

The Buckingham Navigator

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

EDITORIAL

Georgian Sorrell was unable to edit this edition of the Navigator so other members of the society have put this edition together.

Best wishes, Athina

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THE NAVIGATOR WINTER ISSUE

Please send in all contributions for the Spring 2009 issue by 10th January, emailed, on CD, typewritten or handwritten (in that order of preference) to:

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BCS HERITAGE WALK

As part of the national heritage weekend the BCS organised a 5 miles circular walk in partnership with Milton Keynes Ramblers on Sunday 14th September. 36 people took part in what proved to be a very successful event.

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

The most exciting event for the BCS this year was our **Celebration Day** at Hyde Lane Lock on **Sunday 12th October**. We were very lucky with the weather as it proved to be a very warm sunny day. There was a work party in the morning and then with 42 people in attendance, Neil Loudon from Milton Keynes Heritage Association unveiled our forth interpretation board which they had funded. Bernard Morton from Northampton IWA then presented the BCS with a cheque for £1,000, money raised from their rally in May.



The restoration of Hyde lane Lock was made possible by a grant from WREN, (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd.) on condition that the BCS raised 10% of the money required. Here I would like to thank all those who helped us raise this extra money. So thanks goes to Milton Keynes and Northampton IWA's, Buckingham Town Council, Nikon Optical, Abbey, Milton Keynes, HBOS Bank, Aylesbury and Waitrose, Buckingham. Thanks also goes to our volunteers who have helped with the bric-a-brac stall and with the community raffles helping us get those much-needed funds.

I would also like to thank Pauley Construction who did a grand job in restoring the lock, as it is not an easy site to work on with material and equipment having to be brought across several fields and over a ditch. Thanks again also goes to the two landowners who made this possible, They are the Pullin family and the Maids Moreton Trust and we would like to thank BBOWT for letting us work on their land and helping with advice and equipment.

There is still plenty of work to be done on this site and details about this will appear in the 'work party organisers' report.

Other events, which took place this year, were our annual lock ransom weekend, held over the weekend of 19th-20th July at Cosgrove lock. The weather could have been kinder but at least we didn't have the 'monsoon' weekend we had last year! As well as our usual attractions we were trying out some new ideas this year. These included face painting and a cake stall. The cakes proved to be a very popular attraction and were sold out by Sunday morning.

We also had a return visit from Raymond and Nutfield, Raymond being a restored wooden working boat that for many years was home to Arthur Bray, one of the last boatmen known as 'Number Ones' because they owned their own boats. The public can now visit Raymond and gain an understanding of what life would have been like as a working boatman.



Howard and Megan Yates with their horse Jessie also attended the festival. They drew a large crowd as all three were in costume and several photos have appeared in various magazines including Waterways World and Towpath showing them with their horse alongside some of our volunteers who were also in costume. This is the first year we had asked people to dress up in costume and I feel this helped us to gain extra publicity and put on a fine show for all the passing boaters, local people and walkers using the towpath.

ATHINA BECKETT (CHAIRMAN)

EVENTS

Make a Difference

The Buckingham Canal Society is taking part in 'Make a Difference Day' on **Saturday 25th October**. This is a nationwide volunteering day to encourage people who haven't tried before to have a go at volunteering. So if you enjoy working outside join us for the day. This year we will be working at the Beds, Bucks, Oxon Nature Reserve, which is situated off the A422 road to Buckingham. Look for a brown sign advertising Winslow Auction opposite this sign is a farm and this is where we will be meeting. Look for the balloons on gatepost or ring me for more directions on 01908 661217. Anybody volunteering will be helping both the canal society and the local wildlife trust. We meet at 10:00am and should finish at 3:00pm. All volunteers' will receive a certificate for taking part.

So come at make a difference on the '25th'.

Athina Beckett

IWA EVENTS

27th October - IWA Milton Keynes
Working with Horses - Howard Yates
7:45 MK Village Pavilion
Worelle Ave.
Milton Keynes

31st Oct-2nd Nov - Milton Keynes Canal
Clean Up
Details: Tony Collins 01908 604731
11th November - IWA Northampton
Five Kingdoms Tour - James Griffin
8:00pm Walnut Tree
Blisworth

24th November - IWA Milton Keynes
A Tale of Cut & Trust - Vic Smallshire
Details as for 27th Oct.

8th December - IWA Milton Keynes
Christmas Social
Details as for 27th Oct.

For IWA Milton Keynes see
<http://mkiwa.users.btopenworld.com> for
updates or Rodney Evans, Social Secretary
on 01908 376449 or
rodneyevans12@o2.co.uk

For IWA Northampton 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 has continued at Little Hill Farm and the restoration of the bridge has gone really well. The bricks on top of the bridge being a special shape were causing a problem as we had been unable to obtain any of the same shape from local re-claim yards. Aiden Ridge one of our volunteers offered to have a go at making some for us. Having produced a mould he then went on to make over twenty bricks. These have now been cemented onto the top of the bridge, which has improved the appearance of the bridge. The next stage will be to install scaffolding so the higher levels of the bridge can be restored.

The scrub bashing has also gone well and most of the re-growth has now been cleared.

We have had extra help at Little Hill Farm from various organisations. Our old friends HBOS Bank came and did a day for us and we have also had groups from Abbey Milton Keynes, Open University and Mercedes Benz. We have now set up a new section on our web site entitled 'volunteers' so that you can see photos of the various groups in action. We will be leaving Little Hill Farm at the end of September and returning to the BBOWT Nature Reserve for winter.

Pauley Construction have now completed the work to restore Hyde Lane Lock. We are now having talks with British Waterways and it is looking hopeful that we may be getting some of their old lock gates, which would complete the project at Hyde Lane.

There is still a lot of work to be done on this site. BBOWT have asked us to continue with the hedge-laying started last year. If anyone wants to learn hedge-laying please join us at the nature reserve or if you already have hedge-laying skill you would be very welcome! BBOWT would also like to see more water in the canal bed so we will be clearing the silt and mud from the west end of the lock and hope to re-water this section.

We plan to run our work parties at this site from October to March 2009. This will include a special day on Saturday 25th October we are taking part in 'Make a Difference Day' again.

Plans are also going ahead to get the site at Bourton Meadow in water. Contact has been made with several companies who produce canal linings and we are hoping that with our own fund raising efforts and possible another grant this can be achieved in the not too distant future.

Again everybody is welcome to come along and help. Work party dates are listed in the Navigator.

**ATHINA BECKETT
WORK PARTY ORGANISER**

WORK PARTY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY October 2008 -January 2009

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

October	November	December	January
Thursday 23 rd	Thursday 6 th	Thursday 4 th	Thursday 1 st
Saturday 25 th	Sunday 9 th	Sunday 14 th	Sunday 11 th
	Thursday 20 th	Thursday 18 th	Thursday 15 th
			Thursday 29 th

SOCIETY NOTICES

NOTICE OF AGM and SOCIETY SOCIAL EVENING

The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Buckingham Canal Society will be held on Saturday 31st January 2009, at the Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, commencing at 7:15 pm.

Nominations for the committee or matters that you wish to be put before the meeting should be submitted to the secretary by 17th January 2009. Nomination forms are available from the secretary.

All interested parties are welcome to attend, but only current members are entitled to vote.

Following the formal part of the meeting there will be a social interval with refreshments of cheese and wine. The committee looks forward to meeting as many members as possible.

The meeting will conclude with a presentation from Howard Yates of Carts & Crafts Horse Drawn Services in Cosgrove who will talk about 'The Working Horse Past and Present' with particular reference to the boat-horse.

Helen Preston, Secretary 01280 821232
helenipreston@yahoo.co.uk
16 Mallard Drive, Buckingham, MK18 1GJ

MEDIAEVAL CANALS IN SOUTH BUCKS

An interesting project is being developed in Maidenhead. The Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group has the aim of restoring the original channel of the Thames that ran through the town centre to a navigable standard, bringing boats and water related amenities back into the centre of Maidenhead and stimulating regeneration.

The waterways in this area date back to mediaeval times and were part of a flash lock system, which must have been eventful to navigate!

The Restoration Group is looking for anyone who has a knowledge of or special interest in flash locks. For further information go to:

www.maidenheadwaterways.org

WAITROSE CHARITY OF THE MONTH

If you live in the Buckingham area you will know that Waitrose has recently opened a new store. Each month they select three local charities to share £1000, the proportion being decided by shoppers during that month who put a green token in their preferred charity's box.

Buckingham Canal Society was pleased to be selected as one of the early recipients. In the face of stiff opposition from two very worthy charities, Buckingham shoppers gave 28% of their tokens to the Society resulting in a donation of £280.

The Society is very grateful to Waitrose for their generosity and also delighted to learn that there is such positive support for the work of the Society in the local area.

Saddleback Pork: Mr Edmondson of Little Hill Farm can provide finest Saddleback Pork. He can be contacted on 01908 571260 Mobile 07745 651025.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome another two new members who have recently joined the BCS.

UNTIL THE CUT RUNS DRY

1. The cut no longer takes us overland from town to town.
The water is depleted and the weeds are overgrown.
The bridges are neglected and the lock gates, rotted through.
The Bolinders are silent and the boats have vanished too.
2. There's slippage on the channel; the embankment's giving way.
The aqueduct's a ruin and they've stripped the puddle clay.
The basin is all silted and the towpath's fallen in
And likewise went the boaters and all their kith and kin.
3. Along the banks for all to see, like ghosts in daylight,
clear
There's ruins of the industry that once abounded here:
The industry that needed, once, the waterways to thrive
To ferry goods from town to town and keep their trade alive.
4. The sweat of all the navvies, here, two hundred years ago
Now seems to matter nothing as the generations go.
The age of speed and glamour, now, the young,
preoccupies
And so our heritage just slips away before our eyes.
5. There's nothing here to stay for; there's no future in the cut.
But if we'd open up our eyes we'd surely stop the rot.
A way of life is ending and we let it drift and die
And leave the realm to water rats until the cut runs dry.

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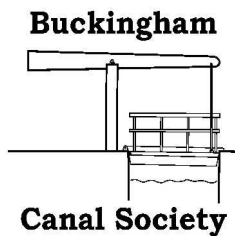
There are canals all over Britain that have been left abandoned when they could not compete with the railways.

Some lasted well into the 20th century before finally succumbing; the 1950s being the time when canals seemed to be most likely to fade away entirely into history.

This song is as much about derelict canals today as those that could be seen in the 1950s.

Find this song at:

www.moonlightshadow.demon.co.uk/SongMenu.htm



Patron Tim Boswell MP

Committee 2008

Chairman/Work Party Organiser - Athina Beckett 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes MK15 8AX athinabec@aol.com	01908 661217 Mobile 07721 319404
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Charity Commission Officer - Don Allison donallison@btinternet.com	01908 610564
Membership Secretary - Jane Caswell 96 Gaddesden Crescent, Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes MK7 7SQ jane@caswell.eclipse.co.uk	01908 282589
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Hélène Hill	01280 813133
Grand Junction Region IWA representative - Bill Upton	01908 647317
Richard Waddy Richard@rwaddy.plus.com	01327 842347 Mobile 07885 418797

Other Activities (non committee)

Website - Len Barrows info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk	
Archivist - Pam Forrest	01908 504017
Rally Facilities Officer - Richard Hyde Cosgrove Narrowboat Company, Cosgrove Wharf, Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR	07973 915652
Editor, " <i>The Buckingham Navigator</i> " - Georgina Sorrell	
Slideshow & Talks - Steve Morley 33 Hambleton Grove, Emerson Valley, Milton Keynes, MK4 2JS	01908 520090

Committee members can also be contacted by post:
c/o 16 Mallard Drive, Buckingham, MK18 1GJ or by email: info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk