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**£1m Waverley boost**

THE Scottish Government has stepped in with a £1 million boost for the Waverley Boiler Refit Appeal, to help ensure that the London & North Eastern Railway-built paddle steamer sails again in 2020.

Culture cabinet secretary, Fiona Hyslop MSP, made the announcement when she visited the ship in Glasgow on Friday 20 September. It came after Labour MSP Jackie Bailie, had asked questions in the Scottish Parliament the about the future of the ship and the possibility of the Government coming to its rescue.

Fiona Hyslop said "The Waverley has delighted generations of locals and visitors throughout her 70 year history and I am pleased to announce this significant financial contribution to help her sail again."

Paul Semple, Waverley Excursions Ltd's general manager, said: "We are very grateful for this significant Scottish Government contribution which recognises Waverley's heritage and the significant economic value she brings to coastal communities. This brings us up to £1.9m raised since we launched our appeal in June, leaving us still to raise £400,000 to meet our target of £2.3m. We will continue to strive to raise the balance and stress the urgency of raising the outstanding sum to ensure that Waverley does sail next season."

*Towpath Talk - 24 Sept 2019*

## Chairman's Column

Once again we are writing this while boating. At the present time we are moored up for the night outside Star City on the Birmingham and Warwick Junction Canal on our way to the Black Country Living Museum for the festival this coming weekend so once again Gordon Osborn will be running the next meeting.

### October Meeting

So on Thursday 3rd October give a warm welcome to David Farthing, who with his extensive knowledge, will give you a talk about William Walker, the diver that helped save Winchester Cathedral.

### November Meeting

Our November 7th meeting will have Andy Lester

from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wild Life Trust who will be talking about the leading Nature Conservation Charity in the two counties protecting local wildlife and inspiring people to love nature.

### December Meeting

Our December 5th meeting is our annual inter society quiz evening followed by an American Supper.

As last years winners we will, we hope, be setting the questions.

Again we need volunteers to sit on our team.

Signing off after a damp day.

*Alan Rose*

## No more hire bikes in canals please, says CRT

The Canal & River Trust has appealed to bike hire companies to find a way of stopping its bikes from ending up in canals. The trust estimates that 100 or more hire bikes – docked, dockless and electric – are being dumped by thieves and vandals in London's canals alone each year.<sup>12</sup>

Charlotte Wood, CRT's London head of operations, says: "Fair play to Transport for London, they reimburse us for the Santander bikes we return to them. Freebikes have also been proactive in trying to help. However, other hire organisations aren't

as yet working with us. We think it's because they get their bikes so cheaply it's not cost effective to cover their return."

The trust's latest haul, gathered at its depot beside the Thames for a photo-opportunity, included 20 Mobikes, nine Ofo bikes, an Urbo bike, a new Lime electric bike and seven Santander bikes from London's official docking cycle scheme.

*Waterways World - 20 August 2019*

## Subscriptions

I have recently been preparing the half-year accounts and I noticed that we have a shortfall in subscriptions paid this year. They are due at the first meeting of the Society year, in April. I know that members have been away when meetings have been held but the Society needs the income to pay the expenses of holding meetings. I don't want to have to write to those who haven't paid their dues so, if you are not sure, come and see

me at the next meeting on October 3rd., or send me an email. If you won't be at the meeting you can send me a cheque at the address on the back page of this Newsletter. If you would prefer to make a bank transfer please send me an email and I will send you details of the Society bank account.

*Alfred Derbyshire  
Hon. Treasurer*

## SCS Website

September saw the introduction of an upgrade and redesign of the Society's website. The old design had been largely unchanged for nearly 20 years and could be considered to be outdated. The devices that are used to view the internet have changed significantly in the last 20 years and the old design was almost impossible to view on today's smartphones. So over the last two years the new design has evolved and developed. This is responsive to the size of screen or window used to view it and should be equally usable with a mouse, keyboard or a touch screen.

A major part of the upgrade is a complete revision and expansion of the part of the site dealing with the Itchen Navigation. The last cargo to be carried on the waterway, a load of coal, reached

Winchester 150 years ago in June 1869. I had hoped that the revised pages would be ready by June but it was not to be.

The number of images of the Navigation has increased from just over 350 to some 660 and now includes historical pictures - the oldest seems to be over 200 years old and the oldest photograph is believed to date from 1869.

Not all of the website has been redesigned in the new format at the moment. Hopefully, that will happen over the next few months.

I trust you won't encounter any problems using the site and you will enjoy doing so. If you do have problems or find errors, please email to let me know, so that I can correct them.

*Peter Oates*

## 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
Thu 3 Oct 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>William Walker.</b> David Farthing will be telling us about the diver who helped save Winchester Cathedral from sinking.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Mon 7 Oct 2019 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT (Royal Wootton Bassett Branch)	<b>Gloucester Docks: Then and Now.</b> Tony Condor will talk about the history of the docks and the story up to date. Tony was formerly Curator at Stoke Bruerne museum and at the Waterways Museum, Gloucester.	The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AQ (SU068826).	Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310 Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk">jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk</a>
Tue 15 Oct 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Somersetshire Coal Canal</b> with Adrian Tuddenham. 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 16 Oct 2019 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"The Basingstoke Canal Manager."</b> Fiona Shipp (Canal Manager) will describe the day to day operations of the Basingstoke Canal Authority and how they work with neighbouring local authorities, volunteers and the Canal Society to manage the Canal.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 17 Oct 2019 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"London's Lost Route To the Sea."</b> A speaker from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust will inform us about the history, original function and restoration of this navigation.	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 20 Oct 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Dunkerton, including the Aqueducts</b> - guided walk.	Dunkerton Parish Hall, The Hollow, Dunkerton, Bath BA2 8BG (ST709596).	Adrian Tuddenham: 01225 335974 Email: <a href="mailto:editor@coalcanal.org.uk">editor@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Thu 24 Oct 2019 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>"Midford - 2 Counties, 3 Parishes, 2 Railways and The Somersetshire Coal Canal"</b> by Roger Halse.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Sat 26 Oct 2019 10.00am	Wilts & Berks CT	<b>Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust AGM</b> The usual format is visits and exhibition in the morning, formal meeting and forum in the afternoon.	Sheldon School, Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham SN14 6HJ (ST908742).	Trust Office: 0845 625 1977 Email: <a href="mailto:info@wbct.org.uk">info@wbct.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="https://www.wbct.org.uk/">https://www.wbct.org.uk/</a>
Thu 7 Nov 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.</b> Andy Lester will talk about the leading nature conservation charity in the two counties, protecting local wildlife and inspiring people to love nature.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Sun 17 Nov 2019 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Walk - Dunkerton to Combe Hay</b> - guided walk.	Dunkerton Layby on A367, Dunkerton, Bath BA2 8BS (ST715597).	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066
Tue 19 Nov 2019 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	<b>Christmas Party and Speaker.</b> 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: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 20 Nov 2019 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Surrey Search and Rescue."</b> Rosie Jordan will talk about Surrey Search and Rescue: a professional but unpaid team who are on call to assist Surrey Police 24 hours a day to search for and rescue vulnerable missing persons.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 21 Nov 2019 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>"Exploring the South of France by Boat."</b> Jon Van de Geer will take us on journeys along the Canal du Rhone a Sete, the Petit Rhone, on an excursion to Carcassonne and a trip along the Canal du Midi.	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 28 Nov 2019 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>Social Evening - T B A</b> by Patrick Moss.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Thu 5 Dec 2019 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Inter-Society Waterways Quiz.</b> SCS will be in charge of this year's quiz evening. Followed by the traditional American Supper.	Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a>
Thu 12 Dec 2019 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	<b>Christmas Dinner</b> at the Green Dragon.	The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 or 07768 622966 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> or <a href="mailto:myra.glover@waterways.org.uk">myra.glover@waterways.org.uk</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Wed 18 Dec 2019 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Film evening from the BCS archives."</b> Archive film about one of the last commercial voyages from the Wey Navigation into London's Royal Docks. The film was made in the 1970s by Tony Harmsworth but has recently had a commentary added.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>

## Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Wed 15 Jan 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"When London had an inland Port."</b> Lester Hillman will talk about the arrival of the completed Regent's Canal with a huge terminal at City Basin a game changer for London. Hear about the politics, engineering marvels, commerce and crime. What of the future of the City Basin?	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Wed 19 Feb 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"100 years under the flightpath."</b> Ms Jo Gosney will talk about Farnborough and the impact of aviation on the people, workplace and economy for over a century.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Thu 27 Feb 2020 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	<b>The Bridgwater Canal &amp; the Manchester, Bolton &amp; Bury Canal</b> by Steve Bacon.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location <a href="#">see map here</a>	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: <a href="mailto:membership@coalcanal.org.uk">membership@coalcanal.org.uk</a>
Wed 18 Mar 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"Woking's Railway."</b> Alan Norris will describe the coming of the railway to Woking in the 1830's. The talk will also include the Brookwood Cemetery railway and the Bisley Tramway.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>
Wed 15 Apr 2020 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	<b>"The Electric Boat Association."</b> Tim Knox is a committee member of the Association. He will tell about it, the advantages of electric propulsion for canal boats and the current state of the technology.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Email: <a href="mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk">chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk">www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk</a>

## September Meeting

### "Bursledon Brick Works" with Bob Marshall

The society welcomed Bob Marshall from Bursledon Brick Works for the September meeting presentation. The first part of the presentation provided a brief history of the building construction and the part played by the humble brick. This covered Celtic buildings and their use of wattle and daub, until the Romans arrived with the first use of bricks. Saxon building mostly reverted back to wattle and daub but with some Roman bricks scavenged and reused.

Medieval brick was used in prestige buildings for example Hampton Court Palace and Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire. Bricks were also used more commonly in the 15th Century for chimneys. The great fire of London in 1666 destroyed the City of London and this resulted in an increased use of brick for the reconstruction of the city.

As the quality of bricks improved so their use increased in Georgian buildings. However the Victorian era was boom time for bricks. The growth in canals, industry and railway infrastructure both increased the demand for bricks and also facilitated their transport. Brick building on a large scale continued into the 1930s and 40s. Battersea power station, built between 1929 and 1941, is apparently one of the world's

largest brick buildings.

The first brickworks would be on the site of the construction using small scale hand-made bricks. Brick earth, a mix of clay and sand, is thrown into a brick mould. The excess is cut off with a wire, then tapped out of the mould, and left to dry before firing in a kiln. First automated brick machine for forming the brick, was called a Stupid, reflecting the amount of skill required.

The Bursledon Brick Works was exceptional for its longevity, opening in 1896 and continuing until the 1970s. Run by the The Bursledon Brick Company (BBC), the works included a clay carrying inclined plane and later transport included an overhead cableway (aerial ropeway) and conveyors. Brick presses produced better bricks, including the frog indentation in the brick. The machinery was all steam powered. Coal fired for the majority of the time, later oil fired boilers, now gas. Steam from the boilers was also used to heat the brick drying rooms before firing in one of the 12 kiln chambers.

*Gordon Osborn*

## Claverton pump opened specially for descendants of the first engine keeper

When the descendants of Benjamin Whitaker, the first engine keeper of John Rennie's water driven pump at Claverton on the Kennet and Avon Canal, returned to Bath from the four corners of the earth for a family wedding they took the opportunity to visit Claverton.

They were enthusiastically welcomed by The Claverton Group who maintain the pump. The Grade 1 listed building was opened and the historic pump run specially for the visitors. The group had travelled from Stirling in Scotland, Victoria Island, Canada and Melbourne, Australia.

After watching the starting of the pump, which Benjamin would have done in exactly the same way thousands of times, there was time for tea and cake in Benjamin's mess room before walking in the steps of their ancestor across the railway, broad gauge in his day, to his home, Engine Cottage, directly opposite the pump house.



*Peter Dunn, right, leader of the Claverton Group describes the working of the pump to some of the Whitaker party PHOTO: Robert Coles*

Benjamin Whitaker, had started working for the canal company as a general labourer before the pump had been completed and probably assisted in its erection. On completion of the pump in 1812/13 he was appointed Engine Keeper and remained in the post until 1876 when he retired aged 84 having worked for 74 years of his life. He and his wife Anna Maria brought up 14 children in the two bedroom Engine Cottage. Benjamin died in 1882 aged 91 years having outlived all his children bar three.

Benjamin Whitaker's cottage built by the Kennet and Avon Canal Company in 1813, specifically to house the Engine Keeper and his family, has recently been sold by the Canal and River Trust to a private buyer, the last canal worker having moved out a couple of years ago.

## 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 Village 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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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

## Bicycles, traffic cones, fridge components, underpants and safes

ONE of the country's biggest canal clean-ups removed 1.8 tonnes of rubbish, comprising 809 Kgs of plastic (almost 50% of rubbish) from a 10-mile stretch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in one of the country's biggest canal clean-ups.

Almost 300 colleagues from Asda House took time out to make a difference and help tackle the plastic pollution crisis, supported by Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after the historic waterway.

Bicycles, traffic cones, spare tyres, safes, men's underpants, shoes and even the inside of a fridge, were among the hundreds of items removed by volunteers, with many taking the opportunity to get afloat on the water by canoe and boat.

Rubbish and plastic waste collected over five days (2-6 September) by Asda and Canal & River Trust was taken to a nearby responsible waste disposal company in Leeds. Maltings Organic Treatment Ltd weighed the rubbish daily and the company will also be recycling the plastic items collected from the canal into a bench. Colleagues originally predicted that the amount of plastic collected throughout the week would be enough to make one bench, however the 809 Kgs found on the litter pick actually equates to nine whole benches.

The recycled plastic bench will be installed in the next couple of months next to Leeds & Liverpool Canal, as a lasting legacy of the work carried out by colleagues from Asda and Canal & River Trust.

Chris Brown, Asda's Senior Director for Sustainable Business said: "I'd like to thank all my colleagues from Asda and the team from Canal & River Trust for working really hard throughout the week – which I know will make a difference to the local community who can enjoy our waterways in the city, litter-free.

"At Asda we are dedicated to tackling plastic waste across our own business but we also hold litter-picks in communities across the UK to

remove plastic and other litter from our local environments because we know it's important to our customers and colleagues."

Sean McGinley, Yorkshire & NE director at Canal & River Trust added: "It's amazing to see what lurks beneath our waterways and I wonder how some of these items have ended up in our waterways. Our charity spends around £1million a year dealing with litter and fly-tipping, money that could be better spent elsewhere. We're delighted to see the difference Asda volunteers have made and hope the experience has helped people to get to know their local canal and how we look after it."

"Sadly, 14 million items of plastic end up in our canals and rivers each year and these flow into our oceans around the world. Small actions make a big difference. If everyone who visited one of our waterways picked up just one piece of plastic, they would be plastic-free within a year. Visit our website to find out more about #PlasticsChallenge and how you can help."

Volunteers taking part in the 10-mile clean-up operation received frequent praise from runners, cyclists and families who stopped to thank them for their efforts, with some regular waterway users commenting on how clean the canal appeared after just a few days of the activity.

The big litter pick is part of Asda's commitment to tackle unnecessary plastic and the retailer has already removed 6,500 tonnes of own brand plastic from across the business over the past 18 months.

Earlier this year the Canal & River Trust released its report on plastic pollution and launched its Plastics Challenge campaign. To find out about the Canal & River Trust's Plastics Challenge and to read the research report, visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved) or follow on social media @CanalRiverTrust #PlasticsChallenge.

*Canal & River Trust - 12 September 2019*

## Locking restrictions lifted

The torrential rain conditions might have caused a one-off near-disaster at Whaley Bridge, but they have been a relief to much of the rest of the country.

The deluge that disrupted the Peak Forest Canal caused restrictions to be lifted in the Midlands within the week, particularly thanks to reservoirs across the Braunston and Leicester summit quickly refilling, although the Canal & River Trust also claimed credit for reducing demands by introducing local water saving restrictions, and doing some short-duration summer stoppage works such as relining lock gates.

CRT used the occasion to issue this plea to Midlands boaters: "It's helpful to aim for minimal contact when navigating through locks by ensuring gates are fully open when passing through as pushing gates open using a boat can damage the gate lining, increasing its leakage. Thank you for your help."

Restrictions on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal were lifted in late July, while water pumping problems on the Kennet & Avon Canal summit were mastered by early August.

*Waterways World - 30 August 2019*