

The Buckingham Navigator

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

EDITORIAL

Bank Holiday Monday 29th May marked the occasion of my first ever experience of a canal festival. We turned up at Wendover to see the car park, a vast slippery mud-logged area which had previously been a field, with cars struggling to get parked, wheels spinning. At this point I have to admit to feeling mildly smug as we drove in with ease in our Land Rover Defender, receiving a welcoming nod from the ever-patient parking stewards. Once we had purchased our tickets, we made our way to the BCS stand, to find Athina and the other volunteers smiling and cheery despite having been soaked through on several occasions already! The bric-a-brac, however, was safe (owing to their efforts with plastic sheeting!) and we admired the display stands with their new information on the society, complete with many detailed pictures. We then enjoyed a Towpath Walk during a moment of sunshine, admiring the many boats including Athina's, before enjoying a real ale and a snack to sustain us on our journey home.

My overall feeling about the festival was that it celebrated the canal, but also the communities that live on and around the canal, and it played an important role in bringing people together. A lively family atmosphere was created through attractions such as the falconry display and the fun dog show, and despite the frequent downpours, all who attended appeared to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and look forward to meeting some of you at the various events being held this summer. Best wishes,

GEORGINA SORRELL, EDITOR

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THE NAVIGATOR AUTUMN ISSUE

Please send in all contributions for the Autumn issue by **29th September 2006**, emailed, on CD, email, 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).

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

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

For quite a time we have been hoping to get interpretation boards erected along the canal and things now seem to be coming together. We now have permission from Buckingham Right of Way office to erect an interpretation board at our Bourton Meadow site and Milton Keynes Community Foundation have now given us funding to erect two boards at Cosgrove. We are now in talks with British Waterways as to the actual placing of the two boards.

Tony Collins has designed the artwork for the boards which will be in two sections, the first giving the history of the canal and the second section tells of the restoration work being done by society members and volunteers and also explains how members of the public can get involved.

Tony has also been very busy updating our web site and has added a lot of extra photographs. This has proved very popular and Milton Keynes Heritage Society tells us that we are the sixth most visited web site on their network. Tony would love feedback about the new additions to the site and whether people found it more entertaining so please let us know either in person or by email to: info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

We now have some beautiful new display boards and a new BCS leaflet all courtesy of Milton Keynes Heritage Society's grant and these have already been taken to two festivals. At the Wendover festival over the Spring Bank Holiday the boards were on display in spite of the weather. I also ran a bric-a-brac stall at the festival with help and a lot of support from members so a big thank you goes to all who helped and braved the weather!

We shall be attending more local events and car boot sales over the next few months to promote the society and raise funds. We always need extra people to help with these events so please contact me if you think you might enjoy this sort of work.

The most important event this summer is our **annual festival at Cosgrove on the 22nd-23rd July**. This is our main fundraising

event for the year so please tell your friends and bring family members along to join us over the weekend. During the day from 10am-6pm there is a 'lock ransom' event where we see boaters through the lock and hope they will give generously for the service. There will also be boat trips provided by Cosgrove Narrowboats on both afternoons plus my bric-a-brac stall where you will be able to spend your money and hopefully other stalls and events. In the evening there is a bring your own food barbeque plus music from local musicians and a bar provided by Cosgrove Narrowboats. I hope the weather keeps fine for us and hope to meet up with most of you at Cosgrove.

Finally, I have a quick update on the BCS Committee. Pam Forrest has had to resign from the committee due to health reasons. I would like to thank her for all the help she has given us over the years and will miss her sense of humour at committee meetings. However, I am delighted to announce that she has decided to become our archivist as this post has recently become vacant and we look forward to continuing working with her in her new role.

**ATHINA BECKETT
CHAIRMAN**



THE WENDOVER FESTIVAL – A VIEW FROM THE TOWPATH

EVENTS

REMINDER!!

Buckingham Canal Society Lock Ransom Weekend At Cosgrove Lock Grand Union Canal

22nd-23rd July 2006

This is a free festival but all donations go towards the restoration of the Buckingham Canal. All boaters and non-boaters welcome.

Saturday evening: bring your own Barbecue plus music by local musicians.

Boats trips run by Cosgrove Narrowboats on both days at 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm
Bric-a-Brac stall on site both days.

For details call Athina Beckett
on 01908 661217.

Linslade Canal & Waterside Festival

The BCS will be running stall at the Linslade Canal & Waterside Festival, which takes place on Saturday 29th July, from 11am-4.30pm. It's a great day out for canal fans and also a good family event.

The festival will feature over 70 exhibitors, and visitors will enjoy strolling around the many art and craft stalls, with rural craft demonstrations throughout the day.

Visitors to the event will be able to cross the narrows to view the historic working boats which include a working smithy, and information will be on hand on the continuing programme of improvements taking place along the Grand Union Canal.

Musical highlights include performances by Bedfordshire duo "Life & Times" performing original songs about the region's customs and festivities, and traditional five piece jazz band.

Other attractions include "A Century of Blowlamps" with up to 100 items on display, regular canal boat trips, stationary engines, Punch & Judy shows, a pig roast, traditional children's rides and the chance to see birds of prey and a number of llamas and alpacas.

If you have any good bric-a-brac for the BCS stall please contact Athina. We shall also be doing our kiddies games which include the lollipop game and the lucky dip. Again we need more small prizes for the lucky dip, particularly objects for girls.

The festival is free and is being held at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park, Linslade so please come and support this event.

Jubilee Trip

The BCS will be organising a trip on the IWA's 60ft boat Jubilee on **Thursday 10th August**, starting at Cosgrove Lock on the Grand Union Canal. We can take up to twelve people but if we find that there are more than that number wishing to take part we could also organise an evening trip.

On the daytime trip we have the choice of going north or south. Going north we should make Stoke Bruerne and perhaps go through the locks. South will involve going through Milton Keynes and seeing all the changes being made to the old Wolverton Railway works which is also quite interesting. We might ask people to bring food and have a picnic as well. The evening trip will properly take in the two aqueducts which includes the one over the Iron Trunk at Cosgrove the other one over the V6 road in Milton Keynes.

If you come on the work parties give Athina your name then or use the BCS email address to express interest in a place on this free boat trip and say which you prefer a day or evening trip.

OTHER EVENTS

The IWA National Festival & Boat Show

26th August 2006–28th August 2006

Beale Park

Pangbourne

Held on the bank holiday weekend, the Festival will offer visitors free boat rides, the chance to see historic boats, a trade show for new boats and equipment, an excellent children's entertainment programme, a wide choice of things to eat, real ales and live music.

For vehicle enthusiasts there will be a classic vehicle display including steam exhibits throughout the weekend. There is even a chance to travel back through the ages whilst watching the medieval jousting contest.

If you are interested in gaining practical skills, why not sign up to one of the many workshops being held over the weekend? Topics include fender making, crochet, boat maintenance and other traditional skills. Advance booking is recommended however - see full details on the IWA website - <http://www.waterways.org.uk/festivals/Beale06/>

IWA MILTON KEYNES

Meetings at Bletchley Rugby Club have finished until September. The next meeting is scheduled for:

Mon 25th September – 7.45pm Bletchley Rugby Club, Manor Fields, Bletchley – 'The Tuesday Night Club', with Neil Arlidge. Contact Rodney Evans on 01908 376449 for more details.

Check their website

<http://mkiwa.users.btopenworld.com> for updates or contact Roy Cleverly on 01908 367928.

IWA NORTHAMPTON

Branch Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Members and non-members welcome. During the summer, informal branch get-togethers are held at The Wharf Inn, Cornhill Lane, Bugbrooke. To be held on the following dates:

13th June, 11th July and 8th August 2006.

Check their website

www.waterways.org.uk/branch_new/northampton/web for updates or contact Graham Treagus on 01604 870515.

EDITOR'S APPEAL!!

The Navigator is a newsletter for you, the members of the Buckingham Canal Society and therefore it is essential that it represents the ideas and topics that interest and affect you.

I am looking to add new features to the Navigator and invite you to let me know what **you** want to be reading about.

Whether you have an idea for a new feature, a story you want to tell, or information or pictures you want to share with other members, please give me a call on 01604 862743 or send me an email to georgina@sorrell.me.uk

Please note that your news or ideas do not need to be typed up, or even written down as I am happy to chat to you over the phone, or in person.

GEORGINA SORRELL
NAVIGATOR EDITOR

WORK PARTY ORGANISER'S REPORT

Throughout the summer we have been concentrating on our site at Little Hill Farm with two major tasks. We are doing repair work to the lovely stone bridge and have had help from two retired bricklayers who attend our Thursday work parties and we also have help from a current bricklayer who comes when he has a free moment.

The other task has been to remove tree stumps from the bed of the canal and this has been going well. We have had help from various groups of people including HBOS employee volunteers, Towcester Millennium Volunteers and the U3A Canal Conservation group.

One of our volunteers has now attended a chainsaw course funded by a grant from the 'Awards for All' lottery fund. We have also been able to purchase a chainsaw from the grant which will be used to remove the larger trees on site.

On Thursday 10th August we will be running a 'day out on the canal' for our volunteers who have done a splendid job working hard on our work parties as a special 'thank you' to them. We can take up to twelve people and will be using the IWA's boat Jubilee, leaving Cosgrove at 10.00am.

Once again we are always needing more people to help with the physical work and as you can see from the above there are some perks like a free canal trip every so often so please contact me if you are interested in coming to help or would like to see the work sites. The work parties are held on the second Sunday of each month and alternate Thursdays. You don't have to be amazingly fit just enjoy working outside with a friendly group of people.

For more information ring me on 01908 661217.

ATHINA BECKETT
WORK PARTY ORGANISER

WORK PARTY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July-September 2006

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

July	August	September
Thursday 6 th	Thursday 3 rd	Sunday 10 th
Sunday 9 th	Sunday 13 th	Thursday 14 th
Thursday 20 th	Thursday 17 th	Thursday 28 th
	Thursday 31 st	

NEW EQUIPMENT

The BCS has been lucky in obtaining grants. We have to thank Buckingham Community Foundation for their grant which allowed us to purchase a trimmer which will prove very useful on the overgrown footpath on the Buckingham canal. We also have a new chainsaw and chainsaw user kit purchased through a grant from the 'Awards for All' lottery fund. We would like to thank both bodies for their help and support for the Buckingham Canal Society.



ATHINA WITH THE NEW EQUIPMENT

SOCIETY NOTICES

Live BBC radio broadcast!

BBC Three Counties Radio want to do an Outside Broadcast from the canal at Little Hill Farm on Thursday 28th September. They want to spend the day with us to find out more about the Society and the progress we have made so far.

This is a great opportunity for all BCS volunteers to take part in an exciting event, promoting the Society and the work that we do. Subjects covered by the BBC during their visit will include:

- The Society/aims and objectives
- Why restore the Buckingham Canal?
- The History of the canal
- Progress we have made so far
- Canal stories
- Restoration sites
- Interviews with volunteers
- Interview with IWA

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.

FOR SALE



Cruiser stern 42ft all steel narrow boat

“Cyrus Lily”

Lister ST2 air cooled engine.
Gas central heating.
Front lounge diner. Rear double berth.
Fully fitted kitchen and bathroom.
Radio/CD; TV/video.
Hull survey, safety certificate,
BW licence till Dec.

Viewing by appointment at
Taverners Boat Club Castlethorpe
Contact Don Allison 01908 610564
donanjill@dallison.fslife.co.uk

Patron Tim Boswell MP

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