



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

3rd September Meeting

Reminder: Don't forget that as our normal hall is still closed for maintenance, **this meeting will be held at a different venue**: St Denys' Church Hall, Old Chilworth Village, SO16 7NN. To get there from our usual venue, follow the A27 towards North Baddesley and Romsey. Ignore the left turn at the Chilworth Arms pub and also ignore the left turn 200 yards later to Chilworth Manor Hotel and the Southampton Science Park. About 350 yards further on, turn left into a road with signs saying Chilworth Old Village. Very shortly you should see St Denys' Church on your left. Parking should be possible in Fowler's Walk on your left or in the immediate vicinity. Please do not block the narrow lane.

On behalf of our members, we give a warm welcome to Aileen Butler. She is showing a presentation by Magic Lantern about the Construction of the Manchester Ship Canal, plus a selection of other canal related pictures. Sit back and enjoy these pictures from the Victorian Era.

October Meeting

On the 1st October back in our usual meeting place, SCS members Ron & Myra Glover will talk about their "Cruising around Vancouver" trip. Ron & Myra will be showing us a well detailed account of the coastal and industrial areas, including local crafts and wildlife.

November Meeting

Day-Star Theatre's yearly visit will be on 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. Tickets will be £10 to include an American Supper and wine supplied by our Members.



Thank you to Peter Oates, our Newsletter Editor & Webmaster who, in between cruising with his historic nb Stanton, and collecting a few tonnes of coal from Awbridge on the Staffs & Worcs and preparing this edition of the Newsletter, hopefully will find time to compose and print off the tickets ready for our October Meeting. (No pressure, Peter). [Pressure overcome, Alan. The

tickets should be available at the September meeting - Peter]. In the meantime please reserve your ticket requirements with Aelred Derbyshire, so as to avoid disappointment.

Thank you all for supporting our Society.

Alan Rose

Margaret Froud

A brave lady passed away peacefully on Tuesday 4th August in her 84th Year. Ken and Margaret were born and bred in Southampton and became early members of the Southampton Canal Society.

In the [February 2010 issue](#) of our SCS Newsletter, Margaret wrote her story "The Good Life". For thirty three years they lived on their narrow boat "Duorf Two" moored on the Engine House Arm on the Napton flight of the Oxford Canal in Warwickshire.

Due to Margaret's failing health they were able to move into a self-contained flat at Wattons Lodge in Southam, Warwickshire. Many of the numerous friends they made over the years called in, welcomed with a cup of tea and biscuits.

Margaret will be sadly missed by Ken and their family, Roger and Hilary, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Ken will, as usual, keep himself busy fiddling and pottering and keeping the mobile scooters up together in Wattons Lodge for the residents' use.

Margaret's funeral service, which was held at the Oakley Crematorium in Leamington Spa on the 18th August, was attended by Society members Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock, Eric and Sue Lewis, Alan and Angela Rose.

Donations in memory of Margaret may be sent to Cancer UK.

Angela Rose

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Bits and Pieces

Helping rare butterflies

The Warwickshire branch of the Butterfly Conservation Society have decided to improve the habitat for rare butterflies in Fenny Compton by adopting a stretch of the Oxford Canal.

The group of butterfly enthusiasts is keen to transform a stretch of the Oxford Canal to increase the numbers of butterflies in the area such as the Grizzled Skipper, Small Blue and the Dingy Skipper. Set up in early August, the group will be cutting back over-grown vegetation to encourage certain butterfly friendly plants to grow and creating a 'butterfly bund' covered in colourful plants which offer egg laying opportunities.

Claverton Pumping Station

Volunteers are needed to get the historic pumping station at Claverton, near Bath, ready for action, as plans are revealed to install a visitor car park before summer next year.

While there's a dedicated group of volunteers working on restoring the mechanism of the pump itself, more are needed to help spruce up the surrounding gardens and picnic area.

To find out more about volunteering at Claverton, contact enquiries@claverton.org.

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.

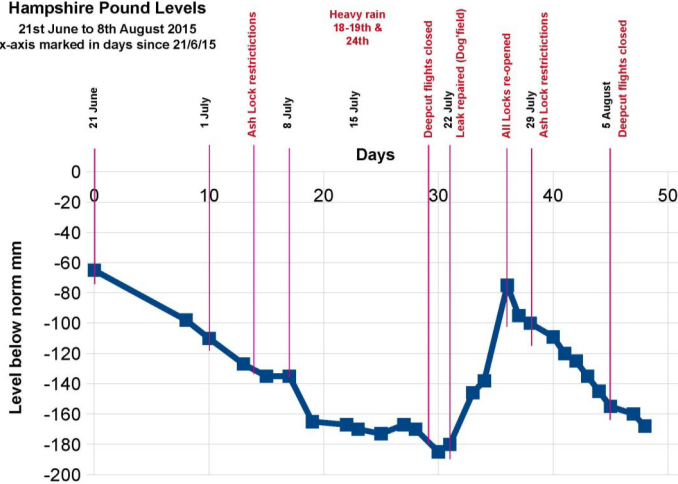
Date / Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 3 Sep 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Aileen Butler will present a Magic Lantern Show of the Manchester Ship Canal construction, plus other canal related pictures, etc. NB change of venue: St Denys Church Hall, Old Chilworth Village, SO16 7NN (SU406187) - further details on page 1.	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 12 Sep 2015 11.00am - 5.00pm	National Trust	Heritage Open Day: Airing the archives and artefact collection at Dapdune Wharf and the workshops at Send. Guided walk at 2pm from Dapdune to Guildford Town Centre and the tread wheel crane. Free admission. Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4RR (SU993502). Further info at http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-vey-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf/	Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk
Sat 12 Sep 2015 2.15pm	Wey & Arun CT	Alan Johnson will lead a four-mile circular walk to visit four sites containing relics of the canal and the Horsham to Guildford railway, including three iron-framed bridges. Booking essential by 3 Sep. Meet in the car park of Shamley Green Church, Church Hill, Shamley Green, Surrey GU5 0UD (TQ033434)	Bookings: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sun 13 Sep 2015 2.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Heritage Open Day Guided Walk from Gunpowder Store at Stonebridge Wharf, Shalford along parts of the course of the canal to the former Bramley Wharf. The Gunpowder Store may also open. Approx 2.5km, 2 hours. Please wear appropriate footwear. Booking essential by 11 Sept. Parking available at Broadford Business Park, Shalford GU4 8EP (SU997467)(behind Parrot Inn, on the A248).	Bookings: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Tue 15 Sep 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Heroes and Villains of the Basingstoke Canal" - Roger Cansdale. 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
Sat 19 Sep 2015 from 11.00am	National Trust	Wey River Festival. Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4RR (SU993502). Further info at http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-vey-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf/	Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk
Sun 20 Sep 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Quarries above Monkton Combe. Meet: Shaft Rd, St. Winifred's Drive, Bath, BA2 7HP (ST767624).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
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 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. 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 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
Sun-Sun 26-27 Sep 2015 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Annual Steam Gala at Crofton Beam Engines. Adults: £8.00 Seniors: £7.00 Children under 16: Free (accompanied by paying adult). Crofton Pumping Station, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261622).	Tel: 01672 870300 Web: http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/
Thu 5 Nov 2015 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre will present "A Short Waterways Comedy". Further details on page 1. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
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 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

Conserving Water And Lock Flight Closures On The Basingstoke

For the last two years it was, unusually, possible for the Basingstoke to remain open to navigation along its entire length throughout the season. The principal reason for this was particularly heavy rainfall during the autumn of 2012 and winter of 2014. I say unusually, because 2013 was only the second season that the canal had not been closed to boats sometime during the Summer since completion of its restoration over 20 years previously.

However, with the relatively dry summers last year and this, and modest rainfall over the last winter and spring, it has not been possible to avert closure of the canal this year. The Deepcut and Brookwood flights were closed temporarily on 20th July, after which a brief storm offered a short reprieve (*see graph, below*), but then the closures had to be applied again on 7th August and will remain in force until there is further significant rain.

Hampshire Pound Levels
21st June to 8th August 2015
x-axis marked in days since 21/6/15

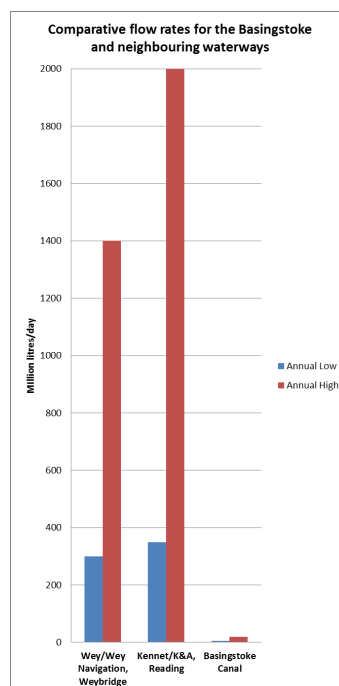


The progressive dropping level of water has also necessitated placing restrictions on the movements of the Society trip boat, the *John Pinkerton*. Recent trips to the King John's Castle have had to be limited to small parties only, because of the risk of getting stuck in the cut at Swan bridge. Further, the August Bank Holiday public trips usually undertaken from the Fox and Hounds in Fleet have unfortunately had to be relocated back to Odiham (because of the narrowed section past the Dogmersfield land slip is currently impassable to the JP).

But why does this happen?

The answer is quite simple: the Basingstoke does not have any major source of water at its summit, for example a reservoir, or connected river (like the nearby Kennet & Avon Canal and Wey Navigation), so it has no capacity to store winter rainfall. It is instead dependent on springs in Hampshire (including those in the Greywell Tunnel and at Broad Oak) and minor supplies and run-off along its length. As the weather gets warmer and rainfall levels drop, these supplies begin to wane and increasingly cannot keep up with the losses that arise from general leakage, evaporation and transpiration (by trees and other vegetation). Boat movements through locks make the situation worse of course. For example, the Broad Oak stream, normally supplying about 2m litres/day, has been dry since mid-July.

The critical importance of water conservation on the Basingstoke is illustrated in a comparison with flows of other local waterways (*see right*). **Even taking into account all the sources along its length, and back-pumping (ie, water recycling) in Woking, the amount of water available to the Basingstoke is still around 50 to 100 times smaller than that supplying**



the K&A (as measured in Reading). You may see lock gates leaking a lot of water on these other canals but to a large extent it does not matter because they have substantial feeds. However on the Basingstoke this just cannot be allowed to happen.

Conserving Water

It is no wonder then that the canal authority lock-keepers spend a lot of time during dry conditions ensuring that avoidable losses from the canal are minimised, in particular, ensuring paddles are secure, and caulking up the upper lock gates (ie plugging with fibre such as sawdust) after locks have been used to reduce leaks.

These actions help prevent loss of water from one pound to another, which is vital for those short pounds, for example at Deepcut and Brookwood, where if they were allowed to empty could take a while to refill in dry conditions, during which time the canal would have to be closed.

The BCA have a policy for requesting that locks are emptied after use. This may seem counter-intuitive, but it not only reduces the amount of leakage through the lock structures, which have varying states of water-tightness, but also allows lock-keepers to check that the upper gates have been properly sealed.

BCA staff and canal lengthsman are also constantly on the lookout for leaks, particularly through embankments. One was found only recently near Dogmersfield, which may have accounted for a more rapid than expected drop in the Hampshire pound during July. Luckily it could be fixed promptly. **We ask that all users of the canal keep their eyes open for unusually wet areas and report any concerns to the [Canal Centre](#).**

When the water drops below a certain level, the BCA has to take action, initially to limit boat access through Ash Lock to ranger working hours (so it can be caulked) to preserve water in the Hampshire pound – this usually occurs at around -150mm (ie 6" below datum). If it drops further, to around -200mm/8", then with the restricted flow from Hampshire there is insufficient water available to operate the Deepcut and Brookwood flights and so these are closed, which is the position at the time of writing. (Navigation can still continue at the Woking end since the back-pumping facilities are switched on to return water to the top of the Woodham and St John's flights after use.)

A further measure to save on water, which is in its third year of operation, is to [restrict locking on the canal to particular days of the week](#). This has proved controversial with some boaters, who cannot just "turn up and go" on the Basingstoke but have to plan ahead. However, adopting this policy allows water levels to recover during the intervening days.

The Future

A project has been running for a while to identify possible additional sources of water for the Basingstoke Canal. As yet, no substantial discoveries have been made. Even so, the methods for managing low water levels described above will need to continue into the future.

However, a [system for remote water levels measurement and to control pumps](#) is in the process of being installed and is already yielding results. This scheme, the first to be implemented in the UK, will make the process easier for the BCA rangers who will be able to monitor the state of the canal from their mobile phones. We will report on this further in due course.

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

Martin Leech - 14 August 2015

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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Update on pawl catch feedback

IN JUNE, the Canal & River Trust requested boater feedback on the issue of the risk of injury to boaters from uncontrolled windlasses caused by paddles dropping quickly, and the potential for modifications to pawl catches. The Trust is now providing an update to boaters on progress.

The Trust has stopped rolling out changes to pawls following feedback from around 100 boaters, as well as from its Navigation Advisory Group and the Inland Waterways Association. The charity will work together with the IWA and NAG on any future proposals, to gain valuable insight from experienced boaters.

Concerns were raised in consultation responses that the new catches may interfere with the ability to drop paddles quickly if a boat becomes hung-up in a lock. It has also been commented that a design, which requires the pawl catch to be held up by one hand, could create difficulties where paddles are stiff and require both hands to operate. Children and the frail may also struggle to wind down paddles one-handed.

Trials and information gathering across the network will be conducted towards the end of 2015 to evaluate the forces required to operate paddles. The Trust intends to then review the data and consult further with boaters to develop any future plans for pawl modifications, or giving boaters the information they need to operate safely through communication and education. In the meantime, the Trust will continue to replace worn or faulty spindles.

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/news/update-on-pawl-catch-survey>

Revamped towpath in Devizes

A project on the Kennet & Avon Canal at Devizes, carried out in partnership between the Canal & River Trust and Wiltshire Council, has seen a 700 metre stretch improved at a cost of £225,000 from London Road to Cemetery Bridge to provide people an ideal alternative to the busy main roads nearby.

The new path will be suitable for use in all weathers and is the first phase of three in a proposed project to improve towpath surfaces alongside the popular 200-year old canal, providing a green, traffic-free route through the heart of the town.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news>

New Surrey canal bridge takes shape

The new bridge that will enable part of the Wey and Arun Canal in Surrey to be fully opened to boats for the first time in more than 150 years is taking shape.

Contractors CJ Thorne are making good progress on forming the basic reinforced concrete structure of the bridge, building on the piling installed last month. The new crossing of the waterway is in Compasses Lane, Alfold, at one of the entrances to the Dunsfold Aerodrome complex.

It will replace a Second World War concrete causeway which is the main obstacle to navigation on one-and-a-quarter miles of the canal.

The waterway has already been largely de-silted and re-profiled between Tickner's Heath in Dunsfold and Fast Bridge on the A281 at Alfold.

Work on the basic structure of the bridge is expected to take about six months. It is being done with the co-operation of aerodrome

owners Dunsfold Park and local landowners.

The Trust has so far raised £433,317 towards the £700,000 cost of the project, mainly through donations and legacies. Contributions to our appeal will be gratefully received – please see the Donate Now section on the Home Page.

It is aimed to officially re-open the canal section – the Wey & Arun's Summit Level – in the autumn of 2016. This will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the official opening of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal, the northern section of the waterway, at the Compasses site.

Our Compasses project also incorporates a public viewing platform and an accessible footpath to a boat landing stage, which will be a community and educational facilities. The area around the bridge will be landscaped and a wildflower meadow planted.

<http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/latestnews.php?id=%2075>