

The Buckingham Navigator

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

EDITORIAL

Spring is here! The milder weather has even tempted my dear husband to venture out on a work party, where he and his friend had a very enjoyable day clearing brambles and returned home very contented, despite looking like they had been attacked by an unfriendly feline! This year looks to be a very exciting and busy one for the Society, with the grant to restore Hyde Lock and further funding for more interpretation boards secured. What better time to venture out and try one of the work parties? Members and friends are always welcome to turn up and join in, or watch the work that is being done. I have included several pictures of the most recent work party in this issue, in order to give you all an idea of what goes on.

Best wishes, GEORGINA SORRELL, EDITOR

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THE NAVIGATOR SUMMER ISSUE

Please send in all contributions for the Spring 2008 issue by 6 **June 2008**, emailed, on CD, typewritten or handwritten (in that order of preference) to:

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BCS VOLUNTEER ALEX GETS STUCK IN!

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

Our AGM took place in January at Buckingham Community Centre. This turned out to be an excellent social evening with nearly 50 people in attendance. Richard Waddy again gave a very informative slideshow and talk.

Two people have left the committee and Jane Caswell has now joined us. She will also continue as membership secretary. We do still have committee vacancies and would welcome extra help. The commitment is only one evening a month and as the committee meetings are usually held at members houses tea and biscuits are usually provided. Can I tempt you?!

The most exciting news for the society is the grant we have been awarded from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) to restore Hyde Lane lock. This is the first substantial grant to come our way and hopefully there will be more to follow!

The restoration of the lock will cost around £44,000 and WREN have given us £38,000 so the difference must be funded by us. We have been lucky to receive a very generous donation of £400 from Milton Keynes IWA and Milton Keynes Heritage Society are funding another interpretation board which will be erected next to the restored lock. More information about the WREN grant appears in the 'Work Party Organiser's report' on page 5.

With the success of the boat trip down the River Nene last year we have decided to run another one this year. At present we are waiting to confirm the date but it will be towards the end of April. If anyone would like to reserve a place please email me on info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk or ring 01908 661217.

The committee have now set the date for our annual festival at Cosgrove, which will take place over the weekend of the **19-21st July**.

Our bric-a-brac stall starts going out to festivals from the beginning of May. Extra

help on the stall with fundraising is always appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who volunteered last year and helped the society whether on the stall fundraising, at the work parties, on the committee or with all the other jobs needed to keep the society running.

**ATHINA BECKETT
CHAIRMAN**

EVENTS

A date for your diaries!

Buckingham Canal Society's Lock Ransom Weekend Will Take Place At Cosgrove Lock Grand Union Canal

19th-20th July 2008

*This is a free festival but all donations are gratefully received - these go towards the restoration of the Buckingham Canal.
All Boaters and non-boaters welcome*

**Planned Attractions
(subject to change)**

- Historic Narrowboats, Boat Trips & Bar – by Cosgrove Narrowboats
- Music (Saturday night)
- Fender Maker
- Face Painting
- Bric-a-Brac Stall
- Prize Quizzes
- Cake Stall
- 'Bring Your Own BBQ' (Saturday night)

Reserved Moorings Available

The Summer Edition of the Navigator will give finalised details of the attractions

For further information and to request a mooring reservation contact Peter Caswell on 01908 282589

IWA EVENTS

Mon 31 March - 7.45pm, MK
'Hayes Boatbuilders of Stony Stratford' with
Neil Loudon, MK Heritage Association

Tues 8 April - 8pm, NH
'Cotswold Canals Update' with Bruce Hall

Tues 15 April - 7.45pm, GJ
*'Between Two Rivers - Cotswold Canal
Trust'* with Bruce Hall

Thurs 17 April - 8pm, Market Hall, Old
Amersham
'An Evening of Waterways Films' with Frank
Banfield

Mon 28 April - 7.45pm, MK
*'The Yavari Project – Restoration on Lake
Titicaca'* with Meriel Larken

2-5 May 2008 - Becketts Park, Northampton
Annual Boat Gathering on the River Nene

Tues 13 May - 8pm, NH
'General Canal Carrying' with Nick Hill

Tues 20 May - 7.45pm, GJ
'Doggett's Coat and Badge' with Bob Crouch

24-26 May - Crick, GU Leicester Line
Crick Boat Show

Tues 17 June - 7.45pm, GJ
'Lowland Canals in Scotland' with Richard
Thomas

MK - MK Village Pavilion, Worelle Ave,
Middleton, MK

NH - Walnut Tree, Station Road, Blisworth

GJ - Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascotts La,
Welwyn GC

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.

CANVIN'S CONNECTION WITH THE BUCKINGHAM ARM

On the 1st March 2004 Dot and Derek
Canvin flew out of New Zealand to begin a
journey that they hoped would lead to an
adventure of a lifetime. The idea was to
have a narrowboat built in the UK and put it
in a hire fleet to help pay for its upkeep until
they were ready to retire.

A firm called Heron Boats in Mirfield,
Yorkshire took on the challenge and
produced a 55-foot boat to their
specifications, which was completed on time
at the end of January 2004. Upon arrival in
Mirfield, the boat was inspected and
accepted but it took a while to get the boat
launched due to an oversight on behalf of
the crane company. The Canvins then had 3
weeks in which to get the boat to Godalming
in Surrey as they had to return to New
Zealand for work.

With an additional 3 crew members working
from dawn until dusk they were successful in
their endeavours travelling over the Calder
and Hebble, Huddersfield Broad and Narrow
canals including the Standedge tunnel. The
Macclesfield, Peak Forest, Trent and
Mersey, Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union
passed under the hull with no time for sight
seeing. That was to come later. However,
they did manage a day on the river Thames
before finally reaching the River Wey and
their final destination.

In October 2006 they took early retirement
from work and returned to the UK to spend
up to 4 years living aboard their Narrowboat
with the idea of travelling over every mile of
navigable waterway possible. In the interim
they had been running a website which had
been noticed by George and Phyl Barber.

It has come to light that the name Canvin
has a history on the cut since 1858. George
and Phyl have been researching the Canvin
family tree as Phyl is a second cousin to
Derek. Several members of the family were
born on the cut. Dorothy Gertrude was born
at Lady Capels Wharf, Watford on the
Grand Union Canal around the turn of the
century which is ironic as that is Derek's
original home town and his mother's name.

It is known that other family members operated barges; James Canvin operated 'Elizabeth' delivering coal along the Oxford Canal. Other known boat names were 'Philadelphius' and 'Unostentatious'. It is also known that John William Canvin operated out of John Dickinsons at Apsley Mills on the Grand Union. Further research has uncovered the fact that there was a "Canvin's wharf" on the Buckingham Arm 1 mile from the Cosgrove Junction and other members of the family hail from Passenham and Deanshanger. There is far too much information on the family tree website to include here – for further information see - <http://www.canvinfamilytree.co.uk>

Sadly, George passed away last year but Phyl's daughter is carrying on with the family tree. With this much history it is no wonder that Derek has been drawn back to the cut. Recently Derek and Dot stopped over at Cosgrove and walked the "Buckingham Arm" whilst the BCS was hard at work. They stopped and spoke to Athena and her team hence this article for the Navigator.

THE CANVIN FAMILY



DOT AND DEREK CANVIN



THEIR NEW HOME – THE GYPSY ROVER

THE FRIENDS OF RAYMOND

The Friends of Raymond, a registered charity, own two historic working narrowboats – Raymond and Nutfield. The pair worked together in the final days of long distance canal carrying, taking loads of coal from Warwickshire to Southall in London. These days, Raymond and Nutfield attend various boat shows and gatherings for both educational and fund-raising purposes.

For 2007, it was decided to concentrate on shows within easy reach of their base at Braunston. This was partly because Raymond's cabin had to be painted but also to seek new members in the area. The Friends had heard about the annual do at Cosgrove and decided to try it. Despite the moorings at Cosgrove being rather full, the BCS offered a very warm welcome and managed to find a good spot for the boats.

Although there were dreadful problems with flooding that weekend, a number of people were able to visit Raymond and see the cabin. Some of the visitors were enjoying a Wyvern Canal Holiday, and the children's faces were a picture when they saw Raymond's simple facilities compared with their luxury floating holiday homes. The sales stand was deliberately low key, but sales income covered the cost of the diesel used.

Membership of The Friends of Raymond costs just £10 a year, for which you will receive two newsletters with information about the boats and activities of the Friends, and know that you are supporting part of our waterways heritage. Armchair members are just as welcome as people who want to be actively involved. You can get a membership form from The Friends of Raymond, Braunston Marina, Braunston, Daventry NN11 7JH or download it from www.TheFriendsOfRaymond.org.uk

Although Raymond has been fully restored and her cabin recently repaired and repainted, being a wooden boat she needs constant maintenance. Nutfield was in rather a poor state when The Friends acquired her in 2003. She immediately needed a new steel bottom under her hold,

and now the section under the engine room and cabin must be replaced. Nutfield also needs a new counter and something must be done about her cabin which leaks like a sieve when it rains.

To help raise some money for Nutfield, a Grand Draw has been set up for 2008. Tickets are just £1 each – or £5 for a whole book – and can be ordered via Braunston Marina or by e:mail from marty.seymour@virgin.net



THE SALES STAND ON RAYMOND

WORK PARTY ORGANISER'S REPORT

The most exciting news for us is that the Buckingham Canal Society has been awarded a large grant to restore Hyde Lane Lock. This is great news as it is the first time we have received a major grant. Contractors will carry out the work and they hope to start the work towards the end of March. Pauley Construction are the company chosen to carry out the work and their first job will be to drain part of the lock which is in water and remove the silt from to bottom to gain a clearer picture of the work required to restore the whole of the lock.

Any damaged brickwork will then be removed and replaced and the rest of the lock will be re-pointed. On the non-towpath side there are some round bricks which are quite badly damaged. We think they were specially made for the Buckingham Canal when it first opened. These unfortunately will have to be replaced with straight bricks but as this has already be done to the other side of the lock chamber in a previous repair this will mean that both sides will now

match. As the lock is on part of the North Ouse Valley walk there will be plenty of opportunities for members to walk the route and watch the work in progress.

At our Cosgrove site we have now completed the task of clearing the re-growth from the bed of the canal. The next task is to install the benchmarks for a survey to be carried out towards the end of March.

Our work parties are moving to Buckingham for a couple of sessions where we will again be clearing the re-growth from the bed of the canal. Another task will be to install an interpretation board. This will be the third board to be installed along the canal route.

On Thursday 27th March we will be holding an Action Earth Day at this site. So please do try to come and join us and bring your friends.

In April Essex WRG will be helping us at Little Hill Farm over the **weekend of 5-6 April**. All volunteers are welcome to come and join them over this weekend; it will be a chance to meet another group and share ideas. Our own work parties will then continue at Little Hill Farm from 10 April for the summer.

**ATHINA BECKETT
WORK PARTY ORGANISER**



THE 'BEFORE' SHOT - HYDE LANE LOCK - MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM WREN.

WORK PARTY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April - June 2008

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

April	May	June
Thursday 10 th	Thursday 8 th	Thursday 5 th
Sunday 13 th	Sunday 11 th	Sunday 8 th
Thursday 24 th	Thursday 22 nd	Thursday 19 th



VEGETATION AND BRAMBLES BEING CLEARED FROM THE FOOTPATH



SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IS USED TO PULL UP DEEP OR STUBBORN ROOTS FROM THE CANAL BED



ONCE CLEARED, BRANCHES ARE USED TO FUEL THE BONFIRE

NEW MEMBERS

Jane Caswell, Membership Secretary and new committee member, has agreed with the committee to include a new section in the Navigator, welcoming the new members that have joined the Society each quarter.

This issue we welcome the following:

Mr D Osborn - *Worcestershire*
Marty & Brian Seymour - *Daventry*
Graham Tomlinson - *Milton Keynes*
Mr & Mrs Shean - *Stony Stratford*
William Highfield & Susan Browne - *Banbury*
Frank Mayhew - *Buckingham*
Chris & Jean Beddard - *Milton Keynes*
Victor Kent-Ledger - *Stowe*
Ian Lavington - *Cosgrove*

Committee 2008

Patron **Tim Boswell MP**

Chairman/Work Party Organiser - **Athina Beckett** 01908 661217
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athinabec@aol.com

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Hélène Hill 01280 813133

Grand Junction Region IWA representative - **Bill Upton** 01908 647317

Richard Waddy
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07885 418797

Other Activities (non committee)

Website - **Len Barrows**
info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Archivist - **Pam Forrest** 01908 504017

Rally Facilities Officer - **Richard Hyde.** 07973 915652
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