



Newsletter

Issue 397

November 2005

Chairman's Column

November Meeting

On behalf of the Society, I am delighted to welcome James Griffin, of the Wyvern Shipping Co at Leighton Buzzard on the Grand Union Canal, who will be talking to us about his 'South Coast Circular Cruise' on board his sea-going narrow boat 'Ocean Princess'.

December Meeting – Inter Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper

We will be hosting the annual waterways quiz at our next meeting and now is the time to ask for volunteers for the Southampton Canal Society team. We have received one or two names but there are still one or two places to fill. So, please contact me as soon as possible. This year's Quizmaster will be our very own Eric Lewis.

The American Supper will be run on slightly different lines to previously. Please see the item below for details.

American Supper

The American Supper follows the inter-society quiz and members have always been generous in their support and provision of food for all to enjoy.

However, the committee feels that we do not always have sufficient variety in the offerings. To avoid the risk of everybody bringing the same items, we would like to introduce a new system. There will be a list on Laura's table at the November meeting and members

Members' Photographic Evening and Competition

The meeting on the 5th January will be our annual Members' Photographic Evening. This will give everyone the opportunity to show some pictures - even those who feel they might not have enough of interest to make up a whole evening's show. If you can put together up to a maximum of around a dozen pictures (even just one or two) that you feel will entertain / educate / amuse your fellow members, look them out for this evening.

As a first this year, for those with a digital camera, we should be able to project digital photos. Please bring your pictures (virtually any format will do) either on CD or USB Flash/Pen Drive. Unfortunately, this year at least, we will NOT be able to read memory cards (such as CF, SM, SD, XD, MMC, Memory Stick) unless you can also bring a card reader to connect your card to a computer's USB port. Please contact Peter Oates if you have any questions about this.

January Meeting

A reminder that in January we will be holding our popular annual Members' Photographic Evening and Competition. Details are published below.

Storage of Society Equipment

Further to the item in the last two Newsletters, I am afraid there was only one volunteer to provide storage for some of the Society's equipment (many thanks to Maureen and Brian). Gill and I have had to temporarily store the remaining items, including the screen and projector. It is still not too late for offers to help out.

Refreshments Rota

Many thanks to all those who volunteered at the last meeting. Gill tells me we are now OK up to April next year.

Paul Herbert

are asked to write their names against the food items they would like to bring.

The list is by no means definitive and if you would like to bring something that is not on the list please add the item and your name against it.

If you didn't attend the November meeting, please do not be deterred from bringing some food with you on December 1st.

As usual, we can project prints (up to 7" x 5") onto the screen as well as transparencies and digital pictures. So if you don't take slides, you too will be able to show something of waterways interest as well.

Again, like the last few years, the evening will also incorporate a photographic competition. To be held just before the tea interval, this competition is open to all members - you don't have to be showing other pictures during the evening. What we're looking for is **one** picture which can be anything to do (even loosely) with the waterways. The competition will be judged by all those present at the meeting. And as an incentive to enter, there will be a mystery prize given to the winner.

So don't be shy, this is YOUR opportunity to show others your interest in waterways, what you've done or where you went and what you saw on holiday.

October Meeting

'So you think you know about Industrial Archaeology?' with John Silman and Tony Yoward

The large audience at our October meeting were treated to a feast of intriguing industrial archaeological questions when John and Tony showed us over sixty slides covering a very wide of subjects.

It is obviously impractical to list them all here, but the following will, hopefully, give a little of the flavour of the evening.

- Beam Engines, Bristol Trams, Caledonian Railway, and the Hay Tor Granite Railway.
- From the milling industry we had views of an overshot water mill and a hand operated quoin, a French paper mill, a water driven snuff mill.
- Views of the waterways were very much in evidence – Telford's Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Bingley Five-Rise, Warehouse spanning the canal basin in Sheffield, a demolished aqueduct on the Leominster Canal, a train of Tom Puddings, the Lion Salt Works adjacent to the Trent & Mersey Canal.
- Bridges were not left out – Brunel's suspension bridge at Clifton, Telford's bridge over the River Wye, the Toll Cottage at the end of another of Telford's bridges at Tewkesbury, an early 1700s bridge at Pontypridd.
- Back to the water – we saw an East Coast Shrimper, seemingly 'lost' at the entrance to the Solent, shops loading china clay at Charlestown (with two tall ships in shot), 'Stackies' – Thames Barges loaded with hay.

- Our own locality was certainly not neglected. We had a 1924 shot of Ryde Pier with a motor cycle and sidecar disembarking from the 'hinged' wooden ferry, Bosham Signal Box and Level Crossing, Eastney Pumping Station in Portsmouth, Lime Kilns at Twyford Waterworks, Sewer Gas Eliminator in Winchester.
- The military wasn't left out either – there was the restored Semaphore Signal Tower at Chatley Heath and the Military Depot at Weedon, which had its own arm off the Grand Union Canal.
- Some macabre scenes – a coffin lift at the catacombs in London and an interesting tomb stone at Warnford.
- And some 'odd' ones – a Prison Treadmill (used for corn grinding), and a Victorian cast iron public lavatory.

Oh, there were so many more I wish I could mention them all.

The evening finished with John and Tony trying to tax our brains (and memories) attempting to identify a number of artefacts.

Many thanks to John and Tony for a very interesting evening, laced with plenty of humour.

(Note: With apologies for any mis-spelt or wrongly located scenes).

Paul Herbert

Sale of Surplus Sales Stand Items

We have the following ex-Sales Stand items for disposal, which will be brought to all future meetings. Items will be sold at cost price – however, no reasonable offer will be refused.

- Various GEOprojects waterways maps covering the following canals: Basingstoke, Kennet & Avon, Oxford, Grand Union, Shropshire Union, Llangollen & Montgomery, Coventry & Ashby, Staffs & Worcs, Trent & Mersey, Lee & Stort, Macclesfield & Peak Forest, Worcester & Birmingham, Caledonian, and the Broads.

- Society Membership Badges.
- A few miscellaneous items of Society Clothing (Tee Shirts & Sweat Shirts).
- One Society Shopper Bag.
- Canal Miniatures.

For details of prices and up to date availability, please see me at any Society meeting, or speak to me 'out of hours' – for contact details, see the Newsletter.

Paul Herbert

IWA Announce Grant to the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

The IWA has made a grant of £5,000 to the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust (LHCRT) towards the purchase of a JCB804 excavator to be used on the restoration of the Lichfield and Hatherton canals. The machine purchased is only 3 years old and will give many years service in restoring their two canals for public benefit.

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Ashby Canal

On 14th September, the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs announced that the Leicestershire County Council (Ashby de la Zouch Canal Extension) Order would be made under section 3 of the Transport and Works Act 1992. The new and reinstated canal is to run for about 4.5 kilometres to Measham, where it will terminate at a new wharf.

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WATERWAYS DIARY

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Hopefully you can find something to interest you.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to supply further details of that event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

| Time | Organiser | Details | Contact |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Thu 3 Nov 2005 7.45pm | Southampton CS | 'South Coast Circular Cruise' by James Griffin. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton. | Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384 |
| Wed 16 Nov 2005 8.00pm | Surrey and Hampshire CS | Colin Reynolds from the River Thames Society will illustrate the history of the River Thames and its historical connections. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey. | Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564 |
| Thu 17 Nov 2005 7.30pm | IWA Salisbury Group | Unfortunately, due to illness, Colin Ward is unable to give his talk 'Lots to do at the Soo'. An alternative talk is to be arranged - details from Ron & Myra Glover. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts. | Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net |
| Thu 17 Nov 2005 7.30pm | IWA Avon and Wiltshire Branch | 'SARA - The Severn Area Rescue Association.' A Talk by David Walker. Riverside Inn, Saltford Marina (off the A4 between Bath and Bristol). | Geoff Harman: 0117 962 3812 |
| Sat 19 Nov 2005 7.30pm | Kennet & Avon CT | 'From Ground to Glass'. Wine-tasting and talk by Littleton Panell Vineyard. The Wharf, Devizes. Small admission charge. K&A members only. | Alice Boyd: 01380-724701 Email: alicebf2@aol.com |
| Wed 30 Nov 2005, 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT | "The production of a waterways magazine" by Emrhys Barrell – Editor of Canal Boat & Inland Waterways 1996-2005 and author of "Getting Afloat". The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury. | Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email : grahamv.smith@virgin.net |
| Thu 1 Dec 2005 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton. | Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384 |
| Thu 15 Dec 2005 7.30pm | IWA Avon and Wiltshire Branch | Skittles and Buffet. IWA and W&B Members Welcome. The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze, Bristol. Tickets from Geoff Harman. | Geoff Harman: 0117 962 3812 |
| Wed 21 Dec 2005 8.00pm | Surrey and Hampshire CS | 'Past, Present and Future of the Chichester Canal.' Rick Travis (Chichester Ship CT) gives the story of this south coast canal plus the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey. | Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564 |
| Thu 5 Jan 2006 7.45pm | Southampton CS | Members photo evening and competition. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton. | Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384 |
| Wed 18 Jan 2006 8.00pm | Surrey and Hampshire CS | 'History of London Trams.' Dr. Tanner with the story of the London Tram System. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, nr Woking, Surrey. | Peter Coxhead: 01923 344564 |
| Wed 25 Jan 2006 7.45pm | Kennet & Avon CT | "The Lowland Canals" by David Saady. The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury | Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email : grahamv.smith@virgin.net |
| Fri 27 Jan 2006 7.30pm for 8.00pm | Kennet & Avon CT | Talk by David Blagrove - a waterways subject from this well-known canal guru - title to be confirmed. Turnham's Farm Scout Hall, Little Heath Road (close to the junction with City Road), Tilehurst, Reading. | John & Pam Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: johns@360swift.com |
| Thu 2 Feb 2006 7.45pm | Southampton CS | 'My work as Padre to the Inland Waterways' by Peter Atwill. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton. | Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384 |
| Thu 2 Mar 2006 7.45pm | Southampton CS | 'Odds and Ends but not what you think!' with SCS members David and Margaret James. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton. | Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384 |



Two items have been donated to the Society by members Tony and Jackie Coles. On the left is an Alan Firth print of Hawkesbury Junction viewed through the iron towpath bridge.

On the right is shown a limited edition, decorative plate produced by Royal Worcester in 1989 called 'The Meeting'.

Both these items will be auctioned at the December meeting, together with the Garth Allen print which was shown in last month's Newsletter.



SCS member spotted in Sweden

I attended the World Canal Conference in Sweden in August, together with Roger Squires and Hugh Potter and several other UK delegates. I visited the WCC web site (<http://www5.auderis.se/wcc2005>) yesterday and was amazed to find the attached photos. The first is yours truly sporting his Southampton Canal Society attire (and AWCC cap). The lady in the picture was from the USA (sorry forgotten the name as usual), but we are all participating in a traditional Swedish pastime that featured regularly on a very hectic schedule of visits.

We visited all six of Sweden's canals and the second picture shows the staircase locks on the Kinda Canal at Linköping. They keep the flight empty, with gates open and fill from the top, as shown. The day before, we had visited the famous Gota Canal, which is a world heritage site. The canal crosses Lake Vattern, where we were due a boat trip and where we found out at first hand how choppy a large space of inland water can get – most of us were rather ill and not one glass or bottle remained intact!

Not a place for narrowboats you may think, but four British NBs did make it to Trollhättan, the conference centre, where they created great interest. They may have gone over by Ro-Ro, but they did manage to progress from Gothenburg, through the Trollhättan Canal to the Dalaslands Canal and on to a Norwegian lake, which is reckoned to be a first. The party was led by Paul Ayres with his working pair [Aldgate and Angel—see below], plus Brian and Margaret Oliver on Zavala (St Pancras members) and Clive and Jill Field on Witcombe (third picture).

The visited ended with a splendid evening entry to Stockholm on an historic steamer, a cruise around the archipelago the following day and, unplanned for us, the icing on the cake – the launch of a new tall ship by Princess Victoria in a harbour that was so chaotically full of boats of all sizes. A wonderful trip all round.

David Pearce



Above left: David in his Canal Society attire.



Above centre: Staircase locks on the Kinda Canal.



Above right: NB Witcombe on the Trollhättan Canal.



Lower right: Paul Ayres' working boats Aldgate and Angel in Sweden.

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:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm.
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.

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