

WEIGH-HOUSE

The magazine of the
Somersetshire Coal Canal Society



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www.coalcanal.com



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Editor's spot

A recent short break in Cumbria saw us at a loose end, with a journey of 240 miles back home. Where to stop en-route? I found the Canal and River Trust website useful – canal and river sites to visit near motorways (<https://rb.gy/1bxtbh>). We ended up at the Lune Aqueduct on the Lancaster canal. Well worth a visit and designed by John Rennie – who also designed our Dundas Aqueduct.

The Dundas Aqueduct is where the SCC joins the K&A Canal and is the route eastwards to Wiltshire and beyond for Somerset Coal.

Tim

editor@coalcanal.com

Chairman's Report By Derrick Hunt

I am delighted to welcome Nick Baker to the management team. Nick has joined as Landowner Liaison & Public Rights of Way Secretary and has already started work on updating the landowner records.

The walks, talks and work parties have all been well attended and membership has increased.

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to the Society. However, we are facing increasing costs of conservation and restoration, (tools, equipment and materials). Any donations, legacies etc will be most welcome. We will need substantial finance in the future ie millions in due course.

Do take a look at our website at <http://www.coalcanal.com>

The website performs an educational function, publicises events to the public and members, also enabling easy contact with the Trustees.

Our outreach programme provides talks and guided walks for other groups such as Probus, Rotary and other history and canal societies. The Society will again have a stand at local events in Paulton and High Littleton in 2025 to publicise our activities and make us available to the public.

Trustees have increased their knowledge of UK canal restoration and have established links with the Canal & River Trust, for example, by attending training sessions and conferences.

The administration system (including email and website) has been upgraded to a professional standard free of charge by volunteers who are suitably qualified and experienced IT experts. We hope that this will avoid the glitches being experienced by other voluntary and commercial organisations in the news recently.

The subject of the Local Plan is covered elsewhere. However I must state that many people were not aware of the B&NES policy HE2, adopted in 2017, which preserves the line of the Somersetshire Coal Canal and the Wansdyke. This situation has understandably caused a great deal of concern with property owners in the Cam Valley and we are working hard to find ways forward.

The Society continues to be a success story with progress being made in making the charity sustainable in the long term, in order to achieve our charitable objectives.

Membership Secretary's report

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their subscription for this year. If you have not yet done so, and pay by cheque or online, please now make your payment as soon as possible.

You can renew via our website coalcanal.com and PayPal. You can also pay directly into our bank account, No. 59828309 (Somersetshire Coal Canal Society), sort code 09-01-51 (Santander Bank) and by this method we avoid PayPal charges. Whichever way you choose, please remember to quote your name and membership number (which appears on the address label which this Weigh-House arrived in). If you do not feel comfortable using the internet, you are welcome to post a cheque to me.

We no longer use Groups.io for sending messages from the Committee to the Membership. Instead, we now use a secure email system; no-one else can see your email address. It is therefore important that we have an up-to-date email address for everyone - please let me know if you change it.

New Members

We welcome the following who have recently joined:

Mr C. Arbery, Camerton; Mr N. Baker, Chew Stoke; Mr M. Baughen, Timsbury; Mr R. Berry, Wells; Mr S. Court, Chippenham; Mr J. Earp, Paulton; Mr M. Guttridge, Winterbourne; Mr A. Hargreaves, Frome; Mr W. Harrison, Keynsham; Mr D. Hubball, Frome; Mr G. & Mrs H. Jackman, Midsomer Norton; Mr C. John, Melrose; Mr C. Lewis, Bath; Ms A. Nash, Carlingcott; Ms P. Reynolds, Bridgwater; Mr S. Todd-Bennett, Bath; Mr R. Turvil, Frome; Mr D. Watts, London.

Donations

The Society wishes to express its thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Mrs A. Cannon, Mr P. Collins, Mr M. Smietanko, Mr J. Weeks, Mr J. Whittaker.

Steve Page

Phone: 01761 433418

Email: membership@coalcanal.com

Modernising the Coal Canal IT Setup – A new Microsoft 365 system for the Society

I joined the Society as Marketing Secretary in 2023. The Society had informed me that they wished to modernise their IT systems as they were all quite dated at the time. Both Peter Witherow (IT Advisor) and I have worked in IT for many years, with my role being focused on how users/people interact with IT systems and Peter's role being much more technical.

Peter and I started by reviewing everything we had in place and documenting it all. We made some observations and recommendations to the committee mainly around our website, email system and file storage facilities. The committee approved the changes, and the new website was launched in October 2023. The new website had been created by Mark Sherrey, a former SCCS committee member, so that made our job simpler. We just had to make a few adjustments to the content and structure and launch the new website. We put what's called a website redirect in place from the old .org.uk website to the new .com website. This meant that anyone typing in the old address would still be able to find us.



Once the new and shiny website was launched, we got to work on documenting and presenting a proposal to the committee for a new email system and file storage facility. We took it to a vote and chose to go with Microsoft 365. The old setup basically meant that the society members were using their personal email addresses, which was open to lots of scam emails and looked unprofessional when we were replying to society business. In January 2025, we launched a new secure MS365 suite including our own email addresses, allowing us to now send and receive coal canal emails from our new .com email addresses. This makes our society look and act in a much more professional manner. It also means the committee can keep all their canal work in a separate place. The new system has been set up with a much higher security level, using Microsoft Authenticator (a multi-factor authentication method which makes it much tougher for hackers to gain access). The MS365 suite allows us access to all other Microsoft Applications, such as Teams, Word, Excel, Outlook, OneDrive and Sharepoint, and the added bonus is, that we get all of this for free as we are a Registered Charity.

If you've ever emailed us in the past, it will have been to our .org.uk email addresses. We ask that you update any contacts you hold for us and use our .com email addresses for any future correspondence. They can all be found on our website here – www.coalcanal.com/meet-the-team/

If you have any questions about the recent changes, please feel free to contact me or any other committee member to discuss.

Tracy Craven

(Picture is of a row of BBC machines in the computer museum Bletchley Park)

Bench at Paulton



Some of you may remember the bench at the Dry Dock near Paulton Basin was vandalised late last year. The bench was used frequently by walkers and the work parties and was sorely missed.

We are very pleased to announce that local councillor Liz Hardman, who supports our quest to restore the canal and frequently walks there, has donated the wood to build a new one for everyone to enjoy. Local group Midsomer Norton's Men's Shed has kindly built the bench and we've had it installed close to where the old one was situated. It is on the Gould family land.



A huge thank you to both Liz and The Men's Shed for their support. We are confident it will be appreciated and used by many in the years to come.

Tracy Craven

The new bench by the dry dock



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Metal Miner at Paulton

Back in September 2023 we recorded an interview with Somer Valley FM alongside Bryn Hawkins, Chair of the Somerset Miners Trust. Bryn was hosting a series on the radio station called 'When Coal Was King'.

At the time, the Somerset Miners' Trust had just started installing their metal miner figures across the villages where coal was mined. The Somersetshire Coal Canal transported coal from the Somerset Coalfields into Bath and beyond, so it was a key part of our industrial heritage. In the Somerset area, before canals were built, the only transport was by pack-horse or horse and cart, which could only cope with limited quantities and resulted in high prices. The canal became one of the most successful in the country and, by the 1820s was carrying over 100,000 tons of coal per year.

At the time of the interview, we asked whether a metal miner could be installed near to the canal as a reminder of its important links to the coalfields.

Bryn Hawkins, said:

Very often we hear people say "we didn't know there were coal mines in Somerset". This prompted the Somerset Miners Trust Trustees to act by installing metal miners near where coal mines existed.

It's very fitting one should be put near the loading point on the coal canal.

On the 14th April, Bryn officially handed over the metal miner to the Somersetshire Coal Canal and its landowners, Brian Gould and his son Josh.

Tracy Craven

The metal miner at Paulton



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Combe Hay Work Party Report

A lot of the work that the Combe Hay Work Party carries out is very visible to the public. For instance, clearing invasive vegetation from the pounds of locks 11 to 15 creates beautiful views of that section of the lock flight, but there are a number of other important activities that the team get involved in throughout the year.



Work parties are increasingly involved in a program of repair and reinstatement of lock coping stones and other stonework that have been displaced by root growth or environmental decay over the hundred years or so since the canal was abandoned. This work will stabilise the remaining lock structures and reduce further deterioration.

The wing walls of most of the locks consist of large ashlar blocks, these will have taken a lot of rough treatment over the years when the lock flight was in use. Root and vegetation growth over subsequent years have also taken their toll.

Some of the top blocks of one of the wing walls to Lock 15 had recently fallen from their position (fallen or pushed, we don't know!).



Using wooden rollers, levers and team work the fallen blocks have been moved back to the right level.



We always fence off areas that we are working on to keep the public safe.

Finally the blocks are back in position and traditional lime sand mortar has been used to secure them in place. Open joints in the in-situ stones have also been raked out and re-pointed with mortar to secure the wing wall against further deterioration.

Author: Martin Turner

Meeting location Combe Hay BA2 7EE every Tuesday 10am till 3pm.
workparty_combehay@coalcanal.com

John Billingsley, 1747-1811: Entrepreneur turned Agriculturalist, by Lin Thorley £20.00 from Hobnob Press



John Billingsley of Ashwick Grove in the Somerset Mendips of south-west England - agricultural pioneer and 'improver'. His story gives a unique insight into eighteenth-century rural life in the west country. Accumulating capital and land while relatively young, he then began experimenting in farming methods, his life-long passion. He is best known for the General View of Agriculture in Somerset, was a key member of the early Bath and West Society and an authority on Enclosure, and was also active in wool, turnpikes, canals, mining, drainage and as co-owner of the Oakhill Brewery. Billingsley was a man of huge energy and great talent, and highly thought of by his wide circle of friends and contacts, many of whom appear in this book.

He has featured in Weigh House - see WH56, WH59, WH67 and WH84. They are on the canal website if you don't have them in your library.

January 2025, xiii +215 pages, colour illustrations, paperback, £20.00, ISBN 978-1-914407-79-6

<https://www.hobnobpress.co.uk/books/p/john-billingsley-1747-1811-entrepreneur-turned-agriculturalist-by-lin-thorley>

The SCCS stand will be at *Paulton Party in the Park* Saturday July 5th in the Memorial Park 2 - 9pm (we'll be there until about 4.30-5pm) (The show continues with live music and food through to about 9pm).

High Littleton and Hallatrow Village Day
Saturday 23rd August - I haven't had the times confirmed but last year it started at midday and again we were done by 5pm

Ruth Eversley



BIG WORK PARTY - 13th April 2025

Earlier in the year we decided to organise a one-off work party with the aim of making some significant progress on the restoration of the abutment walls of Terminus Bridge at Paulton end of the canal. We have been trying to restore the walls for a couple of years now, but we needed more people to push it along a bit. We put a call out on social media for help and asked all the people we knew if they could come along! We also asked local businesses if they could help. We carry out work parties every Sunday at Paulton, but the idea of a one-off work party was much



more popular. As with any event, we had a lot of people pull out due to illness etc, and we also had a lot of people saying they may be able to come, so we weren't sure what would happen on the day! As it turned out, we had 23 volunteers turn up, all of which were very enthusiastic and raring to go!

Local businesses did not disappoint either. **Robbie Allen Fireplaces** was the only professional stonemason we had volunteer, and he not only offered his time, but we learnt a lot from him too. **Jewson Radstock** loaned us a petrol stone cutter free of charge, we had cakes supplied by **The Fairy Cake House**, **Court Above The Cut** came along and filmed the event using their camera equipment and drone and **The Red Lion Paulton** cooked all our food for us afterwards. **Paul Gilbert Carpentry and General Building** and **Dave Wordley Building & Maintenance** both offered their



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skills for the day and **Studio four point ten** also came along and helped with the labouring. All of this was free of charge.

We had several new volunteers turn up, some of our regular volunteers and some from the Combe Hay Work Party came over to join us too. We cannot thank everyone enough; they all willingly gave up their time to help us. We were absolutely blown away with the turnout. We had so many volunteers that we managed to split off into different groups and did some tidying up work around the dry dock area as well as the work on Terminus Bridge walls. Due to the remote location of the canal, we had some challenges around parking. Two local residents kindly offered their driveways, so we had volunteers manning the parking areas with painted signs directing people to their parking. Even making the tea and coffee for break-time was a challenge for 23 people!

We made such fantastic progress on the walls that we are now considering another one-off session to get it over the finish line! Thank you to everyone that attended.

Tracy Craven



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Jeremiah Cruse surveyed the entire length of the northern and southern arms of the canal after it was built and produced a map of its features circa 1810. This image shows the course of the northern arm through the village of Midford.

The company's plan was for the southern arm to join the main route here. The Midford Aqueduct has been built to carry the canal over the Cam Brook. A flight of 19 locks was planned to join the aqueduct to the canal at Twinhoe.

This is the site of the SCC Weigh-House, it was not built until 1831 and so is not shown on this map.

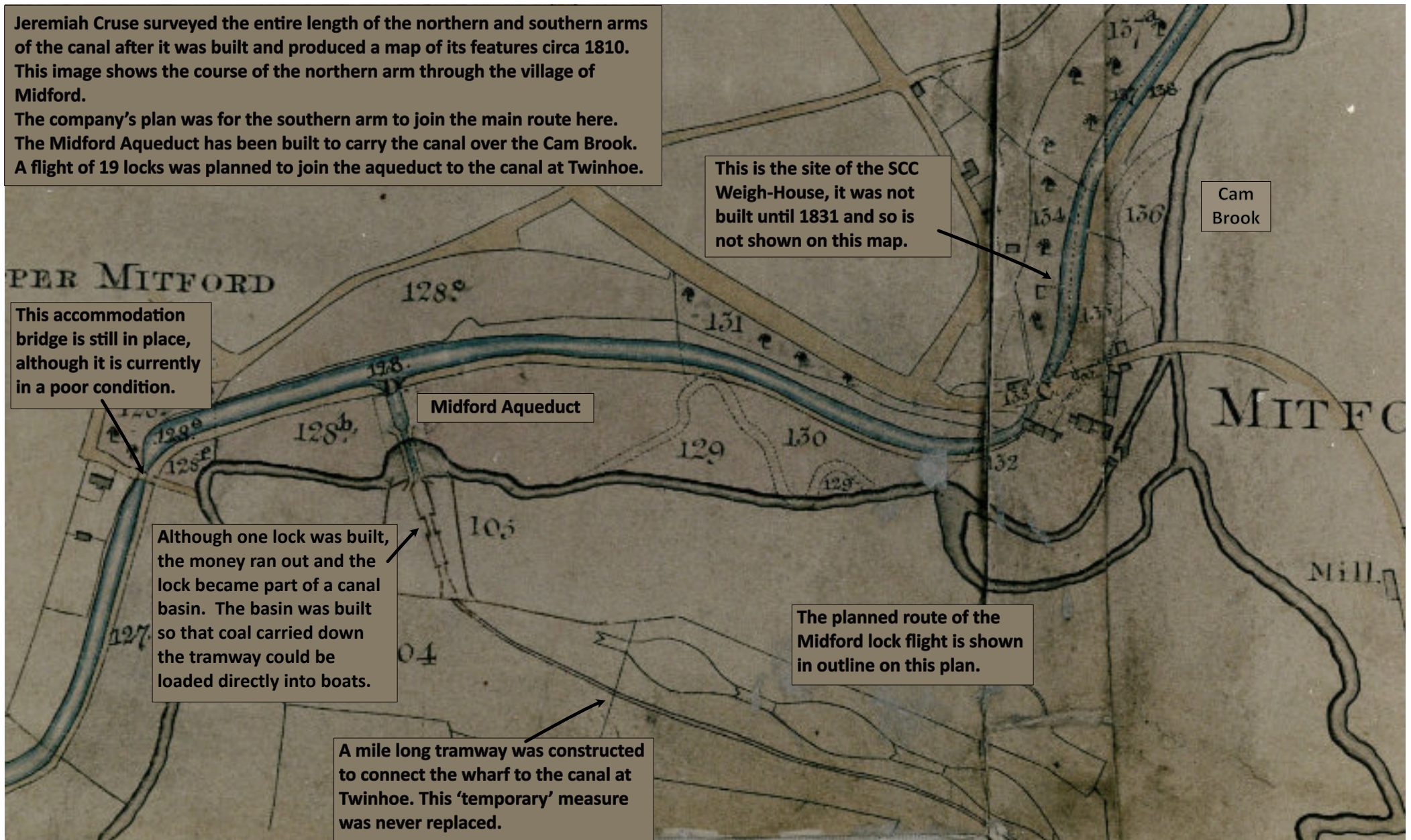
This accommodation bridge is still in place, although it is currently in a poor condition.

Midford Aqueduct

Although one lock was built, the money ran out and the lock became part of a canal basin. The basin was built so that coal carried down the tramway could be loaded directly into boats.

The planned route of the Midford lock flight is shown in outline on this plan.

A mile long tramway was constructed to connect the wharf to the canal at Twinhoe. This 'temporary' measure was never replaced.



Demolition of the Dunkerton canal pumping engines

Another photograph of the Somersetshire Coal Canal has been unearthed. Unfortunately, not the SCC during its working life, but the demolition of the former pumping engines at Withydithe near Dunkerton. Archivist Roger Halse explains more.

The photograph below, thought to be dated at about 1907/1908, shows the demolition of the two canal pumping engines near Dunkerton. Demolition was necessary to make way for the route of the Great Western Railway's (GWR) Camerton to Limpley Stoke Railway (often referred to as 'The Camerton Branch'). The line of the railway already built, can just be seen in the background to the left of the image.



Dunkerton Canal Pumping Engines c.1907/1908.

Courtesy Paul De'Ath

In November 1898, only one of the two pumping engines were working, and the canal was closed. In 1904 the GWR acquired the canal and began building the branch railway between 1907-1910. The buildings and the engines being sold to the nearby Dunkerton Collieries in 1907.

Compare this image to a view of the pumping engines next to the canal from 1889.

Pumping Station Dunkerton 1889.

Courtesy Paul De'Ath



Search for the adit which supplied Dunkerton pumping engines

On our walk in March 2025 we visited the area of the Mill pond which supplied the Dunkerton Pumping Engines with water. We noticed that water was entering the Mill Pond from the uphill direction.

Was this the entrance to the adit which took the water to the well beneath the pumping engines?

Many of us have wondered about this over the years. As this is private land we obtained permission from the landowner for us to investigate. The Combe Hay work party diverted their Tuesday efforts to the search.

Our previous experience has shown that thorough desk research is required before starting work. A large collection of material was collated by Roger





and the landowner consulted.

We gathered on the 27th May 2025 and poured over Roger's maps.

It was decided to dig where the water was entering the pond. However, this was not successful. We could not find a masonry arch and ended up with a muddy hole in the

ground! See photo. This may be a natural spring or drainage from higher up.

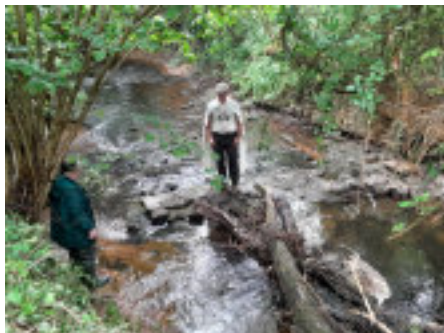
We also cleared the part of the bank of vegetation to ascertain whether the adit arch was in the adjacent location. There was no evidence of any structure there.

The layout and height of the field, and the course of the Cam has changed over the centuries. The original course of the Cam was utilised as the feeder to Dunkerton Mill and a new straighter channel cut, as can be seen from the map. The base of the weir in the Cam is still there. See photo.

The SCC bought the mill in order to obtain the water rights and it appears that the company demolished the mill buildings.

Although we did not find an interesting part of the Canal's history we had a great day out, getting soaking wet and muddy in the process. Better luck and weather next time.

Derrick Hunt



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Dame Clara Butt, our Grandma and Radford

Born in Surrey at Southwick 01/02/1872. Her Father was a sea captain (a fisher man, trawler man, oyster fisher depending on which articles you read?). He moved the family to Jersey, but then came to Bristol as it was easier to get employment on ships. The family lived in South Bristol.

Clara went to Secondary School there. She was a large lady 6ft 2ins in her stocking feet. At school it was noticed that she had a very good voice, and she joined the Bristol Festival Eisteddfod Choir, later changed to Bristol Eisteddfod Association, founded by William Earnest Fowler, (1872-1954). This became a very prestigious group with such luminaries and adjudicators as Sir Adrian Boult, Gustav Holt, and Cecil Sharp. Dame Clara Butt became an adjudicator later on in her career. The society recognised her musical talent and got her an audition at the Royal School of Music in London. She won a prestigious scholarship which offered her voice training. Her voice had a range of 4 octaves. She was tutored by Henry Blomer. She supplemented this with some lessons in Paris with Bouhy and Etelka Gerster.



Dame Clara became one of the first recording stars in England. It is said that Sir Adrian Boult described her voice that 'If she sang on the South coast of England, she could be heard in Calais, France'. Sir Edward Elgar wrote 'Sea Songs' with her voice in mind. In the World War of 1914-18, she sang to the troops. She was one of the first singers to travel internationally to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa & Japan.



She sung to Queen Victoria and later to Edward when he became King. She was so popular, entertaining the elite of the land. It is said that as phonographs became popular to most of the upper and middle classes, that if you looked at the stack of records by the side of their phonographs, you would find at least one recording of hers.

Dame Clara became very famous and when she married the baritone Kenerly Rumford in 1900 at Bristol Cathedral, they ran special trains from London for people to attend the wedding. Workers were given half a day off of work to go to the

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wedding. She was offered Westminster Abbey but turned it down in favour of Bristol

Our grand mother was Minnie Agnes Slocombe born in 1872. She lived in Bristol and joined that choir. She sang at the wedding at Bristol Cathedral. Later on she married my grandfather George Smith. He was a farmer and baker, owning a lot of land around Brislington, Bristol. He used to keep chickens and built a bakery in Manworthy Road, Brislington. The couple had 5 children, my mother being the youngest.

Dame Clara came to Radford to stay at a cottage on holiday. The cottage (Clematis Cottage, now called Bridge Foot), was owned by John Thatcher whose brother was married into the family of Beauchamps, the local mine owner. It was Frank Beauchamp's sister Rose who was married to John Thatchers Brother. John Thatcher owned several breweries locally 'Radford & Welton Breweries', and would be known to the Beauchamps who no doubt entertained Dame Clara at their mansion. The Beauchamps lived at Woodborough House just out side of Radstock. It was sold to the USA in 1950's after the death of Frank Beauchamp. He became the Member of Parliament for the Radstock area, later becoming a Justice of the Peace.

I spoke to a lady then living in Paulton who was John Thatchers niece (Leone Thatcher was her maiden name). She remembered coming to Radford with her sister one Christmas to stay with their Uncle John at Clematis Cottage. Apparently the weather was cold and she remembers hearing the horses losing their grip on the icy road surface as they tried to pull the carriage up the hills from Radford

Dame Clara came out on the Great Western Railway train from Bristol. The railway line was put in to collect the coal from the Conygre mine. It started late 1890s after the demise of the



Clematis Cottage by Sue Langdon

Somersetshire Coal Canal. The Radford Lower Conygre mine had closed in 1920's after a disastrous explosion, killing men and horses.

Radford Brewery had been sold after the death of John Collins senior in the mid 1800s. The new owners where John Collins eldest sister had married into the family Rosseter of Cloud Hill. The census states that Emily Rosseter of Camerton

and Joseph Rosseter Brewer employed 12 men. Later on the children of the marriage, Thomas, James, & Mary Rosseter had become Methodist, so did not want their income to be from brewing. So they set up a market garden, one of the first places to sell tomatoes. They even grew grapes which they sent up to Covent Garden on the train. They had lots of glasshouses of their garden. The brewery and the cottage where sold to John Thatcher. The Rosseter's altered the house metaphorical changing the front to make it more obvious putting a veranda around it and changing the name to Radford Villa from Mill Meadow House.

Clematis Cottage was built for the son of John and his wife after 8 years of marriage. He was a sickly child. The Reverend Skinner of Camerton used to come and visit him and his mother, he wrote in his diaries about visiting the child who was living in the cottage at the bottom of his parents garden with a housekeeper. The House was built as a copy of his parents house. Mill meadow House, now Radford Villa. That house looked north towards the Somersetshire Coal Canal. If you go and look at the back of Radford Villa it can be seen.

Dame Clara kept travelling even having to be brought home in a wheelchair from Australia as she had developed a virulent type of cancer in her spinal column. She died on 23rd January 1936 aged 63, in the same week as George V and Rudyard Kipling. Dame Clara Butt's piano was found at the Private School on Hayes Wood Road, Timsbury since demolished..

Another singer who lived at Clematis Cottage was Susan Chilcott, a member of the Welsh Operatic Society. She died in the 1960-70s.

Sue Langdon

(Details of Sue's grandma from her cousin Mrs Jo Pike)



Woodborough House courtesy of Radstock Museum

(Editor's note Woodborough House is mentioned in Pevsner "House of five by seven bays with top balustrade. The entrance side probably altered. The three-bay arched porte-cochère seems later. In the entrance hall four stone reliefs with classical scenes. In another room wall covering of stamped leather. Much else altered inside. The house has been demolished")

A day with Olivia on working parties



Hello, my name is Olivia Earp and I am one of the many volunteers helping to restore the canal and basins to its original state of splendour and beauty. Despite being tucked away in the countryside near Paulton, the basins are a place that many people and animals visit and love. I feel they deserve to be looked after and become a living reminder of our coal industry.

I started helping at work parties and became a member of the SCCS after my Dad suggested it to me. I was looking for a place to volunteer for my Duke of Edinburgh Award. The canal is one of our dog walking spots so I knew it well. After my Dad suggested I volunteered, I thought why not give it a go and see how I get on. I thought it would be a good experience to learn more about our local industrial history.

Olivia getting ready to use the loppers!

I joined the work party at Paulton on a Sunday morning and it was a great learning experience for me. I met new people and learned new things. There is a real sense of community in the work party and although it varies in numbers, it never lacks determination or enthusiasm. There is always a group out working come rain or shine making the most of the day and ticking some jobs off our long list.

A typical Sunday for volunteers consists of a 10am meet up where we discuss jobs that can be done that day and what equipment we will need. Then we head to the tool shed to collect our equipment. There is a lot of wildlife in and around the canal, so jobs vary throughout the year. Breeding season commences in March, so we are careful to ensure we do not disturb them. Before March our jobs would usually consist of removing the invasive reeds that grow in the basins. The reeds cause the water movement and flow to slow down to a minimum, so this is an important job to keep the water fresh for the wildlife. Removing reeds is hard work and sometimes it's very cold, but it is always good fun. It involves putting on some waders and a life jacket and hopping into the basin ready to get to work. This is a great full body workout! After March the job list consists of clearing the silt trap at the basin's inlet, clearing brambles and other invasive plants. There are also other volunteers that are rebuilding the bridge walls further along the canal at Terminus Bridge.



Olivia in the canal pulling reeds

for just £10 a year. Membership is really important to the society as it helps us when we are fundraising. It also helps pay towards some of the restoration work.

I started to take an interest in history from a young age, so have always enjoyed exploring those little pockets of local history like the industrial heritage in our local area. When I first learnt about the basin and canals history, I looked into it and found a rich archive of information about this key part of our infrastructure. Playing key roles in economic development and growth that can still be seen today. Learning about and looking after this amazing piece of heritage. If you are interested in learning more about this, we offer lots of talks and walks throughout the year that take you through the history of our coal industry. You can find details about our events on our website. Becoming a member allows you to boost our work fund and help preserve our ever-important history.

taking a break with Hilary

Whilst we work, we often talk about our interests or our plans for the upcoming week helping to build a friendly environment where we can all have a good time. Then at around 11:30 we stop for a break to warm up with a snack and drink. After that it's back to work until we start to pack up at about 1:30pm. By 2pm we are heading home after saying our goodbyes and discussing what needs to be done next week.

Before I started helping with the work parties, I had some doubts about how much I would enjoy the task as I wasn't very keen on getting cold and wet every weekend, but after a few sessions those worries and doubts faded as I found a happy and raring to go community! If you are a bit like me and have considered it, but have your doubts, then there are other ways to help us rather than volunteering. You can become a member



Dates for your diary Social Events

Thursday 19th June 2025 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Society Annual General Meeting AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk by Roger entitled 'Continuing the Pictorial Journey'.

Thursday 23rd October 2025. 7.30pm to 9pm

Roger Halse will give an illustrated talk on 'The Early Years of the SCC', from the beginning in the early 1790s up to 1810. It nearly failed several times.

By 1810 both the SCC and the Kennet and Avon Canal were fully operational leading to successful trading for over 50 years.

Thursday 20th November 2025. 7.30pm to 9pm

Roger will give an illustrated presentation on 'The Final Years of the SCC', the last 30 years from 1870 until closure. His research over many years has uncovered financial information which reveals the story of the decline of the SCC.

All held at Paulton Village Hall, Farrington Rd, Paulton BS39 7LW

For the talks, entry is free, but we would appreciate a donation of £3-4 to cover our costs.

Walks

Sunday 26th October 2025. 10am to 1pm.

A guided walk by Roger Halse to Timsbury and Paulton Basins

It will include the water supply, the tramways which brought the coal to the SCC and an interpretation of the whole area's fascinating history.

Meet at the top of Hanham Lane, Paulton at the junction with Bath Road i.e. opposite Britten's Hill. BS39 7PD

What3words joystick.reissued.swatting

Sunday 23rd November 2025. 10am to 1pm.

A guided walk by Roger Halse at Midford Basin.

This walk is on private land by kind permission of Bob Honey and hence is a Society Members only event. The tour will include Midford Aqueduct, the Powder House, Midford Basin and part of the route of the tramway from Radstock.

Meet in Twinhoe Lane, Midford. Directions- from the B3110 turn into Twinhoe Lane which is just uphill from the Hope and Anchor pub. Go over the iron bridge for 70 yards. Parking on the track or in the field.

What3words keen.sits.handed

If you require any additional information contact Derrick by text on 07986 972 984 or email on d.hunt@coalcanal.com

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The Somersetshire Coal Canal Society was founded in 1992 as an historical society to: 'Focus an interest on the past, present and future of the old Somersetshire Coal Canal'

The main work of the Society was to research, document and preserve the canal. In 2008, it was apparent that there was a huge local appetite for restoration. The constitution was then changed to include restoration. The Society became a registered charity in 1995. The Society was re-registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2024.

The Society's objects are:

To advance the education of the general public in the history of the Somersetshire Coal Canal by carrying out historical research and by providing information in published documents and in public meetings.

To promote the conservation, protection and restoration to a waterway of the physical and natural environment of the Somersetshire Coal Canal and its structures for the benefit of the general public

Due to the work that was done in the early years of the Society, we have one of the best researched unnavigable canals in the country.

Registered Charity No 1207513

Affiliated to the Inland Waterways Association No
0005276

Inland Revenue reference code for tax purposes:
CAD72QG

Membership Application Forms are available from the Membership Secretary, Steve Page.

Weigh House, the magazine of the Somersetshire Coal Canal Society is published three times a year.

Back numbers are available to download on the website <http://www.coalcanal.com>

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