

Work Party Dates for your Diary January-April 2004.

For more information please call Athina Beckett on 01908 661217

January	February	March	April
Wednesday 7 th	Wednesday 4 th	Wednesday 3 rd	Sunday 4 th
Sunday 11 th	Sunday 8 th	Sunday 14 th	Wednesday 14 th
Sat/Sun 17 th -18 th	Wednesday 18 th	Wednesday 17 th	Wednesday 28 th
Wednesday 21 st		Wednesday 31 st	

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th January BITM work party at Cosgrove

All welcome, ring Athina. 10908 661217 for details

****Saturday 31st January, Society AGM and Social Evening.****

(See inside for details)

Thursday 18th March BCS Social 8pm Cosgrove village Hall**The Great Grand Union. An Illustrated talk by Dr Mike Stevens.**

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

IWA Social Events**January**

Tuesday 13th IWA Northampton
Thursday 15th IWA Chiltern
Monday 26th IWA Milton Keynes

Canal Carrying, Today with David Blagrove
Idle Women, A Talk by Runnalls Davis
Haunted Canals, A Talk by Jane Hunting

February

Tuesday 10th IWA Northampton
Thursday 19th IWA Chiltern
Monday 23rd IWA Milton Keynes

Back pumps and Blisters in Basingstoke, with Glen Peckett & Steve Morley
East Pennine Waterways, With Keith Noble
Branch AGM, and "30 Years on the Cut," man and boy, with John Milton, Managing Director, Lea Narrowboat Co.

March

Tuesday 9th IWA Northampton
Thursday 18th IWA Chiltern
Monday 22nd IWA Milton Keynes

Branch AGM, and The Russell Newbury Story, With Dr Ian McKim Thompson
Branch AGM, Followed by an illustrated talk by a branch member.
The Mary Rose, With Peter Ellement, The Mary Rose Trust.

The Branch Canal Clean Up.
Roy Cleverly for details. 01908 367928

April

Tuesday 13th IWA Northampton
Thursday 22nd IWA Chiltern
Monday 26th IWA Milton Keynes
Wednesday 28th IWA Grand Junction Region

Archaeology of Canals,
Talk by Geoffrey Starmer
Mapping the Waterways, Talk by Nick Holroyd,
Production Manager, Geoprojects.
Ropes, Roses & Rabbit Stew, Joe Mole remember, Runnalls Davis, one-man theatre.
Region AGM, followed by Inter-Branch Quiz.

IWA Milton Keynes, meet at 8pm Bletchley Sports Club Manor fields Bletchley, MK
IWA Northampton meet at 8pm Turnpike Motel Harpole Northampton Off Jcn 16 M1
IWA Chiltern, meet at 8pm Market Hall Old Amersham
IWA Grand Junction Region AGM, meet at 8pm Bletchley Sports Club Manor Fields Bletchley MK.

Crick Boat Show 29th to 31st May 2004. Stand helpers required.**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.

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

Stony's History brought to Life

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One of the pleasures of giving slide shows is meeting different people and finding out the interests of other local organisations. Recently I was asked to give a show to the Calverton Historical Society. Over the past few years they have been active in building a collection of records and photographs, burying a Millennium Time Capsule in the Church, studying an aerial survey of the village and carrying out archaeological excavations.

At the meeting, the Secretary was showing off an advanced copy of a book, which was to be launched the following day in the bookshop in Stony Stratford. *Stony Stratford Past*, by local historians Robert Ayers and Audrey Lambert, is a well-illustrated review of many aspects of life in the town over past centuries. The aim of the book is not to regurgitate facts, which are already known, but to expand knowledge of the town and to bring to attention some lesser-known characters from Stony Stratford's history.

The chapters are short, maintaining interest for 'general interest' readers, and cover a wide range of topics, ranging from early origins in the 13th Century up to the present day. Subjects covered include the part the town has played in national event, such as the Civil War, the story of local estates and local characters. The illustrations are well reproduced, maintaining the quality, which was normally found in the long-exposure plate cameras used in the past.

Of particular interest to me was the chapter on Hay's Boatyard, which started as a manufactory of agricultural implements before developing the construction of launches and tugs, many for export around the World. The Works were in London Road and the completed vessels were transported behind a traction engine along the High Street to Old Stratford Wharf where they were launched into the canal. After removal of funnels and masts, they would proceed to London on the Grand Junction, or along the Kennet & Avon to Bristol, for export.

This is book which works on many levels; it achieves its aim to be a history of the town, it would benefit a reader who just wanted to look at the illustrations and appreciate the informative captions and it is also a book which can be 'dipped into' at random. I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in knowing the background to a town, which has become an integral part of the new city of Milton Keynes.

Stony Stratford Past is published by Phillimore at £14.99, ISBN 1 86077 266 8.

By the way, rumour has it that next year's publication from the local history 'circle' will be a book on New Bradwell by Sylvia Mead, who is also the BCS archivist.

Steve Morley

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Book Review By Glen Peckett "Flashback" by Geoffrey Lewis

It may seem a bit strange that we're reviewing a crime novel in Endeavour, especially one that doesn't have any direct connection to the Inland Waterways, but there is a good reason! Geoffrey Lewis is, in fact, the pen name of Steve Miles, long time branch member and proprietor of Linda Cruising Company at Cosgrove. Flashback is his first published novel, and deals with the emotive subject of child abduction, introducing the reader to the central characters of D.I. David Russell and D.S. Doug Rimmer. The book is set in a fictional Northamptonshire town, although readers will probably recognise many of the locations.

I found the book an extremely good read (the 287 pages took me just about two days, which is a sign of how gripping the storyline is). It isn't overcomplicated by sub-plots that go nowhere, the flashbacks are introduced at timely moments and the characters are believable. D.I. Russell is possibly an unusual character compared to many fictional detectives - he's happily married, with two children! If you enjoy crime novels I thoroughly recommend this one (and if you don't like crime books read it anyway - you might be converted). The next novel in the series, "Strangers" is due for release in early 2004 and uses the Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire as the backdrop for the story. This will be followed by "Winter's Tale" soon afterwards. The first book in the series, "Cycle", which introduces the characters, will be published in due course as a "prequel" once the author has revised it to his satisfaction! "Flashback" is available from bookshops (you may well have to order it, the ISBN number is 0-9545624-0-2) or by mail-order, priced at £6.99 plus £2.00 p&p, from SGM Publishing, Cosgrove Wharf, Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK 19 7JR. You can also pick up a copy at branch meetings directly from Steve. Article reproduced from IWA Northampton Autumn newsletter "Endeavour."

Gloucester Boat & Watersports Jumble 2004

Press release.

The Friends of the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks are once again running the annual Gloucester Boat & Watersports Jumble on Sunday 4th April 2004 (10am-4pm) at Gloucester Docks. The event promises to be another hugely popular day out. Over 2,500 people turned out last year to buy hundreds of new and used bargains. Ideal for the boat and watersports enthusiast, a vast array of items will be on sale from over 160 stands, ranging from clothing and equipment through to boats, engines and fishing tackle. What's more, to tie in with the boating theme, the entrance price to the Jumble will include special FREE admission to the award-winning National Waterways Museum, which should make it a day out to remember.

All proceeds from the Gloucester Boat & Watersports Jumble, now in its fourteenth year, will go towards restoration projects at the National Waterways Museum, to help enhance the museum collection which has been designated by the Museums & Galleries Commission as being 'of national importance'.

Jumble takes place in Gloucester Docks. Admission charges (which include FREE entry to the National Waterways Museum & parking) are as follows:

Adults: £3.50 Accompanied Children FREE
National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse,, Gloucester Docks,
Gloucester GL1 2EH Tel: 01452318200
glosboatjumble@thewaterwaystrust.org

CFM (Milton Keynes) Electrician and Courier

Tel: 01908 282589

Mobile 07702 668924

Proprietor P A Caswell



Chairman's Notes

This month, Jeremy Cooper our website designer and stalwart supporter of the BCS has handed over maintenance of our site to Len Barrows.

On behalf of the committee I would like to express our thanks to Jeremy for his efforts in getting the website up and running and maintaining it over the last few years. I would also like to express my personal thanks to him for his help in guiding me through my first year as editor, without his patience its possible that Navigator would have been a "thing of the past." *Thanks Jeremy, You've done a great job.*

Len Barrows is also a strong supporter of the BCS and has spent many hours helping out at work parties, so thanks Len for stepping in where others and myself have "feared to tread."

Treasurer Required. Due to family and business commitments Ros Munton will not be standing for re-election as treasurer at the AGM in January. The committee and myself are extremely grateful for her assistance in the last years and wish her well. This of course does mean that we are now in **urgent need** of a volunteer to take her place. There would not be the need to attend every committee meeting if that's going to help; all I need would be your report by phone fax or Email. If you could help call me on 01908 604731 or Bill Upton On 01908 647317.

Show time volunteers wanted

One of our principal ways of raising funds is by attending Crick, Wendover festival and Lindford festival. For the last 3 years Diana and myself have set up the stand at Crick and together with our family and other BCS members have run the Stall. Athina Beckett has worked with other BCS members to run the stall at Linford and Wendover; **Diana and I are not able to do Crick for 2004.** We need volunteers for the stand at Crick 2004. Pam Forrest will help man the stand but does not have transport so help there is required, Athina will help at Wendover but understandably cannot do it all on her own. Please give us a call if you can help, the more we get the easier it will be for all. **TC** 01908 604731.

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Work Party Organisers Report.

The rebuilding of the overflow spillweir at Buckingham is now complete so a big thank you to all of you who have taken part in this project and thanks also goes to ATN Farms who have part sponsored the work. We now have to complete the work by the tunnel where it flows in the Ouse. At present we are trying to organise the delivery of concrete or plastic pipes to line the tunnel and we have been offered some free pipes. If these prove to be suitable we should be able to complete the work quickly. So at present the first two work parties in January will still be at Buckingham then we will probably be returning to Cosgrove but this is a little bit up in the air as I am also trying to find a new site for us to work.

There will definitely be a weekend at Cosgrove from 17-18th January as BITM Waterway Recovery Group will be doing a major strim for us and also removing any tree stumps that have re-grown. If anyone wants to join BITM on either or both days they would be very welcome. It would also be a chance to work with a large group of people and meet new faces but I must stress that on this weekend hard hats must be worn at all times.

The Buckingham Advertiser printed a very nice feature plus photograph on one of our Sunday work parties recently but here I should explain that I was misquoted when they stated the canal from Cosgrove to Buckingham would be open within a year!

As I have said with our success at Boughton Meadow we are now looking for a new site near Buckingham and I am contacting local landowners who might welcome us on their land but if anybody has any contacts or knows a friendly landowner please let me know otherwise hope to see you at our next work party in January
Athina Beckett
Work Party Organiser:

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London Canal Museum

By John Buchanan

The London Canal Museum has been open for just over ten years. It is near Kings Cross Station, an area which has improved for the better in recent years. It was realised soon after the takeover by present management that the museum was on the site of a warehouse owned by Carlo Gatti. Gatti was an Ice Merchant and an ice cream manufacturer who set up business on the site in the 1850's.

The entrance takes the visitor into a small, but good shop and reception area. There is a charge of £2.50, but it is highly thought of by those who go there. Directly in front of you is a tricycle with a metal lined cabinet for ice creams. Nearby, to the right, is a display about Carlo Gatti. There is a canal connection between the ice trade and the present use of the site. Gatti found London ice unsuitable and had it imported from Norway. When in the Port of London it was unloaded from seagoing vessels onto the canal barges. It was then brought from there via the Regents Canal to Battlebridge Basin, the site of the present museum.

The wells where ice was stored have been partially excavated. One of the long-term aims of the Museum Trustees is to open up these underground wells. These are very good for ice storage being below water level and the water has the effect of keeping the ice cold. Also in the museum are the nineteenth century iceboxes that were used in restaurant kitchens.

Just behind the reception desk are wall panels setting out the story of the canals in context. There is, next to these, a butty called Coronis used by the Grand Union Canal Carrying Co. This has had a lot of work done on it in the past three years. It has been opened up to make it easier for visitors to go inside. Coronis was lived in by those transporting cargo by canal and equipment is there which would have been used to cook food. The butty would have been drawn by horse, and there are related items against the far wall. These include things to make cargo handling easier and a horse harness.

There is now access for the disabled to the section with dummies wearing canal clothes. These are interesting to see close up. Canal ware is found at various places in the museum, especially this floor. There is a children's play area at the bottom of the horse ramp. More about this later. Plans are afoot to make it easier for the disabled to get to the next floor without having to use fairly steep stairs.

At the top of the stairs visitors find model barges, which might be worth looking at for those who like model boats. There is also a small area set aside for temporary exhibitions - always canal related. The ramp brought the horses used in the ice trade up to the stables. There is a section on this aspect of the building's history.

There is information about the history of the Regents Canal, and canals in London generally. This takes into account how barges made use of them, and covers individual incidents such as the Macclesfield Bridge explosion. The story is brought up to date showing the situation today. There are maps showing the extent of such inland waterways in the London area.

12-13, New Wharf Road, King's Cross,
London N1 9RT
Telephone: (020) 7713-0836
Fax: (020) 7689 6679

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Patron: Tim Boswell MP.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Buckingham Canal Society will be held on:

Saturday 31 January 2004, at the Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, commencing at 7:30 pm.

As always, all interested parties are welcome to attend, but only current members are entitled to vote.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the minutes of the previous AGM.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. To receive a report from the Treasurer and to receive the accounts for the year ended 30th November 2003.
5. To receive a report from the secretary.
6. To appoint the auditor.
7. Election of Officers and Committee Members.
8. Subscription rates for the year to January 2005.
9. To consider a proposal to introduce an additional membership category designated as life membership. Note. Life membership rates appear to be about 10 times the normal annual rate.
10. Any other business.

NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

According to the constitution, nominations should be in the hands of the Secretary 14 days before the AGM. We would welcome additional members. There is work for willing hands!

RESOLUTIONS TO THE MEETING

Any resolution you wish to be discussed at the meeting must be notified in writing to the Secretary 14 days before the meeting.

Note: The Secretary's address is 18 Elmers Park, Old Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DJ.

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The formal part of the meeting will be followed by a short break and then a **Slide Presentation by Steve Morley on the "Buckingham Canal,"** after which we will have the opportunity to meet and talk. Members of the Committee will be on hand to discuss future plans, answer questions or talk about ideas or suggestions you may have.

W Upton
Hon Secretary.



Committee.

Chairman / Navigator Editor. Tony Collins
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72 Portishead Drive Tattenhoe Milton Keynes MK4 3FN

Peter Robertson
3 Abbey Way Ravenstone Olney MK46 5AP

John Burgess
31 Essenden Court Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1NW
Other Activities (non committee)

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Membership Secretary. Steve Morley
33 Hambleton Grove Emerson Valley Milton Keynes MK4 2JS 01908 520090

Promotional Activities. Mandy & Steve Morley.
33 Hambleton Grove Emerson Valley Milton Keynes MK4 2JS. 01908 520090

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www.olio.demon.co.uk

Website Maintenance. Len Barrows.
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