty, muddy lump of iron. Suspecting what it was they immediately passed it to James, who carefully took it in his hands and placed in on an empty stretch of towpath before calling the police.

The police then brought in army experts who took it away for disposal. James, who lives on the vessel in Maida Vale said the part he found the most terrifying was getting the children to safety and placing the grenade carefully on the ground. He said:

"As I held the grenade to stop it swinging part of me was thinking 'it's ok, it's a rusty old thing' but then part of me couldn't stop thinking 'this could blow off my head!'

"We went to a nearby pub garden to watch the police activity afterwards and I had a pint of stout to calm my nerves - my first ever drink on the job."

Police arrived within ten minutes and secured the area before calling the bomb squad - and called the fire service and London ambulance as a precaution.

Experts confirmed it was a WW2 grenade, but it was deemed safe enough to go to another location for disposal.

<http://www.itv.com/news/london/2015-09-07/>

Compasses Bridge Appeal

Work is now well advanced on creating the new Compasses Bridge that will enable part of the Wey & Arun Canal in Surrey to be fully opened to navigation again.

The new crossing of the canal is in Compasses Lane, Alfold, at one of the entrances to Dunsfold Aerodrome. It will replace a wartime concrete causeway which is now the only major obstacle to navigation on 1¼ miles of the canal between Tickner's Heath in Dunsfold and Fast Bridge on the A281 at Alfold. Silt clearance and bank reprofiling has already taken place along most of this stretch of the canal.

Contractors C J Thorne are now building up the reinforced concrete structure of the bridge after starting work in July. This is expected to take about six months and is being done with the co-operation of the Dunsfold Aerodrome owners and local landowners.

Over next winter, Trust volunteers will prepare the site for the road into the aerodrome complex to be realigned. Contractors will return to do this in Spring 2016, followed by the partial demolition of the

causeway.

The Trust is aiming to reopen the canal between Tickner's Heath and Fast Bridge in 2016, in time for the 200th anniversary of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal being declared open at the Compasses site in September 1816. The regenerated Surrey section will bring more opportunities for Trust boat excursions and boating events.

So far more than £433,722 (62%) has been raised towards the £700,000 cost of the restoration project. The Trust is stepping up its fundraising efforts, to attract donations and find grants, to ensure the project can be completed in time for the 200th anniversary.

If you can help with a donation, money can be given online through credit and debit cards via the Donate Now button on the [home page of the Trust](#). Donations can also be sent to the Treasurer via the WACT Northern Office, Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Guildford, GU4 8EQ.

<http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/>

Towpath Sharing

(Continued from page 1)

the promotion and have spent several busy days on the Basingstoke Canal towpath advertising this campaign. These campaign days involve chatting to all towpath users and handing out free merchandise and campaign leaflets to promote positive shared use. There were many positive comments from passers-by for what was going on.

The canal towpath regularly sees large numbers of towpath users particularly through the busier urban areas of Woking, St Johns, Ash,

Aldershot and Fleet. While it is fantastic to see the space so well used for commuting and leisure, the space that everyone shares is very narrow and everyone is responsible for their impact on this space and others users.

Further information on the Canal & River Trust campaign that rolled out in London can be found [here](#).

The Basingstoke Canal Authority have licenced permission from Canal & River Trust to use this campaign and its logo.

Fiona Shipp, Basingstoke Canal Manager

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/headline/>