



In this issue:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Chairman's Column | 1 |
| Canal Openings | 1 |
| Carbon Monoxide Alarms | 1 |
| BWML Sale | 1 |
| Waterways Events | 2 & 3 |
| Alan and Angela's Summer Cruise - Part 2 | 3 |
| December Meeting | 4 |
| Brimcombe Port Redevelopment | 4 |
| Cycle Network Overhaul | 4 |

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

New Boat Safety Scheme requirements will be introduced from April next year. A public consultation received strong support for the changes, with 84% in favour of requiring boats with accommodation spaces subject to the BSS to have suitable CO alarms.

The alarms will need to be in good condition and in appropriate locations. It is hoped that they will prevent death and injury from CO emitted from boat engines and appliances.

Not all boats are currently subject to these checks, but taking into account the relatively low-cost of the alarms, IWA believe that a policy of mandatory fitting should also apply for private boats.

Read a summary of the [consultation responses on the Boat Safety Scheme website](#).

Or see more about [Carbon Monoxide on IWA website](#).

[IWA Bulletin, December 2018](#)

BWML Sale

The Canal & River Trust has finalised the sale of its wholly-owned marina subsidiary, BWML, in a transaction that sees private equity investor LDC invest in the business, supporting the existing management team. CRT believe the business will benefit and, by extension, its boating customers will too.

[Towpath Talk, January 2019](#)

Chairman's Column

On behalf of the Southampton Canal Society, I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable New Year 2019 and trust that you all had a good Christmas.

January 2019 Meeting

We all look forward with eagerness to 3rd January and our Members' Photographic Evening and especially the Competition. The meeting gives us the opportunity to share our boating experiences and the "fun" we have and see around us on the waterways.

Just before the interval, 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 to include slides and photographs. Thank you to David Doulton for offering again the use of his digital projector.

SCS New Year Luncheon

This will be on Saturday 12th January at Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield SO51 9BQ. Telephone 01794 368252. More details can be found in [last month's Newsletter](#).

The cost of the lunch is £25 per person. Please

make your payment direct to Keats by cash or card payment on the day.

Don't forget to bring along any leftover crackers, party poppers, etc.

Your menu choices are required by Sue Derbyshire or Angela this evening, please.

February Meeting

Thursday 7th "Bats- Super Heroes of the night" with Nik Knight. Thank you to Sue Derbyshire for arranging this evening.

March Meeting

Thursday 7th "Steam Narrowboating – not for the faint hearted" with Mark Rudall

April Meeting

Thursday 4th Chris Witts with "My life on the River Severn" based on the tanker trade in the 1960s, to the grain trade in the 1980s .

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

Please though, if you have any comments or suggestions, let me or a member of our committee know.

Alan Rose

Canal Openings



Before and after: the Middlewich Branch breach 2018

The Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich branch, in Cheshire, re-opened on Friday 21 December, following repairs to a major breach after a section of the 200-year-old embankment washed away into the River Wheelock below in March.

More than 4,000 tonnes of stones have been needed to rebuild the canal embankment so that it can be refilled with water.

The work cost nearly £3 million and was funded by the Trust as well as players of People's Postcode Lottery. Generous donations from the local community also raised over £30,000 for the emergency appeal.

Contractors, Kier and CPC Civils, on behalf of the Trust, have rebuilt the 12m high embankment prior to constructing new concrete canal walls, a

PVC lining membrane and concrete protection slab as well as reinstating the towpath in preparation for the reopening.

Andy Johnson, our senior project manager said: "We've been working hard on site to repair the canal as quickly as we could. We faced some complex challenges like removing stranded boats and access along the canal bed to reach the breach but we're pleased that we can re-open the

canal before Christmas.

"We still have some work to do on site in January and we might need to close the towpath at times early in the New Year to complete the work. I would like to appeal to the public not to deviate from the towpath over the next few weeks as the topsoil on the verges either side has just been laid and grass seeding still needs to be done."

Water saving restrictions on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal were lifted before Christmas after recent rainfall improved reservoir holdings. However, the overall holding across the group of reservoirs feeding the Leeds & Liverpool Canal remains below the long term average.

[Canal & River Trust, 21 December 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 3 Jan 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Members' Photographic Evening and Competition See Chairman's Column on page 1. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Wed 9 Jan 2019 10.30am | IWA Guildford & Reading Br | Walk along River Wey Navigation. 3 mile walk from Bower's Lock to The New Inn, Send. Meet at Bower's Lock at 10.30am. Please contact Gareth Jones on 07850 819071 for further details. | Bower's Lock, Off Clay Lane, Jacobs Well, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7ND. (TQ011529). | Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: gareth@hillhouse.farm |
| Sat 12 Jan 2019 12.30pm for 1.00pm | Southampton CS | New Year Lunch. Details and menu - see December Newsletter. Booking essential by Thursday 3 January 2019 meeting at the latest. | Keats Restaurant, Winchester Road, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ (SU400232). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com December Newsletter: December Newsletter |
| Tue 15 Jan 2019 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br) | Tutts Clump Cider. Speaker Tim Wale. 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 16 Jan 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "By Barge to Blighty – The role of inland waterways and the evacuation of casualties in the First World War." During WWI with the number of casualties being on unprecedented scales, evacuation to the base hospitals at the coast became a major problem. Pete Starling will highlight the role of the inland waterways as a means of casualty evacuation. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basinstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 17 Jan 2019 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | The Somersetshire Coal Canal. Patrick Moss, Chairman of the canal society will cover the planning and construction of the canal and an update on how the restoration continues. | 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 19 Jan 2019 10.30am-3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. We will be open on occasional days so that visitors can see maintenance work in progress. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |
| Thu 7 Feb 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | "Bats - the super heroes of the night" with Nik Knight. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sat 16 Feb 2019 10.30am-3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. We will be open on occasional days so that visitors can see maintenance work in progress. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |
| Sun 17 Feb 2019 10.00am | Somersetshire Coal CS | Walk - Paulton and Timsbury Basins - guided walk to view the basins. | Paulton public car park, BS39 7NW (ST651565) | Adrian Tuddenham: 01225 335974 Email: editor@coalcanal.org.uk |
| Tue 19 Feb 2019 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br) | Canal Laureate 2018/19. Speaker Nancy Campbell. 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 20 Feb 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Archaeological Treasures of the Thames." Malcolm Head will lead a show and tell discussion featuring some artefacts recovered from the Thames during dredging operations conducted over the years. It's remarkable that the objects, some very fragile, have survived mechanical dredging and are available to enjoy today. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basinstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |
| Thu 21 Feb 2019 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | "Saltford Brass Mill Project" 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 21 Feb 2019 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | The Wilts and Berks Canal. A member of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust will update about the restoration of this canal which links the Kennet & Avon Canal at Semington to the River Thames at Abingdon. | 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 7 Mar 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | "Steam Narrowboating – not for the faint hearted" with Mark Rudall | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Sat 16 Mar 2019 10.30am-3.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch | Open Day. We will be open on occasional days so that visitors can see maintenance work in progress. | Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623). | Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org |
| Wed 20 Mar 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "200 Years of The Thames and Medway Canal." David Rouse's talk traces the timeline from initial fundraising, construction challenges, the impact of railway fever, and eventual demise of the canal. Looking forward, the canal could be developed into a green safe water corridor, supporting fishing, informal boating and other activities. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basinstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

| Date/Time | Organiser | Details | Venue | Contact |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Thu 21 Mar 2019 7.30pm | Somersetshire Coal CS | "The Glastonbury Canal" - including railways, by Dick Osborne. | 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 21 Mar 2019 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | "The Middle Danube & its Connecting Waterways." John Pomfrett will cover the Danube for over 600 miles from Vienna through several countries to a passage through the spectacular Iron Gate Gorge into Romania and Bulgaria. He also cover the river's navigable tributaries and canals. | 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 |
| Mon 1 Apr 2019 7.30pm | IWA Guildford & Reading Br | Branch AGM at National Trust's premises. | Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR (SU992503). | Gareth Jones: 07850 819071 Email: gareth@hillhouse.farm |
| Thu 4 Apr 2019 7.45pm | Southampton CS | "My life on the River Severn" based on the Tanker Trade in the 1960s and the grain trade in the 1980s by Chris Witts. | Chilworth Village Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184). | Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com |
| Wed 17 Apr 2019 8.00pm | Basingstoke CS | "Metropolitan Police Marine Policing Unit." Officer William Sargent will talk about the Marine Policing Unit (MPU) which is responsible for policing the 47 miles of River Thames within the Met area (Dartford to Hampton Court) as well as providing a specialist response to over 250 miles of canals and waterways, lakes and reservoirs and other bodies of water in London. | Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615) | Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk |

Alan and Angela's Summer Cruise to St Neots and Back - Part 2 the return

Alan and Angela Rose continue the account of their trip to the IWA Festival of Water at St Neots this summer. The first instalment appeared in the Chairman's Column of the [September 2018](#) issue of the Newsletter.

After a very good weekend at the St Neots Festival of Water, the Sunday had been extremely wet till about 4 pm, most of the stalls had closed.

But the illuminated boat parade took place with a very good turnout. This was followed by a wonderful firework display put on by the town of St Neots. The entertainment and beer tent were busy all day. Monday saw a bright day and a good flow of visitors. The evening was spent in the entertainment tent being entertained by other boaters, Chucklefoot and Barbara who had done a fine job organising the entertainments.

Tuesday morning saw an 8 am start back home, after first letting go the two boats outside us and Historic Tug Sandbach and the Smedley family inside us.

Our first lock was St Neots only a short way from the site. Once through we had a pleasant run down through to Offord Lock. On leaving the lock we made our first stop at Buckden Marina for fuel and water where we were looked after by a very pleasant harbour master and staff.

Then on down river through pleasant countryside past Godmanchester, Huntingdon, the delightful Hemingford Grey to St Ives where, after passing under the bridge, we moored for the night alongside another narrow boat.

It was on this run down to St Ives we passed under the vast steel structure of the new A14T Great Ouse River crossing, The Cleveland Bridge, quite a project. It is 750 metres long containing 6000 tons of steel and comprising 76 separate main girders and 800 cross girders. The majority of the main girders are 40 metres long, 2 metres deep and weigh 50 tonnes each.

After mooring at St Ives we decided to go shopping, this meant a scramble across the boat alongside, then up on his roof and then a climb up the wall. Angie was given a hand up by a passing boat lady. This part was the easy bit, getting back onboard with our shopping, and

after visiting a local hostelry, was the dodgy bit. We didn't go ashore again that night. St Ives, a most enchanting and quiet spot until about 0230, when the boat started to vibrate and this tremendous noise was heard. It was an OSPREY of the United States Special Forces, from Mildenhall in almost hover position going over head. (But we survived) Up and away the following morning at 8 am (these early starts!).

Down past the Old Bedford River, through the tide lock at Hermitage and onto the Old West River. This lock is the last till Denver Sluice.

It was on the Old West River, just before 20 Pence Bridge, that we saw what we thought was a large dog swimming around, but, after it disappeared and came up beside us, we realised it was a seal. We stopped and drifted and he began swimming around us. He kept with us for a good half an hour before we decided to move on. We managed to get a good few close up pictures of him or her. We had also noticed that it had a pike fishing lure caught around its eye but it seemed healthy enough. Apparently, we heard later, that experts had been trying to capture it.

We carried on past Ely and past the River Lark, where on our way upriver we had detoured up the Lark to visit the Prickwillow Museum of Fenland Pumping Engines - well worth a visit. We then had headed up through Isleham Lock and on to the head of navigation at Judes Bridge. We turned here and headed back to Prickwillow where we moored for the night.

After passing the Lark we carried on down to Brandon Creek, the Little Ouse and moored for the night outside the Ship Inn where we had a delicious fish and chip supper.

The following morning we left just before 7 am to travel the few miles down to Denver Sluice to await the tide for the trip back to Salters Lode onto the Middle Levels.

We arrived at Denver with time to spare to examine this great structure.

We were then ordered in and were let out for our run to Salters Lode where we locked through with a small boat for Part Three of our trip.

Alan and Angie Rose

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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 675312.

Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Aelred Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7DA. Tel: 01794 651350.

Email: aelred41@sky.com

Committee:

David Townley-Jones, Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn, Robb Unsworth.

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 8 Field View, Braunston, Daventry, Northants, NN11 7JS. Tel: 01788 890102.

Email: scs@sotoncs.org.uk

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

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

December Meeting

The Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

As always, our yearly programme rounded off with the popular Inter-Society Waterways Quiz, thirty four members and visitors supported the three teams. We welcomed back:

IWA Guildford & Reading Branch with Chris Jones, John Jones, Mike Lewis and Alan Rose.

IWA Salisbury Group comprising Colin & Rosemary Davis, Eric Lewis and Myra Glover.

Finally **Southampton Canal Society** Tony Fry, Peter Oates, Gordon Osborn and Janet Gunningham.

As last year's winners IWA Salisbury Group called in the expert Nick Grundy, (second to our own Peter Oates) to set the questions - with his charming assistant and scorer Liz.

Round 1: **General Waterways Knowledge** - from the Oxford Canal – Basingstoke – Cromford naming the locks, etc.

Round 2: **Boat Liveries** - ie colours, names of boat carriers.

Round 3: **Recognizing Canal Buildings.**

Round 4: **Old Waterways Postcards**- Braunston, Dudley, Gas Street Basin & more.

Round 5: **Flora & Fauna** - very interesting.

Round 6: **What's this?** A selection of misaligned/ upside down waterways and well visited sites ie. Falkirk Wheel, Drayton Park, etc.

Nick kept us all on our toes with a Mainly Cryptic Alphabet Waterways Quiz, for all to join in thought-out the evening.

The final scores were: Southampton Canal Society 121 points, IWA Salisbury Group 110 points IWA Guildford & Reading Branch 96 points.

The Audience Participation winner was Laura Sturrock

Many thanks to Nick & Liz for a very enjoyable evening.

An American Supper evening finished off the evening- many thanks to you all for providing a wide selection of food to share. And, to those assisting in the galley and setting up the furniture.

Well done Southampton Canal Society

Angela Rose

Brimscombe Port Redevelopment

Stroud District Council revealed its latest plans for the multi-million pound redevelopment of Brimscombe Port on the Thames & Severn Canal at a public consultation event.

Local residents were invited to give their views on the proposals prior to a planning application being submitted in the new year for the necessary infrastructure, including the canal basin and new access road and to establish the outline redevelopment proposals. The project is particularly challenging as it involves engineering a new canal basin, river crossing, culverts and new roads.

Brimscombe Port is a former inland port dating back to the 1780s which became redundant after the era of the canals as a mode of transport came to an end. It was filled in during the 1960s and developed as an industrial site, and was earmarked as in need of significant regeneration by Stroud District Council.

Due to the high infrastructure costs, the scheme requires public funding. The council was successful in securing £2 million from Homes England in 2015 which kick-started work to bring the development forward.

This has now been match-funded by Stroud District Council. Together, these contributions will enable the council to select a developer partner to create a unique waterside attraction.

Towpath Talk, January 2019

Cycle Network Overhaul

A NEW report by Sustrans sets out recommendations for an overhaul of the National Cycle Network to open up walking and cycling to more people, including children, and anyone with impaired mobility.

More than half (57%) of the UK population lives within a mile of the National Cycle Network, but major improvements for access and safety are needed to open it up to everyone, including children, wheelchair users, those riding non-standard cycles and the less physically active.

The call has been made by Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, as it launches the first review of the 16,575-mile network. In its "Paths for Everyone" report, the charity unveiled the current state of the 23-year-old network and a long-term plan to make it traffic-free and tackle physical problems. These include poor surfaces and barriers that prevent access for users, particularly those with adapted bikes or prams.

Only 54% of the network is currently suitable for a 12-year-old to use safely, a road safety benchmark set by the UK Government. Just over a third of the paths on the network (32%) are separated from motor traffic, providing safe spaces for people to walk and cycle. An online survey of 5965 people showed overwhelming support for the network, with 81% of the respondents saying they want paths built away from cars where everyone feels safe to travel.

Towpath Talk, January 2019