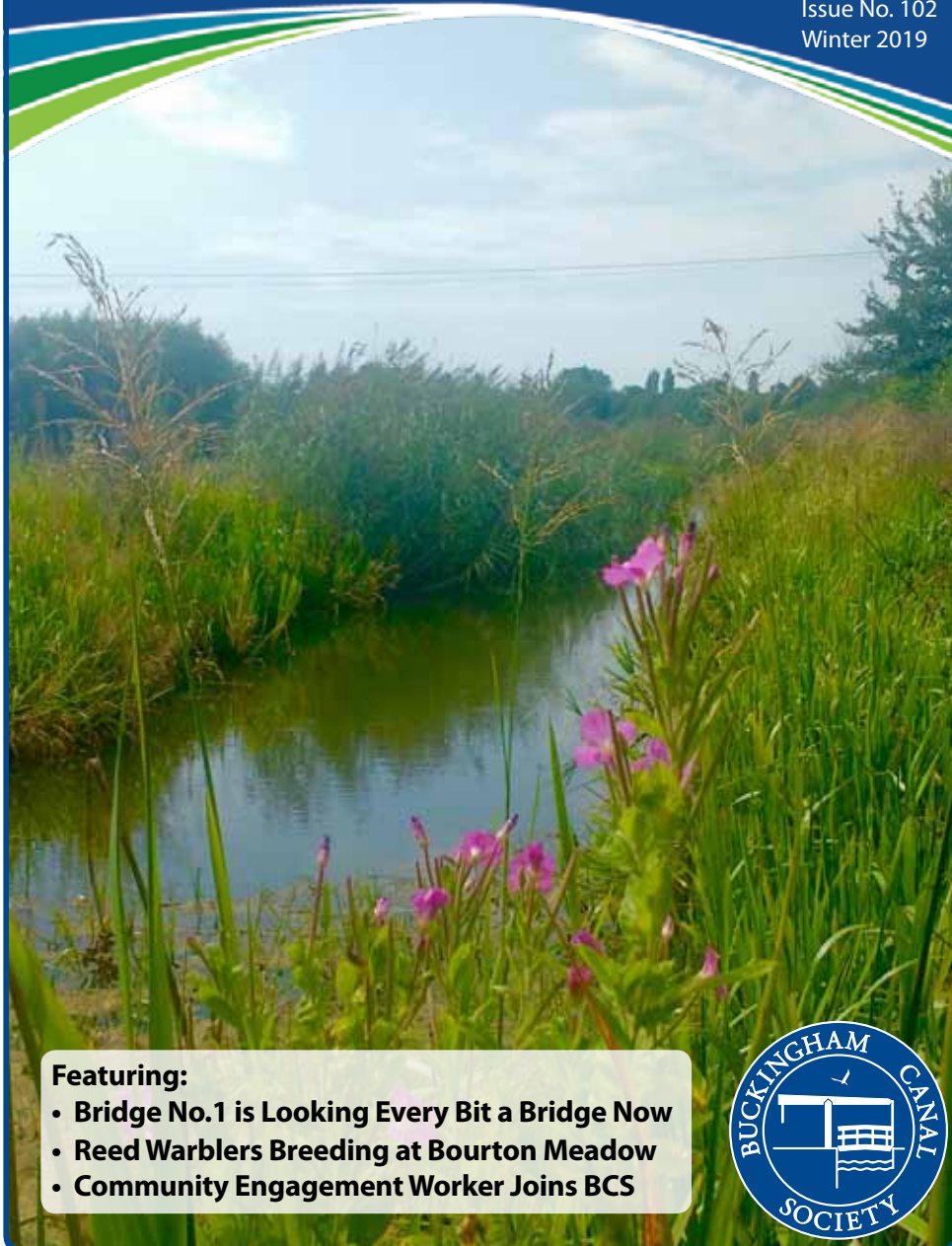


THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 102
Winter 2019



Featuring:

- Bridge No.1 is Looking Every Bit a Bridge Now
- Reed Warblers Breeding at Bourton Meadow
- Community Engagement Worker Joins BCS



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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.

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2019 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

Work has picked up the pace again at Cosgrove with Bridge No.1 finally beginning to look like a bridge again, and as the colder months draw in, maintenance has been increased at our other sites too. Winter work if you will! We have breeding Warblers and Buntings at Bourton Meadow to report too, which isn't surprising really, given the perfect conditions!



We warmly welcome Aimee Tidman as our new Community Engagement Worker. A very special thanks must go to BCS supporter Tim Coghlan, Managing Director of Braunston Marina who generously donated £100 from the funds raised at the first ever Braunston Waterways Literary Festival earlier this year. See the full article on page 18.

Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo of Bourton Meadow © Alan Mynard. See the full article on page 5. **Why not drop me an email about what you enjoyed in this issue, and furthermore, why not contribute ideas or articles for future editions (see page 29). In addition to our website, we now have a wide social media presence:**

Please visit our website at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Follow/Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/buckinghamcanalsociety

Reach us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/bcsocietyuk

Find us on Instagram at: www.instagram.com/buckinghamcanalsociety

Watch us on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCUslmDM1ExIXiH2iW9zAJhg

Myself and all at BCS would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thank you.

Ian Matson
Editor

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Restoration Site Update



As August Began...

...work continued apace on Bridge No.1 at Cosgrove. On the 8th August, our regular volunteer team were joined by a group from Network Rail, as seen here. This enabled our team to progress nicely with various aspects of the project, including the concrete pours, parapet and wing wall work, and general maintenance including aquatic vegetation management. This image illustrates a well oiled and coordinated work effort, and those on pages 6 to 9 illustrate the build chronologically from August through to the end of October.

Ian Matson
Editor

More Hands Make Light(er) Work at Bourton Meadow



© Richard Dwight

With a lot of work needed at our Cosgrove site, our Bourton Meadow site had become very overgrown (left). However, with huge thanks to two very hard working outside companies from Network Rail and Santander, things are much improved.

On Thursday 19th September we had 11 people on site which included Network Rail (below) working alongside our own volunteers. The whole length of the

hedgerow which had grown out across the towpath was given a trim, therefore allowing people to walk along the towpath without obstructions. Network Rail also helped to strim the towpath and tidy up the general area.

On Thursday 3rd October a group from Santander (below) joined us for the day, and with our own volunteers we had a total of 21 people on site. This meant that we were able



© Athina Beckett

to trim back much vegetation and most of the reeds (below), especially those that were preventing people from seeing the canal. We also removed many of the roots where the reeds had spread across the canal bed.

So by the end of these two sessions we had the canal and surrounding area looking



© Athina Beckett

great again. Future plans are to schedule in work parties to cover all routine work at all four of our sites so that walkers can admire the work that has taken place here. This work will probably be carried out by our Sunday volunteer work parties over the next few months.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser



© Athina Beckett



© A. Beckett

Summer's Huge Volunteer Effort Produced Spectacular Results...



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Terry Cavender



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...and as October Drew to a Close...

...all of the structural concrete pouring was complete. We will now progress with the parapet wall brickwork on Bridge No.1 until the frosts come. Depending on progress with the ramps on either side of the bridge, we can then plan on a date to divert the farm traffic to the bridge, thus setting the target for the bridge ramps to be completed.



For those wondering, a further wearing deck of 2" of concrete will top off the bridge deck in the spring, weather permitting. There is also a balustrade to be put in place as well as poles with signage as defined in the agreement with Canal & River Trust (CRT).

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

Do You Dig Canals?...We Do!



©Fallarino Photo

Work parties are held most Thursdays and the second Sunday of each month and are always friendly, welcoming and very rewarding. Additional work parties are also held on most weeks.

If you would like to become involved, please contact me using my contact details on page 30.

In addition, work party dates can be found on page 29, and more detailed information about these and extra curricular dates can be found by visiting our work parties web page at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/events-and-news/work-parties/

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Health & Safety Refresher

Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) has a duty of care to its members, volunteers and the public to comply with all current Health & Safety legislation. 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 Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) as well as some specific Canal & River Trust (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 web page at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/wrg-health-safety-video/

Ian Matson

Editor

The Autumn Statement

Well its been another busy period since our last edition of Navigator went to press. For those that have been down to Bridge No.1 at Cosgrove you will have seen massive changes with much building work having been carried out. The towpath is almost open to foot traffic which will allow us to start work in readiness to put in the stop planks and remove the bund, truly opening the gateway to Buckingham via canal. A true milestone indeed.

Work has been carried out at several of our other sites, including Hyde Lane (below) to ensure they are maintained properly and that the hard work already carried out isn't lost to neglect. We have recently had a full day in Milton Keynes at the CRT offices who kindly allowed us to use their conference room for the day to hold our strategy meeting. Our targets for the next couple of years have been set and should see some significant developments. This also gave everyone who had not yet met Aimee, our new Community Engagement Worker, a chance to get to know her and to get her input on some of our work. Aimee introduces herself on page 21.



Both Terry and myself have completed our Site Safety Supervisor Training Scheme (SSSTS) and Terry will soon undergo further training with the joy that is the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Then to finish the training run, Gerry, Terry, Colin and Myself completed the CRT helmsman assessment course to get our competency certificates. This will allow us to now use a tug to move our new workboat 'WB: Louise' from her temporary base in London to her permanent home at Cosgrove. Expect some pictures of the move and the commencement of her working life with BCS in forthcoming editions of our newsletter. Terry explains more on page 19.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of people not only liking our posts on Facebook, but also following our page and joining us on Twitter and Instagram. Thankyou to Terry, Colin and Alan for their hard work. **If you haven't already, then now is the time to Like us and Follow us.**

As we now approach the festive season, myself and all the trustees wish our volunteers, members, supporters and followers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rob Morris
Trustee and Chairman

Breeding Successes at Bourton Meadow

Local walkers Michael & Diane Hunt have sent us a follow-up wildlife sightings report for the end of August, which builds upon another they submitted for Issue 101. This report especially illustrates the growing importance of Bourton Meadow as a key habitat for a number of important species of birds and insects. A major reason for this being that I am thrilled to announce, further to last issue's report, that we have now confirmed two species of breeding Warblers along this increasingly rich and biologically diverse stretch of the canal.

Michael said that "We had a mini visit of half an hour, and most exciting for us was to be able to confirm breeding Reed Warblers for the first time at this site after having heard the male in song earlier this spring. Confirmation came today as we have seen several juveniles. This species is a summer visitor from Africa, so it's a great record for the site".

He went on to state that "Also breeding again this year were two pairs of Reed Buntings. A pair of Whitethroats also bred here again, and to support this, a juvenile was also seen. This Warbler is also a summer visitor from Africa". **Please see Issue 101 for more detail on the warblers visiting Bourton Meadow.**

In the space of 30 minutes, Michael & Diane recorded the following:

With a couple of exceptions, numbers were not specified.

Birds: Buzzard; Sparrowhawk; Barn Swallow; House Martin; 1 breeding pair of Whitethroats and 1 juvenile; 1 breeding pair of Reed Warblers and several juveniles; Linnet; Goldfinch; 2 breeding pairs of Reed Buntings

Butterflies: Small Skipper; Brimstone; Large White; Green-veined White; Red Admiral; Gatekeeper; Meadow Brown

Dragonflies: Brown Hawker; Emperor Dragonfly; Common Darter; Ruddy Darter

Damselflies: Large Red Damselfly; Blue-tailed Damselfly

Well, further to the last report, it appears that this really is a great site to see some of our key species of Warblers. I noted in the last issue that with these being so diminutive, they are more often given up by their songs and calls, and that perhaps with the amount of singing heard, they are possibly here to breed! Well, the proof is in the pudding, as they say. The hedgerows and surrounding vegetation really are providing the ideal breeding habitat for these, along with an ample supply of insects and berries to sustain them.

This year, all of these factors have certainly encouraged Reed Buntings and at least two species of Warblers to raise their young here, hopefully for years to come! There is certainly enough vital habitat to support several pairs of a single species, and Michael & Diane were only able to scratch the surface. We can only hope that restoring the waterway has improved this green corridor exponentially for these and other critically important species.

The Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) has a scientific name that could easily mirror its common name more or less precisely - In old German *Embritz* means Bunting. In ancient Greek *skhoïnīklos* refers to a small waterside bird that is no longer known. However, the Latin *schoenus* (or *skhoīnus* in ancient Greek) means a rush or reed, whilst the Latin *colere* means to dwell.

Despite the name though, the Reed Bunting is often seen on farmland, much like the Blackcap I mentioned in Issue 101. In particular, arable farmland is favoured especially in the winter months for the stubble. Otherwise, during the breeding season, wetland habitat and hedgerows are also relied upon alongside arable farmland. Due mainly to a change in farming practices over the last 40 years or so, the winter months have seen these Sparrow like birds become increasingly and probably quite surprisingly more reliant on gardens. High energy oil rich seeds as well as invertebrates are favoured.

It is a resident species all year round, and is joined by passage/winter visitors. They can be found throughout most of the UK. It's probably no surprise to find breeding Reed Buntings at Bourton Meadow, with a healthy combination of reedbed, hedgerow and farmland habitats providing everything for a bird that is currently enjoying a gradual recovery on a localised scale in recent years, although still in decline nationally over the last four decades or more. They tend to fare more poorly in the southeast, but population fluctuations, for reasons yet to be fully understood, are very localised as opposed to more general or evenly distributed fluctuations throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Hopefully we will see more and more wildlife records for Bourton Meadow now that it has been restored, and who knows, something rare or unexpected too! The Society wishes to thank Michael & Diane Hunt for their contribution, which was forwarded to Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).

Please let us know of any wildlife sightings along any stretch along the entirety of the Buckingham Canal, be it restored or not. You can send your records to myself or any of the trustees using our contact details on pages 30 and 31. For further details about BBOWT, please visit: www.bbowt.org.uk.

Ian Matson
Editor

New Leaflet Box for Bourton Meadow



People visiting our Bourton Meadow site will now be able to see our brand new blue leaflet box made for us by the chairman of Men in Sheds Buckingham, Andy Savage. This was to replace the one destroyed by vandals who pulled the lid off the box and scattered the leaflets all over the site making a great deal of mess. The new box is an improvement all round as it is made of sturdier material and is easier to access

Athina Beckett
Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Join Us for Our Next AGM + Cheese & Wine Social Evening

The 2020 Buckingham Canal Society AGM will take place on Saturday 21st March, and as usual will be held in the Buckingham Community Centre next to the Waitrose supermarket. We will gather at 7.00pm for an expected 7.30pm start. The first half of the meeting will cover the formal business of reviewing BCS progress and accounts over the past 12 months. There will then be a break for 'cheese & wine' refreshments, followed by a less formal presentation, the details of which will be published at a later date.

Everyone is invited to attend to find out what we have been up to in the past year and to question the trustees. Only members will be eligible to vote on any resolutions.

**The AGM will be held at: Buckingham Community Centre,
Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP.**

Remember, you can join as a member at any time via our partner organisation GoldenGiving. You can do this by visiting their website at this address: www.goldengiving.com/wall/buckingham-canal-society, or by scanning the following QR code:



Alan Mynard

Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist

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Roger - A Brief History

Visitors to our annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair will probably have noticed the regular attendance of two historic working boats, Roger and Raymond. In the following article, Fabian Hiscock tells us something of the history of Roger and how she was restored.

Work Days

Built of wood in 1936 by Bushell Bros at Gannell Bridge, Tring.

Original owner: Arthur Harvey-Taylor of Aylesbury.

Captained: from 1941 by Arthur Bray, with his wife Rose and stepson Ernie Kendall.

Paired:

(1) Rose, built for John Boyes (Rugby), to Harvey Taylor April 1935;

(2) Daphne, built 1930 for J.G. Grantham (Banbury), to Harvey-Taylor May 1937;

(3) Raymond, built 1958 Nurser Bros of Braunston for Samuel Barlow Coal Company.

Roger was one of only two boats built new for Harvey-Taylor, the other being Albert (1926). Roger carried, for the most part, coal from the South Warwickshire coalfield to Aylesbury, the Hertfordshire paper mills and West London factories. During WW2 another cargo was blocks of aluminium for aircraft engines built in Birmingham, and she will also have carried imported wheat, Harvey-Taylor's other main business, from London to Aylesbury and to Mead's flour mill at Gannell, as well as sand from pits near Leighton Buzzard. Maintenance of all the Harvey-Taylor boats, which were all wooden, was by Bushells until the brothers retired in 1952.



Arthur Bray steering Roger, loaded with sand, at Marsworth before 1955. © Christopher M.Jones

When Arthur Harvey-Taylor retired himself in 1955, most of his fleet passed to the Samuel Barlow Coal Company. Their maintenance yard was Nursers' premises at Braunston, by now wholly owned by Barlows, and it seems likely that Roger was given an extensive refit there, including a new cabin, in 1956. This will have incorporated a porthole and bulls eye, not usually fitted by Bushells, and probably also a Lister JP2M engine as favoured by Barlows: this engine remains in the boat today.

Barlows shut down their canal carrying operation in early 1962, and Roger and Raymond were among the six pairs of boats which passed with their crews to the Blue Line Carrying Company of Braunston, for use mainly to carry coal to the jam factory at Southall.

Roger, with the Brays in charge, worked with Raymond until October 1968, when she was declared to be worn out and replaced by the steel boat Nutfield, built in the same year. She was set aside for sale at Braunston.



Roger and Raymond in Cassiobury Park, February 1965.
They are loaded with coal for west London. © R. Grundon

Roger's Recovery and Reconstruction

Roger had been laid up at the Maple Cross sewage works in the mid-1980s, having been bought by Tim Woodbridge with an eye to reconstruction at some point in the future. The opportunity came a few years later with the setting up of Rickmansworth Waterways Trust (RWT) to organise the first Rickmansworth Festival in 1993. It was decided that the new Trust would restore the boat, and in 1994 she was lifted onto the bank at Rickmansworth for assessment, project planning and the inevitable raising of the funds. With the help of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and others, and some very generous individual donations, it was possible to start the work in 1997 under the hand of the local craftsman Chris Collins, who had previously rebuilt the former Ovaltine motor boat Albert, built by W.H. Walker in 1936.

It took over three years, and a small exhibition was set up to explain the project as it progressed. The boat was returned to its original 'Bushells as-built' configuration. There is



Roger ready for rebuild © Rickmansworth Waterways Trust

always controversy over what such a project has resulted in – is it preservation of the fabric to arrest deterioration, or restoration to return the vessel to a known point in time with minimal new material, or a reconstruction to a known point in time using considerable new material, or is it even a replica, with almost no original material? The state of Roger's timber was such that each piece could be replaced individually round the existing ironwork, so what you see now is a 'reconstruction', as most wooden canal boats realistically have to be, although there are uncommon but well-known examples of both restorations and replicas: all have a valuable place in our understanding of the working lives of these historic boat.



New stempost and planking
© Rickmansworth Waterways Trust



Old planking and knees
© Rickmansworth Waterways Trust

Roger was re-launched at the Canal Festival of 2000, and spent the next year being fitted out and painted, with the re-built engine being installed at the same time. She has been a central part of RWT's education programmes since 2001, and can now be seen both at Batchworth and at other events in the area.

Fabian Hiscock
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust

Braunston Waterways Literary Festival

Brilliant late-summer sunshine and a star line-up of authors and entertainers brought out the crowds for what was probably the first major waterways literary festival ever held - appropriately on the quayside of Braunston Marina on 14th September. The event was considered a great success, with calls for it to be repeated in future years, something the organisers are giving consideration to.



Topping the bill were actors/waterway enthusiasts Timothy West and Prunella Scales, talking about their internationally acclaimed (now 35 episodes) television series of Great Canal Journeys, and the accompanying book they wrote together. They were interviewed by Tim Coghlan (above), of Braunston Marina, the Festival's producer. Such was the demand for tickets that extra chairs had to be put out in the large marquee where the presentation was held. Tim and Pru - as they are known to their many canal friends - also included in their presentation some of their favourite clips from the series, played on the two large video screens in the marquee. As a treat, two immortal moments from Fawlty Towers were added, including Pru's favourite of John Cleese thrashing his broken down car with a tree branch. This caused great roars of laughter from the audience.

Other waterways book presentations were given by historic narrow boat expert Tom Chaplin, Muddy Waters children's author Dan Clacher, canal-artist Tony Lewery, canal crime writer Leo McNeir, and former working boatwoman now food author Di Murrell. They were expertly interviewed by Nick Lake, Abigail Campbell, Jane Marshall, Antony Richards and Cassandra McNeir respectively.

For something completely different, former Tory cabinet minister John Gummer (now Lord Deben) interviewed Sister Agatha Leach on her international best seller about her life as a nun – A Nun's Story.

The evening's entertainment concluded with Tim and Pru performing their favourite passages from Shakespeare. Musical accompaniment was provided by the celebrated counter-tenor William Towers, who has appeared internationally including Covent Garden and Glyndebourne Opera Houses, and accompanied by his lutenist Toby Carr.

Due to generous sponsorship from Braunston Marina, all the funds raised of over £2,000 were donated as follows: £1,500 to the Friends of Raymond, who maintain the Braunston Marina based historic narrowboats Nutfield & Raymond, £100 to Buckingham Canal Society who attended the event, and £400 to Sister Agatha's Bar Convent in York for its charitable works.

Tim Coghlan

Managing Director, Braunston Marina

Terry Ponders...

Wow...That Was a Short Year!

Well, maybe it was the same length in days as all the others (ignoring leap year factors), but it felt quick and short. In overview, we have worked an average of nearly 2 days a week at Cosgrove over the first 10 months at the time of writing. A few years ago, the annual BCS working pattern was 26 Thursday sessions along with 12 Sundays, making a total of 38 sessions a year. Cosgrove is on track for having seen around 120 sessions, many of which were 2 or 3 consecutive days, the results of which we can see reflected in the work at Bridge No1. Many other sessions have been held at other sites. We mustn't just congratulate the collective leadership and planning that achieved this. The most important folk to recognise are the volunteers, be they corporate groups, regular participants, trustees, WRG or any & all of the others who have helped.

WB: Louise

**WB Louise**buckinghamcanal.org.uk
Find us on 

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**WATERWAY
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**Cosgrove Marina
MK19 7JR**

So, as we approach the next stage of work at Cosgrove, we now also have a workboat which will be arriving there during November with a fair wind. She is called Louise and referenced as WB: Louise (the WB: being a workboat). For interest she has an outboard and a hydraulic crane. The crane has various attachments which can be fitted such as a timber grab (like giant claws) or a grab bucket (for moving aggregate or dredging for example). She also has also a winch.



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard

Rob Morris and I have now completed a commercial Hydrauliska Industri AB (HIAB) course to be able to operate the attached crane. Additionally a small team (below) have had CRT assessments as Helmsmen. Plans are afoot for pruning and then dredging the arm from Cosgrove Lock to Bridge No.1, and WB: Louise will be pivotal in that work. As an aside, CRT have agreed to waive the licence fee for her as we are a partner group and not undertaking commercial work. We have also been kindly provided with a mooring by Mick Palmer from Cosgrove Marina. And now, as you can see opposite, WB: Louise is on her way. She has a long way to go!



Then What?

The next element as we complete the tail end of the bridge's stone and brick works is to get the channel where the canal would normally flow sealed off with stop planks and then grouted with clay to ensure it is waterproof. Once this is done, we can then ask CRT for final consent to remove the soil and piling that forms the current bund or dam at the end of the remainder arm at Cosgrove. This will then give us a re-watered bridge void with the capability to control water into the re-watered section in readiness for the Spring or Summer 2020.

Next in line will be the removal of the temporary farm crossing and the infill before we reinstate the bank. We will also fix the identified leaks along the re-watered Section One using clay granules as well as re-watering Section Two to rehydrate the existing clay and identify any further leaks that may occur

Meanwhile...

Those of you following closely will have seen that the planning application is in for the access road. I am also pleased to say that we have a verbal agreement for a lease with CRT for the section of canal from Cosgrove to the A5 that forms the majority of the Old Stratford Cut. This will also include Bridge No.1. The access road will enable us to have continued access to the bridge as well as allowing easy access for us to construct the necessary locks and channel for the diversionary route. All this once fully approved and funded.

...and About that Lease

As stated, as a part of the building of the bridge, CRT have confirmed they wish to grant BCS a lease on the remainder canal from Cosgrove to the A5 that is currently under our adoption. As I write this we await the draft heads of terms.

Welcome to Aimee

Aimee Tidman has joined BCS as our Community Engagement Worker and will be funded for an average of one day a week from the Big Lottery Community fund. Aimee will be working alongside the trustees to promote awareness of our projects, evidence public support for the restoration, and grow our supporter, volunteer and membership numbers. Aimee introduces herself next.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer



© Unknown

Meet the Community Engagement Worker



Aimee Tidman Appointed as Our New Community Engagement Worker

I'm Aimee, the new BCS Community Engagement Worker. I have lived along the canal and in the area for 13 years now and have always taken enjoyment from the waterside and the community around it.

Both of my children have grown up by the water and enjoy the wildlife around the canal too. I'm particularly interested in the conservation and re-wilding the area around the water to encourage a greater diversity of species. If more people can be involved in this vital wildlife corridor, either through volunteering or enjoyment of it when it's done, then so much the better.

I hope to be able to get started on some exciting new projects along the Buckingham Arm and look forward to working with local communities to improve their area and lives.

Aimee Tidman
Community Engagement Worker

BCS Craft Group

As well as involving yourself in one of our work parties, attending our Society's Project Group, or even being part of our Committee, another way of helping BCS to raise funds is to join our Craft Group. Our group has gone from strength to strength, and continues to meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Nowadays, we get together either at my house in Pennyland, Milton Keynes or in Stony Stratford where we make rag rugs that can be sold on our bric-a-brac stall. We are a very friendly group and would welcome other like minded people interested in learning or teaching new crafts, or to simply join us for a very pleasant and sociable evening and discuss the various crafts that interest you.

Our sale of rag rugs made by the group has continued to go well and we are now taking commissions. To keep this work going, we always need more old coloured T shirts (bright colours and black preferred).

If you have any old T shirts, or if you would like to attend, please contact me using my contact details on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Our Publicity & Bric-a-Brac Stall Needs You



Our Publicity & Bric-a-Brac stall is out and about throughout the year attending canal festivals and village events, while raising funds for the Society. If anyone fancies a change of scene, we readily welcome new people to come along and give a helping hand in running the stall. It's really good fun and you'll also get the chance to attend a wide variety of canal festivals and local events whilst helping to raise funds for BCS to restore the Buckingham Canal. So why not come along and help us make a difference. You won't regret it.

To try and tempt you, some of the festivals we have previously attended include:

- *Buckingham Spring Fair in April*
- *May Day Fayre at Leighton Buzzard*
- *IWA Milton Keynes Lock Help Weekend at the Three Locks, Stoke Hammond in May*
- *Family Festival Weekend at Stoke Bruerne in June*
- *Braunston & Historic Narrowboat Rally & Canal Festival in June*
- *Our own Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair in July*
- *Linslade Canal Festival in July*
- *The Festival of Water at St Neots in August*
- *Village at War Weekend at Stoke Bruerne in September*
- *Buckingham Christmas Fair in December*

The Village at War event is always great fun, as you get the chance to dress up in 1940s costume! It's worth noting that over £1,800 was raised for BCS by our stall alone last year!

Publicity & Bric-a-Brac Stall Update

So far this year, our stall has raised in excess of £1,600 for our Society! What an amazing feat indeed! With your help, hopefully we can top last year's total.

The final outing for 2019 takes place on Saturday 14th December where we are booked into the Buckingham Christmas Fair. As well as having a table set up at this festival, our carnival float Tyke will be taking part in the Christmas parade through the streets of Buckingham.

If you live in the area, please come and visit us on the stall and follow us on the parade. We also need good quality bric-a-brac to sell at this event, as well as books amongst other things. We can possibly arrange to collect any donated items too.

If you have any good quality bric-a-brac that you would like to donate, or if you would like to give us a hand on the stall at any time, please contact me using my contact details on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser



Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our Society every time you shop, at no further cost to you. When you shop at www.smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as at www.amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Buckingham Canal Society, your selected charity. So smile at our restoration work and please choose to support us so that one day, we will finally have something greater to smile about...a fully restored Buckingham Canal for all to enjoy!

Quarterly Grants Update



Supported by
Co-op Members

The funding period of the Co-op Local Community Fund came to an end on 26th October. Many Co-op members chose our cause to give their 1% to when they spent their money on selected own-brand

products and services. As a result, they have raised a total of £1,125 for BCS. Thank you all for your support.

During May and June, we were one of the featured charities at the Tesco store in Buckingham with their Bags of Help scheme. This resulted in a £1,000 grant. Thank you all for voting.



Our application to The Rank Foundation has also resulted in a £1,000 grant which, alongside the £5,000 already granted by The Foyle Foundation (as reported in the last edition), will go towards purchasing an excavator.



Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) have granted us a sum of £1,058 to purchase marketing and promotional items to use at events where we can demonstrate the work we are undertaking and to raise awareness. This has been funded through their New Homes Bonus Micro Grant Scheme.

We currently have two large applications under review. The first is with Highways England to construct the New Channel, as the original line of the canal toward Old Stratford cannot be followed due to the construction of the A5. The second is for the The National Lottery Heritage Fund and their Horizon Heritage Awards programme where we have submitted our Expression of Interest. This would fund the restoration of the existing canal route from the end of the New Channel through to Bourton Meadow. These are both significant grants and we await their response with our fingers crossed.

As always, we are extremely grateful, to our grant funders without whom the restoration would remain a dream instead of a reality.

A complete list of our most recent funders can be found on page 26.

Colin Levett

Trustee and Grants Officer



supporting



WE'VE LAUNCHED ON VALE LOTTERY

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- Buckingham Canal Society now has a Vale Lottery page!
- Do your bit to make Aylesbury Vale a better place and win prizes up to £20,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from the Buckingham Canal Society Vale Lottery page go to us!
- A further 8% goes to other good causes in the Vale!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Get your tickets today – just follow the instructions below!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.ValeLottery.co.uk

And Search For:
Canal



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

Dedicated to raising money through the community FOR the community!

Funders

We are very grateful for the financial support from all of our funders. Listed below in chronological order, beginning with the latest, are our most recent funders:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) - New Homes Bonus Micro Grant Scheme
- The Rank Foundation
- The Radcliffe Trust
- The Foyle Foundation
- South Northamptonshire Council Community Event Fund
- Milton Keynes Heritage Association (MKHA)
- Tesco - Bags of Help (Buckingham)
- The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- MJ Camp Charitable Foundation
- Buckingham Town Council
- Alpkit Foundation
- DHL UK Foundation - Match It!
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Co-op - Local Community Fund
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) - Thriving Communities Fund
- Rectory Homes
- Postcode Local Trust
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation - David Laing Family Fund

Patrons, Partners & Supporters

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

- Lord Boswell of Aynho

We have formal partnerships with the following:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
- Buckingham Town Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)
- Canal & River Trust (CRT)
- Deanshanger Parish Council
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Corporate Member
- Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
- South Northamptonshire District Council

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of:

- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers

We have been recognised by the following:

- Cosgrove Parish Council
- Foscote Parish Meeting
- Maids Moreton Parish Council
- Old Stratford Parish Council
- Thornborough Parish Council
- Thornton Parish Meeting

Corporate Members

Braunston Marina



**Inland Waterways Association
Northampton Branch**



Lionhearts Cruising Club



Nikon Optical UK Ltd



Taverners Boat Club



The Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd



Corporate & External Volunteer Groups

We are very grateful to all of the organisations that have ever assisted us with their volunteer groups. Listed below in chronological order, beginning with the latest, are our most recent attendees:

- Santander
- Network Rail
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- McAfee
- Vinci Technology Centre UK
- London Waterway Recovery Group (LWRG)
- Computacentre
- Stowe House
- Stowe School
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) - Bit In The Middle (BITM)
- Trees for Cities
- Milton Keynes College
- Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG)
- Argos
- Network Rail - Bletchley Maintenance
- Virgin Money UK
- Mayflex UK
- Community Payback - Buckingham
- Waitrose
- The MacIntyre Charity - Green Genies
- The Parks Trust Young Explorers
- NHBC
- G4S Secure Training Centre - Milton Keynes
- Tech Mahindra
- The Woburn Hotel
- Hewitson Moorhead
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) - Forestry
- Tearle & Carver - Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors
- Mace

Future Events

Tuesday 14th January 8pm

IWA Northampton

Talk: A West Midland Circuit, 49 Years Ago - Roger Butler

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road, Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS. Details: www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 16th January 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: Grain Trade to Coxes Mill - Di Murrell

Milton Keynes Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2HX. Details: www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 30th January 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX or Stony Stratford. Details: 01908-661217 athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Tuesday 11th February 8pm

IWA Northampton

Talk: Story of the Panama - Richard Thomas

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road, Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS. Details: www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 20th February 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Branch AGM and Talk: Buckingham Canal Update - Athina Beckett

Milton Keynes Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2HX. Details: www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 27th February 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX or Stony Stratford. Details: 01908-661217 athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Tuesday 10th March 8pm

IWA Northampton

Branch AGM and Talk: The Story of Raymond, the Last Wooden Boat - Chris R Jones

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road, Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS. Details: www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 19th March 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: Connecting the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, from Early Attempts to the Modern Suez Canal - Roger Squires

Milton Keynes Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2HX. Details: www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Saturday 21st March 7.00pm

BCS AGM & Social Evening

Buckingham Community Centre
Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, Bucks, MK18 8AX. Details: See Page 14 or www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Thursday 26th March 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX or Stony Stratford. Details: 01908-661217 athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Work Party Dates 2020

January

Thursday 9th
Sunday 12th
Thursday 23rd

February

Thursday 6th
Sunday 9th
Thursday 20th

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

July

Thursday 9th
Sunday 12th
Thursday 23rd

August

Thursday 6th
Sunday 9th
Thursday 20th

September

Thursday 3rd
Sunday 13th
Thursday 17th

October

Thursday 1st
Sunday 11th
Thursday 15th
Thursday 29th

November

Sunday 8th
Thursday 12th
Thursday 26th

December

Thursday 10th
Sunday 13th
Thursday 24th

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 Issue 103 (Spring 2020) by the 1st February 2020 via email, CD, or typed/handwritten letter (in that order of preference) to:

editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk or

Ian Matson, 63 Almers 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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Illustrated Talks & Presentations

talks@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Cosgrove Festival Team

events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Finance Manager

This position is currently vacant

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Editor and Publicity & Communications Manager

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Bucks, MK15 8AX
0300 323 1350

info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

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Members of: IWA, APCO, BMF, B&MK Waterway Trust, Wendover Arm Trust,
Buckingham Canal Society, Aylesbury Canal Society.



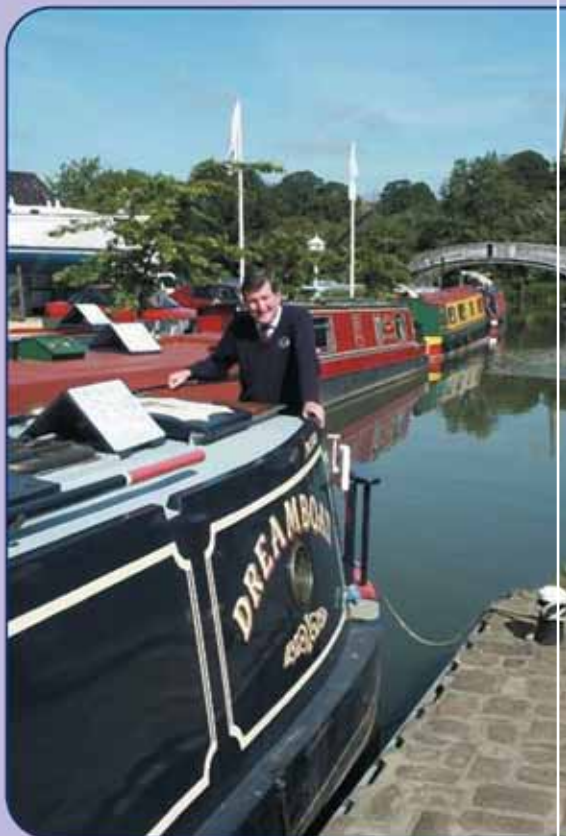
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