



Chairman's Column

November Meeting

On behalf of the Society I am delighted to welcome back Richard Thomas where he will be telling us about the lead up to the "Gunpowder Plot" and Guido Fawkes.

October Meeting

We all enjoyed The Day-Star Theatre's production last month. It was a very enjoyable evening finished off by the excellent American Supper provided by you all. Thank you everyone.

2010 Inter-Society Waterways Quiz

A further reminder that we will again be hosting the Annual Quiz at our next meeting on Thursday 2nd December. IWA Salisbury, last years winners, will be setting the questions. As always the quiz will be followed by the usual American Supper provided by our members.

Most importantly we need volunteers for our SCS team!!

Skittles Evening

This is being held on Friday 19th November at the same venue as last year: The Phoenix, Twyford. Any questions please see Maureen Greenham or email maureen.greenham@talktalk.net or telephone 02380 406951.

Membership Subscriptions

A reminder that if you haven't paid your membership subscription for the current year, could you please see our Treasurer & Membership Secretary Gill Herbert? Thank you.

Just in

Southampton Canal Society burgees are now available - £12.50 each or £13.50 posted - contact Angela.

Alan Rose

Anger As BW Plan 'Compromises Water Safety'

Commenting on the plans to turn British Waterways (BW) into a National Trust-style charity, the Unite union's National Officer for docks and waterways Julia Long, said: "We have real fears that the vital maintenance work that is needed on the network will be forced to rely on the efforts of volunteers to fill gaps left by qualified engineers, if enough funding is not found.

"Caring for this 250-year old working heritage spanning reservoirs and locks requires intense management and significant funding, yet year after year central government funding has only been enough to fund 90 per cent of the urgent work. It is simply not appropriate to hand over essential infrastructure maintenance to volunteers.

"BW maintains the 2,200 mile canal network in the UK so this news is very disturbing, as it increases the level of flood risk to the homes, offices and buildings along the banks of this network.

"Unite therefore calls for the government to provide some guarantees that there will not be a wholesale cull of the workforce and that there will be sufficient employed, skilled staff to prevent the potential devastation which would be caused if, for example, just one of the banks gave way."

The water network provides a system £65 million worth of drainage from fields as well as leisure and environmentally-friendly freight transport. Half the population lives within five miles of a canal or river and an incredible 13 million people use them every year as part of their everyday life - as a short-cut to work, walking the dog or simply taking time-out and watching the boats.

BW provides 1,800 jobs involved in managing a portfolio including 1,654 locks, 54 tunnels, 3,115 bridges, 417 aqueducts and 91 reservoirs.

www.build.co.uk - 15/10/2010

Former GB Olympic rowing star dies

Great Britain's double Olympic champion rower Andy Holmes MBE died recently at the age of 51.

Holmes was part of the coxed four crew, which included Sir Steve Redgrave, that won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. He then partnered Redgrave to gold in the coxless pairs at the Games in Seoul four

years later. Holmes had been involved in coaching over the past two years after a return to the sport in which he also won gold in both the coxed four and coxless pairs at the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

Holmes is believed to have died from the bacterial infection Weil's disease, also known as leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis - The Facts

- Since 2000, according to the Health Protection Agency, there have been 50-80 cases per year in England and Wales - about one case per million of the population per year. Each year the disease kills two or three people, says the HPA.
- Animals which catch leptospirosis recover from the infection, but continue to excrete organisms in their urine. Leptospire can survive in moist conditions outside the host animal for many days, even weeks. However, they are readily killed by drying, exposure to detergents, heating to 50°C for five minutes, and only survive a few hours in salt water.
- The bacteria enter the human body through skin abrasions, or through the eyes, nose and mouth.
- Leptospirosis usually starts with an influenza-like illness. Common features are a sudden onset of fever, intense headache, severe pains in calf and back muscles, red eyes and complete exhaustion. Some cases develop abdominal

pains with diarrhoea and vomiting or meningitis. Only a few cases develop severe leptospirosis with jaundice and kidney failure.

- Early diagnosis is very important and treatment with antibiotics in the first few days may be helpful in limiting the course of the infection. However, many sufferers recover without specific treatment.
- As the disease is not common, many doctors may incorrectly diagnose the symptoms as influenza. If you suspect you may have Weil's disease, see your doctor immediately, telling him that you have been in contact with canal or river water.
- Try and avoid direct contact with canal/river water.
- Wear protective clothing to reduce contact with water.
- Keep any cuts or abrasions covered.
- Wash and dry your hands before eating.
- Wash or shower promptly after water sports, especially if you fall in.

Society Boat Trip - Saturday 2 October

Only twenty five Society members and their guests had been able to book for last month's boat trip at Kintbury on the Kennet & Avon Canal. This was insufficient to make this outing viable and, under normal circumstances, our booking would have had to be cancelled, but Maureen Greenham came to the rescue by opening up the trip to members of her U3A (University of the Third Age) group and we were delighted to welcome seventeen of her colleagues on this combined outing. Completely separately, a family group of ten, celebrating a birthday, had also booked for this date, thereby ensuring a full boat.



colours. A kingfisher was even seen by one or two people as it flashed past the boat.

We passed under Shepherd's Bridge and soon reached Dreweat's Lock where some of the passengers disembarked in order to walk to the next lock. After passing through Copse Lock 'Kennet Valley' was wined and we headed back towards Kintbury. On our return journey we enjoyed our delicious pre-booked cream tea. It is rumoured that some even had seconds!

And all too soon we were back at Kintbury Wharf, time to disembark, thank the crew and 'Bonnie' of course and pose for the traditional group photograph.

Finally, many thanks to Maureen for organising such an enjoyable outing and for making up our numbers to that the trip could go ahead.

Paul Herbert

Postscript: Our Chairman and Secretary, Alan and Angela Rose, are in the process of moving their Large Northwich motor 'Purton' (built in 1936 for the Grand Union Canal Carrying Co) from its mooring on the Kennet & Avon Canal to a new mooring on the Grand Union Canal, and had moored the boat at Kintbury to coincide with our outing. During the trip on 'Kennet Valley' they had overheard comments about the lack of kingfishers in the area. The following day, in the pouring rain, Alan and Angela saw two – one of which was seen to hover over the canal before diving in and bringing out a small fish!

Many of us met up at the canal side 'Dundas Arms' for a quick snack lunch before crossing over the canal to Kintbury Wharf and meeting our one horse-power propulsion unit, 'Bonnie', a 23 year old Shire/Clydesdale cross, and boarding 'Kennet Valley'. After watering up the boat we set off, being manually turned at the nearby winding hole and then 'Bonnie' was harnessed up and we started our cruise.

To those of us more used to diesel engines throbbing beneath our feet, it was almost surreal to glide through the water without a sound, apart from the chattering within the boat. After the almost continuous heavy rain on the Friday we were so lucky to be able to enjoy a lovely autumn afternoon for our cruise. The countryside through which we cruised was very peaceful, with some of the trees beginning to adapt to their autumn



SCS Christmas/New Year Lunch

A seasonable lunch which will be held at The Blue Hayes on Saturday 15 January. Prices and menu to follow. To express interest see Maureen Greenham at the November meeting or email maureen.greenham@talktalk.net or telephone 02380 406951.

Skittles Evening

Maureen Greenham is organising a Skittles Evening at the same venue as last time:

The Phoenix Inn, Twyford - Friday 19 November 2010 - £10.50 to include food and small prizes.

It's not too late to book. Payment and menu choices at the November meeting please. If you can't make the meeting, email maureen.greenham@talktalk.net or telephone 02380 406951 **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

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 4 Nov 2010 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Richard Thomas presents "The Gunpowder Plot". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 11 Nov 2010 8.00pm	Wings and Wheels Society	"A Pictorial Look at Gloucestershire Canals" with Richard Kelsey. High quality photography from the ground & air exploring Cotswold and Gloucester to Sharpness Canals. The Community Centre, Rednock Drive, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL11 4BX (ST755986). Entry £3.00 on door.	Rich Kelsey: 07909 960202 or Dave Lamb: 01453 544348 Web: www.wingsandwheelsociety.org.uk
Wed 17 Nov 2010 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Ron and Myra Glover - "The Ups and Downs of the Belgian Canals". 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 18 Nov 2010 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"Operating the Coal Canal" by Patrick Moss. Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Thu 18 Nov 2010 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Paul Barnett will be talking about "Lydney's lost fleet," a ships' graveyard on the other side of the Severn from the Purton Hulks. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3AR (SU182274)	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Fri 19 Nov 2010 7.30pm	Southampton CS	Skittles Evening at The Phoenix, Twyford, Hampshire. For further details see page 2.	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net
Sun 21 Nov 2010 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Woodborough Basin. Meet: Waterloo Road Car Park, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST689549)	Mike Chapman 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Wed 24 Nov 2010 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"Claverton Pumping Station and the Burbage Crane Project" by George Eycott and Peter Dunn. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Fri 26 Nov 2010 7.30 for 8.00 pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Christmas 'party' (bring some food!) and QUIZ. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 to cover room hire and tea / coffee.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swiftjohn21@gmail.com
Thu 2 Dec 2010 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184). Questions set by Salisbury IWA.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Wed 15 Dec 2010 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The Somersetshire Coal Canal" with Patrick Moss. The talk explores the history of the canal's twin main lines, the surviving lengths of the canal and the hopes for the future. 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 16 Dec 2010 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Weigh-House" by Roger Halse. Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Sun 19 Dec 2010 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Stony Littleton and the Aqueduct. Meet: Shoscombe Community Centre. (ST717564?)	Mike Chapman 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Thu 6 Jan 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Photographic Evening. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sat 15 Jan 2011	Southampton CS	SCS Christmas/New Year Lunch will be held at The Blue Hayes. Prices and menu to follow.	Maureen Greenham: 02380 406951 Email: maureen.greenham@talktalk.net
Sun 16 Jan 2011 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Combe Down and the Railway Tunnels (3 miles and hilly). Meet: Bear Flat at junction of Wellsway with Bloomfield Road, Bath, BA2 2AA. (ST745637)	Mike Chapman 01225 426948 Email: mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk
Wed 19 Jan 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Liam D'Arcy Brown - "The Grand Canal of China." Liam will present an illustrated talk on the fabric and history of the canal and people who live and work upon it.	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Jan 2010 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Archaeology of Combe Hay" by Richard Hignett. Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3PR. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk
Wed 26 Jan 2011 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"K&A Reminiscences" by Bill Fisher. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Fri 28 Jan 2011 7.30 for 8.00 pm	Kennet & Avon CT	"The Museum of Berkshire Aviation, Woodley" with Jean and Ken Fostekew. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6NP. (SU705729) Donation at the door of £2.50 for room hire and tea/coffee.	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: swiftjohn21@gmail.com
Thu 3 Feb 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Alan & Jane Inder's presentation on the "Talylyn Railway". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Wed 16 Feb 2011 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Roger Squires - "The Suez Canal - Past and Present." Roger recently cruised through the Suez Canal on a northbound daylight convoy. He will share this experience with us and also tell us about the canal's history.	David Millett: 01252 617364 Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 3 Mar 2011 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Horsham to Littlehampton in 100years" with Tony Pratt, including a short update on the Wey & Arun Canal Trust progress. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 21 Nov, 19 Dec 2010 1.00pm	Friends of Purton	Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett. Tour fee £3.50 per person. Approx 2 hours weather permitting. Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (SO692044).	Paul Barnett: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com Web: www.friendsofpurton.org.uk
Every Sat & Sun until 5 Dec 2010	Pendon Museum	"Coal, Corn and Stone - a look at the Canal in the Vale - history and restoration." Exhibition about the Wilts & Berks Canal. Pendon Museum, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. OX14 4QD (SU542935). Weekends: 2.00 to 5.30pm. Wednesday: 11.00am - 5.30pm	Tel: 01865 407365 Email: info@pendonmuseum.com Web: www.pendonmuseum.com

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.

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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.

Jam 'Ole Run 2010

In the January 2010 issue of the Newsletter, I wrote an article about the Jam 'Ole Run in which I promised that Laura Sturrock and I would be taking our boat *Stanton* on "the 40th anniversary re-run in October 2010 in memory of all those boatmen and boatwomen who have gone before us."

Well, Laura and I kept our promise and were joined by a number of other working boats that took part for either some or all of the run. These were *Stanton* and *Renfrew* (both of which were on the last run in 1970), *Corona*, *Victoria*, *Archimedes* and *Ara*, *Dove*, and *Purton*. We were also accompanied by the pleasure boat *Kismet*.

It was at 9.00am on Saturday 16 October 2010 that 6 boats left Braunston, where the Blue Line fleet was based, making for Atherstone where the boats used to be loaded with coal. We were blessed with bright sunny weather. Indeed, during the whole week we only had one afternoon of rain and a few showers on the last

Alan and Angela Rose on *Purton* for the trip north.

The boats assembled at the site of the Jam 'Ole (just 250 yards from Bulls Bridge Junction up the Paddington Branch) at about 3.30pm where we paid our respects to those who had made this journey regularly month after month.

Overnight berths at Willowtree Marina just up the canal allowed us to have showers, a cooked meal and a few drinks. After a "lazy" day, Thursday was a contrast: slipping out of the marina at 4.00am with a long heavy day in front of us - it was almost 9.00pm when we tied up at Cowroast after a gruelling 31 miles and 45 locks. A slightly later start on Friday meant we descended Marsworth Locks as it was getting light at the start of a warm sunny day. This led to drinks at the Boat in Stoke Bruerne in the evening.

Saturday was a less hectic day and we arrived back in Braunston in the late afternoon after 246 miles and 188 locks in 8 days. We rounded off the trip with a meal in the Old Plough that evening.

The next morning we went our separate ways. The trip enabled us to renew old and to make new friendships. There was a great sense of camaraderie on this trip where everyone looked out for each other. The only thing that went wrong on *Stanton* was a blown light bulb in the back cabin. All in all a memorable week.

Peter Oates

Left: Some of the fleet at Bulls Bridge - the fore-ends of *Renfrew*, *Stanton*, *Victoria*, *Dove* and *Corona*. The stern fenders of *Archimedes* and *Ara* are on the right. The site of the Jam 'Ole is 250 yards away under the bridge. (Photo: Laura Sturrock)

Below: *Stanton* and *Purton* prepare to leave Braunston Bottom Lock with the end of the run in sight. (Photo: Angela Rose)



day. However, we awoke on a number of mornings to a frost that made moving about the boats quite precarious.

Sunday morning (at 4.30am) was such a morning as we started our journey southwards towards London. Passing through Braunston in mid-afternoon, we tied up for the night at Weedon at about 7.00pm. Monday and Tuesday were also early starts with overnight stops at Grove Lock (just south of Leighton Buzzard) and Rickmansworth.

As we were then only 12½ miles and 8 locks from Bulls Bridge, we had a late start on Wednesday at 7.00am, pausing en route at the café at Cowley Lock for bacon butties. The Tesco's at Bulls Bridge gave the opportunity to buy stores for the return trip. It was here that we were joined by our Chairman and Secretary:

