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Bits and Pieces**Memories**

Annemarie Evans sends her apologies but with all her seasonal activities and so on she was unable to write an article for this issue of the Newsletter. However, she has promised that she will deliver a piece for the next issue.

Contributions

Despite my request last month for items for the Newsletter, I have received nothing apart from three of my usual committee member contributors.

When I started editing Issue 291 of this Newsletter in September 1995 and, although I can't say I was inundated with items from the general readership, I did receive one or two or even more such items each month.

It is somewhat disheartening to receive nothing from Society members. I don't think I've worn you all out!

New Year

I trust all readers will have a good year on the waterways in 2018 whether it's boating, walking, observing nature, industrial archaeology, reading or whatever.

Peter Oates

Chairman's Column

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society, I wish you all a very Happy and Enjoyable New Year for 2018 and trust that you all had a good Christmas.

January Meeting

We all look forward with eagerness to our Members' Photographic Evening, and especially the Competition.

The meeting gives us all the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain / amuse / educate your fellow members.

Just before the tea interval, entries for the Photographic Competition will be shown. You don't have to be showing other pictures during the evening to enter. Just one picture only and to do with the waterways. As before we hope to accommodate any format to include slides and photographs.

SCS New Year Luncheon

Our now traditional New Year Lunch will be eaten on Saturday 13th January 2018. Meet midday to 12.30 at "Keats Restaurant", Winchester Road, Ampfield SO51 9BQ. Tel: 01794 368252.

The cost of the lunch is £25.00 per person and as discussed, please make your payment direct to Keats by Cash or by a card payment on the day.

As usual, please bring along any unused Christmas crackers, party poppers and the like.

Your menu choices are required by this evening

(Thursday 4th January), so please let Angela know. The menu can be found in the [December Newsletter](#).

An additional dish has been requested:

6 Hour Pot Roasted Blade of Beef, Caramelised Shallots and Madeira Sauce**February Meeting**

Thursday 1st will see SCS member Tony Fry give a talk called "4000 Locks and Counting". All about his canal cruising experiences (including recent trips on the Erewash and Montgomery canals)

March Meeting

Thursday 1st of March is St David's Day and Caroline Tilley, Volunteer and Education Presenter will be telling us about The Royal National Life Boat Institution. She will be raising awareness of beach and sea safety and also promote fundraising.

April Meeting

"The Heroes and Villains of the Basingstoke Canal" is the title of Roger Cansdale (Basingstoke Canal Society Press officer and Editor BC News) talk on Thursday 5th April. [A very interesting talk - Ed].

I thank you all for your support during 2017 and here's to pleasant boating with all our other outdoor activities that we will enjoy in 2018.

Please though, if you have any comments or suggestions, let us know.

Alan Rose

Inland Boating Returns to London Boat Show

The best of the country's inland boating opportunities will be showcased at the 2018 London Boat Show from 10th - 14th January at London's ExCel. We have been looking forward to the return of an inland waterways feature to the show and our wish has been granted with exhibits from hireboat and holiday operators.

The highlight of the feature is a water-filled lock which can be admired with a drink in hand from the garden of the Lock Keeper's Inn. Two boats will be moored by the lock, a 38ft cruiser and the 35ft

historic tug, Sandbach. Belonging to an IWA team member, Sandbach is a steel tug originally built in 1946 for the London Midland and Scottish Railway for towing on the Shropshire Union Canal, and later on the River Weaver.

Both rivers and canals will be represented at the show plus IWA will be there to answer questions covering the breadth of the nation's 6,500 miles of waterways as well as discuss the Association's campaign plans for the coming year.

IWA Bulletin 13 December 2017

IWA calls for MPs' support for EA waterways transfer

The IWA has given its backing to CRT's formal submission to Defra for the transfer of the Environment Agency's navigation responsibilities.

IWA national chairman, Ivor Caplin, has written to Waterway Minister, Dr Thérèse Coffey MP, to assure her of IWA's support for the proposal.

He said transfer of these navigations to CRT would allow these waterways to benefit from improved maintenance, third party funding opportunities and

the economies to be gained from being part of a larger navigation authority.

IWA has also written to about 100 MPs to ask them to write to the Minister with their support, including those with EA navigations in their constituencies, members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Waterways, and other MPs who have previously indicated their support for the transfer.

Towpath Telegraph January 2018

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 4 Jan 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Photographic Evening and Competition. This gives everyone the opportunity to show some pictures that you feel will entertain, amuse, educate your fellow members.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 13 Jan 2018 12.30pm(?)	Southampton CS	SCS New Year Luncheon. See Chairman's Column on page 1 in December Newsletter. Cost: £25.00. Booking essential by Thursday 4 January 2018.	Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Wed 17 Jan 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"The Thames Tidal Defences" - Nathan Ellis provides an introduction to the past, present and future of the Thames Barrier and its associated Gates, tidal Walls and Embankments.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 18 Jan 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Working as a Coastal Ranger. Chris Marshall is a Coastal Ranger working in areas and with communities along Southampton Water and the Solent.	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 21 Jan 2018 12.30-4.00pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	Social A revival of the Branch Annual Informal Sunday Lunch. Three course lunch with coffee or tea - £25 per head. Members and guests from other branches very welcome.	The Bristol Golf Club, Blackhorse Lane, Almondsbury, BS10 7TP (ST584816) (off the B4055 close to J17 of the M5)	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812 Email: harman@lampeter99.plus.co.uk
Thu 1 Feb 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	4000 Locks and Counting - a talk by Tony Fry about his canal cruising experiences (including recent trips on the Erewash and Montgomery canals).	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Mon 5 Feb 2018 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT (Royal Wootton Bassett Branch)	Waterway Recovery Group by George Eycott.	The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts, SN4 7AQ (SU068826).	Jenny Stratton: 01793 850310 Email: jenny.stratton@wbct.org.uk
Thu 8 Feb 2018 7.30pm	IWA Avon & Wilts Br	Australia's Murray River. A talk by Rob Dean who has cruised this massive river (1,240 miles long!) with his wife.	The Community Room, Wickhouse Close, Saltford, BS31 3BZ (ST678674).	Geoff Harman: 0117 9623812 Email: harman@lampeter99.plus.co.uk
Thu 15 Feb 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Dundas Aqueduct and the Somerset Coal Canal. Tim Wheeldon will give a two part illustrated talk. First a look at the Dundas Aqueduct on the K&A Canal and then the story of the redevelopment of the first quarter mile of the derelict Somerset Coal 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
Thu 15 Feb 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	A Pictorial Journey - continued further by Roger Halse.	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
Wed 21 Feb 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Exploring the Caledonian Canal" with Dr Roger Squires who will discuss Telford's masterpiece. A ship canal across Scotland using the natural fault line of the Great Glen and its series of fresh water lochs.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 1 Mar 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Caroline Tilley will talk about RNLI, the charity which rescues 24 people a day.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 15 Mar 2018 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	"Braunston & Stoke Bruerne – from Waterway Transport to Leisure use Today." John Pomfret looks at transport history in these villages and then takes us through the rise and fall of freight canal traffic to the recent leisure developments.	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 Mar 2018 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	The Bristol Junction Canal by Stuart Fisher.	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
Wed 21 Mar 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Whitchurch Silk Mill." Join Deborah Wheeler for a virtual tour of a Georgian silk weaving water mill, see, hear and feel it's fascinating history and beautiful fabrics.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sat-Mon 31-2 Mar-Apr 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Easter weekend steaming. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org

December Meeting

The Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

As always, our yearly programme rounded off with the popular Inter-Society Waterways Quiz, twenty-two members and visitors supported the four teams. We welcomed back the **Basingstoke Canal Society** team members Jeff Hill, Dave Wedd, Paul Herbert and Rosemary Davis; **IWA Salisbury Group** with Colin Davis, Tony Fry, Nick and Liz Grundy; **IWA Guildford & Reading Branch** with Ben Scott, Mike Lewis, David Daines and Tony Davis; finally **Southampton Canal Society** with Alan Rose, Brian Evans, Gordon Osborn and Aelred Derbyshire.

As last year's winners, it was turn of IWA Salisbury Group, for the second year running, to arrange the questions. This involved six people in the setting of the Quiz. Yes! We had a slightly different format as Myra Glover handed out lengths of rope for a practical round showing off various knot tying skills of the teams; Round 2 by Eric Lewis, drifting around from the 70's; Naming watering holes around the system. Southern Waters which was not a strong point for Guildford & Reading or the Basingstoke team. Cruising rings came next, to include the main pin points, i.e. Warwickshire ring, Stourport ring, Cheshire ring and the Four Counties ring.

Different members of the society authored one or more of the various rounds. They were then permitted to partake in the rounds they had not contributed to, hence Eric's inclusion in the winners' photo.

The Quiz ended up with a musical round. All the team places were close but finally Salisbury IWA pressed ahead to be champions again.



© Gordon Osborn

The victorious team: Liz and Nick Grundy, Colin Davis, Eric Lewis and Tony Fry.

The final scores were IWA Salisbury: 104; Southampton CS: 95; IWA Guildford & Reading: 92; Basingstoke CS: 87.

Many thanks to Myra & Ron Glover, to Eric Lewis and the Scorer, Sue Lewis and to Colin Davis. A big thank you must go to Dave Thomas whose very professional presentation was appreciated by everyone. The evening finished with traditional American Supper - many thanks to our members for providing such a wide selection of food and to those who assisted in the galley and the setting up and clearing of the furniture.

Angela Rose

IWA Welcomes New Initiative to Combat Licence Fraud

IWA supports Canal & River Trust's new mooring validation scheme which should help combat licence fraud.

Canal & River Trust has announced that it will be working with mooring operators to confirm that the records they hold for where boats are moored is correct. This will ensure the Trust is monitoring boats against the correct terms and conditions, and will give mooring operators the confidence that their sites aren't being used fraudulently.

The roll-out follows a pilot involving twelve mooring operators, with the help of the Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs and British Marine. Following a routine check of the site, the Trust provided the operators with two lists of information to check, comprising boats recorded as

having a mooring at the site but not seen, and boats seen moored at the site but not being recorded as having a mooring there. The operators reviewed the lists, following which the boats' records were updated and, where necessary, boaters were contacted to get an update on the home mooring status for their boats.

The Trust will now ask mooring operators if they would like to sign up to the scheme, which at this stage will run on an opt-in basis. Mooring operators that wish to be involved should contact the Trust via customer services on 030 3040 4040 or the 'contact us' page of the charity's website.

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Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Thu 5 Apr 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Heroes & Villains of The Basingstoke Canal. This canal largely owes its existence to a few people at critical points in its history. Some of their actions were soundly commercial or altruistic and some fraudulent and criminal. Roger Cansdale tells about these heroes and villains.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Wed 18 Apr 2018 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"Canal & River Trust Engineering a 200 Year Old Infrastructure." Neil Owen discusses the way in which CRT are managing their Engineering Assets, including future improvement and the implication on the possible adoption of waterways managed by other Navigation Authorities.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Sat 28 Apr 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-Mon 5-7 May 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Early May Bank Holiday steaming. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org

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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Brian Evans.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

IWA concerned over reservoir water supply

THE Inland Waterways Association has raised concerns with Canal & River Trust after being advised that water from Chasewater Reservoir, which is a major water supply to the BCN, was terminated by the owners, Staffordshire County Council, earlier in the year and that no water has been available to Canal & River Trust's canal network from the reservoir since the Spring.

A valve which controls the water feed into the Anglesey Branch was declared unsafe in April 2017, cutting off the main water supply to the BCN. For historical reasons, the reservoir is owned by Staffordshire County Council and managed as part of the Chasewater Country Park, although Canal & River Trust has rights to the water.

It has come to light that the valve that should be used to control the water has been inoperable for a number of years

and the one that is now closed is intended to be used only for the emergency drawdown of the water from Chasewater.

Staffordshire County Council is in continued discussion with Canal & River Trust to develop a temporary alternative form of water extraction from Chasewater into the canal network that provides both a solution for the canal system but also allows the reservoir to operate at a level that does not impinge on the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Meanwhile, Canal & River Trust has virtually emptied Rotten Park reservoir, which was already low after a dry winter, as well as increasing pumping from the Bradley borehole and using back pumping at Titford, in order to maintain water levels.

IWA Bulletin and Towpath Telegraph

The Old Canal

The old canal, from bank to bank,
Is filled with reeds and rushes rank;
And down this lane of living green
March memories of what has been.

The painted barges came from town,
And busy life flowed up and down,
But there is nothing left to show
Where those old barges used to go.

Progress is always marching on,
The old canal is dead and gone,
But still we seem to hear it say,
"I too was progress – yesterday"

Reginald Arkell

From the book: More Green Fingers 1938

Rochdale Canal community garden project

A community 'linear larder' garden along the banks of the Rochdale Canal comes under the spotlight in a new BBC One daytime TV series, 'Let's Get a Good Thing Going'.

Incredible Edible Todmorden is one of half a dozen community groups bidding for funds in an episode based around Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, which will be broadcast on Friday 22 December at 9.15am. [Although the programme has been broadcast already, it is available on BBC iPlayer until 10.00am on 21 January 2018 - Ed]

Jon Stopp, CRT's volunteer waterway partner leads the quest for more funds to install public benches, bird boxes and fruit trees along the canal towpath.

The waterside gardens grew out of our wider community canal connections project in the Calder Valley, launched in 2012. Dozens of small patches of public land have now been cultivated as plots for growing herbs, fruit and vegetables, which people can then harvest for free.

Now a much-loved feature of Todmorden town centre, Incredible Edible's garden plots are sited in a variety of locations and lovingly maintained by an enthusiastic band of volunteers, led by Mary Clear.

Jon said: "Incredible Edible is a fantastic community project which has now been replicated by other towns in the UK and abroad. We know people feel healthier and happier when they're by waterways and enjoying nature, particularly in urban areas.

"We wanted to use the opportunity presented by the TV programme to raise money to install more fruit trees, benches and bird boxes. The idea is to encourage residents and visitors to come down to the canal, sit, watch and engage with other people and enjoy the lovely waterway environment."

Viewers can find out whether Jon was successful in his quest by tuning into Let's Get a Good Thing Going programme on Friday.

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