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Canal Closures

Despite some rain, the following canal closures and lock restrictions were still in place as of 24 September. The current situation can be checked on the [CRT website](#).

Closed:

[Leeds & Liverpool](#) - Locks 30 to 85. Pounds between lock flights currently navigable.

[Peak Forest](#) - Marple Locks 1 to 16.

[Macclesfield](#) - Bosley Locks 1 to 12.

Reduced opening times:

[Leeds & Liverpool](#) - Locks 7 to 13
[Rochdale](#) - Locks 5 to 13.

[GU Leicester Line](#) - Foxton and Watford Locks.

[Northampton Arm](#) - Locks 1 to 17.

[Oxford](#) - Hillmorton, Napton, Marston Doles and Claydon Locks.

[Regents](#) - Hampstead Road, Acton, Old Ford and Mile End Locks.

[Hertford Union](#) - Lock 1.

[Grand Union](#) - Norwood Top Lock 90.

[Monmouthshire & Brecon](#) - All locks.

*Canal & River Trust,
21 September 2018*

"A Sorry Affair"

I don't wish to blow my own trumpet but readers may not have noticed that I shall be giving a talk on the Southampton & Salisbury Canal to the IWA Salisbury Group on Thursday 18th October at 7.30pm. Further details can be found on Page 2.

Peter Oates

Chairman's Column

October meeting

As we were unable to be at the September meeting, our thanks must go to Gordon for running it. Reading Gordon's report, it sounded to be a very good evening.

Tonight, we give a warm welcome to Ron and Myra Glover to enlighten us on the benefits of a cruise on VIC 32 which is a Clyde Puffer. I am sure that it will be an interesting night.

Alan and Angie's summer cruise

We will give a continuation of our summer cruise to the festival at St Neots in next month's Newsletter, so look forward to it. All I can say it was a fabulous 5 weeks away.

November meeting

Next month November 1st we will welcome Nick Grundy talking about pleasure boating in the 30's, 40's, and 50's. Should be another good night.

December meeting

We then come to December 6th: the highlight of the year! Yes, the Inter Society Waterways Quiz followed by an American Supper.

We are looking for team members to participate this year. It is not fair that we have the same team, year after year. It would be a pity if SCS couldn't put forward a team, wouldn't it?

Regards to all

Alan Rose

Ken Froud

Whilst this issue of the Newsletter was being prepared, the Society received the following email:

It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of my Father, Kenneth Ian Froud, last Sunday [23 September] in Warwick Hospital after a short illness.

Sad as this is, I'd like you to know that he was positive and cheerful to the end and was content to let go. He was a truly remarkable man who will be sadly missed.

The funeral will be held at the Oakley Wood Crematorium North Chapel on 12th October 2018. There will be a wake afterwards, details still to be decided.

I apologise for a general email about this but time is short and I need to give as much advance notice as possible in case friends wish to attend. I don't have access to Dad's email account so I don't know if these email addresses are current, or if all of his many friends are in my contact list.

If you know anyone who knew Dad, I'd appreciate it if you could pass this on.

I would appreciate it if you could let me know if you intend to attend the funeral so I can get some idea of numbers for the service and catering afterwards.

Regards,

Roger Froud

Ken Froud was a very keen and active member of the Canal Society, particularly before he and his late wife Margaret moved aboard their boat on the Oxford Canal at Napton. An appreciation of his contribution to the Society's early days will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

September Meeting

Tony Shadick with a selection of videos

The society welcomed Tony Shadick who was presenting a selection of interesting videos. The first of the videos was taken at the society's recent 50th anniversary outing on the Basingstoke Canal. The video, introduced by Brian Evans, provided memories of the sunny and successful trip on the trip boat the "John Pinkerton" for more than 40 members and friends enjoying the Hampshire scenery. The end point of the journey was the head of the navigation at King John's Castle with images of fish in the clear spring water and a swans in a close family group. The video provided cooling views of reflective water for the return to Odiham Wharf and was enjoyed by all those present including Paul Herbert who clapped in appreciation of his own speech on the trip

which had been recorded for posterity.

The second video was taken on the Romsey Canal in 1996 during the IWA Golden Jubilee celebration jigsaw cruise. A paddle along the canal with society members and local dignitaries with four boats including "Rub a Dub Tub" and "Frog" accompanied by ducks and ducklings. The video provided an enjoyable insight into a scene of gentle English folk at leisure in light rain and wind but with a respectable crowd to support the event.

The evening concluded with a couple of videos of local interest detailing the Hockley Viaduct and the Andover to Romsey "Sprat and Winkle" railway line.

Gordon Osborn

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	Venue	Contact
Wed 3 Oct 2018 10.30am	IWA Guildford & Reading Br	Walk - New Haw to The Anchor, Pyrford. Meet at The Anchor, use a few cars to drive to New Haw and walk back to the pub. Please contact Gareth Jones on 07850 819071 for further details	The Anchor, Pyrford Lock, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QW (TQ053592).	Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: gareth@hillhouse.farm
Thu 4 Oct 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The steamer VIC32. Ron and Myra Glover will tell us about their Scottish cruise on the steamer VIC 32. This will include the Crinan Canal.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 6 Oct 2018 9.45am-3.00pm	Wilts & Berks CT	Chairman's Walk & Boat Trips on the 'Mary Archard'. The walk (about 2 miles) will follow, as far as possible, the route of the Chippenham Branch canal from the town to Pewsham Wharf for tea and cake. Also boat trips between 10.00am - 3.00pm departing Pewsham Wharf next to the pop-up café. No charge for walk or trip, but donations welcome.	Meet at the Buttercross, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 3HD (ST922732).	Trust Office: 0845 625 1977 Email: info@wbct.org.uk Web: https://www.wbct.org.uk/
Sat 6 Oct 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sat 13 Oct 2018 10.15am-3.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust AGM	Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7LB (SU399903).	Trust Office: 0845 625 1977 Email: info@wbct.org.uk Web: https://www.wbct.org.uk/
Sat 13 Oct 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Tue 16 Oct 2018 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Model buildings including Aldermaston ticket office" with Avril Burdett. Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 17 Oct 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Life of Brookwood Cemetery" - Kim Lowe's talk will cover the creation of the cemetery, the design, and the people who have been laid to rest in the cemetery.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 18 Oct 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Stotherts and the canal" by Stuart Burroughs.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 18 Oct 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"A Sorry Affair." Peter Oates will talk about the Southampton & Salisbury Canal which was a child of the canal mania of 1792. However, this a sad tale of a badly managed project which cost a lot of money with an uncompleted canal.	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 20 Oct 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions. Last pumping day until 2019.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sat 28 Oct 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Crofton Halloween steaming. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free. Last steaming in 2018.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Thu 8 Nov 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Canalling in the late 50's and 60's" is the title of Nick Grundy's talk. This will be based upon the diaries of his grandfather's holiday and campaign cruises.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Mon 12 Nov 2018 7.30pm-10.30pm	Kennet Valley Village Hall	"The Introduction of Jet Aircraft to the RAF." A talk, by Air Vice-Marshal Graham Skinner CBE, highlighting issues as the RAF replaced piston engines with jets after 1945. Tickets £10.00 including a light refreshments. Bar available. Event in support of RAF Benevolent Fund and Crofton Beam Engines.	Kennet Valley Hall, Overton Road, Lockeridge, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 4EL (SU147678).	Web: www.kvh.org.uk Tickets: events@kvh.org.uk
Thu 15 Nov 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"John Padmore - 19th Century Engineer & Polymath" by Richard Ross.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Thu 15 Nov 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Vic 32, a Clyde Puffer. Ron & Myra Glover together with Dave Thomas took a week's holiday on Vic 32. They will be relating their experiences whilst onboard as they pass through the locks on the Crinan Canal and around the Western Isles of Scotland	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 18 Nov 2018 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Combe Hay Locks and the Engine Site guided walk to view the locks, some of which are on private land.	Meet at layby opposite Bridge Farm, Combe Hay, BA2 7EE (ST745604)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: workparty@coalcanal.org.uk

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Tue 20 Nov 2018 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Members slide show and Christmas "party" - Please bring food. Entry donation £2.50 (incl K&A members) – to help pay for the meeting.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 21 Nov 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The History and Restoration of the Paddle Steamer Medway Queen - Heroine of Dunkirk." Pam and Mark Bathurst will talk about the Medway Queen. Launched in 1924, it saw service on the Thames estuary until 1963, with 7 trips to Dunkirk in 1940. It was an Isle of Wight nightclub 1966-74, returned to the Medway in 1984, followed by rebuilding of her hull.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 6 Dec 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Salisbury IWA will be in charge of this year's quiz evening. Followed by the traditional American Supper.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Tue 11 Dec 2018 7.30pm-10.30pm	Crofton Beam Engines	"The History of Christmas." How old are the customs which we celebrate: prehistoric or Victorian? Are Santa Claus and Father Christmas the same and where did they come from? This talk by Professor Ronald Hutton will answer these and other questions. Tickets: £10.00 - includes glass of wine and a seasonal gift.	The Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 1AA (SU188691).	Tickets via email from crofton.manager@katrust.org.uk or via internet from www.eventbrite.co.uk
Thu 13 Dec 2018 7.00pm	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
Wed 19 Dec 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Power from Poo." David Linsell will introduce Thames Water; it's geographic coverage, handling volumes of clean and waste water, plus tonnes of dry solid material for disposal. Finally, power generation in a combined heat and power plant plus future developments will also be discussed.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 3 Jan 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Photographic Evening	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Purton Hulks and the Andover Canal

Earlier this month, Annegret Evans sent me an email which is quoted below:

I am a steward at Romsey Abbey. When asking for stewards to stand in for vacancies our organiser introduces her weekly communication to us with some interesting facts, mostly on present events and news items. I always enjoy reading her article and am better informed afterwards. Last week she sent an article on Purton Hulks and today I received this week's and it was on the Andover Canal! Below are her articles as I thought you might like to read them. I am not too sure what it says in the one about British Waterways and Canal and River Trust is quite correct. [Editor's note: *British Waterways took over the hulks in 2010 which then passed to CRT in 2012.*]

Purton Hulks

"I recently heard a radio programme about the Purton Hulks. I learned that the stretch of the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal running from Sharpness to Purton was constructed rather close to the river for about half a mile, and by 1900, at a spring tide, only the width of the towpath divided them. In 1909 a riverbank collapse threatened the survival of the canal, and the livelihood of all those using it to transport goods. A plea went out to commercial boat owners for old vessels to be run aground to plug the breach in the river bank (much cheaper than building a wall). Redundant boats, built in the late 1800's and early 1900's were towed over to the far side of the river just before the onset on high tide, then released so that they thundered into the bank as the tide came in. As the tide fell back, a hole was drilled in the ship's side to allow water in, and, over time, mud, silt and sand. It worked brilliantly, and what was once a narrow bank is now a broad, cliff-like expanse of grassland. Between 1909 and 1963 at least 80 vessels were beached at Purton, many in the 1950's and are now in a state of decay. One of the first was a Ferrous Concrete Barge, a huge concrete lighter (flat bottomed for shallow water) built in World War II, when steel was in short supply. The only known surviving Kennet barge 'Harriett' was beached at Purton in 1964, and in 2010 was designated a scheduled monument by English Heritage. The last boat was beached in 1965 and the site forms the largest ship graveyard in mainland Britain. For decades the site didn't have a formal owner, and the wrecks fell victim to arson, vandalism, firewood collection and graffiti. In more recent years the Canal

and River Trust took on guardianship, and erected a monument engraved with the names of the wrecks and the year they were beached. Then in 2010 the site was taken over by British Waterways, delighting the Friends of Purton, who fought for many years for the remaining relics to be preserved for their lifetime."

Andover Canal

"Reading from a speech by local historian Phoebe Merrick, reported on the web, I learned that in the mid-17th century the Itchen had been made navigable as far as Winchester, but there is no evidence that the Test was ever used for navigation, though some freight may have been brought up the river - stone for Romsey Abbey for example. In 1770 interested parties came to the conclusion that the difficulties of rendering the Test navigable were such that it would be better to construct a canal. Trade in Andover was declining, it was decided that a canal to the south coast was needed, and by early 1789 a plan had been produced, and finance provided - not much from Romsey. Not everyone was keen, water mill owners worried about a decline in water volume and Winchester worried about a decline in trade. However, by 1794 a 22 mile canal was constructed between Andover and Redbridge, with over 20 locks and 9 wharves - one in Romsey where Southampton Road now runs. (Since the canal closed three houses have been built there, which back onto the Harrage). Amongst the folk-lore in the Romsey area is one family's account of a bride making her way from King's Somborne to Romsey by barge in the 1850's, and another family who claimed that their ancestors had used the canal for the transport of smuggled goods inland from Redbridge. Although useful in its time, the canal was never really a financial success, and by the 1850's plans were underway to replace it by a railway line, its course largely to follow the filled in canal (Lord Palmerston of Broadlands choosing a different route through his estate). The stretch of canal from the Harrage north to Timsbury was not needed for the railway, and after the removal of the locks, and latterly the boards which replaced them, fish movement increased and the remains of the canal now look more like a stream. The outlet for the water was the Tadburn Lake at the Romsey end and Linhay Meads in Timsbury. The water goes underground by the Plaza and can be seen as it joins the stream at the junction of Southampton Road and the By-pass."

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 in this issue) 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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Purton and Stanton

After sending me the email quoted on page 3, Annegret Evans sent a further email:

Reading the article sent the other day by our Romsey Stewards organiser on Purton Hulks made me wonder why Alan Rose's boat was called *Purton*. He wrote to me an answer [which I have expanded - Editor]:

"Because she is a 'Town Class' motor boat or 'Large Northwich' and all

38 were named by the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company after towns. Northwichs were built by Yarwoods at Northwich on the River Weaver. 24 pairs of motors and butties plus 24 single motors were built by Harland and Wolff on the Thames at Woolwich. These were known as 'Big Woolwichs'. Some 62 wooden butties were built by Walkers at Rickmansworth and known by the boatmen as 'Large Rickies'.

The 'Large' or 'Big' boats were all built between 1936 and 1938. All were called Town Class boats as they were nearly all named after towns or villages. These were called

'Large' as they had deeper holds and larger carrying capacity than the 'Small' and 'Middle' 'Star Class' boats built earlier between 1934 and

1936.

Peter Oates' boat is a Large Northwich like ours and is named *Stanton*."

Purton was delivered to the GUCCC in September 1936 and carried the fleet number 162. It was shortened to about 56 feet by BWB in the 1960s for maintenance purposes. The name comes from the village of Purton which is beside the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.



Stanton and Purton locking down Braunston Bottom Lock in 2010

The 71 feet 6 inch long *Stanton* was delivered in the November and given the number 173. It is not known which *Stanton* the boat was named after: there are at least six villages (some quite small) called just *Stanton* (Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Northumberland, Staffordshire and Suffolk). If you include *Stantons* with a second or more parts to the name (such as *Stanton Harcourt* or *Stanton St John*) there are around 21 more villages.

Actually, no-one knows how or why particular names were selected. Certainly they did not have to be near a place on the

waterways; for example *Nutfield* is near *Redhill* in *Surrey*. The Large *Woolwich* butty *Angel* is not even named after a town or village.

Environment Agency Thames winter works plans

THE Environment Agency is investing £2.4 million this winter, as part of its annual programme of essential works along the non-tidal length of the River Thames. Major works will be carried out at:

Molesey Lock (October 29, 2018 to January 31, 2019): Replacing the timber sheeting on the face of each lock gate.

Caversham Lock (October 29, 2018 to March 15, 2019, passage may be possible from February 2019): Refurbishing the lock chamber's concrete walls and timber edging. Replacing the wet boat shed roller shutter doors upstream of the lock.

Teddington Lock (Launch) (October 29, 2018 to March 15, 2019):

Refurbishing the lock chamber concrete walls and replacing the lock side rubbing timbers and bollards.

Cookham Lock (November 1-15, 2018): Refurbishing the concrete sill of the tail lock gates.

Rushey Lock (December 1, 2018 to March 1, 2019): Replacing the timber sheeting on the face of each lock gate.

Other works during the winter will include work at the following locks:

Grafton, Pinkhill, Kings, Culham, Day's, Whitchurch, Mapledurham, Blake's Locks and also at Sunbury Island.

Towpath Talk, 10 September 2018