

NEWS LETTER

Chairman's Column

December Meeting

Once again our Society is hosting the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. It is always a pleasure to welcome the participating teams.

As reigning champions IWA Guildford & Reading have organised the Quiz. Nick Grundy, after a bit of arm twisting, is the question setter again this year.

Let us welcome tonight's teams: IWA Solent & Arun, IWA Salisbury, IWA Guildford & Reading and Southampton Canal Society.

Traditionally, the evening will finish off with an American Supper. Thank you all for bringing food to share.

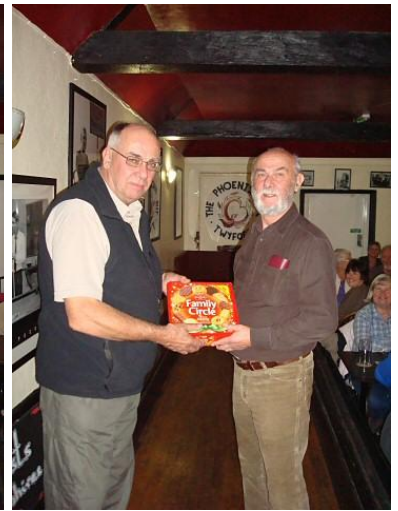
Society Skittles Evening

Maureen Greenham's popular Skittles evening at the Phoenix, Twyford on Friday 18th November was enjoyed by all. Thank you Maureen. For pictures see below.

The First Meeting in 2012

On Thursday 5th January 2012 we have our members' "Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition" this gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain / amuse and educate your fellow members.

Society Skittles Evening



On Friday 18 November 27 Society members enjoyed a skittle evening at The Phoenix Inn, Twyford. We were pleased to see that the misshapen skittles and balls had been replaced but, sadly, this did not appear to have much effect on our performances!

Sue Derbyshire set the standard by having an early strike but all went downhill after that. The best female score was 37 achieved by Janet Potter who won a tin of Roses and the best male score of 36 was achieved by her spouse, Keith, who won a tin of biscuits. Booby prizes of a lemon were won by Mary Hill and our chairman, Alan Rose.

The food served in the interval was good as usual. A raffle raised £32 for club funds and many thanks are due to the generous attendees who brought prizes. Thanks also to Paul Herbert for keeping the scores and to Brenda who helped with the raffle.

The evening went well with the usual repartee and laughter making it a fun event.

Maureen Greenham

Just before the break, entries for the Photographic Competition will be shown. You don't have to be showing other pictures during the evening to enter. One picture only, to do with the waterways.

As before we hope to accommodate any format.

Please contact me if you have queries.

Welcome to New and Recently Joined Members

We are pleased to welcome new members, Malcolm and Janet Gunningham from West Moors in Dorset. Also, that welcome is extended to Mike Lashley from Waterlooville (Chairman of the IWA Solent & Arun Branch) and the Rev. Mike Gardner from Winchester, both of whom joined earlier this year.

This time last year ...

We were in DEEP SNOW and the December Meeting was postponed until April. At the time of writing this column, the sun is shining, the leaves are still on some trees and we have only had a couple of frosty mornings.

As always in the last Newsletter of the year, my fellow committee members and I wish all our members a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Alan Rose



Top left: Mary Hill receives the Ladies' Booby Prize.

Top centre: Janet Potter won the Ladies' Prize and had the highest score of the evening.

Top right: The Men's Prize winner was Keith Potter.

Above: The Chairman feeling a lemon as he receives the Men's Booby Prize from Maureen Greenham, organiser of the evening.

Waterways Diary

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.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (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.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 1 Dec 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. IWA Guildford & Reading Branch, as last year's winners, will be setting the questions. Followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Mon 5 Dec 2011 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	"What's going on at the Eastern end." A exploration of the Wilts & Berks Canal and current restoration around Wantage and the surrounding villages, given by Brian Stovold. Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett, SN4 7DZ (SU069823).	Email: cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk
Thu 15 Dec 2011 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Sites and Sights of the SCC" by Patrick Moss, Derrick Hunt, Roger Halse & Adrian Tuddenham. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547)	Derrick Hunt: 01225 863066 Email: derrickjohnhunt@btinternet.com
Thu 15 Dec 2011 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	A Quiz set by Tim Wheeldon, with Xmas refreshments. Entry £10 for team of four. "The Crown", 500 Bath Road, Saltford, BS31 3HJ, (ST683669).	John Gornall Email: avonandwilts@waterways.org.uk
Sun 18 Dec 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Radstock and Welton. Meet: Radstock Public Car Park, Waterloo Road, BA3 3EP (ST689549).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Wed 21 Dec 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The Gunpowder Plot" by Richard Thomas. The background to the "Powder Treason". Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 5 Jan 2012 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Waterways Photographic Evening and Competition". Bring along a few pictures on a waterways theme to show to your fellow members. Enter a picture into the competition. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sat 14 Jan 2012	Southampton CS	Christmas / New Year Lunch at The Blue Hayes, Salisbury Rd, Shootash, Nr. Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6GA (SU323217). Cost £20.35 to include 3 courses, coffee/tea and tip. £10 deposit or full payment and menu choices to Maureen as soon as possible please (see page 3).	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net
Sun 15 Jan 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - The lock flight at Widcombe, Bath. Meet: Darlington Wharf, Bath, BA2 6NJ (ST758655).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Tue 17 Jan 2012 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Branch)	"St. George's Chapel, Windsor & stone by waterways to Windsor Castle" - Colonel David Axson. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 18 Jan 2012 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"My Life on the River Severn" with Chris Witts. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8AZ. (SU974615).	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 19 Jan 2012 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Influence of the SCC on the Mon & Brec" by Patrick Moss. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547).	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Wed 25 Jan 2012 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"60 Years on the River Thames" by Colin Reynolds of The River Thames Society. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 2 Feb 2012 7.45pm	Southampton CS	John England's presentation on "Brownsea Island." Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 2 Feb 2012 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Branch	"The Avon Navigation". An illustrated talk by Dr Brenda Buchanan. "The Crown", 500 Bath Road, Saltford, BS31 3HJ, (ST683669).	John Gornall Email: avonandwilts@waterways.org.uk
Thu 16 Feb 2012 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Coal from Camerton" by Neil McMillen. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547).	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 19 Feb 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Camerton Colliery and Canal. Meet Durcott Lane, Camerton, nr Bath, BA2 0QE (ST680578?).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Tue 21 Feb 2012 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Restoration of Paddle Steamer Medway Queen" - Mark Bathurst. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com
Wed 29 Feb 2012 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"The Canal du Midi" with Ron and Myra Glover of SCS and the IWA Salisbury group. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 1 Mar 2012 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Ellesmere Port & Liverpool 2011" with Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock. Pictures of the 2011 Easter Gathering at the Ellesmere Port Museum, the crossing of the Mersey and a journey along the new Liverpool Link. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: info@apas-engineering.com

Inland Waterways International

If you are interested in waterways abroad as well as those at home, you might be interested in Inland Waterways International (IWI).

IWI brings together people and organisations who support the conservation, use, development and proper management of inland waterways worldwide. It aims to raise public awareness of the benefits of using waterways for a wide range of activities, from inland water transport to cruising, towpath walking and other

recreational uses, as well as appreciating their architectural and landscape values as heritage. It also promotes restoration, where appropriate, of waterways which have become derelict.

Annegret Evans is a member of IWI and she thinks that members might be interested in their website which can be found at www.inlandwaterwaysinternational.org. The website is being updated almost daily.

November Meeting 'Lydney's Lost Fleet' - Paul Barnett

This meeting was attended by 22 members & 2 visitors who enjoyed this evening.

To begin his talk Paul updated us with the recent happenings at Purton since his last visit to us in November 2008. To date, 32 of the approximately 81 hulks have been identified and their history, together with that of their owners and crews, is being researched and documented.

On the 50th Anniversary of the Severn Railway Bridge disaster (25 October 1960) a Memorial Stone has been placed at Purton and Lydney.

Lydney's Lost Fleet is the lesser-known ships graveyard on the opposite side of the Severn Estuary. Paul went on to talk about Lydney Harbour which was once a busy working dock, engaged in the transshipment of Forest of Dean steam coal to other parts of

Britain through to its eventual decline in the 1960's and recent rebirth as a sailing Mecca and tourism attraction of the Severn Estuary.

We were shown slides of the remains of the gridiron once used for the maintenance of commercial vessels.

Paul then continued to show us many pictures of trading vessels that were once used for carrying the cargoes out of the Lydney Harbour. We also saw the remains of some of these craft where they lay on the foreshore being washed away by the ever surging tides of the Severn Estuary.

For more information www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org and www.friendsofpurton.org

Angela Rose

Sonja Moorese

Members will remember my writing about Gill and I visiting our long-time members Alan and Sonja Moorese, who lived in their canal-side cottage 'Otters Holt' at Hopwas, on the Coventry Canal. They cruised the inland waterways for many years, finally settling in Hopwas in 1988, where their narrowboat "Guelrose" (named after one of Sonja's Christian names) was moored at the bottom of their garden. When their cruising days had to come to an end the boat was transferred to their son, Mike and his wife Jenny. When they weren't away cruising the boat's home mooring remained at Otters Holt.

Alan and Sonja enjoyed the company of their close friend from their Southampton days, Laurie Pearce, whose boat was moored nearby at Fazeley Junction.

Alan and Sonja loved receiving visitors from the Canal Society and a number of us including Gill and myself, and Eric and Sue Lewis, always popped in when we were cruising in that area. We often enjoyed an overnight mooring at their cottage where, in his favourite corner armchair, Alan loved to talk about the years he and Sonja cruised the canals and they liked keeping in touch with their Society friends via our Newsletter.

In February 2009, after prolonged health problems, Alan sadly passed away, and I remember writing about him and Sonja in the March Newsletter that year.

Gill and I continued to stop over with Sonja, Mike and Jenny whenever we were cruising through Hopwas, our last visit being in August this year. Sonja, though fairly frail at that time, enjoyed telling us about her early days in Berlin, where she was born. During that visit Sonja was able to accompany Mike, Jenny, Gill and I for an evening meal at the Pub Restaurant on the other side of the canal. She seemed to really enjoy that outing.

Sonja, 86, suffered a fall in October and her health deteriorated after that. Sadly she passed her away in hospital on 20 November. It is the end of an era in many ways. However, Alan and Sonja's spirits will continue to travel the waterways on board "Guelrose". Sonja's funeral was held at the Wessex Vale Crematorium in Hedge End on 30 November and a number of our members represented Southampton Canal Society.

Our thoughts go to Mike and Jenny, Rita and Gordon, and the family at this very sad time.

Paul Herbert

Christmas / New Year Lunch

Maureen Greenham has been busy organising the fourth Society Christmas / New Year Lunch on Saturday 14th January 2012. As previously, this will be enjoyed at the Blue Hayes Restaurant.

The cost is £20.35 (that includes three courses, coffee or tea and tip). A deposit of £10 per person or full payment are now due and Maureen should have your menu choices at the December meeting. A copy of the menu for our meal is given on the right.

If you're not at this meeting or have any queries, please contact Maureen as soon as possible on 02380 406951 or via email maureen.greenham@talktalk.net to discuss arrangements and menu choices.



The Blue Hayes Restaurant

STARTERS

Broccoli & Stilton Soup

Duck & Port Paté with Melba Toast & Red Onion Confit

Smoked Haddock Fishcake with Tartare Sauce

Melon Cocktail with an Elderflower Dressing

MAIN COURSES

Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes

Oven Baked Chicken Breast with Dauphinoise Potatoes & a Bacon,

Mushroom & Onion Sauce

Baked Salmon Fillet with New Potatoes & a White Wine Sauce

Spinach, Mushroom & Feta Cheese Pancake with a Rich Tomato Sauce

All Main Courses Served with a Side of Seasonal Vegetables

SWEETS

Caramel Apple Sponge with Creamy Custard

Tipsy Orange Trifle

Lemon Meringue Cheesecake

Treacle Tart served with Ice Cream

Selection of Sorbet & Ice Creams

Meal to include a Tea or Coffee

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.

President:

Brian Evans.

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Paul Herbert. Tel: 02380 262365. Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

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Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 675312 (eve)
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Society Website:

<http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>

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Committee:

Maureen Greenham, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Diary). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

IWA Issues Call to Arms over Waterway Funding

IWA is asking all waterway supporters to act now to secure the future of the Canal and River Trust.

Things are at a critical juncture for the transfer of British Waterways' managed canals and rivers into the Canal and River Trust. The money is everything. A good deal from Defra will deliver a significant Big Society project, and secure the future of a national asset. IWA is concerned however, that Defra is playing hard ball, and trying to impose a lean deal just to get BW off its books.

IWA is asking all waterway supporters to urgently:

1. Write to your MP drawing their attention to the fact that the waterways are being transferred over into the charitable sector, and that it is vital that the funding package is sufficient that it allows them to be maintained in a sustainable condition. Let them know that you don't want to see the waterways become another Defra inspired 'forestry' type disaster.
2. Please also ask your MP to contact the Waterways Minister Richard Benyon MP, directly, to register their concern, and to ensure that he knows that there needs to be more money put on the table.

Here are IWA's key points:

- Government has initially offered to transfer the British Waterways (BW) property portfolio to CRT and to provide a 10 year funding contract indicated at cash £39 million per year. (so no index linking with the consequence of erosion in value over time by inflation). **This is just not enough.**

- BW has thoroughly updated its financial projections. It says that for its waterways to be reasonably maintained, with an acceptable level of risk, it has an annual funding deficit of £20 million. The CRT would inherit this annual deficit. The BW new projections do not appear to embrace the remedy of a repairs deficit which was already significant and has been growing in recent years [in 2007 reported to EFRA Select Committee as being an accumulated figure of £107million].
- British Waterways also has a pension deficit of £65 million. Nearly three quarters of which is in respect of previous employees. Ought this huge state incurred liability be transferred over to the new charity?
- The revised annual deficit does not take account of a large dredging backlog incurred as a result of chronic underfunding, that requires £8-12 million per year to stabilise, and ensure drainage, navigation and environmental requirements are properly supported.

Don't let the proposed transfer of BW assets become another 'forestry' debacle for Defra through underfunding!

Please act now - Please write today.

You can find out who your MP is and write to them directly by using this link <http://www.theyworkforyou.com>

A downloadable template letter for your MP is available here http://www.waterways.org.uk/documents/dear_mp

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Environment Agency navigation charges 2012-14

EA is increasing its navigation charges by the consumer price index plus 2% per year in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Navigation charges will consequently rise by 6.4% from January 2012.

Having listened to the concerns of the boating community EA plan to:

- annually review the impact of increases, together with economic and other pressures on registration numbers and review subsequent increases for 2013 and 2014 if EA is not confident that its customers can sustain them;
- freeze navigation charges for commercial craft at 2011 levels until 2015;
- introduce a rolling year for annual registrations;
- develop a system for part refunding the registrations of craft in specific circumstances (to be defined).

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A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers

