

THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 99
Spring 2019



Featuring:

- Section Two in Water at Cosgrove as Terry Explains
- Alan Talks about Cosgrove Lock's Major Overhaul
- New Community Role for Colin as BCS Employee



Cosgrove Marina

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Mick and Shirley are pleased to support the restoration of the Buckingham Canal.

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Keith Rawlings MISE is proud to support
Buckingham Canal Society's work to restore the waterway to Buckingham

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 Spring 2019 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

What a year it's been, and what a year to live up to! The Society has got off to a flying start already, with work continuing in earnest with the bridge and towpath restoration work at Cosgrove progressing at a steady pace. With a warmer end to the winter months than of late, and Skylarks rising high above the fields, in a joyous cascading song welcoming the coming of spring, we can perhaps expect the valuable work of our volunteers to proceed with minimal obstruction.



We have now reached another milestone in water, as we reach out ever closer along the Old Stratford Cut to the proposed new channel approaching the A5. Please make a point of attending our AGM on March 23rd, where you can learn much more about our work.

Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo of our volunteers continuing with the ongoing towpath restoration work at our Cosgrove site near Bridge No.1 © Alan Mynard.

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 31). Please visit our website at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk. While you are online, why not also follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/buckinghamcanalsociety and please "Like" us. Thank you.

Ian Matson
Editor

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Restoration Site Update



©Dave Humphreys



©Dave Humphreys

Although most of the practical tasks have taken place at Cosgrove last year, we have also been working to keep our Bourton Meadow site and Hyde Lane's Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve looking good. Reports of a large fallen tree at the nature reserve meant that immediate action was needed to inspect, clear up and make the site safe.

Near Miss as Falling Tree Just Clears the Lock at Hyde Lane!

Sunday 9th December saw us at the nature reserve, as it had been reported that a large tree had fallen down close to the lock. This report turned out to be true, and upon inspection the tree turned out to be very large indeed. Fortunately it came down just missing the lock gates!

Most of the work party was spent cutting up and clearing the debris from the fallen tree using hand bow saws. The extent of the debris was so much, that two large bonfires were needed to clear most of the mess. The patch around the seating area was strimmed, as was two thirds of the canal bed.

Solar panels, just like the ones installed at Bourton Meadow, have been partly installed at the nature reserve site too. As soon as the weather conditions are suitable, we plan to go back and dig out a pump chamber. As with Bourton Meadow, once a pump is installed and we are ready, this will enable a similar method of sourcing water to fill this section too.

There's Plenty of Cutbacks Yet Again at Bourton Meadow...

We have also been very busy at Bourton Meadow, with our Thursday work party working on site on 29th November, 13th December and 10th January. Currently, the main task here is to remove the reeds in the canal bed which have started to spread across the whole of the canal.

The reeds were planted by our volunteers a few years ago and now they have to remove them. This proved to be hard physical work for the volunteers, but over ten metres of reed have now been cleared. A lot more reed clearance is required, and plans are in place to continue this work when volunteers can be spared from our Cosgrove work parties.



The water level in the canal is low at present. This is because the pump was turned off due to pollution in the River Great Ouse, as well as of the lack of water. This has been compounded with the low sun at this time of year to power the solar panel and pump. Therefore it had not been working to full capacity. Recently the canal has been topped up from the river using another pump, and is now full.

The hedgerow at Bourton Meadow has also been trimmed back, and all the grass has been cut by local couple Ruth and Gerry, who volunteered to look after this site for us.

On another positive note, upon speaking to the local farmer he reported that three Otters had been seen in or near our site! An added bonus for our green credentials indeed!

Keeping this site looking good could be a very useful task for the external organisations who usually join us throughout the spring and summer months. We have attracted plenty of offers of help, as shown below in the following article.

...While the External Volunteer Group Numbers Flourish!

A look back over the last twelve months has revealed a very successful year for corporate & external volunteer groups joining us. Waterway Recover Group's (WRG) London and Bit In The Middle (BITM) group visits to work alongside our own volunteers have been particularly invaluable. Without the assistance of the groups listed below, much of the work achieved last year may not have happened. We would also like to thank the Milton Keynes College students who have worked at our Cosgrove site assisting us with the restoration work on Bridge No1.

Date	Organisation	Restoration Site
1. February 10th & 11th	WRG London	Cosgrove
2. April 19th	ICAEW	Hyde Lane
3. April 21st & 22nd	WRG London	Cosgrove
4. May 10th	Santander	Cosgrove
5. May 31st	Network Rail	Bourton Meadow
6. June 9th & 10th	WRG BITM	Cosgrove
7. June 14th	Santander	Cosgrove
8. June 28th & 29th	Stowe School	Cosgrove
9. July 12th	ICAEW	Cosgrove
10. July 19th	Santander	Cosgrove
11. August 2nd	ICAEW	Cosgrove
12. August 9th	Vinci Technology Centre UK	Cosgrove
13. August 23rd	National Trust - Stowe	Bourton Meadow
14. September 6th	Argos	Cosgrove
15. September 20th	Santander	Cosgrove
16. September 22nd & 23rd	WRG London	Cosgrove
17. October 4th	Network Rail	Cosgrove
18. October 11th	Network Rail	Cosgrove

I am already receiving emails from some of the groups mentioned above who want to make return visits this year to work alongside our volunteers again!

We are always interested in hearing from other corporate & external volunteer groups wanting a volunteering project for their team building or training days, so if you know of a company wanting to do a volunteering or community day next year, please let me know using my contact details on page 30.



©DaveHumphreys

©Terry Cavender

Work has continued into February with Bridge No.1 at Cosgrove. All of the concrete block deck has now been laid by our hard working team of volunteers. The inset picture was taken on Thursday 22nd November, with the enormous progress clearly evident in the main picture which was taken on Sunday 10th February!

Athina Beckett
Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Do You Dig Canals?...We Do!



©Fallarino Photo

Work parties are held every other Thursday 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 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 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 Winter Statement

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and are ready to get stuck into canal work. We have a lot lined up for all of our work party volunteers this coming year, and we are hoping to see an increase in their numbers actively on site with the appointment of our newly employed part-time Community Engagement Lead (see page 19).

Looking at the stats for our Facebook page, we have a growing number of followers. If you use Facebook but aren't following us then please go and "Like" in order to follow us at Buckingham Canal Society. Here you can keep up to date with all the happenings almost as fast as the happenings happen.

If you are really social media savvy and fancy donating a little time, then why not consider becoming our Twitterer and or Instagramer (I guess I'm ruling myself out of that role). I thought social media was letting someone read your newspaper when you'd finished.

This year has seen the chairman rolling around in the frozen bottom of section two at Cosgrove, helping Keith and Terry (guess who the apprentice labourer was) to put the track back on Blue - our excavator, followed by a dip up to the waist in section one to put the filter on the monk's drain whilst having to use a lump of wood to smash a path through the ice on what felt like the coldest day since before the last ice age. Using the monk's drain has enabled section two to be seen in water for the first time in seventy-five years - something to really celebrate already this year!

Towpath work has continued to progress at a steady and productive pace and will soon reach up to Cosgrove Lock. A new picnic table is to be installed soon. Hopefully this will see an increase in the number of people walking the arm, enjoying the canal and all the benefits it will have to offer.



©Alan Mynard

As always, if there is anything you want to know, are curious about or would like to suggest to us, then please get in touch with myself or any of the trustees using our contact details on page 30. To find us and "Like" us on Facebook, please visit us at: www.facebook.com/buckinghamcanalsociety

Rob Morris
Trustee and Chairman

BCS Float Raises Profile at the Buckingham Christmas Parade



© Alan Mynard

On Saturday 15th December, BCS participated in the annual Buckingham Christmas Parade. We have had a stall in the indoor charity display for many years, but this was the first time we have taken part in the parade itself. It gave us a chance to show off our liveried van with Tyke the carnival float. Despite the freezing conditions there was a good turnout of spectators in the town. We had the collection buckets out and distributed a number of our information leaflets.



© Alan Mynard

An enjoyable, if cold, morning was had by all. We raised £95.70 at the BCS stall, and all at the Society would like to thank Jeremy & Ros Woodford along with Les & Joan Shean for assisting Trustee Athina Beckett with the stall.

For further information about helping out with our Publicity & Bric-a-Brac Stall, please see page 23.

Alan Mynard

Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist

We're Getting Closer to Buckingham! Well, the A5 Anyway!



© Alan Mynard



© Terry Cavender

Over the middle of January 2019 the water level in the already re-watered section one at Cosgrove reached the monk's drain, and re-watering for section two began. It would be the first water in here for over 75 years!

The clay bed will now rehydrate SLOWLY as the water is effectively being siphoned from the Grand Union Canal (with CRT's consent). We will monitor for leaks as the level rises and initiate remedial action where necessary. The leaks from the first section are certainly slowing and therefor it looks like the clay on the sides is rehydrating. Hence we expect the same behaviour in the second section.



© Terry Cavender

For those pondering what a monk's drain is, it was a drain solution invented to keep fish from swimming out of lakes in the middle ages. It's typically an upright pipe and the height of the pipe sets the level. We have a clever contraption involving a plastic garden sieve and a concertina toilet waste fitting that enables us to adjust the level.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

Replacing the Gates at Cosgrove Lock Reveals it's Secrets



It's not just BCS doing work at Cosgrove. During January CRT have also been active. The lock gates have been leaking for many years and the wood in the main beams has slowly been rotting away. Some remedial work was performed a year or so ago but this did not stop the leaks. So, this winter, CRT put in a full stoppage and have been replacing both sets of gates with brand new ones.

In order to do this, stop planks (below & opposite inset) were inserted above the lock and below the winding hole to form Oak beam dams. This enabled the entirety of the lock and the winding hole to be drained. There is a sluice gate in the wall of the winding hole (below) specifically for this purpose which allows the water to drain away down the



In order to access the Buckingham Arm at Cosgrove, we at BCS and the occupants of the boats moored along the arm usually cross the canal using the lock gates. Obviously, this was not possible whilst the work was in progress, so CRT built a temporary bridge (inset) for all to use. Whether it was safer than using the lock gates is open to question!

embankment into the lakes at Cosgrove Park. As well as giving workers full access to the lock, this also exposes the brick and stone work around the winding hole itself. When this section was drained a while back it was clear that these walls were in a bad state of repair, so with this in mind, CRT have also been taking the opportunity to fix these problems.



© Alan Mynard

At the time of writing, this work should have been completed, although I have not yet been out to check on progress. The new gates that were being installed were delivered to site as bare wood with no paddle mechanisms or handrails in place. These were installed on-site (opposite, top). Until I visit the site again, I won't know if the gates will have been painted in the traditional black & white design or simply left as plain wood. This will be of particular interest to us here at BCS because, as part of our adoption of this section of the Grand Union Canal, we have been responsible for the annual re-painting of the lock gates (above). We usually undertake this task just before our annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair so that they are looking their very best for the event!

Alan Mynard

Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist



© Alan Mynard

Our all new electric wheel-barrow (opposite inset) have proved very versatile and well worth the grant money, despite some initial reservations. They can carry around twice the weight of a traditional barrow with almost no effort at all. Many thanks to Colin Levett, our Grants Officer, for locating the money to pay for these.

COSGROVE CANAL FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR



SAT 20th - SUN 21st JULY 2019
COSGROVE LOCK, GRAND UNION CANAL
& COSGROVE VILLAGE HALL, COSGROVE

FREE ENTRY! FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Historic Boats • Trade Boats • Cake Stalls • Craft Stalls
Games • Entertainment • Fish & Chip Supper*

The Buckingham Canal Society's restoration plans and progress for re-watering the Buckingham Arm of the canal will be on display!

Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm

Cosgrove Lock, Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR

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)



Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair

Support Is Overflowing for Our 26th Annual Festival!



Events team member Alan Mynard brings us the latest news

Planning for our 26th annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair is well under way. This year it will be held over the weekend of 20th & 21st July. As usual, it will take place along the canal towpath from Cosgrove Lock and all the way down to the Iron Trunk Aqueduct. In addition there will be our Craft Fair at Cosgrove Village Hall. Bookings for canal and village hall traders as well as the visitor boats opened at the beginning of the year. There has been no shortage of applications, so much so that we have now filled all of the available spaces! As a consequence, we have had to open a waiting list for other potential traders and visitor boats, just in case we have anyone dropping out.

In past years we have asked traders to make a payment to us after the event in proportion to their takings for the weekend. This year we have changed this so that applicants have to make an up-front payment at the time of placing their booking. This brings us into line with the way other similar festivals are managed and gives us a more predictable income.

Amongst the boat traders we will have all the usual favourites plus a few new attendees. There will be a good mix of charity boats, food suppliers and arts & crafts traders amongst others. It should make for a fun weekend for everyone either involved or attending, and it provides an excellent opportunity for all to find out how our restoration plans are looking.

Alan Mynard

Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist

Craft Fair Organiser Sharron Comerford updates us on the Craft Fair front

The organisation of this Festival's Craft Fair is well underway...well it is never too early to start! We promise a full house again this year (well a full village hall actually) with talented artisan crafters who will bring a variety of unusual and quirky handmade goods to their tables! You will recognise familiar faces and meet new crafters too, but with whomever you meet you will certainly find new designs and plenty to tempt you.

We pride ourselves on the handmade...with hand turned and rustic wood, decorative prints and oil painted art. You will also find mosaics, ceramics, quirky cards and dolls nestled alongside silver, beaded, ethnic and polymer clay jewellery. And if that's not enough, there will also be fused glass, gin, chutneys and preserves. Some of the crafters are also offering demonstrations too! In addition to all things hand crafted, we will have a room dedicated to pre-loved and vintage items. So there will be all sorts of lovely things to see and buy as a present or a treat for yourself.

The village hall is located on Bridge Road. Refreshments, cakes and lunches will be available all day. The hall also offers disabled access and toilets. Entry to the festival is free throughout. The Society warmly welcomes you to what will be our biggest & best festival yet!

Sharron Comerford
Craft Fair Organiser

Can You Spare a Little Time to Help Us?

As mentioned already, our 26th annual Canal Festival takes place over the weekend of 20th & 21st July, and this falls one week before the very popular Linslade Canal Festival, allowing traders enough flexibility to attend both events. We have again booked Cosgrove Village Hall after five years of amazing success with the Craft Fair.

Our cake stall volunteers have the extra space needed to provide teas and cakes in a very pleasant environment. Booking the village hall has also significantly increased 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 to 5pm on both days to allow traders time to set up and dismantle stalls. Please note that this year we do not have access to the hall after 5pm on the Saturday evening, and as a result the festival closes one hour earlier than usual. It will be business as usual on the Sunday though.

As always, extra help will be needed to begin setting up the festival on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th July, and also to dismantle everything at the end of it on Sunday 21st July. I want to thank everybody who helped last year, but we do need your help again this year. There will be a great variety of tasks to suit everybody, and we will need assistance with activities including, but not restricted to the following: Baking cakes for the Cake Stall; Serving cakes in the Village Hall; Working on the Games Stall; The Lock Ransom, whereby 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. If you haven't been involved for a while, it's a chance to meet up with the other volunteers. Why not also invite your family and friends along to the event for what is promising to be a very enjoyable weekend! You would also be very welcome to join the boaters on Saturday evening for a fish & chip supper, although this must be booked in advance.

I will be collecting prospective names at forthcoming work parties. **However, if you are not able to meet me at one of these in person, but would like help out at the festival, or even book a stall, boat mooring or fish & chip supper, please contact either myself, Athina Beckett, or the Cosgrove Festival Team using either of our contact details on page 30. Additional details can also be found by visiting: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/events-and-news/annual-festival/**

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Informative Talks & Guided Walks

A Round Up of Last Year's Increasingly Popular Talks

One important task I carry out for BCS is to give talks to a variety of groups, as you can see from the list below. If people are interested I can also arrange to take a group on a walk in order to demonstrate the work being carried out by our volunteers. We take a look at some of the work carried out in the past and I point out the present restoration projects taking place. I also address the places of interest regarding their heritage and history along the route of the Buckingham Canal.

Date	Audience
1. January 9th	Milton Keynes History Group
2. April 20th	Stowe House (Walk & Talk)
3. April 26th	Stoke Goldington Association
4. May 2nd	Brackley & District History Society
5. July 10th	Trefoil Guild
6. October 2nd	Stony Stratford Riverside Parks Group
7. October 24th	U3A Transport Group
8. November 13th	IWA Middlesex
9. November 21st	The Olney and District Historical Society

If any other group or society would like a similar walk, or even one at the Buckingham end, then please contact me using my contact on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Childhood Memories of a Norfolk Holiday

Having had several family holidays in Norfolk in recent years (UK, not USA) I find I have a deadline to meet in writing something for the Navigator. This is not an easy task: I am not a canal person, so have no interesting stories or incidents to tell you about things that happened to me whilst on a canal. In fact, I have very limited experience of any boating activity. When at school I did have a week on the Norfolk Broads during the summer holidays. We camped in bell tents, six or eight to a tent, in a field next to the timbered village hall in Horsey. The hall is where we had our meals and spent our evenings and where any females in the group slept (in those days, sadly, mostly the girls and ladies helping run the camp). This contained the only toilet too. A week before the camp started, the older boys, still of school age and probably sixth-formers, who doubled-up as skippers of the boats (I'll get to that in a moment) spent the time erecting half a dozen bell tents and digging latrines. These were backfilled with soil each day, in an effort to keep things hygienic. We're talking about the sixties now, long before health and safety was invented and no-one had ever heard of a risk assessment. How on earth did I ever live through all those hazardous times.

Now about those boats. We had a couple of hired half-deckers and a small dingy belonging to the reverend who ran the camp. We collected the boats in Wroxham and had to sail them to our base on Horsey Mere, where they were moored next to the famous Horsey wind pump. Most days were spent sailing on the various Broads, never a buoyancy aid in sight. The half-deckers were big beasts, designed specifically for use on the Broads and supposedly not able to be capsized. Having been on Hickling Broad in a high wind I'm sure that could be put to the test. They are still being made and used by sailing schools to this day.

I still remember the challenge of "shooting the bridges at Potter Higham". The trick was to get up enough speed to pass under the two bridges without losing way. You had to approach the first bridge as fast as you could, lower the mast, pass under bridge one, raise the mast and sails (just holding onto the sheets, as there wasn't time to tie them off), to try and gain additional momentum. Then let go of everything and drop the mast again before passing under bridge two, before being dead in the water. We failed. It is also a challenge in itself to get such a large boat moving again with two tiny paddles and half a dozen small hands.

On each day of the holiday one tent was assigned to "camp duties", which meant you stayed behind when the rest went off sailing. This would mean helping to prepare the evening meal, keeping the camp tidy and grass short, and back-filling the latrines. This was usually finished by lunch-time, which meant a free afternoon. We would sail the dinghy around Horsey Mere or take a long trek to Horsey Gap to go swimming in the sea or playing in the sand dunes. Happy days!

Richard Dwight
Trustee and Treasurer

Meet the Employee



© Terry Cavender



BCS has been successful in our application to The National Lottery Community Fund programme. This will provide us with £5,000 per annum for the next 5 years, which we will use to engage with the local community to publicise our work more widely, to evidence community support and to encourage active engagement. After advertising and interviewing, we have appointed Trustee Colin Levett as our part time Community Engagement Lead as of 1st February 2019, thus utilising most of this funding opportunity. The plan is that Colin will be driving up awareness and participations as well as support form all the communities along our bit of canal.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

A Week in the Canal

Lots of discussion has taken place recently about how we can sustain the workload of BCS. It's not all holes in the ground and it struck me that a "week in the life of" insight might be useful for members to see that there are many ways other than driving a digger to get involved.

THURSDAY: Yes, this starts on a Thursday because it's a trustees meeting where I am starting to write this (and look to the week ahead) as we have a discussion regarding Navigator publication dates. Looking back at the rest of the day, I started loading the trailer at 07.30 and was at Cosgrove for 08.30. I was then joined by three others and we cracked on at the bridge.

Tasks included pumping out the water that had accumulated in the sump, checking the scaffolding and getting the tools in place as well as the sand, lime and timber. Meanwhile, John set about the shuttering on the towpath side whilst Colin, Keith and I cleaned the stonework in readiness to lay some more. Mortar and weight lifting came later when more stone was laid and pointed. So in the meantime we joined John. The shuttering/formwork for the concrete slab for the bridge needed putting in place and the hole needed extending to accommodate this.

MOT Type 1 Sub base 0/30mm (aka gravel) was moved onto the excavation site ready for the reinforcing to follow and then the concrete pour. The dip in the access road where the hedge once crossed the field has got a lot lower, so we took the dumper to in-fill it with material from the bridge void and used Blue – our excavator, to level and compact it.

Later, a rough slipway was created by grading the bund to about 1 in 5, and scaffold planks were laid out ready for the Wilderness Beaver trailboat - TEAL, due on Saturday. Finally, I drove round to the portacabin next to the marina to unload the trailer, and then preloaded it for Sunday at Hyde Lane Lock. Overall BCS got 12 hours today including travel.

FRIDAY: Email CRT's national restoration director regarding boats on waterways under restoration following a question raised regarding permission for the trailboat to go in at Cosgrove; Arrange various meetings for next few weeks based on several emails, and action items from the Trustees meeting (1 hour); Collate invoices for LEADER grant claim and reconcile for missing ones (3 hours); Put up roadside signs at Cosgrove for the festival (1 hour including travel); Meet with Colin and Dave to review grant status of all active and recent grants, grant reports, budgets, purchase variances etc (3 hours including travel).

SATURDAY: Meet Clair, Chris and Keith to launch trailboat at Cosgrove (3 hours whilst daughter was at cricket training); Sort out reserved mooring signs for festival that have not quite been placed correctly (2 hours and daughter helped put signs up).

SUNDAY: Prepare trailer for the work party at Hyde Lane. Go to site and take solar panel & post to site and put in place. Help tidy the site generally with tree and hedge pruning. 5 hours. Come home and secure trailer items (1 hour); LEADER grant claim drafting (4 hours).

The rest of the week looked as follows...

MONDAY: Plan week and send emails; Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) crowd funding launch. **TUESDAY:** WAT instructorship. **WEDNESDAY:** Bucks tourism. **THURSDAY:** Work party; Extra work party.

So there we go. A random week chronicled. Fancy getting involved? Please contact any of the trustees using our contact details on page 30. We need your help!

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal

Our base at Linslade is within weekend reach of the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, or the Chiltern Hills and Aylesbury. Choice of exciting one or two week cruises including the Thames. 35 luxury boats - 2 to 8 berth.

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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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- Do your bit to make Aylesbury Vale a better place and win prizes up to £20,000!
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- A further 8% goes to other good causes in the Vale!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
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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.

If anyone has any old T shirts (bright colours and black preferred), please save them as we can use them for the rag rug making.

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

Choose Us as Your Co-op Local Cause

Please CO-OPERate and choose BCS as your fundraising cause when shopping at Co-op. We receive 1% of the total spent on shopping by Co-op members who choose us. So click away and please ask your family, neighbours and friends to do likewise.



In order to donate, you need to be a member of the co-op, so please visit their website at membership.coop.co.uk/causes/22189, or ask in your local store for details.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

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!

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

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

DHL Match It! Yet Again for BCS

As with previous years, the huge success of last summer's Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair was given an extra boost in November, as charitable fundraising made to BCS by one of their valued festival volunteers was matched by her employers, the global logistics and transport company, Deutsche Post DHL.

Liz Turvey is the Head of Insurance Programmes for the UK and Ireland with Deutsche Post DHL, and also finds the time to volunteer for BCS. Last year, as in previous years, she organised a homemade cake stall (which has expanded in recent years into cream teas and freshly made sandwich rolls) as part of the Festival's Craft Fair, whereby visitors could sit in comfort and chat whilst taking a hot or cold beverage with a delicious cake or savoury snack in the village hall. Although a little quieter last year than of late, we had a steady stream of customers, and all the cakes were sold by the end of the weekend! Liz was therefore thrilled to advise BCS that she raised £838.65 towards funds for the continued restoration of the Buckingham Canal that the Society is undertaking between Cosgrove and Buckingham.

However, it didn't end there. Liz had also been successful again in her Match It! application to the DHL UK Foundation, which allowed her £838.65 already raised to be increased by a further £297.68 to make a grand total of £1136.33. The Foundation is a charitable organisation encouraging fundraising and volunteering by all DHL employees in their local communities and offers a variety of charity programmes. This motivates them to get involved in those communities within which they live and work, in an effort to make a positive difference. Their Match It! programme champions this even further by matching the money initially raised by the DHL employees, and then donating it directly to their chosen charities. The success of the programme has seen £382,148 donated through 898 grants nationwide in 2016/2017, and BCS were extremely grateful to be one of their recipients.

BCS would like to thank all those volunteers that assisted with our popular "café".

For further details about the DHL UK Foundation, please visit:

www.dhlukfoundation.org

Ian Matson
Editor

Shopping at



Supports BCS

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!

The Quarterly Grants Update

Following our successful grant applications last year, we are now well underway with this year's applications to try to beat last year's total.



Supported by
Co-op Members

But first, here's a catch-up on some of the successes of last year. We are now into the current round of the Co-op - Local Community Fund. Co-op members can choose our cause to give their 1% to when they spend on selected own-brand products and services. We have so far raised £189.15 at the time of writing. The funding period will run for twelve months until the 26th October 2019, so start spending!



We have received the first grant payment of £2,500 from the Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities, now to be known as The National Lottery Community Fund. We will be receiving this amount every six months for the next five years. We will be using this money to engage with the local community, to publicise our work more widely, to evidence community support and to encourage active engagement. We will also be trying to increase our core group of volunteers who regularly turn out to help restore our canal. We will be contacting you all in the forthcoming months to get your feedback on our progress.

Among others, we have submitted further grant applications to Clarion Housing Group's charitable foundation - Clarion Futures, The Radcliffe Trust and also The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and we now wait with fingers crossed. We are particularly looking for funds for canal bank repairs at farm crossing points, implementation of our governance review, heritage craft training, rest areas along the towpath and a new excavator (as our Blue is getting a bit long in the tooth).

We are extremely grateful, as always, 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

Funders

We are very grateful for the financial support from all of our funders. In chronological order, below is a list of our most recent funders.

- 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
- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation
- Heart of Bucks Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire - Heart of Bucks General Fund
- Tesco - Bags of Help
- Amazon - Smile
- LEADER
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch
- Adviza - Brighter Futures (Building Futures/Building Better Opportunities)
- European Social Fund (ESF)

Patrons, Partners & Supporters

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:

- 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. In chronological order, below is a list of our most recent attendees.

- Network Rail
- London Waterway Recovery Group (LWRG)
- Santander
- Computacentre
- Stowe House
- Vinci Technology Centre UK
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- 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
- Explorer Scouts

Future Events

Saturday 23rd March 7.00pm - 10.30pm

The Buckingham Canal Society's 27th Annual General Meeting and Social Gathering

As usual this will be in the in the Buckingham Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, Bucks, MK18 8AX. This is next to the Waitrose supermarket in the town centre and all are welcome. Following our usual practice, we will start with the short formal business of the meeting where we will update you all on progress over the past year and outline our plans for the future. We will be asking members to approve last year's minutes, the annual financial report and some changes that occurred within the committee.

Following the formal section, we then break for the cheese and wine social during which you will have a chance to mingle with the committee and everyone else present. The final part of the evening should be really interesting and directly relevant to the BCS. We will be joined by Bob Williams and Peter Buck from the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust who will be giving a talk about their restoration work. In many ways they have similar goals and challenges to restoration as we do (or should that be, we have the same goals and challenges as they do?). From what we've seen on social media, over the last year they have made significant progress with some of their work and are currently running a major fund-raising scheme to enable them to achieve the next phase of their work.

Friday 5th - Saturday 6th April

IWA Milton Keynes Canal Clean Up

Meet: Fenny Stratford Lock.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Saturday 15th - Sunday 16th June

Heritage MK Partners MK Festival of History

Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK6

Details:

www.miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk

Thursday 25th April 7.30pm

IWA Milton Keynes Talk: The Manchester Ship Canal - Richard Thomas

Royal British Legion Hall, off Melrose Ave,
West Bletchley, Bucks, MK3 6PU

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 27th June 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX

Details: 01908-661217

athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Thursday 30th May 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX

Details: 01908-661217

athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th June

Fellows, Morton & Clayton Ltd Rally & Canal Festival

Braunston Marina, Braunston,
Nr Daventry, Northants, NN11 7JH

Details: 01788-891373

www.braunstonmarina.co.uk

Work Party Dates 2019/2020

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

December

Sunday 8th
Thursday 12th
Thursday 26th

January

Thursday 9th
Sunday 12th
Thursday 23rd

February

Thursday 6th
Sunday 9th
Thursday 20th

March

Thursday 5th
Sunday 8th
Thursday 19th

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Trustee

We are interested to hear from people who would like to join us as trustees.



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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

General Enquiries

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The cost to call 0300 numbers is the same as calling a normal local or national land line. If your tariff or call package offers free or inclusive calls to landlines, numbers starting with 03 will be included in the exact same way.

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 100 (Summer 2019) by the 1st May 2019 via 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.

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Back Page: £22

Half Page: £10

Inserts: £7.50

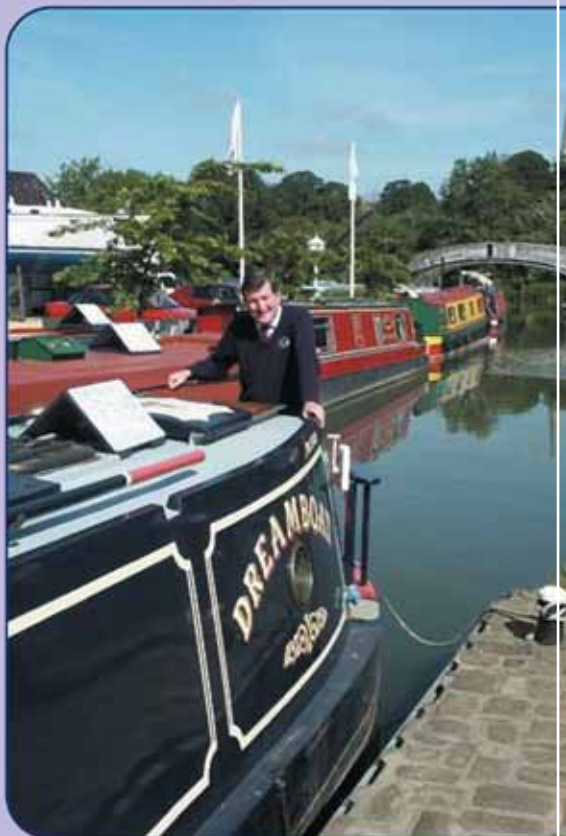
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