

The Buckingham Navigator

The Newsletter of The Buckingham Canal Society
Registered Charity No. 1072924

Lock Gates Installed at Hyde Lane

After nearly a year of preparatory work the first set of lock gates on the Buckingham Canal are now in place! Well done everyone who helped prepare the lock, plan the work and install them. See page 10 for details....

BCS Adopts Cosgrove! (Page 7)



New Website Launch (Page 16)

BCS AGM
Buckingham
Community
Centre
7.15pm
Sat 26th Jan



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Navigator, Winter 2012! Inside we introduce you to the new Buckingham Canal Society website! We find out about the weekend the lock gates were installed at Hyde Lane, the culmination of months of hard work in project planning and the preparation of the lock. This project is important as it is the first taste we have had of using construction plant on a BCS site. It is a successful precursor for work on our other sites in the coming year. We hear the exciting news of the adoption of Cosgrove Lock and the length of the Buckingham Canal from Cosgrove to the A5 by the Society. The archive report has returned with our new Archivist. Welcome Jim!



All photography in this issue is © Richard Alan Lewis unless otherwise stated. As ever all comments on this issue gratefully received.

Richard Lewis (Your Editor)

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Work Party Report

Hyde Lane

The most exciting and dramatic event to have taken place since my last report must be the installation of the lock gates at our Nature Reserve site. Over a long weekend from Friday 28th September until Monday 1st October, fifteen volunteers worked to install these gates. I was unfortunately not able to attend the weekend being otherwise engaged with the Village at War festival at Stoke Bruerne but have asked Terry who ran this weekend work party to write a report, see page 10.

More good news is that our new information board showing photos of our volunteers at work and replacing the old BBOWT board has recently been installed at the Nature Reserve. I would encourage all BCS members and friends to take a walk along the Ouse Valley Way (you can start the walk from either Buckingham or Thornborough) to see the Nature Reserve, the lock gates and the progress made on site.



With winter approaching it was felt that the rest of the restoration work on this site, which in the main consists of re-pointing work on the lock chamber, would be best left to next year when the weather improves.

Bourton Meadow

Our work parties have moved to our Bourton Meadow site on the outskirts of Buckingham; volunteers are preparing the site so that re-watering of the canal is possible next year. Trees growing too close to the non-towpath side of the canal are being removed using a Tirfor winch and, to comply with the AVDC environmental recommendations, the bed of the canal is being trimmed from end to end. This has given some of our volunteers a chance to learn the new skill of 'Tirforing', and there's plenty of practice still to come with many tree stumps yet to be removed! After re-watering, the hedge along this side of the canal will be re-planted by our volunteers with native species of saplings. With planning permission granted to re-water this site we are awaiting the outcome of a grant from WREN to allow us to go ahead and re-line this section of canal. We hope this will take place in summer 2013.



On Thursday 15th November volunteers from Allianz Insurance took part in a team-building day at Bourton Meadow. They were the sixth group to join us for a team-building day this year and all have enjoyed themselves and worked well with our own volunteers.



Furze Down School

We were approached by Furze Down School and asked if we could provide practical tasks for their pupils who were taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Several sessions have been carried out so far at Bourton Meadow and have worked well for our volunteers and for staff and pupils of the school. The pupils love working on site and ask if they could stay on longer on each visit. On the alternate Thursdays when we don't have work parties the pupils are now making a model of the canal. They have also received a talk on the history of the canal and our plans for its restoration. More work party sessions are planned in the future with Furze Down School. (Photos of students at work below and on page 6)





Cosgrove



At Cosgrove, plans are under discussion with CRT to create temporary bunds at approximately 100 metre intervals so that tests can be carried out to confirm whether the canal bed will hold water. It is hoped this work will be carried out early next year.

Two team-building days have been held with volunteers from Santander working alongside our volunteers to replace the rather tatty fence across the towpath at Cosgrove with two new gates. These have been much appreciated by locals, particularly dog walkers and cyclists (before and after photos of one of these above).

A lot of exciting projects are planned for the coming months with plenty of work for our volunteers. We have had quite a few new faces joining our volunteers' group and are always looking for new people to take part on our work parties. If you are interested or want more information then please contact me (details on page 27).

Athina Beckett
Work Party Organiser

Since my last report for Navigator there have been some really exciting developments for BCS. Further details can be found on the various projects in my Work Party Report but the most important items are:

- Lock gates now installed at Hyde Lane (see page 10 for details)
- Adoption of Cosgrove Lock and Buckingham Canal to the A5.

Adoption

Canal & River Trust (CRT) has asked if BCS would consider adopting the canal and lock at Cosgrove. The BCS committee feels this would be a very positive step forward and discussions have taken place with Jeff Whyatt, Neil Owen and Lee King of CRT to reach a suitable agreement. We feel this will encourage local residents and boaters to get more involved with the canal and lock and possibly also our Society. It will also provide new tasks for volunteers to carry out such as lock gate painting.

Milton Keynes IWA has adopted the lock at Fenny Stratford and this has proved to be a very positive arrangement for both parties. We hope we can come to a similar arrangement with the CRT at Cosgrove. Some of our volunteers have already joined the group re-painting Fenny Stratford lock so we already have experienced lock gate painters amongst us!

*****STOP PRESS***** Negotiations are complete, agreement has been reached and the adoption paperwork has been signed. So it's now down to us to make Cosgrove Lock an even more attractive destination. Further to this we have now formally adopted the first stretch of the Buckingham Canal from Cosgrove to the A5, and have an agreed list of tasks we can perform with self supervising status. Below: Jeff Whyatt from CRT presents the adoption certificate to Athina at Cosgrove Lock.



Elsewhere, there have been some changes to our committee and more are planned over the next few months. Helen Preston has decided to stand down from her role as Secretary at the AGM. Helen has been BCS Secretary since January 2008 and has been brilliant in this role, working tirelessly for the Society and will be much missed. She will still continue to help BCS by giving talks to local groups, helping at work parties and promoting the Society in other ways.

At this point the secretary's position remains vacant so until this position can be filled we are hoping that someone will come forward as a minutes secretary for committee meetings. If anyone is interested in the secretary or minutes secretary role please contact me.

Other personnel changes at BCS include our Archivist, Ros Woodford, who has stepped down from this post. Ros has run the Archive for several years and was responsible for producing all the interesting articles and features from old letters in the Archive that have appeared in Navigator. We wish to thank Ros for all the hard work she has put into running the Archive over the years. Jim McIlroy has taken over from Ros as our Archivist; Jim was previously our Health and Safety Officer but had to stand down recently due to work commitments. We would like to welcome Anthony Smith-Roberts who is our new Health and Safety Officer. We all look forward to working with him on our exciting restoration projects.

Len Barrows, who has maintained the BCS website for many years, is also retiring as website manager. Len was also a volunteer on work parties for many years so warm thanks go to Len for all his help. A new website is being developed, but not being a technical person I'm leaving it to others to provide more information about this. Please see page 16 for details.

Finally don't forget our Cheese and Wine Social Evening and AGM which takes place on **Saturday 26th January 7.15pm at Buckingham Community Centre**. I hope to meet up with everyone there (see pages 12 to 15 for details).

Athina Beckett, Chairman

Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal

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Buckingham Canal Society, Aylesbury Canal Society.



Partnerships and Projects

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A short sharp and sweet update:

Lots going on:

- Planning conditions for Bourton Meadow.
- Ongoing plans for Cosgrove re-watering and planning with Canal & River Trust.
- Initial discussion with Highways Agency re the A5
- Other discussions with partners and landowners.
- Hyde Lane gets Lock gates (some photos below and overleaf of the weekend).



We would like additional people to give us a hand and share opinions. The working groups are meeting fairly regularly as part of the various tasks to push the restoration along. Give Terry Cavender or any of the committee a ring and have a chat about how you can get involved. See page 27 for contact details.



Not really getting stuck!



Preparation



This is how I plant saplings!



Access to canal sorted



Safety talk

Fifteen volunteers spent the last weekend in September fitting lock gates at the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve at Hyde Lane near Buckingham. The gates were donated by Canal & River Trust following their replacement on the Northampton Arm earlier in 2012. This was the first weekend-long work party organised by the Society, although we have run weekend work parties in conjunction with members of the Waterway Recovery Group in the past. This weekend work party was made up of experienced volunteers and some newcomers, all ages working together.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers who contributed more than 250 hours of work during the weekend. In addition we thank the Canal & River Trust for donating the gates. These recycled gates are not operational but their presence will help to preserve the integrity of this heritage structure. We are delighted that we have now been able to recreate the look and feel of the canal lock as it would have been in its heyday more than 100 years ago.



The volunteers were grateful for the use of equipment from Waterways Recovery Group (WRG). In addition a 22 tonne excavator was needed to carry out the heavy lifting and this was supervised by one of the WRG instructors, Dave Wedd, who was of invaluable help. Thank you Dave!

Initial plans to take the excavator along the canal bed were thwarted by the wet weather and after a lot of reversing and crawling out of the mud, we went for plan B. This was to take the gates around and through the hedge. This took slightly longer than we would have liked but all in all the weekend achieved the primary



objective safely, on time and to budget. The next task was to remove the old lock gates from the chamber. Following their installation, the new gates were secured in place using heavy duty steel banding (photo middle left). Balance beams were then added and secured.

We did not get time to train people on the excavator as we would have liked but more chances for this will hopefully be forthcoming over the next few months as other projects progress.



Hyde Lane Lock is now a significant point of interest on the Ouse Valley Way, which runs along the towpath by the lock (photo left of completed work).

Raise a glass to 2013 at the AGM

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The best way to beat those post-Christmas, January blues is to attend Buckingham Canal Society's main social event. Come and join us at Buckingham Community Centre on January 26th at 7.15 pm (see agenda on page 13).

In addition to the formal business of the evening, which usually takes about 30 minutes, there will be displays showing progress including the new lock gates at Hyde Lane. There will be Hélène Hill's legendary refreshments to accompany wine and we are delighted that Steve Miles, a past chairman of the Society and well-known author, is going to complete the evening with an illustrated talk about Raymond, the last unpowered, wooden, commercial carrying craft ever built in the UK. Restoration of Raymond was completed in 2002 and she is regularly to be seen visiting summer festivals including our own at Cosgrove in July.

This occasion is always well attended, numbers now meaning that we have to use the large hall at the Community Centre to accommodate everyone and it is an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. If you are a new member or have not attended the AGM before, make yourself know to Jim McIlroy, who will be receiving guests at the door, and he will ensure that you are made especially welcome.

This will be my last meeting as Secretary as I am stepping down from the committee. After volunteering on work parties for some time I joined the committee in January 2007 and became Secretary in January 2008. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to "make a difference" and am proud of what we have achieved over recent years. I am now looking forward to having more time to go boating and to visit the grand-children.

If you are interested in contributing to the next stage of Buckingham Canal's reincarnation you would be most welcome to join the committee. There will be four vacancies including that of Secretary. If you would like to learn more about what is involved I would be very happy to talk to you about the role.

Helen Preston 01280 821232

secretary@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

AGM 2013 Agenda

7.15 pm, Saturday 26th January 2013
Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham

All interested parties are very welcome to attend, but only current members are entitled to vote. Nominations for the committee, or matters which you wish to be put before the meeting, should be submitted to the Secretary, Helen Preston, by Saturday 12th January 2012. A nomination form is available on page 15.

1. Chairman's introduction
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 28th January 2012
[copies will be available at the meeting or in advance by application to the secretary]
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. To receive a report from the Chairman
6. To receive a report from the Secretary
7. To receive a report from the Treasurer including:
- presentation of the accounts for the year ending 30th November 2012
8. To receive a report from the Work Party Project Management Group
9. Election of officers and members to serve on the Executive Committee from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, 26th January 2013, to the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, 2014:
 - a) Election of Chairman
 - b) Election of Treasurer
 - c) Election of Secretary
 - d) Election of up to 7 Committee Members.
10. Subscription rates for the period 1st December 2013 to 30th November 2014.
11. Members' questions (notified to the secretary by 12th January 2012)
12. Any other business.
13. Chairman's closing remarks

Following the formal part of the meeting, drinks and refreshments will be served giving members and guests an opportunity to get to know one another and to learn more about the Society from members and from the information displays. The committee looks forward to meeting as many members and guests as possible.

The evening will conclude with a presentation from Steve Miles, author and past chairman of the Society who will give an illustrated talk entitled, "Narrowboat Raymond Revisited". Steve is Chairman of the Friends of Raymond, which was formed in October 1996 to recover, restore and exhibit Raymond, the last unpowered wooden commercial carrying craft ever built in the UK. Raymond is a regular visitor to our annual festival at Cosgrove.

CHEESE & WINE SOCIAL EVENING / AGM Saturday 26th January

**Buckingham Community Centre
Cornwall's Meadow, 7.15pm**



Narrowboat Raymond Revisited Slide Show & Talk by Steve Miles

Raymond is the last unpowered wooden commercial carrying craft ever built in the UK. Raymond is a regular visitor to our annual festival at Cosgrove.

For more information contact
Athina Beckett: 01908 661217

www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk



AGM Nomination Form -BCS

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Nominations are invited from members of the society, for members to serve on the Executive Committee from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, 26th January 2013 to the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting 2014. The Executive Committee consists of not less than 3 members nor more than 10 members, being the honorary officers, chairman, treasurer and secretary and not more than 7 members.

Nominees may indicate their willingness to accept nomination in later ballots if they are unsuccessful in earlier ballots.

NOMINEE:

PROPOSER:

SECONDER:

BALLOT 1 - CHAIRMAN

Willing to accept nomination YES / NO

BALLOT 2 – TREASURER

Willing to accept nomination YES / NO

BALLOT 3 – SECRETARY

Willing to accept nomination YES / NO

BALLOT 4 – ORDINARY MEMBER

Willing to accept nomination YES / NO

I agree, if elected, to act in the interests of the Buckingham Canal Society.

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE:

DATE:

**Nominations should be returned to the secretary, Helen Preston,
16, Mallard Drive, Buckingham, MK18 1GJ
by Saturday 12th January 2012.**



The new website for Buckingham Canal Society is now live! This website has been over a year in the making from the first discussions about re-design of our old site. A dedicated team from the publicity and communications working group has designed and created it with the site being built by our web team at studio 1991. We hope you will find the website easy to use, informative and interesting. This launch follows close on the heels of the evolution of our logo and is part of a wider project to enhance the visual image of the Society and boost awareness of our aims.

If you have any comments, suggestions for content or wish to get involved then please contact Richard Lewis by emailing editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Visit the new site at www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

BCS Social Evening

We meet at the Two Brewers Pub...

...on the 3rd Friday of each month. The purpose is as a regular social and open topic discussion about the canal restoration progress. Meet from 7:30pm.

The Pub is located in Thornborough and if you need a lift, please ask as people travel from various locations.

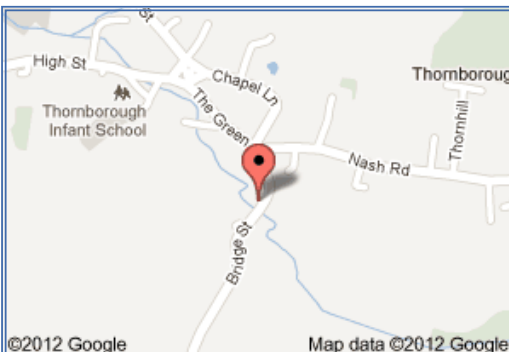


Photo by Mark "Clangers England" on flickr.



The Two Brewers

Bridge Street,
Thornborough,
Buckingham
MK18 2DN
01280 812020

I was notified recently that BCS has been awarded a CPRE Mark for “Protecting and Enhancing the Buckinghamshire Countryside”. The application for accreditation for the Hyde Lane towpath hedge restoration was made to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (Bucks) back in August 2011.

Accompanied by three of our volunteers, Bryan Knight, Michael Rawlings and my husband Nigel, all regular hedgers, I attended the CPRE Bucks AGM. The invited CPRE speaker talked about, “Discovering the Countryside”. It was reassuring to learn how closely our environmental aspirations match those of the CPRE.

Only three groups were judged to be worthy of the award. One was the Brill Village Herd Society whose cattle are being used to manage sustainable grazing of their local common. The third was the AVDC Biodiversity Birthday Project, in which a grant-funded biodiversity officer was briefed to involve young people and volunteers focussing on conservation of barn owls, bats, black poplars and wildlife in towns.

Beautifully framed certificates for the “Buckingham Canal Hedgerow Project” were presented to us all by Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, vice-president of CPRE (Bucks). I also received an impressive CPRE MARK plaque which will be displayed at the Hyde Lane site.



Helen Preston

A note from your Editor

The photo below is of some rather festive red berries growing alongside the canal at Bourton Meadow. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Merry
Christmas
to all BCS
Members

Anton and the Tirfor

The Buckingham Canal Society - a new volunteer's first impression.

Following another enjoyable canal holiday this year, taking a boat from Gailey to Fazeley, then up to Atherstone and back (part of the top side of the Birmingham Ring plus a small diversion or two), I came back with the desire to find a way to get more involved with the waterways. The Buckingham Canal Society, of which I was previously unaware, has provided exactly that opportunity. My wife found their website, and a read through the pages gave a good indication that this was exactly what I was looking for. A quick e-mail to Athina, followed by a friendly response and the time and place of the next working party session was all I needed to get started.



So, at 10am on Sunday 11th November, I met up with the volunteer group led by Athina at the lay-by next to Bourton Meadow Academy for my first session. Old clothes and either safety boots or stout walking boots are mandatory, everything else is provided, including high-vis vests, helmets and any other task-specific safety equipment. All tools are also provided, as is a Health & Safety briefing for new volunteers.

The main task at present at the Bourton Meadow site is clearing back vegetation from the canal edge, ready for excavation and re-lining next year. Hawthorn is being left in place where possible, or re-planted if necessary, to provide the foundations of a hedge that will ultimately be re-planted and re-laid. The brambles and alder are being removed between the hedge line and the canal channel, using a combination of strimmers, bow-saws, loppers, brute force, thick gloves, bonfires and the tirfor. This is a man-powered winch that is perfect for root removal of even the most stubborn vegetation, and



is very satisfying to use, with appropriate training on how to make the best use of it. All of the work was, for me, enjoyably physical, particularly on a sunny Autumn day, but you can work at your own pace and ability and do as much as you want to. The volunteer group is very friendly, with people from all walks of life providing a

range of skills and experiences. The most satisfying part of the day is when you can look back at the end of it and see what a difference a group of volunteers can make to the site in a few hours.

There are working parties at various locations on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and on alternate Thursdays, from 10am until 3pm, with time out for a tea break and a lunch break, which provides the opportunity for people to rotate tasks, but more importantly, to get to know each other, share skills and knowledge, discuss the details of the project and find other ways to contribute to the BCS should you want to do more.



My first session was thoroughly enjoyable, and I'm already looking forward to the next one. More importantly, next year should see this stretch of canal being re-lined and re-filled, which will be a real milestone for the BCS and proof for Buckingham that this is a real, long term project that will provide significant benefits to the area, not just a pipe dream. As more stretches are renovated, refilled and ultimately reconnected, the chance of once again seeing canal boats arrive in Buckingham will become a reality. So, if any of this appeals to you, why not volunteer as well?

Anton Hobbs - BCS Volunteer



The Buckingham Canal Society has detailed archives consisting of articles, correspondence, maps, photographs and information on the construction, development, and operation of the Buckingham Arm from 1801 onwards. In addition there are the records and proceedings of the Society from inception in 1992. The majority of this information is currently in paper form. A project is underway to digitise all of this information and allow the archives to be viewed on or via the website. Although this will take some time, information, as available, will be progressively added to the website.

In my first article in the Navigator I thought I might share with you the text of an article that was published in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' on the 1st May 1801.

'The branch of the Canal from Buckingham to the Grand Junction Canal was opened this day with great rejoicings. A barge with the Marquis of Buckingham, Mr. Praed, and Mr. Selby (Gentlemen of the Committee) and Mr. Box, the Treasurer, accompanied by a large party of Ladies and Gentlemen, and a band of music, led the way to the procession of 12 barges, laden with coal, slate, and a variety of merchandise. Upon their entrance to the basin at Buckingham they were saluted by the firing of several cannon. A numerous party were handsomely entertained by the Marquis of Bath at the 'Cobham Arms Inn' on this occasion, and a liberal supply of beer was given to the populace. This branch of the Canal, 9 1/4 miles in length, has been completed in about eight months, and will secure to an extensive distance of country most substantial benefits.'

On the next page you can see a photo and accompanying letter from Rod Nicholls. My thanks go to Mr Nicholls for sending this in for us to all enjoy, I will add it to our archives.

If you have a query, or would like to send us any information for addition, please contact me.

Jim McIlroy, Archivist

jim.mcilroy@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Letter From Rod Nicholls

[About the photo below] I think its the section along the Old Stratford to Deanshanger [part of the canal] near one of the lift bridges. The old gent sitting on the fence could be my great grandfather Mr Henry Nicholls. My uncle Norman Nicholls used to skate along the canal by moonlight and slide under the bridges. Mrs Connie Stokes told me when she was a child she would go by canoe from Yardley Gobion to visit relatives who lived in Deanshanger. She remembers operating the lift bridges to let her father through. The photo was take by my father Mr Ted Nicholls with a box Brownie camera. My great grandfather Mr George Jeffrey worked as a boatman (Bargee) and according to relatives worked the Buckingham Arm.

Rod Nicholls



New Members

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Society:-

Tony Purbrick

Bicester

Roger Davies

Burnham on Crouch

Alan Mynard

Milton Keynes

Anthony and Hillian Smith Roberts

Granborough

Kanchan Sharma

Milton Keynes

Situations Vacant

Minutes Secretary

BCS has a vacancy for a minutes secretary. Main responsibilities are to provide secretarial services and support, and to take minutes at BCS Committee meetings which are held from 7.45 to 10.00pm on the first Thursday of most months. Desirable: an interest in canals.

Secretary

To perform responsibilities as per the Minutes Secretary. In addition other responsibilities include: to prepare agendas for meetings, to be responsible for the organisation of the AGM, to represent BCS trustees, to take the lead on monitoring the constitution, to keep policy documentation up to date, to handle BCS correspondence, to contribute to strategic planning and to provide other administrative and secretarial support where necessary. Desirable: an interest in canals.

Projects and Work Party Planning Assistant

BCS is looking for volunteers to help out with projects and work party planning.
Contact Terry or Athina for info.

Publicity Officer

BCS is expanding as a Society and Charity and is in URGENT need of an enthusiastic volunteer to fill this post and help promote us far and wide!

Researcher

Our projects require a great deal of varied research. We are looking for several volunteers to help us perform this work. No experience necessary.

Partnerships and Patrons

We are very grateful for the continued support of our patrons:

- Rt Hon John Bercow MP
- Lord Boswell of Aynho

We have formal partnerships with the following:

- Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)
- Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)
- South Northants District Council
- Buckingham Town Council
- Canal and River Trust
- IWA Corporate Member

We have been recognised by the following:

- Cosgrove Parish Council
- Thornborough Parish Council
- Maids Moreton Parish Council
- Thornton Parish Meeting
- Deanshanger Parish Council
- Foscote Parish Meeting

Corporate Members

Wyvern Shipping Co.



Taverners Boat Club



Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.



Braunston Marina



Upcoming Events

24

Tuesday 8th January 8.00pm
IWA Northants Talk, tba
Walnut Tree pub, Blisworth NN7 3DS

Friday 18th January 8.00pm
Fancy a Natter
BCS Pub Evening
2 Brewers Pub, Thornborough
MK18 2DN

Saturday 26th January 7.15pm
Buckingham Canal Society AGM
Buckingham Community Centre
Buckingham MK18 1RP

Monday 28th January 7.45pm
IWA Milton Keynes
Historic Waterways Films
David Tucker
Milton Keynes Village Pavilion,
Worrelle Avenue
Middleton, Milton Keynes MK10 9AD

Tuesday 12th February 8.00pm
IWA Northants, Talk, tba
Walnut Tree pub, Blisworth NN7 3DS

Friday 15th February 8.00pm
Fancy a Natter
BCS Pub Evening
2 Brewers pub, Thornborough
MK18 2DN

Monday 25th February 7.45pm
IWA Milton Keynes
AGM followed by a showing of the
TV Visit to GU in the MK Area
Milton Keynes Village Pavilion,
Worrelle Avenue
Middleton, Milton Keynes MK10 9AD

Tuesday 12th March 8.00pm
IWA Northants, talk, tba
Walnut Tree pub, Blisworth NN7 3DS

Friday 15th March 8.00pm
Fancy a Natter
BCS Pub Evening
2 Brewers Pub, Thornborough
MK18 2DN

Friday 22nd-Sunday 24th March
IWA Milton Keynes
Canal Clean-Up
Meet Fenny Stratford

Monday 25th March 7.45pm
IWA Milton Keynes
Foxton Inclined Plane-
restoration progress
Speaker Michael Beech, Foxton
Inclined Plane Trust
Milton Keynes Village Pavilion,
Worrelle Avenue
Middleton, Milton Keynes MK10 9AD

Tuesday 9th April 8.00pm
IWA Northants, talk, tba
Walnut Tree pub, Blisworth NN7 3DS

Friday 19th April 8.00pm
Fancy a Natter
BCS Pub Evening
2 Brewers Pub, Thornborough
MK18 2DN

Monday 22nd April 7.45pm
IWA Milton Keynes
Waterways Photography Secrets
Speaker Robin Smithett
Milton Keynes Village Pavilion,
Worrelle Avenue
Middleton, Milton Keynes MK10 9AD

December

Sunday 9th
Thursday 13th
Thursday 27th

January

Thursday 10th
Sunday 13th
Thursday 24th

February

Thursday 7th
Sunday 10th
Thursday 21st

March

Thursday 7th
Sunday 10th
Thursday 21st

April

Thursday 4th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 18th

May

Thursday 2nd
Sunday 12th
Thursday 16th
Thursday 30th

June

Sunday 9th
Thursday 13th
Thursday 27th

July

Thursday 11th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 25th

August

Thursday 8th
Sunday 11th
Thursday 22nd

September

Thursday 5th
Sunday 8th
Thursday 19th

October

Thursday 3rd
Sunday 13th
Thursday 17th
Thursday 31st

November

Sunday 10th
Thursday 14th
Thursday 28th

Next Navigator

So we are nearing the end of another issue of the Navigator and I am sure many of you are eager for more. You can be part of what appears in the next issue. There are regular items from the committee but there is space assigned to YOU for your submissions. I am also always very interested to hear what you think of the newsletter and comments are most welcome!

Please submit all contributions for the Spring Issue by the 10th March 2013
Emailed, on CD, typewritten or handwritten (in that order of preference) to :
editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk OR Richard Lewis, Hillcrest, Akeley, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 5HL

Adverts in the Navigator

We welcome advertisements 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

• Inserts: £7.50
• Back Page: £22.00

Athina Beckett

Chairman and Work Party Leader

Athina was employed for many years at the BBC, starting work for them at Ealing Film Studios. She then moved to work in radio and, after taking a job at Alexandra Palace with the BBC, moved to Milton Keynes with the Open University. Taking very early retirement from the BBC she worked for five years at Canal Craft selling canal boats and also for their sister company Blisworth Tunnel Boats. She has her own narrowboat, Brown Trout, moored at Pennyland Marina close to where she lives. Athina joined the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) as a conservation volunteer and later became part of BITM Waterway Recovery Group (WRG). Working as a volunteer for WRG meant joining weekend 'digs' for various canal societies in different parts of the country.

Joining Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) in 1993 as a volunteer, she became work party leader in 1997. When BCS formed a partnership with BBOWT (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust) she became a 'key volunteer' for them, leading combined work parties for the two organisations. She became Chairman of Buckingham Canal Society in 2006.



Bill Upton

Committee Member

Bill is a retired Chartered Engineer. Originally with a grounding in machine tools, precision measurement and defence equipment, he has also worked in the electrical industry. His experience includes manufacture, design and management and also the development of international technical agreements. He first became interested in canals in the 1940s, when the Coventry Canal was still in commercial use inside the city and has holidayed on hire boats and hotel boats since 1971 when he joined the Inland Waterways Association. Bill joined BCS and its work parties in 1997, joined the Committee in 1999, and was the Secretary from 2001 to 2006, Boat Rally administrator for about five years and was BCS Grand Junction representative for its final year. He has also assisted with various general activities of the Society. Bill's other interests include travel, sailing, military history and walking.



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Bill Upton
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Vacancy



Vacancy



Vacancy



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Don Allison - Charity Commission Officer
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Anthony Smith Roberts - Health
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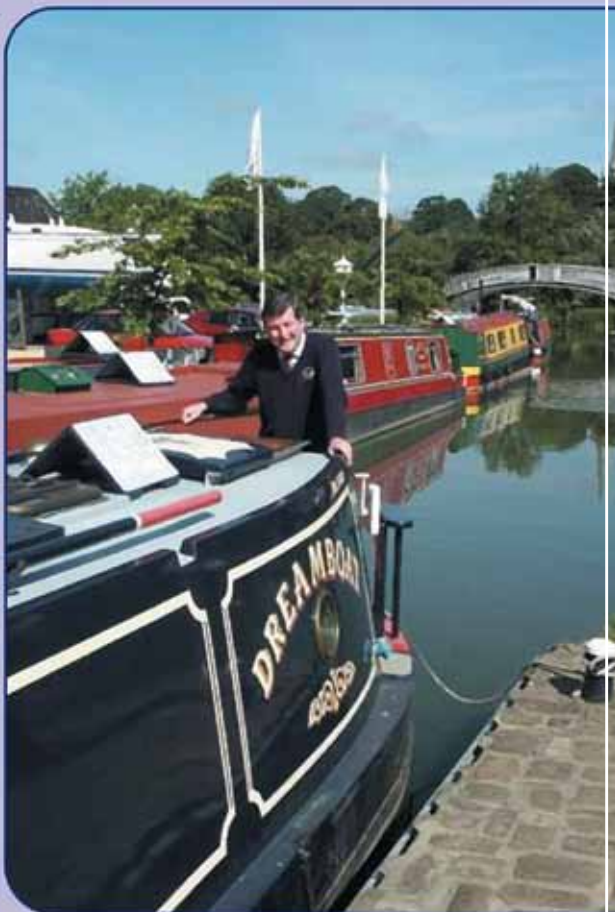
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