

MY LIFE ON THE SEVERN

Chris Witts

Listen to a fascinating talk about working on the River Severn. From his time as a lad in the 1960s on tanker barges, through to the 1990s working on grain barges

A TALK ILLUSTRATED WITH THE LATEST DIGITAL EQUIPMENT. THE TALK ALSO INCLUDES TWO SHORT FILMS

Forty years of experience working on the River Severn, brought to you in one hour with pictures that will have you spellbound

DURING THE 1950S & 1960S THE SEVERN WAS A BUSY COMMERCIAL WATERWAY WITH MANY SMALL CRAFT TRADING FAR INLAND TO WORCESTER & STOURPORT.



Chris Witts left school 1960, one week after his 16th Birthday and immediately began working for John Harker Ltd, a national tanker barge company with a large fleet operating on the River Severn and Bristol Channel. During his three years as deckhand he witnessed and was involved in, several accidents, two of them with fatalities.

In later years he became skipper of two grain barges, working from Tewkesbury to Sharpness. This ended in 1998 but then got a skipper's job on mud hoppers taking mud dredged from Gloucester and Sharpness docks to be pumped back into the Severn at Purton.

“A fascinating tale of life on the River Severn during its commercial heyday”