

The Buckingham Navigator

The newsletter of the Buckingham Canal Society
Registered Charity No: 1072924

EDITORIAL

Firstly I would like to thank all of you who have been sending in content for the Navigator. It has been wonderful to read through all your jottings and I'm sure your fellow members will enjoy sharing your accounts/experiences in the next few issues. If you don't see your contributions here in this issue, it's because of the limitations on space, so keep an eye out for them in the winter issue. Secondly, I wanted to let you all know that I had my first trip (!) on a canal boat at the Cosgrove Lock Ransom, which was very exciting, courtesy of Cosgrove Narrowboats. I am now very tempted by a holiday on the canal and hope to book one for next year if possible. I am keeping this editorial short this issue in order to make room for the first of 3 pictures of the Lock Ransom weekend, which was a great couple of days, despite the downpours!

I hope you enjoy this issue, and look forward to receiving more of your contributions in future, I'm sure the article in this issue will inspire you to put pen to paper.

Best wishes, GEORGINA SORRELL, EDITOR

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THE NAVIGATOR WINTER ISSUE

Please send in all contributions for the Winter issue by **Friday 15th December 2006**, emailed, on CD, typewritten or handwritten (in that order of preference) to Georgina Sorrell Magnolia Cottage, 26 Forest Road, Hartwell, Northants NN7 2HE (email address: georgina@sorrell.me.uk).



Disclaimer - The Committee of the Buckingham Canal society publishes the Buckingham Navigator and the views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the Society. Nothing printed herein may be construed as Society policy unless specifically stated. The society and its Committee accept no responsibility for any matter advertised in, or included in this newsletter.

GETTING IN TOUCH

There is a list of BCS Committee Members and others who are active in the Society on the back page. Please contact any member for details of the BCS activities, future events, sponsorship opportunities, membership details or any other matters.

ADVERTISING IN THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

Advertisements are welcome in the Navigator to assist funding. Rates are as below. Payment is required before copy date. Cheques made payable to "Buckingham Canal Society". 33% reduction for 3 issues.

Whole Page:	£16.00	Quarter page:	£6.00
Half Page:	£10.00	Back page:	£22.00
Inserts	£7.50		

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Since my last 'Chairman's Chat' our Cosgrove festival has taken place. This proved to be a very popular event although we managed to pick the only weekend during the hot spell in July when it rained!

We thought we might have to postpone the barbecue or hold it indoors but the weather cleared at about 5pm and the barbecue went ahead as planned, followed by the evenings' musical entertainment. I would like to thank everybody who came and helped at the 'lock ransom' weekend. Special thanks must go to Linda and Richard Watkins and friends who provided the music free of charge, to Richard Hyde of Cosgrove Narrowboats for his generous donation to the society and to Nikon MK who presented the society with a digital camera at the festival. Altogether we raised £640 for the society.

Our thanks must also go to the IWA. In August we had the loan of their narrowboat Jubilee for a day. As well as publicising the BCS it also gave some of the volunteers who attend the work parties a chance to get out on the canals rather than just dig them! Twelve of us took Jubilee to Stoke Bruerne and back and for six of these people this was their first time on a canal boat!

Northampton IWA took over Jubilee the next day and at the same time presented me with a cheque for £1,250. This was funds raised from their May Bank Holiday festival which they very kindly donated to us this year. We shall be putting the money towards a feasibility study for the canal.

On Sunday 10th September as well as our usual work party we also organised a walk as part of 'National Heritage Week'. The walk started at Burleigh Piece in Buckingham and ended at the bridge in Little Hill Farm where the walkers were able to meet some of our volunteers, see the restoration work being done and also look at our new display boards which showed photos of the various stages of the restoration work that had taken place over the last year.

Members of the society then ran the walkers back to their cars and so a big thanks goes to everyone who helped with the walk and a special thanks to Steve Miles who led the walk and described the history of the canal which proved very popular with the walkers.

We hope to organise more social events for members over the next few months including a boat trip down the Nene. We would welcome suggestions as to whether members would prefer and support this sort of event or perhaps prefer slide shows, quizzes or perhaps a barn dance.

We always welcome your comments and letters in the Navigator.

**ATHINA BECKETT
CHAIRMAN**



OPENING/CLOSING THE LOCK

EVENTS

REMINDER!!

**Make a Difference Day 2006
THIS SATURDAY 28th October
10am – 3pm
Beds, Bucks, Oxon Nature Reserve**

Once again the Buckingham Canal Society is taking part in 'Make a Difference Day'. This is the UK's biggest day of 'hands-on' volunteering, giving people the opportunity to make friends, try out new things and share skills whilst making a difference to local people. It gives people the opportunity to have a go at volunteering if they have never been involved before, to see what it involves.

This year we will be working at the Beds, Bucks, Oxon Nature Reserve which is situated off the A422 road to Buckingham. Look for the balloons on gatepost or ring Athina for directions. We meet at 10am and should finish at 3pm.

All volunteers will receive a certificate for taking part.

So if you have ever thought about volunteering, want to find out more about our work-parties or just want a fun day out, come along this Saturday!

For details call Athina Beckett
on 01908 661217

OTHER EVENTS

IWA MILTON KEYNES

Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at Bletchley Sports Club, Manor Fields, Bletchley. Meetings are listed as starting at 7:45pm though they seldom get under way before 8:00pm. There is a licensed bar at the club, and though there is no charge for admission you are welcome to take part in the raffle, which is the main funding for the meeting and provides for the speaker's expenses when needed.

Monday 27th November

Topic: Decoration of Narrow Boats

Speaker: John Reeve - Chairman, IWA NE Region

Monday 4th December

Branch Christmas Social

Pre-booked event - contact June Stevenson on 01908 367938

2007

Monday 22nd January

Topic: Steaming Ahead in Adamant

Speaker: Philip Martino - Skipper, Adamant

Monday 26th February

AGM - followed by:

Topic: Developments in MK

Speaker: Canalside Project Officer, Milton Keynes Council

Check their website

<http://mkiwa.users.btopenworld.com> for updates or Rodney Evans, Social Secretary on 01908 376449 or Rodwen@scythia.fsnet.co.uk

IWA NORTHAMPTON

Branch Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Members and non-members welcome. During the winter, branch meetings are held at the Walnut Tree, Blisworth, 21 Station Road, Blisworth, NN7 3DS.

Tuesday 14th November

Topic: A new canal for Daventry

Speaker: David Griffin, Daventry District Councillor

Check their website:

<http://northampton.waterways.org.uk/diary.htm> for updates or contact Graham Treagus on 01604 870515.

WORK PARTY ORGANISER'S REPORT

Work parties have continued at Little Hill Farm throughout the summer. The volunteers have now cleared the canal bed through to the Thornton Road and work is going well with repairs to the bridge. With help from HBOS employers volunteers who have been joining us once a month and through a grant they have been giving us we have now been able to purchase some new equipment. The agreement is that HBOS volunteers use the new equipment on the day and through this scheme we have now purchased a cement mixer, a generator, and an angle grinder. We also have a chainsaw mentioned in the last report. We have also been able to buy building material and this us enabled the work on the bridge to come on in leaps and bounds.

On Thursday 28th September HBOS football team joined us for the day and the extra numbers have helped things along.

In October the work parties move to the BBOWT Nature Reserve. This is a lovely site to work and any volunteer working on site will not only be helping us but also the local wildlife trust. As the site is also on the North Ouse Valley Walk the public will also be able to see the progress we are making particularly in keeping the tow path clear of fallen trees.

We shall also be holding our '**Make a Difference Day**' at this site and anyone helping at this event will receive a certificate thanking them for their help. This is a nationwide event so we hope as many people as possible will turn up to help.

For the last few months we have received extra help from HBOS and the Millennium volunteers but from October we shall be on our own again so any extra help would be greatly appreciated.

We are also interested in purchasing a shed or storage space as the barn where we now store our equipment now has planning permission to turn it into a house so we will be losing our storage space. So if you know of anything going at a reasonable rate please let us know.

Once again come and join us on **Thursdays** or **Sundays** or try **Saturday 28th October** and make a difference.

For more information ring me on 01908 661217

ATHINA BECKETT
WORK PARTY ORGANISER

WORK PARTY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 2006 - January 2007

Please note: For more information contact Athina Beckett on 01908 661217

November	December	January
Thursday 9 th	Thursday 7 th	Thursday 4 th
Sunday 12 th	Sunday 10 th	Sunday 14 th
Thursday 23 rd	Thursday 21 st	Thursday 18 th



HBOS FOOTBALL TEAM VOLUNTEERS POSE BY THE NEWLY ERECTED GATE

The Wilts and Berks Canal

As Don and I travel the country visiting friends or spending days away we always try to visit an open garden and/or a canal on our way in order to break up the journey and visit places we would not normally see. On a trip to Pembrokeshire in the late autumn last year we turned off at Junction 16 of the M4 to visit a section of the Wilts and Berks canal close to Wootton Bassett. I was aware that some restoration work was in progress and having been given chapter and verse by the work party organiser in that area, we followed his map and parked near Morningside Farm on the road right next to the canal. Like many other restoration societies these days the Trust are working on several different sites where they have the support of local farmers and authorities. We were excited to see from the road the rebuilt Chaddington (or Summit) lock and new tail bridge. This is set in fifty acres of protected meadowland – so no large developments threatened. An official ‘topping out’ ceremony had been held earlier in the year.

We walked up to the lock and bridge and admired the handiwork. We noticed a fenced off area quite close containing machinery etc. with the name Waterways Recovery Group much in evidence, so they had obviously put a lot of effort into helping the local volunteers in this mammoth task.

We then continued on along the towpath, which is also a public footpath. This section was not in water but there were signs of very recent work parties having been clearing the vegetation. After about half a mile we came to the restored section of almost a mile that was now in water and included a spillway (we all know what that looks like don't we!) and a couple of footbridges.

We were extremely impressed and it was very encouraging to see what enthusiastic and persistent volunteers can achieve. After all we already have four sites on the Buckingham Canal that have and are being cleared. Just imagine the lock alongside the BBONT nature reserve being restored as a feature of this already popular Ouse Valley long distance footpath. We may also soon

have the section through Nick Hawes' farm in water.

If anyone else would like to visit the part of the Wilts & Berks Canal described above please contact us (e-mail donanjill@dallison.fslife.co.uk) and we can send you a map and instructions.

JILL ALLISON

SOCIETY NOTICES

Website Updates

The last few months have seen many sections of the website being updated. Go to www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk to check out the following:

- Click on ‘Links to related sites’ on the left-hand menu to see the *Canal Act*, showing part of the canal act where it passes through Thornton, with grateful thanks to Bryan Egan of the Thornton Parish project.
- Click on ‘Photo Gallery’ on the left-hand menu to see *pre 1970 photos* of the canal at Little Hill Farm 1930, & 1960 comparing to 2006.
- Click on ‘Progress Report’ on the left-hand menu, then on ‘Thomas Milner’s business correspondence’ and then on ‘Hores Pattesson & Bathurst’ to see *letters regarding Thornton Hall*.

Community Car Raffle

I have just collected **500** tickets for the Community Car Raffle. The top prize is a new **Beetle Cabriolet Luna**. The tickets are £1 each but we get 50p from every ticket sold. If you can help with selling tickets at work or to friends please let me know, as 500 is a lot of tickets to get rid of! Otherwise we shall be selling them at the community desk in central Milton Keynes on **Saturday 18th and Wednesday 22nd November**. Please ring me on 01908 661217 if you can help on the above two days or want a bunch of tickets to sell.

ATHINA BECKETT

Calling all volunteers!

The society is looking for people to join existing volunteers in the following roles:

- Manning the publicity stand
- Providing administrative assistance
- Helping out at the work parties

Additionally, due to an increasing workload, and pressure of other personal and business interests, the Society's Committee is looking for a volunteer to act as Publicity Co-ordinator.

The society is also short of storage space, ideally in the Milton Keynes area.

If you think you may be able to help with any of the above (or have other talents you could offer) please see one of the committee members or contact the secretary.



THE BCS BRIC-A-BRAC STALL AT THE COSGROVE LOCK RANSOM – COULD YOU MAN THE STALL AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS?

Newsletter format

As you will all be aware by now, Royal Mail have changed the postal charges (!) which means we can no longer send the Navigator out in an A4 envelope due to increased charges. Ultimately, for this issue this has meant folding the newsletters to fit into an A5 envelope but it does pose a few questions for future issues.

My idea is to turn the newsletter into an A5 document which will help with printing and

also mean that we will have more space for articles. If you have any ideas or comments, please let me know.

GEORGINA SORRELL

FOR SALE



Sea Otter 31ft Aluminium narrowboat Ex Westmead.

Special edition, built to display at 2004 Birmingham Boat show with special colour paintwork,

Fitted with Nanni 3.75HE (21hp) inboard diesel. Bow Thruster, Nav lights, Shorepower with Immersion heater, battery charger, Thetford cassette toilet, Gas hot air heating, fridge, 4 burner cooker with oven, roof hatch, small inverter, stereo radio/10 stack CD system, TV socket and booster, Teak effect rear deck boards and front locker cover, Full front cratch cover.

2 plus 2 berth, converting to a 5ft wide double bed and 2 child bunks.

The name will not be transferred to a new owner but arrangements have been made to have their choice of name painted on. Lifetime hull warranty can be transferred to new owners.

£45000

For more details contact Tony Collins
on 01908 604731 or
email collins.tony@bigfoot.com

Patron Tim Boswell MP

Committee 2006

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