

Canal Society

Registered Charity no: 1072924

The Buckingham

Navigator

www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk
Email info@bucuckinghamcanal.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Work Party Dates

Meet at 10am Buckingham

For more information please call Athina Beckett on 01908 661217.

<u>October</u>	
Wednesday	1st
Sunday	12th
Wednesday	15th
Saturday	25th Make a difference day
Wednesday	29th

<u>November</u>	
Sunday	9th
Wednesday	12th
Wednesday	26th

<u>December</u>	
Wednesday	10th
Sunday	14th

BCS Social Evening. Fun Quiz Night

****Thursday 20th November 8pm Cosgrove Village Hall****

"Not all questions are canal related, you don't have to be a canal anorak to take part"

Other Talks and Events

- 14th Oct. IWA Northampton** "Across the channel by train" by Robin Hicks a former Eurostar driver
- 27th Oct IWA MK** "Narrow boating to the Medway" with Roger Squires Deputy National Chairman IWA
- 11th Nov IWA Northampton** "Whitehall Roman Villa" by Steve Young.
- 24th Nov IWA MK** "South Coast Circular Tour" James Griffins account of his trip to the Scilly Isles by narrow boat.
- 9th Dec IWA Northampton** "Bedford-Milton Keynes Link" by Rodney Evans.

*IWA Milton Keynes meet at 7.45 pm Bletchley Sports Club Manor Fields Bletchley.MK.
IWA Northampton meet at 8pm, The Turnpike Hotel Harpole Northampton. Off jcn.16 M1*

The next issue of the **Navigator** is due for publication in January 04 . Your contributions, articles, letters, general observations will help to make it more interesting. **Please send all contributions by 1st December 03** emailed , 3,5 floppy disc, typewritten, handwritten faxed (in that order of preference) to Tony Collins 18 Skeats Wharf, Pennyland, Milton Keynes. MK15 8 AY phone/fax 01908 604731.

info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

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.

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2 Chairman's Notes.

We have managed to get in a fair bit of boating this summer taking in the Warwick ring, a trip on to the River Nene and the Thames on our way to the IWA National. Although the Nene is very beautiful we felt the approach to Northampton from both ways could also do with BW or police patrols to lay fears of security, never the less it was worth the hard work but lets us hope there are plans afoot to increase the facilities offered before it can cope with extra traffic from the BMK link.

Back in July I had the following email from Martyn Hall of Deanshanger.

"I have lived in Deanshanger since I was born in 1958 and have many fond memories of the canal. I can remember skating on it during several harsh winters. I now live in the old Wharf House in Church Lane, I am interested in finding out a bit more about the preservation of the canal and if there are any pictures of my house available. The canal that ran past my house was "filled in" many years ago and I believe it may now be set aside as a footpath within the new developments in Deanshanger. Personally I think this is a bad idea but things do change".

Diana and I arranged to meet Martyn with the Societies pictures of the Wharf House but he has the same ones so we could not be of help. What was interesting though was that he was not against a footpath past his house but for security reasons against vandalism he would like it to be on the other side of the old canal bed where the tow path used to be. His idea then would be for the old bed to be cleared out up to the remains of the bridge and filled with water thereby protecting his boundary and making a linear water feature in the village and preserve the line for any future restoration.

Since our meeting Martyn has met on site with Tim Boswell MP who agrees with his concerns and has written to Local District Councillors suggesting that another open space would not be of any benefit and suggested that it would be a good idea to preserve this line of canal to enhance the "Wharf House in this conservation area.

Maybe the Parish council will think the same and we shall have more of the line saved for the future.

I also had an interesting chat with John Townsend and Tony Parker from the Buckingham Society about their views on the River Ouse and their efforts to get it cleaned up. Also Tony's new film "Our River" which by the time

you get this newsletter will have had it's premier at Tanlaw mill in Sept . Unfortunately I will miss the film premier but will try later to see if it can be shown at one of our socials. When I left them I had the impression that a development linked to some form of basin in Buckingham and maybe joining river to canal was not as far fetched as one might think, an idea that I believe the BCS should work together with the Buckingham Society for both our benefits, who knows, we may be able to cruise the Buckingham arm before the BMK link opens . Now there's a thought!

I am also very grateful to Dave Muston of the Calverton History Project for supplying the BCS with copies of aerial views of the canal from Cosgrove to Buckingham. These were taken from a CFM Shadow micro light and piloted by Keith Hope-Lang from between 500 and 1500ft . I hope to be able to get these on our website in the near future.

TC

BEDFORD HERE WE CAME.

Not wanting to wait until 2010 for the new waterway between Milton Keynes and Bedford to be built and open, **Jill and Don Allison** decided to go by Narrowboat to Bedford the long way round. This involved travelling up the Grand Union Canal from Castlethorpe to Gayton Junction and down to Northampton. They stopped there for the Northampton IWA Rally and then continued on down the Nene with Bill & Val Joyce on their NB 'Ollie' for 58 miles to Peterborough, where they left the Nene to cross the Fenland waters to March where they parted company with Bill & Val and left their boat, 'Cyrus Lily' for two months.

On their return to March they journeyed on to join the Great Ouse at Salter's' Lode. They negotiated the short tidal section to Denver Sluice with no difficulty and then embarked, for their first time, on a leisurely cruise up this beautiful river, taking in Wicken Fen, Cambridge, Ely, St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon on the way. After 21 days travelling, they finally reached Bedford (only a half hour drive by car from their home). They were determined to travel as far up the river as the water would allow. Just before a small footbridge near Kempston Mill the boat finally touched bottom and their goal had been achieved. Somewhere along the stretch of shallow water in front of them the new waterway from Milton Keynes will join the River Great Ouse. Hopefully they will be around to celebrate this event on 2010. During August they retraced their steps, finding a few new places to visit on the way back to their home mooring on the Grand Union. If only we could looking forward to the opening of the Buckingham Canal within such a short time span.

Sweet tooth then join us on MADD Day

Once again the BCS is taking part in 'Make a Difference Day' or MADD day. This time it's on Saturday 25th October and will be at Buckingham. As well as the usual balloons, tabards and forms which they usually send me this year they have included chocolate bars for all volunteers. Hopefully this might encourage a few more people to come and join us!

This is also the day we try and recruit more volunteers it's also a chance for people to try volunteering for the first time, so try and persuade your friends to have a go and join our band of happy workers!

If you can make the time why not come along and see our progress for yourself, I think you will be impressed with what we have achieved this summer.

Athina Beckett

Work Party Organisers Report.

Our overflow spillweir continues to grow and is about 80% finished. We usually return to Cosgrove September/October time but this year I feel it would be better to try and complete the task at Buckingham. So therefore the work parties are scheduled to remain at Buckingham until December. Of course if we complete the work in record time this could change or if weather conditions make it impossible to do bricklaying at Buckingham we may move to Cosgrove so watch this space or ring me if you want to come on a work party but are not sure of the location.

When the spillweir is finished the next project will be to rebuild the other end where it flows into the Ouse. This will involve digging up the path and so the farmer won't be able to use the field beyond the spillweir until we have finished working, therefore we can only start work on this project when the field is laying fallow in the winter months.

We then need to build a new brick arch to match the one next to the Ouse so more challenges for our bricklayers!. When that project is finished we want

to seal both ends of the canal and hopefully re-water our first section creating a haven for wildlife and a much more pleasant environment for walkers..

The Buckingham Society have produced a new booklet called 'Our River' page 14 is devoted to 'our canal' with a very good picture of us working at Buckingham hopefully this may well bring us a few new members.

Don't forget our MADD day on SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER where hopefully we will be "Making a Difference" again this year.

Athina Beckett. Please ring me on 01908 661217 for further details

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Advertising in "The Buckingham Navigator"

Advertisements are welcome in the Navigator to assist funds. Rates are below. Payment is required before copy date. Cheques should be made payable to:

The Buckingham Canal Society.

33% reduction for 3 issues.

Whole page:.....£16.00

Half Page£10.00

Back Page£22.00

Quarter Page.....£6. 00

Inserts£7. 00

WIN A NEW BEETLE CABRIOLET.

We have been lucky in being selected to sell **Raffle tickets** to win a Beetle Cabriolet on behalf of the MK Community Foundation this year. Our time slot in the Milton Keynes shopping centre is:

Sunday 16th November 2pm to 5pm.

Groups who participate can retain **at least 50%** of ticket sales towards their funds with the remainder going towards the Community Foundations grant programme. The tickets cost £1 each and could be a terrific way to raise money for the BCS so please buy as many as you can either from us at the MK Centre on the 16th or by contacting us on 01908 604731

TC/DC

RE-LAUNCH FOR EX-CHAIRMAN

Steve Miles, BCS Chairman for some years prior to the last AGM, is about to launch himself into a new career. Well-known as the proprietor of the Linda Cruising Company of Cosgrove, his new endeavour takes off in a dramatically different direction: October 25^h sees the publication of his first full-length novel!

'Flashback' is a crime thriller, set in the fictional Northamptonshire town of Grancester. The first of a series of stories to be released over the coming years, it deals with the emotive subject of child abduction, and introduces the central characters of D.I. David Russell, his family, and his assistant, D. S. Doug Rimmer. While 'Flashback' has no connection with the canals, the second book, 'Strangers', which is due for release early in 2004, sees a large part of its action set against the backdrop of the Grand Union in Northamptonshire.

Rejected by the big publishing houses, Steve has set up his own company to publish and market the books, using the pen-name of Geoffrey Lewis. 'Flashback' goes on sale on October 25^h - it will be obtainable through bookshops, or direct from Steve, by mail order; the flyer enclosed with this copy of the Navigator gives details. If you choose to order direct, **mark your order 'Navigator'** - Steve has promised a donation to the Society's funds for every copy purchased as a result!
ED.

WANTED

Bill Upton is making a trolley to carry our Tirfor and the like and is in desperate need of a 16" by 1" bore pneumatic wheelbarrow wheel. If you can help ring Bill on 01908 647317.

OUR FIRST ADVENTURE

Let us introduce ourselves, We are Ted and Benita Wilson, We have lived in Pennyland since June 2002, and in April of this year we bought a Narrowboat.

Our first planned cruise was in August up to the end of the Ashby canal. *Day one* saw us struggling to get out onto the Grand Union because of the weed in the Basin, Once on the G.U. we had to stop to clear the weed from the propeller. Within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile we had to stop again to clear the propeller of a fisherman's keep-net, This took some time so we decided to stop for the night. (We could have walked home to bed.)

Day three. Had a rope round the propeller.

Day five. Spent the day at Braunston as the boat failed to start. (The batteries were too low.) D.B. Boat fitting of Braunston fixed us up with an Electrician who sorted it out. (loose wires) all's been fine since.

Day nine. Reached the top of the Ashby, (Lots of trips down the weed hatch for you've guess it, more weed.)

Day thirteen. On the return journey through Blisworth Tunnel at about the $\frac{1}{2}$ way point the boat ran over something jamming the propeller and stopping the engine dead, A following boat towed us out of the tunnel. Down the hatch again to find a tree stump jammed between the propeller and the counter, managed to free the stump with a kick in reverse. All of this surpasses the trip through Braunston Tunnel with no tunnel light or losing reverse through no oil in the gearbox just before a flight of locks.

But that's another story.

BOAT FOR SALE, HARDLY USED,
(Just Joking)

T / B W.

Sorry Ted I couldn't use your photo's of the obstacles, they don't print well in Black and white. The keep net looks like it was built to keep whales in, thanks for fishing it out for us. Don't give up just yet ,boating is fun, honest.

ED.

Welcome to New Members.



We are please to welcome you into membership of the Society and hope to see you at our events, if the distance does not permit this we hope you enjoy reading about our activities and thank you for your support. If you would like reminders by email of forthcoming events and would take the Navigator from our website to save BCS postage please email me at info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

ED.



OUSE VALLEY PARK & THE BUCKINGHAM CANAL APPROX. 4.5 mile.

The first of a series of walks prepared by Peter Bowtell for the Calverton Records Project newsletter with the starting points only a short drive from Calverton. We hope you enjoy the exercise!

1. Park in the car park at the start of the gravel road leading down to Wolverton Mill. Just before the Mill turn right onto the surfaced path following the river. The present building was built in the late 18th. century and replaced earlier mills on the site. It has now been converted into private apartments. Across the meadows on the right of the river path uneven ground marks the site of part of the medieval village of Old Wolverton.

2. Follow the path through the short tunnel under the Grand Union Canal and walk up the steps to the right onto the canal towpath. Turn right and follow the towpath across the bridge towards Cosgrove. Built in 1810, this bridge (known as the iron trunk) replaced an earlier clay-lined aqueduct which had collapsed.

3. Cross the lock gates at Cosgrove Lock and follow the path to the left beside moored boats. After a short distance the path follows the dried-up bed of the former Buckingham Canal Branch which was opened in 1801 but closed over 40 years ago.

4. After about half a mile from the lock turn left away from the canal bed onto a way marked path across fields to the footbridge over the A5 trunk road.

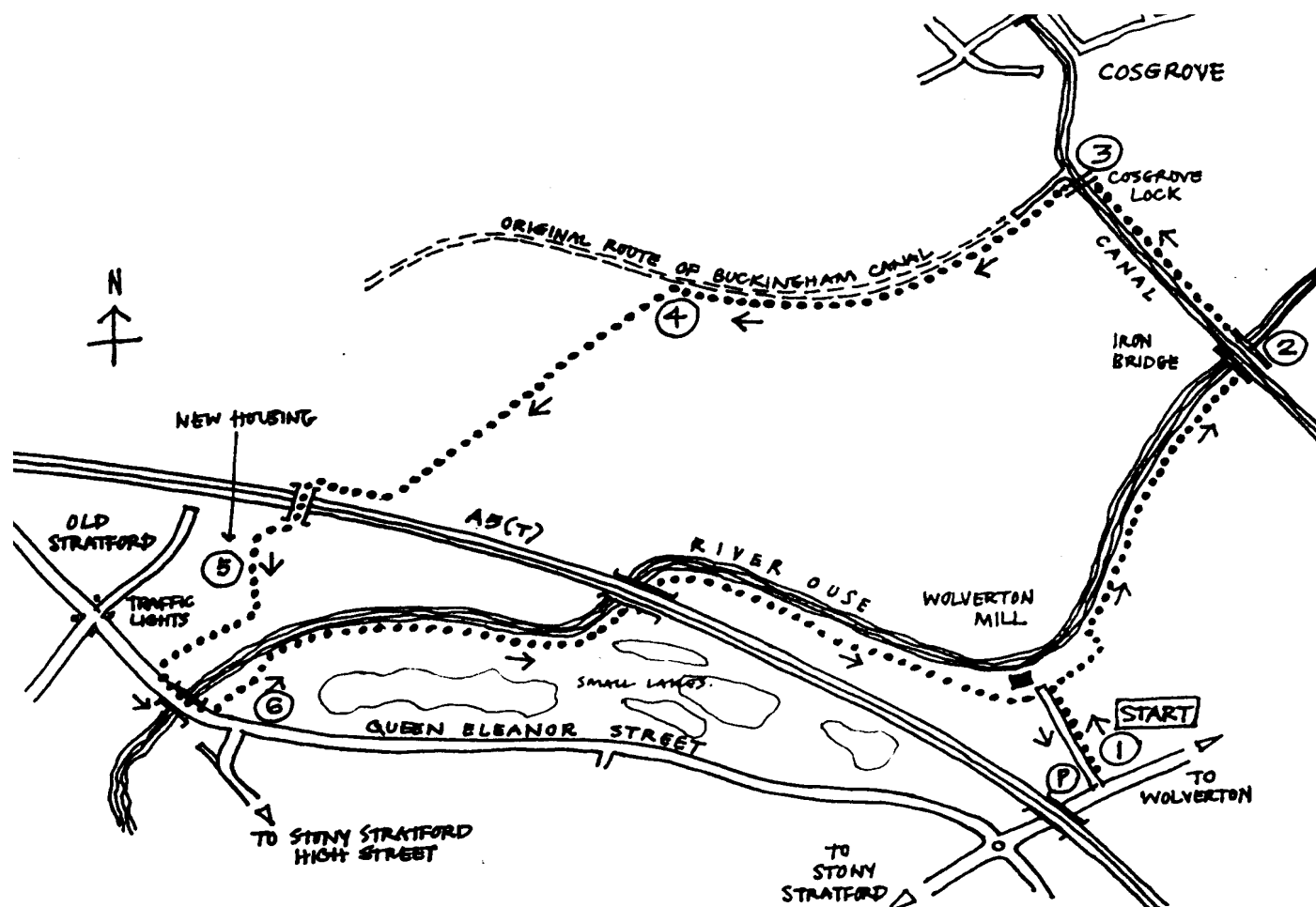
5. Cross the footbridge and follow the rerouted path around the edge of the new housing estate, joining Watling Street at Old Stratford. Turn left and cross the river bridge.

6. Just after the bridge, turn left onto the surfaced riverside path in the Ouse Valley Park. The area to the right of the path contains a number of small lakes, the result of gravel extraction for the A5 trunk road in the late 1970's. It was later reinstated as a wildlife conservation area and provides a variety of wetland habitats for waterfowl and waders.

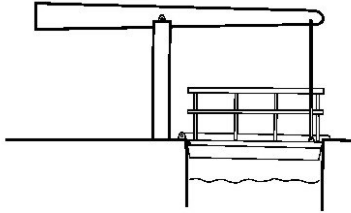
Follow the path under the A5 bridge and along the river back to Wolverton Mill and the car park.

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN WALKING Observe the Countryside Code and in particular remember to keep dogs on a lead when in the presence of livestock. The representation on this map of a road, track or path is not automatic evidence of a right of way.

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Buckingham



Canal Society

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