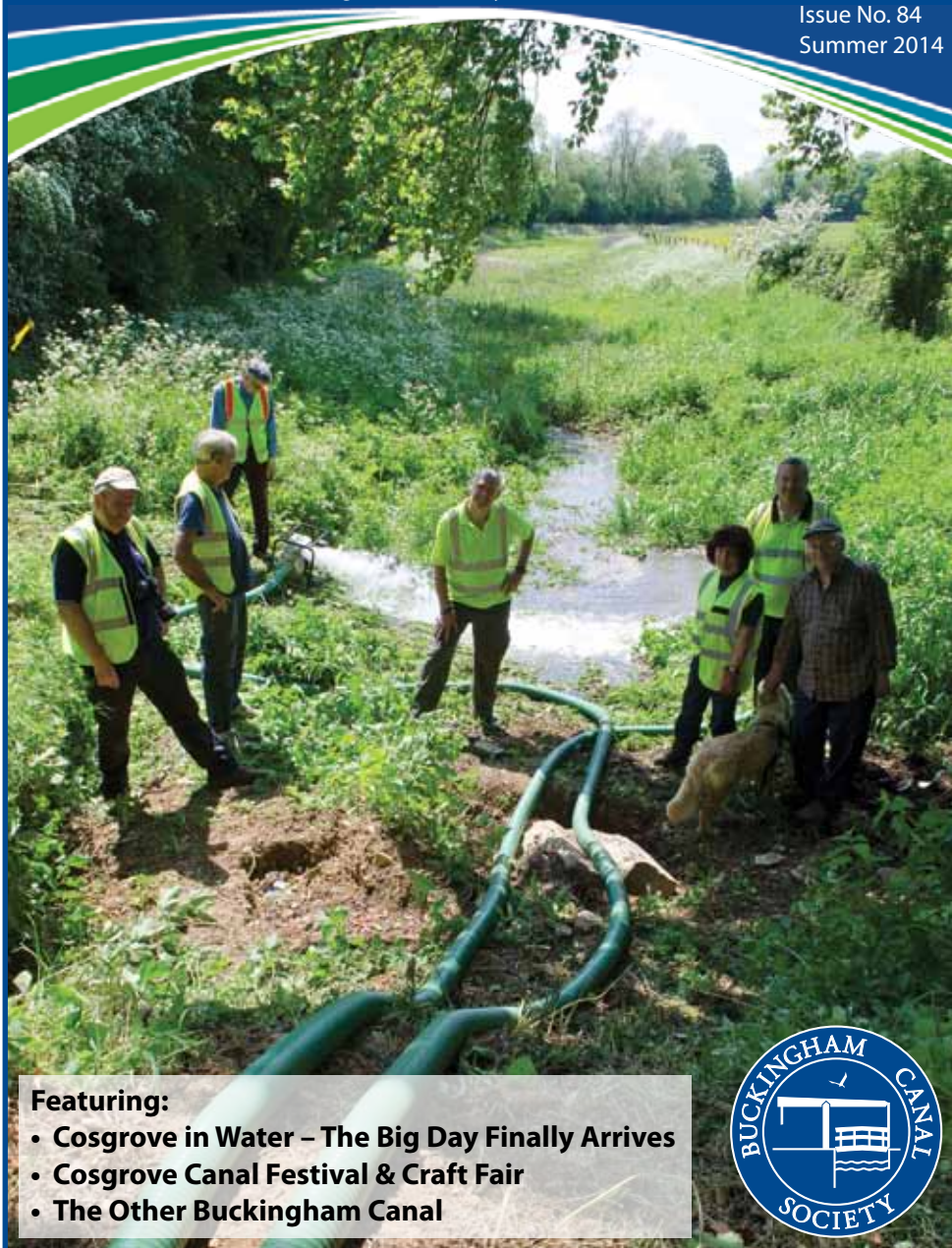


THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 84
Summer 2014



Featuring:

- Cosgrove in Water – The Big Day Finally Arrives
- Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair
- The Other Buckingham Canal



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Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2014 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

Well, this is my first issue, going it alone as a fully fledged newsletter editor. I say going it alone, but that's not really true as I have an enthusiastic team around me, feeding me new ideas, up to date news and interesting articles, and all the while being dependable if I need any help. Thank you to all the contributors, and special thanks as always to Christina at Black Dog Design for her work on the layout and design of this Issue! It's a very important time of year for the Society, as we have successfully started re-watering trials in the Cosgrove section of the canal, made possible by hosting our biggest corporate volunteer dig ever as part of a two day bund building project. We have our Cosgrove Canal Festival coming up, and this year it has grown, to include a Craft Fair too in the Village Hall. Finally, you may just notice a very familiar name within these pages, contributing their first article!

All photography in this issue is © Ian Matson or Richard Alan Lewis unless otherwise stated. Why not drop me an email about what you enjoyed in this issue? Furthermore, why not contribute ideas or articles for future editions. Details can be found on page 26. Please visit BCS at www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk, and while you're online, keep up to date on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BuckinghamCanalSociety. Thank you!



Ian Matson
Editor

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Please re-use this publication which incorporates a variety of information about some of our activities, to promote the work of the Buckingham Canal Society to a friend / neighbour / colleague / relative or other interested people.

Restoration Site Update

Bourton Meadow Springs to Life

This spring, our volunteers have been busy on all four of our sites. At Bourton Meadow the marginal plants that we planted last year are doing well and the grass seeded areas are flourishing, although in some areas we have had an invasion of giant thistles. As our volunteers are busy at other sites we have again asked for assistance from Buckingham Community Service Volunteers. They have been helping to remove the thistles so that the area can again be replanted with more grass seed and a wild flower mixture.

Hyde Lane Sets a New Benchmark

At the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve site at Hyde Lane our volunteers have been busy once again. When the lock gates from the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal were installed, the original gates they replaced were discovered at the bottom of the lock chamber. These were removed and have since remained by the canal side until some of our volunteers had the brilliant idea to recycle them and turn them into seats! A press release has been sent out showing the new lock gate seats, earning us some extra publicity. **Please turn to page 18 for a special report.** Further work at Hyde Lane this spring also included regular strimming, effecting repairs to the weir and bridge, and also to the towpath hedgerow. The restored '1' plaque was affixed to the lock gate.



Little Hill Farm Gets a Finishing Touch

At our Little Hill Farm site a small amount of work has been carried out so far this spring, including some strimming along the tow path and the replacement of the final coping stone on the far offside canal wall. It is hoped that we can arrange a maintenance work party down there soon.

Cosgrove in Water – The Preparation and the Build Up

When the Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) was founded in 1992, the hope then was to see the whole of the Buckingham Canal at the Cosgrove end in water by now. Well, we are not quite there yet but re-watering trials have begun and there is now water in the first section, and all the while progress is being made on building further bunds along the whole length of this section of canal to enable us to continue re-watering safely in stages.

With this plan of action in mind, most of our recent work has been the preparation needed before the re-watering could take place. Much of this was undertaken with the assistance of several large groups of volunteers from companies including Santander, Home Retail Group and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

On the Sunday 13th April, work got under way to install a pipe duct through the first farm crossing further down the canal, that would span the two bunds that were to be constructed either side of the crossing, so that the canal water can pass through to the next section beyond without affecting the farmer's ability to access his fields safely.



Thursday 17th April saw a large group from Santander assist our volunteers in completing this task for the bund and crossing duct, with work also commencing on the digging of a trench on either side where the bunds would be constructed.



The 1st May came, and our own volunteers had the unenviable task of digging a trench through a lot of stone at the centre of Bridge No1, in order to lay two reinforced tubes that will take the siphon pipes through them for re-watering.



Some preparation work took place on Sunday 11th May, in readiness for Thursday 15th May which brought 17 people from Home Retail Group to join us and begin the building of the second bund. This was followed on Friday 16th May by an even larger group of 39 people who joined us from PwC, making this the largest group of people ever to work on a BCS site.



Because of the large amount of people wanting to volunteer on the 16th, it was arranged that they would arrive at different times. Fortunately, this didn't happen as they all stayed for the duration and got far more done than they otherwise would have. This itself was a return visit from PwC. They first contacted us last year explaining that annually the whole of the company in the UK and abroad carry out a volunteer event on the same day. Last year we were their chosen charity and they sent 10 people to join us. We must have done something right to encourage a group as large as 39 people to work with us!



With so many extra people helping over 15th and 16th May, an enormous amount of work was carried out amounting to around 90 percent of the second bund being built, and here I mustn't forget our own volunteers who have not only been turning up on Sundays and Thursdays but have been putting in extra shifts to get work completed and have been supervising the outside companies as well. Work will continue with the bund (the canal's third) that's on the far side of the crossing soon.

On Saturday 17th May, trials to siphon water from the Cosgrove side of Bridge No1 to the dry section on the Old Stratford side began, and at the time of writing this report we have about 2 feet of water in the section leading up to the first bund of the canal at Cosgrove. Progress indeed! Over to Terry for a little more detail on how the first water in 70 years to enter this part of the canal under the influence of man was made possible.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Cosgrove in Water – The Big Day Finally Arrives

Why pump when we can siphon? Yes, two giant green anacondas have disguised themselves as 3" (75mm) suction hoses, and at just after noon on Saturday 17th May 2014, water was drawn from the Cosgrove side of Bridge No1 into the "dry" Buckingham Canal by way of these siphons, using a duct in the back filled trench that we had created on the bridge. Hooray!

Our thanks go to Canal & River Trust (CRT) for helping in so many ways including allowing us to take up to 1 million litres per day from the canal. However, our calculations show that when both siphons are running it's actually about 750,000 litres per day, thus falling safely within the limit. Many thanks go to all the volunteers, team building folk and our esteemed work party leaders for helping the Society reach this amazing milestone and get the Cosgrove end back in water!

For those that wonder, we use the pump to prime the siphon on the Old Stratford side of Bridge No1, then turn the pump off and disconnect. There is a non-return valve on the Cosgrove side of the bridge to help keep the siphon from misbehaving itself. We need to stop the filling every so often to explore leakage and measure losses.



As I write this, we have temporarily stopped the siphon to allow the water level to settle. This is as the clay gets wetted (absorbs water) and the various other processes begin to stabilise including plant growth and soil absorption, whilst the bunnies get a chance to get their scuba gear on!

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Programme Manager for Projects & Partnerships

Do you dig canals?... We do! Work parties are held every other Thursday and the second Sunday of each month and are always friendly, welcoming and very rewarding. If you would like to become involved, work party dates can be found on page 26, and more detailed information can be found by visiting www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/events-and-news/work-parties/.

Health & Safety Refresher

BCS has a duty of care to its members, volunteers and the public to comply with the Health & Safety legislations in place. BCS operates work parties under terms of Insurance provided through the Inland Waterways Association (IWA). As a part of this arrangement, we work within many of the principles and methods of Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) as well as some specific CRT guidance.

All work party volunteers need to be aware of WRG's Site Health & Safety video and their accompanying Volunteers' Health & Safety Guide booklet, which was recently revised in 2013. We ask that you please take some time to review the WRG Health & Safety material on a regular basis, for your and your team's safety and peace of mind. This is especially important when working on a site involving construction machinery (plant), as it is a requirement to confirm that you have reviewed this material within the 12 months prior to the event.

We would also ask all those new volunteers who haven't yet done so, to pre-read all of the WRG Health & Safety material before their first day on site. You will always be given a Health and Safety briefing at any work party, but pre-reading can speed things up. Please bear in mind that the WRG Health & Safety material is only an introduction to site safety, and does not remove the need for any volunteer to have a full briefing about a specific site or project. To view the video and booklet, please visit our WRG Health & Safety Video page at www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/wrg-health-safety-video/.

Ian Matson
Editor

Change in Charitable Status



We are pleased to announce that the Charity Commission has now formally approved our change of status from an Unincorporated Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

As was highlighted at the AGM and in previous newsletters, there are many advantages to this change. Amongst the key benefits are that BCS now becomes a legal entity that can enter into formal contracts and leases, or even employ people if it becomes necessary. It also provides additional protection for trustees and members of the Society.

It is proposed to complete the transition from our current status to a CIO on 1st August 2014. At this time all assets and memberships will transfer to the new CIO. The process will be largely transparent to individual members and will not affect the ongoing operations of the Society. The main difference members will notice is the change of our Registered Charity Number to 1156662 on our BCS website and documentation.

This is an important change for the Society as it opens up a range of potential opportunities for BCS to acquire access rights to the more inaccessible parts of the canal, as well as being able to purchase interests in land to support our renovation work.

Please visit www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/2014/04/the-journey-to-becoming-a-cio/ for further information.

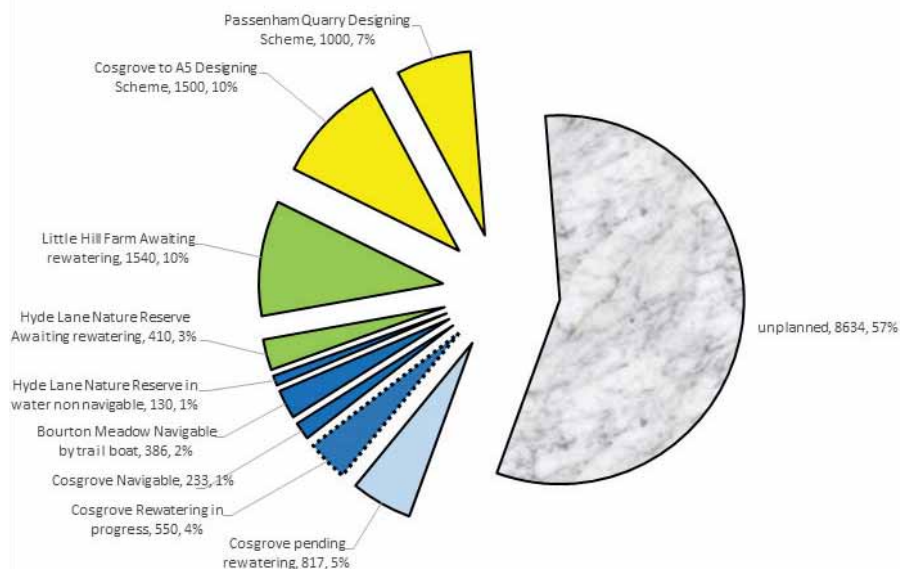
Rob Oldham
Trustee

Future Projects

On 7th May we held a meeting where the committee agreed upon a number of restoration projects for various sections of the canal that will now be taken to the next stage of planning, designing and costing a solution for each. We have a small team of folk doing this work and would welcome anyone else to come and join us as well as sharing the work outside of the meetings.

If you are interested, please contact Terry Cavender by tel: 07976 629440 or email: terry.cavender@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

BCS restoration as at May 2014 (metres)



Terry Cavender

Trustee and Programme Manager for Projects & Partnerships

Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) is grateful for the continuing support of Pitney Bowes which enables us to keep document production costs to a minimum in order to ensure as much of the BCS funds as possible are put towards restoration.



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Furze Down School



It is now over two years since we were approached by Furze Down School in Winslow, Buckinghamshire, and asked if we could organise practical tasks for pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Last year 13 pupils worked at our Bourton Meadow site and this year they have been working with our volunteers at the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve site at Hyde Lane. Each year the pupils make Christmas wreaths and sell them to raise money which is then donated to a specific charity. This year we were honoured to be their chosen charity. A cheque for £100 was presented to us by the teachers and pupils at the nature reserve and this money will be used to produce copies of a walk leaflet produced by our Newsletter Editor Ian Matson. Special thanks to go to the teachers and pupils of Furze Down School for all their help and assistance given to BCS over the last two years.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

BCS Heritage Walk



This year, the Heritage Open Days take place nationwide from Thursday 11th – Sunday 14th September. For a number of years BCS has taken part in this event and this year we are organizing a walk on the Sunday, meeting at 2pm by Cosgrove Lock on the Grand Union Canal.

The walk will take in the Buckingham Arm up to the A5 giving walkers a chance to see the work that has been carried out by our volunteers. We then continue through Old Stratford with an opportunity to see the heritage features in this area before taking in Stony Stratford Nature Reserve. Continuing back along the Ouse Valley Way toward the Grand Union Canal, we'll go through the Horse Tunnel underneath the canal and up to the Iron Trunk Aqueduct which carries it across the Great Ouse, and return along the towpath back to Cosgrove Lock. The whole walk is approximately five miles in duration.

All members and friends are welcome to take part in this walk which will be advertised in the Heritage Open Days brochure. Available parking can be found nearby to the Lock at Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR. If anyone needs further information please contact Athina Beckett by tel: 01908 661217 or email: athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

BCS Craft Group

The group meets on the last Thursday of each month at my house in Pennyland, Milton Keynes and is proving to be very successful. We are a very friendly group and would welcome others interested in learning or teaching any crafts, or to simply join us for a very pleasant and sociable evening to discuss various types of crafts that interest you. If you would like to attend, please contact Athina Beckett by tel: 01908 661217 or email: athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair



Our annual Canal Festival takes place over the weekend of Saturday 19th - Sunday 20th July, returning to it's original date, but will still take place a week before the very popular Linslade Canal Festival allowing traders enough flexibility to attend both events. Having now booked Cosgrove Village Hall for the first time, this year's event will be the biggest and best yet, enabling us to hold a Craft Fair within the hall as well as hosting the ever popular attractions by Cosgrove Lock.

Our cake stall volunteers will now have the extra space needed to provide teas and cakes in a very pleasant environment. Booking the village hall will also significantly increase the amount of traders we can accommodate at the festival as we still plan to have stalls and gazebos by the lock too. The village hall is booked from 9am on Saturday until 5pm on Sunday to allow traders time to set up and dismantle stalls. Furthermore, in the unfortunate event that we should have any bad weather, we now have the option to move the Saturday night entertainment inside where it will be warm and dry!

This year, extra help will be needed to begin setting up the festival on Friday 18th July and to dismantle everything at the end of it on Sunday 20th July. We will also need help with the following activities: Baking cakes for the Cake Stall; Serving cakes in the Village Hall; Working on the Games Stall; Car park marshaling; The Lock Ransom (training will be given to operate the lock gates).

Whether you can spare a couple of hours or a whole day, all help would be much appreciated as this event is our one big opportunity where we can reach out to the public to explain our current and future projects and promote the Society. Why not also invite your family and friends along to the event for what is promising to be a very enjoyable weekend!

To help out please contact Athina Beckett by tel: 01908 661217 or email: athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

For further information and to book a stall or boat mooring, please visit the festival page at www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/events-and-news/annual-festival/.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

COSGROVE CANAL FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR



SAT 19th - SUN 20th JULY 2014
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Cosgrove Village Hall, Bridge Road, Cosgrove, MK19 7JA

For boat or stall bookings tel: 01908 661217 or

email: events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk (*must be pre-booked)



Registered Charity Number 1156662
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IWA/CRT Water Adds Value Workshop

Earlier in the year, on 10th May, I attended, at the behest of the committee, the joint Inland Waterways Association (IWA)/Canal & River Trust (CRT) Waterways Restoration Workshop called 'Water Adds Value' at The Bond in Birmingham. This was open to restoration groups, local authority staff, waterway press, local partnership members as well as IWA and CRT representatives.

Terry Cavender prepared some relevant topics and questions to discuss, as displayed at the end of this article. I'd like your thoughts on these topics too. Please send all responses to **editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk**.

We were split into working groups of about eight people. Woven through the day's three workshops were talks given by the University of Northampton and by local canal restoration groups, who spoke of their success stories. The workshops themselves focused primarily on the subjects of 'The Waterway Restoration Landscape' which covered 'Delegates Thoughts, Needs and Views'; 'Making Restorations Happen' which covered 'Challenges, Lessons and Approaches for Success'; 'Identifying Actions' which covered 'Meeting the Challenges'. For myself though, I wanted to progress the dialogue about having a central planning group instead of simply referring to a website.

Some good ideas were floating about. If the opportunity arose, we could rescue a canal-side pub (with a grant) and plough the profits back into the Society, such as what's been done with the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust (**www.h-g-canal.org.uk**). Elsewhere, in Llangattock, a village which lies in the Brecon Beacons National Park, £270,000 of funding has been raised by way of a local cooperative called Llangattock Green Valleys (**www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org**) for two micro hydro schemes, with an estimated return of 5% per annum over the project's 20 year life. Other talks covered training and funding. Food for thought. Talking of which, the catering was excellent!

I chatted (or 'networked,' as they say) with many people. It was uplifting to hear plenty of positive remarks from CRT, IWA and other societies regarding our own! For example, a woman said to me, "Your Society is certainly going places, trust them to do that!"

Later, in regard to being given £5,000 of Sahara Liner, I talked at length with Peter Buck, Engineering Director with Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust (**www.lhcrt.org.uk**), and discussed the Bentoline SS100 Geosynthetic Clay Liner we use. He hopes to visit us soon so that we can constructively discuss our restoration projects.

On the whole it was very a productive day. As always with workshops, IWA/CRT will collate the information gathered from everybody at the meeting, then hopefully I'll receive the report from them very soon. I must say, I had a good time, and my train ticket cost only £7.00! Maybe because I didn't buy it online. A rewarding day all round!

1) What should be the preferred operating model for restored canal sections?

- I. At various phases including: During restoration; During operation and prior to any hand over to CRT; Post restoration.
- II. Options including: Lease agreements; Network access agreements, etc.

2) What expectations are there of CRT regarding restoration projects identifying the water source(s)?

- I. Categories including: Historical and not currently contributing to the canal network; New or incremental; Historical and previously in use, but now used to supply different parts of the network.
- II. Options including: The restoration society identifies, qualifies, and abstracts in the name of that society with subsequent transfer on handover; The restoration society identifies and qualifies, but abstraction is undertaken by CRT; Impoundment/transfer abstractions.

3) Joint working relationships between restoration groups and CRT for grant funding.

- I. How can sharing of funding opportunities be achieved for the total benefit of the waterways community?
- II. How can we better use adoption or partnership agreements to demonstrate to grant awarding bodies that they work, including partnerships with local, county and other statutory authorities?
- III. We should explore sharing successful bids especially for scalable and sustainable funding programmes such as landfill, etc.

4) Recycling 'waste' such as lock gates and disposal of defunct equipment, etc.

- I. Can such items destined for disposal be offered to restoration 'partners' prior to entering current disposal practices? With this in mind, 're-use/reduce/recycle' should be the holistic restoration motto.

5) Partnerships working through challenges and towards opportunities.

- I. Can we more effectively leverage presentations and collateral from successful partnership 'bids' by, for example: Sharing what worked well to get a canal restoration project 'X' to a partnership level with their county, district and parish authorities; Reissuing as templates through IWA/WRG; Producing annual updates to reflect attitudes, legislation and guidelines?
- II. Canals often pass through many council areas, therefore IWA COULD offer a coordination role between all county councils to 'help' them with green infrastructure and similar policies, almost on an agent basis acting with the restoration society.
- III. CRT's input into this at a national level as well as at a local waterways management level would be critical.

Jonathan Brown
Trustee and Equipment Manager

There's Life in the Old Lockgates Yet!

This spring, after dealing with the damage caused by the winter's storms, BCS work party volunteers have been working alongside a group from Network Rail for a team building day. The task was to put a pair of old lock gates to good use again at Hyde Lane Lock within the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve near Thornborough Mill. BCS leases the reserve from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and manage it on their behalf.

Around the beginning of April, Trustee Jonathan Brown and some eager volunteers wondered how, if at all, something rather unique could be made from the pair of old wooden lock gates that laid forlorn by the side of their former home. These were only recently discovered in the lock chamber bed at the same time as a replacement pair from the Northampton Arm, kindly donated by CRT, were installed back in 2012.

It was decided that we would have a go at producing a stunning piece of recycling that will complement the nature reserve and canal lock for years to come. They would become seats! However, there were one or two minor obstacles to consider, such as 'How would we move or even lift them,' or 'How can we cut through them with all the old rusted metal work in place?' If we can restore a stretch of canal, then surely with enough team effort, light work could be made of this project. With that in mind, over the course of two work parties, and many hours of sweat and tears, we could eventually take a long earned rest upon the seats we created.

Each gate was carefully and painstakingly cut down to a suitable seating height, and with the effort of several volunteers they were lifted upright, bottom end up, and slowly walked toward their final positions where they would face the canal. Here, two deep trenches were dug for the gates to be sunk into. To make the installation easier, the gates were lowered flat onto wooden beams adjacent to these trenches and carefully manoeuvred along them and tilted into their final resting places. The remaining spaces were backfilled and the turf was replaced.

All that remained was to tidy them up and paint them in a sympathetic manner similar to the black and white lock gate colour scheme, with a little artistic license of course! And the only downside? Well, they were just too wet to road test!

Needless to say, we are all extremely pleased with the outcome! So if you are in the area, please take time to visit the Reserve. It forms part of the Ouse Valley Way and can be reached by foot from the Bourton Meadow end of the Canal near Buckingham or from Thornborough. Details on this restoration site can be found at **www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/restoration-projects/hyde-lane/**.



Ian Matson
Editor

The Other Buckingham Canal

Whilst BCS is grappling with the restoration of 10.5 miles of canal from Buckingham to Cosgrove, in India they have the daunting task of restoring another Buckingham Canal, but this one is 262 miles long.

The Indian Buckingham Canal is a fresh water navigation canal, running parallel to the Coromandel Coast of South India. The canal connects most of the natural backwaters along the coast to the port of Chennai (Madras). It was constructed during the British Rule, and was an important waterway during the late nineteenth and the twentieth century.

It was first known simply as the North River by the British and was believed to be partly responsible for reducing tsunami and cyclone damage to much of the Chennai-southern Andhra coastline.

Originally known as Cochrane's canal, the first segment of the canal was constructed as a saltwater navigation canal in 1806, from Madras north to Ennore for a distance of 11 miles. It was financed by Basil Cochrane. Subsequently, it was extended north to Pulicat Lake, 25 miles north of Madras.

The canal was taken over by the government of Madras Presidency in 1837 and further extended, ultimately reaching 196 miles north of Madras to Vijayawada on the bank of Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh, and 64 miles south of Chennai to Marakkanam in Tamil Nadu. When the canal was opened, it was named Lord Clive's Canal and later became known as the Buckingham Canal.

During 1877 and 1878 the people of Madras suffered from the terrible Great Famine and more than six million people perished. The 5 mile stretch, linking the Adyar and Cooum rivers, was built in 1877-78 at a cost of Rs.3 million as a famine relief work. The whole canal was renamed the Buckingham Canal in 1878 because of the link, which was built on the orders of the then Governor, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

The canal was formerly used to convey goods up and down the coast from Vijayawada to Madras (now Chennai). The cyclones of 1965 and 1976 damaged the canal, and until recently it was little used and no longer well maintained.

Within the city of Chennai the canal became badly polluted from sewage and industrial effluent, and the silting up of the canal left the water stagnant, creating an attractive habitat for malaria-spreading mosquitoes. The North Chennai Thermal Power Station discharges hot water and fly ash into the canal as well. In agricultural areas south of Chennai the former towpath along the scenic areas is still used for light motorcycle and bicycle traffic.

In 2001 the Government of India launched a project to prohibit sewage outfalls into the canal and Chennai's other waterways and to dredge the canal to remove accumulated sediment and improve water flow.

Within the city limits of Chennai much of the canal has been used as the route of the elevated Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS). A number of MRTS stations have encroached on the canal and narrowed its width to less than 50 metres in a few places.

The Buckingham Canal is the most polluted of the three major waterways in the city of Chennai with nearly 60 percent of the estimated 55 million litres of untreated sewage being let into it daily, by bodies such as the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

The restoration of the Buckingham Canal has now started to take shape as a result of the Indian Government's National Waterway declaration of 2008. Both North Buckingham and South Buckingham canals will be restored by the Inland Waterways Authority of India. Periodically, the government of Tamil Nadu also dredges and widens the canal through its Water Resources Department. Work has also started on widening the South Buckingham Canal from Okkiyam Madu to Muttukadu for a stretch of 8 miles.

Despite these developments, the central section of the canal running through the most congested areas of Chennai, a length of around 4 miles, will remain unnavigable for the time being due to severe encroachments and construction of the Chennai Mass Rapid Transport System.

On 22nd January 2010, the Government of Tamil Nadu established the Chennai River Restoration Trust for restoration of the Chennai rivers and the Buckingham Canal. In 2011 improvements were undertaken on the 8 mile stretch between Okkiyam Madu and Muttukadu. The canal was widened to 330 feet and a U.S.A. built dredger was used to deepen the canal to 8 feet. Also as part of this project, six small causeways across the canal were reconstructed into single-lane bridges.

There is still a long way to go before the Indian Buckingham Canal is fully restored and the race is now on to see who completes theirs first – BCS or the Indian Government!!

Source: Wikipedia

For further information and links to elements of this article, please visit **en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckingham_canal**.

Rob Oldham
Trustee

New Members

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

Nick Wolfe Braunston
Celia Jones North Marston
Robert Adams Great Horwood

David Humphreys Milton Keynes
Esh Koluvla St Neots
Vasanthi Wilmes Milton Keynes

Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal

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Our Very Own Promotional Real Ale!

We are pleased to announce that our own Real Ale is available on draught at The Three Locks pub at Stoke Hammond, and direct from the Buckingham Brewery. We also anticipate it will be available to purchase at our Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair in July.



For further details please contact:

The Three Locks: tel 01525 270214

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or visit www.buckingham-brewery.co.uk

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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 & 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

Inland Waterways Association Northampton Branch



The Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd



Taverners Boat Club



Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.



Braunston Marina



Future Events

Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th July
BCS Cosgrove Canal Festival
 Cosgrove Lock, Grand Union Canal
 Details: 01908 661217
events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Saturday 26th July 11am – 5pm
Linslade Canal Festival
 Tiddenfoot Waterside Park, Linslade, Bedfordshire
 Details: www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

Thursday 31st July 7.30pm
BCS Craft Group Meeting
 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, MK18 8AX
 Details: 01908 661217
athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th August 11am – 5pm
Blisworth Canal Festival
 Details: www.blisworthcanalfestival.co.uk

Friday 15th August 8pm
'Fancy a Natter' – BCS Pub Evening
 The Two Brewers, Bridge Street,
 Thornborough MK14 5QN

Thursday 28th August 7.30pm
BCS Craft Group Meeting
 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, MK18 8AX
 Details: 01908 661217
athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Sunday 7th September
Wendover Arm Trust
WAT Restoration Open Day & Grand Draw
 Details: www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Saturday 13th – Sunday 14th September
Friends of The Canal Museum
Village At War Weekend
 Stoke Bruerne
 Details: 01604 863865
www.friendsofcanalmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 14th September 2pm
BCS Heritage Walk
 Cosgrove Lock, Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR
 Details: 01908 661217
athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Friday 19th September 8pm
'Fancy a Natter' – BCS Pub Evening
 The Two Brewers, Bridge Street,
 Thornborough MK14 5QN

Thursday 25th September 7.30pm
BCS Craft Group Meeting
 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes MK15 8AX
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athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

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Stuart Cummins C.Eng, MICE, RMaPS

Mobile: 07806 614616

Email: info@cumminspms.co.uk

Website: www.cumminspms.co.uk



IWA Milton Keynes Social Calendar

The Milton Keynes Branch of the Inland Waterways Association (IWA MK) warmly invites all Buckingham Canal Society members to join us at our social evenings.

The IWA MK branch holds social evenings on the last Monday of each month from September to April. These are held at the MK Village Pavilion, Worelle Avenue, Middleton, Milton Keynes, MK10 9AD. This is a convivial venue with a well stocked club priced bar, good seating and tables with extensive parking close by.

We feature interesting illustrated presentations on waterway subjects (please see our 2014/15 programme below). Our meetings start at 8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm) and we aim to finish by 10.00pm. You are promised a warm friendly greeting so why not fill some of your out of the main boating season evenings with an armchair return to the waterways. Entry is free, but to defray our significant venue hire costs, modest donations are appreciated. Our current program commencing from September 2014 is as follows:

22nd September 2014

Talk: Restoration of a 1934 BCN Tug

John Pattle, P & S Marine

27th October 2014

Talk: The Lost Canal, Derrick Hunt

24th November 2014

Talk: Canal Fantasia 2013

Karen Holowka & Philip Strangeway

08th December 2014

Christmas Social

(this is a pre-booked ticket event)

26th January 2015

Talk: The Jubilee River Pageant

Kathryn Dodington, a participant

23rd February 2015

**Branch AGM including
Talk: Canal & River Trust in Operation**

John Dodwell, CRT Trustee

23rd March 2015

**Talk: The last of the Line –
Classic Ocean Liners**

John Allen

27th April 2015

Talk: Waterways and Wildlife

John Pomfret



Peter Caswell
Chairman

IWA Milton Keynes Branch

Work Party Dates 2014–2015

July

Thursday 10th
Sunday 13th
Thursday 24th

August

Thursday 7th
Sunday 10th
Thursday 21st

September

Thursday 4th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 18th

October

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

November

Sunday 9th
Thursday 13th
Thursday 27th

December

Thursday 11th
Sunday 14th

January

Thursday 8th
Sunday 11th
Thursday 22nd

February

Thursday 5th
Sunday 8th
Thursday 19th

March

Thursday 5th
Sunday 8th
Thursday 19th

April

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

May

Sunday 10th
Thursday 14th
Thursday 28th

June

Thursday 11th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 25th

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, our valued members, 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 Autumn Issue by the 1st Aug 2014 by email, CD, or typed/handwritten letter (in that order of preference) to:

editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk or

Ian Matson, 63 Almnors Road, Lyne, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0BH

Advertising with us 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

Quarter Page: £6

Back Page: £22

Half Page: £10

Inserts: £7.50

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Chairman

This position is currently vacant.



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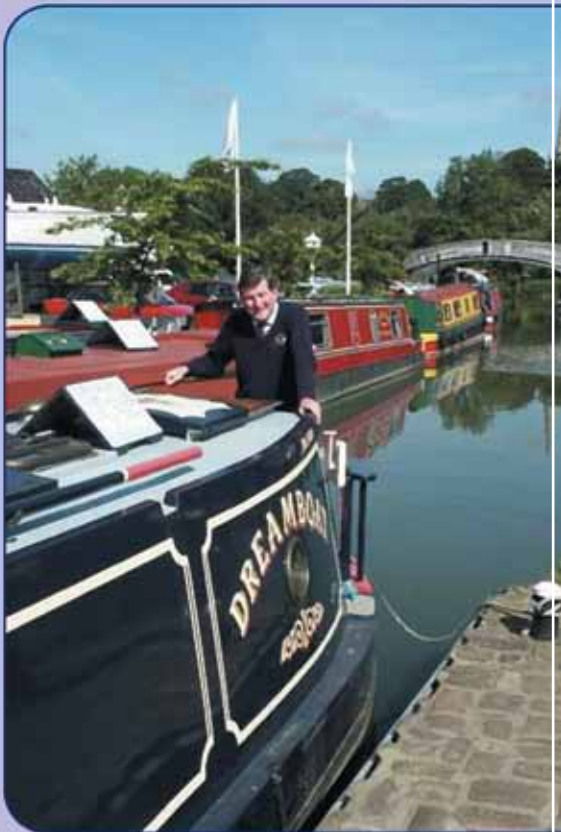
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