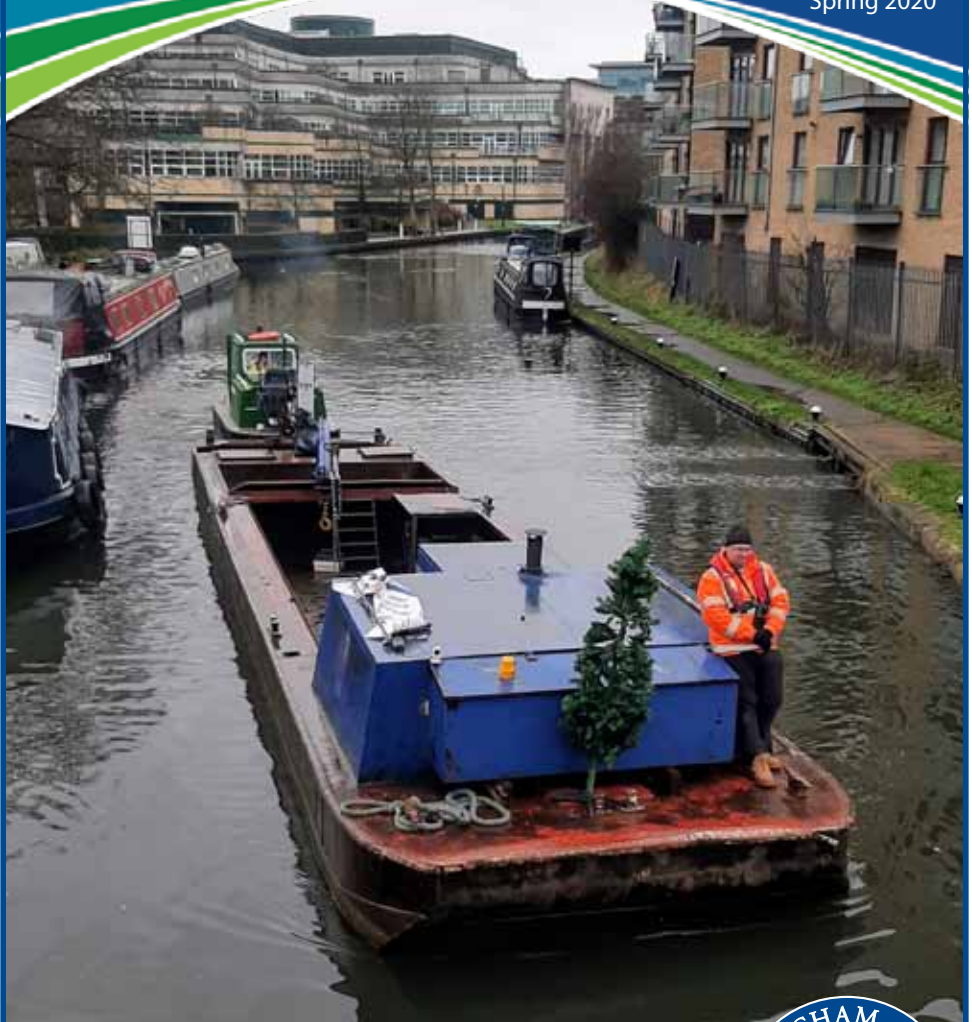


THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 103
Spring 2020



Featuring:

- Bridge No.1 Restoration Update
- Cosgrove's Original Swing Bridge
- The History & New Adventures of WB Louise



Cosgrove Marina

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Contact us for short, medium and long term moorings.



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 2020 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

Well it goes without saying that we have had a terrible time with the weather so far this year! Although Cosgrove has certainly been in flood, many other places across the country have seen far, far worse. Nonetheless, the storms and the continuous rainfall have had a knock on effect on the progress of work on Bridge No.1.

While the restoration work has slowed, other things have progressed. We have acquired and brought back to Cosgrove our new workboat, Louise. She will be a huge asset to our cause. We have also been granted planning permission for our new access track at Cosgrove. Again, this will make entry to this site a lot easier. Lets keep our fingers crossed that the weather improves, not just for BCS, but for those struggling across the country too.

Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo of Louise towed by Woodcock at Uxbridge Lock on her journey from Brentford to Cosgrove © Alan Mynard. See the full article on page 19. **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/UCUsImDM1ExIXiH2iW9zAJhg

Thank you.



Ian Matson
Editor

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Restoration Site Update



As winter usually dictates, progress at the Bridge No.1 has slowed due to poor weather, volunteer availability and operations. Looking on the bright side though, opening the towpath on 28th November to the public was a major milestone.

The Ups and Downs of Restoring Cosgrove's Canal Bridge

As the brickwork continues, the project now falls naturally into three parts - upstairs, downstairs and the bridge void.



©Terry Cavender

Downstairs, as in under the bridge, the painting has been completed, with the final coat being applied to the steel beams (below). Trimming and finishing work is underway on the steel rebar and concrete trimming. This should be finished by March, weather permitting. That will allow us to remove the scaffolding from in the bridge void.



©Alan Mynard



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©Alan Mynard



©Alan Mynard

The void is where the canal water flows through. The wooden cill is a timber that runs across the void in the canal bed (above). This is for the stop planks to rest upon and for a watertight 'wall' of wood. 'Dressing' this cill is an essential part of making this watertight. To prepare for the removal of the steel piling and the earth dam, we need to have these planks in place and fitted. We can then remove the remains of the earth dam and eventually the piling. Read *The Story of Louise* on page 19 to see how we accomplish this.

Upstairs, the brickwork is now being progressed from 'up top' and also from scaffolding that is not in the bridge void. A wearing course of 50mm (2") of fine ballast concrete will be laid. This will allow any wear to be addressed without touching the structural concrete, in the same way as you see the top layer of a road planed off and replaced. As I type, the railings that will go on the sides of the bridge have now been powder coated and are due for delivery. Hopefully they will have been bolted in place onto the concrete before you receive this edition.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

Another Successful Team-building Year on the Canal

Once again we had a very successful year, with ten external organisations sending groups to join our own volunteers on practical task work parties throughout 2019. These included four separate visits by groups from Santander, who also gave us donations of £250 on three separate occasions to purchase tools for use on our work parties. Network Rail volunteer groups joined us on four separate occasions and we also had two visits from The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Several other groups joined for a one off visit, including Vinci Technology Centre UK, Eddyfi Technologies - TSC and McAfee. Last year's visits were as follows:

Date	Organisation	Restoration Site
1. <i>March 16th & 17th</i>	<i>WRG BITM</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
2. <i>April 18th</i>	<i>Network Rail</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
3. <i>April 23rd</i>	<i>Milton Keynes College</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
4. <i>May 11th & 12th</i>	<i>WRG London</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
5. <i>May 16th</i>	<i>ICAEW</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
6. <i>May 30th</i>	<i>Vinci Technology Centre UK</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
7. <i>June 4th</i>	<i>Eddyfi Technologies - TSC</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
8. <i>June 6th</i>	<i>McAfee + Students</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
9. <i>June 13th</i>	<i>Network Rail</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
10. <i>June 15th & 16th</i>	<i>KESCRG</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
11. <i>June 20th</i>	<i>Santander</i>	<i>Hyde Lane</i>
12. <i>June 27th</i>	<i>Santander</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
13. <i>July 11th</i>	<i>Santander</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
14. <i>July 18th</i>	<i>ICAEW</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
15. <i>July 25th</i>	<i>Network Rail</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
16. <i>August 8th</i>	<i>Network Rail</i>	<i>Cosgrove</i>
17. <i>October 3rd</i>	<i>Santander</i>	<i>Bourton Meadow</i>

I have recently had a meeting with Community Action: MK, and as a result I have been given details of three other companies who may also be interested in volunteering with us this year. I will be following these leads up as soon as possible. I am also hopeful that we may get some students from the University of Northampton, as they each have to give 40 volunteering hours per year. I will be promoting BCS at this University in February too. In the past we have had help from Community Payback people in Buckingham, so I am hoping that they will be able to help us again at our Bourton Meadow site sometime this year.

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.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser



© Alan Mynard



©Alan Mynard

Ongoing Maintenance Continues at Our Other Sites too

Whilst Cosgrove is our central project at the moment, work still continues at Bourton Meadow (above) to control the vegetation. We also plan to return very soon to the nearby Hyde Lane site (inset) to do a little gardening there too.

Ian Matson
Editor

Do You Dig Canals?...We Do!



Work parties are held most Thursdays and the second Sunday of each month and are always friendly, welcoming and very rewarding. Additional construction/equipment work parties operate most Tuesdays and on the last Sunday of each month

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, we work within many of the principles and methods of Waterway Recovery Group (WRG).

You will always be given a Health and Safety (H&S) briefing for any work party. All work parties involving construction machinery, often referred to as plant, will require that you confirm you have watched the WRG Health & Safety video (via the link below) within the past 12 months.

The video contains important Health & Safety information that all new volunteers need to know. All volunteers are required to watch this video before they go on site in order to find out about WRG's on site Health & Safety.

This video is only an introduction to site safety, and does not remove the need for a volunteer to have a full briefing about a specific site/project.

For full details of the WRG Health & Safety policy and additional documentation and videos, please visit:

www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/wrg-health-safety-video/

For more information about WRG please visit:

www.waterways.org.uk/wrg

The Winter Statement

Wow! What an exciting year for BCS. Our projects team have progressed all projects beyond what many thought achievable in the given time. They are causing people to sit up and really take notice when they say they will look to achieve something, because with their outstanding record for delivery, ideas can not be dismissed with a shrug and a “that will never happen” attitude.

For those that have been following our progress on Facebook, Twitter or other social media, you will have seen our progress with WB Louise from London to Cosgrove. It is now moored and is undergoing a facelift to ensure she looks her best.

Bridge No.1 is now a bridge, in that if you are driving Terry’s car or mine, you can get on it. The towpath underneath has now been re-opened and is being enjoyed by the many walkers and cyclists who use it. There remains much work to be completed, but the end really is in sight.



©Alan Mynard

With Brexit now in place after last night (I’m writing this on the 1st February), there will be new challenges for our Grants Officer Colin Levett and his golden touch in pursuing new grant opportunities. I am sure though that he will not only rise to the challenge, but soar like an eagle above it.

Aimee Tidman, our new Community Engagement Worker is getting out and about meeting people and working hard to bring them on-board the BCS boat (I was going to say train but boat seemed more fitting). With some of the projects coming online this year there are fantastic opportunities to engage with an even wider and more diverse mix of potential volunteers.

When you get a chance to visit one of the many areas that we have been working on, such as the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve (above), please be sure to take a camera to record the progress. Also, I’m sending out a plea for any wildlife photographs you take and wildlife sightings that you record so we can monitor the increasing biodiversity we are encouraging and enabling.

Remember to mark the 21st March in your diaries for our AGM. Bring your friends along to hear more about what has been accomplished, and learn about our plans for the next couple of years and how we will achieve them.

Rob Morris
Trustee and Chairman

New Access Track Approved at Cosgrove

Shortly after Christmas, South Northamptonshire Council approved our planning application for a new access track at Cosgrove which will mean, once in place, we will no longer face some of the limitations of the farm entrance. It will be a while before work commences on this project, as further paperwork called a Section 278 Highways Minor Works Agreement is required, along with some £££. Hedge planting required by the planning consent is likely to be a key activity in the field later in 2020. As I type, meetings with the landowners are scheduled in the next week or so.

Pole Saw and Chipper Training

As a part of our overall systems of safe working, we now have two qualified pole saw operators with LANTRA tickets. Three more are scheduled for March. We will also have three qualified chipper operators, and have now used some grant money to purchase a wood chipper for the disposal of branches. This will be a far greener, and less paperwork intensive approach than burning.



©Alan Mynard



©Alan Mynard

Obviously, please be aware of whenever this equipment is being used and ensure that only the qualified operators operate the equipment, as otherwise our insurance will be invalid.

If you would like to be given some training with this equipment, then please talk to me or use my contact details on page 30 and I will try to arrange this with Canal & River Trust (CRT) who themselves have provided us with this set of opportunities.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

The BCS Website Gets a Makeover

By the time you read this, the BCS website should have undergone a cosmetic and technological make-over! Our previous site was designed in 2012 and was good for its time, but use of the internet has moved on quite a bit since then. Most notably, the type of device that people use to access websites has changed.



Back in 2012, internet access would have almost always been from a desktop or laptop PC. Nowadays it is much more likely to be a smart phone or tablet, which poses more of a challenge to the website designer. This is because these devices are available in a number of different sizes. So the computer industry has come up with a new system of website design known as 'responsive', where the content displayed automatically adjusts itself to fit whatever device the person is using. This is how the BCS site will now function.

Also, social media has become the de-facto way of getting news: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in particular. News items have always been a major point of the BCS website, but now we also have social media accounts and therefore we tend to publish most news there, leaving the website for more regular or persistent items. To reflect this, the website homepage has changed to include displays of the latest items from Facebook and Twitter as well as stories posted solely on the website.

We hope that you like the changes we have made and that you find them useful. If you do have any feedback or suggestions, then please contact me via email at: webmaster@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Alan Mynard

Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist

Swing Bridges

Many years ago there were far more swing bridges on the canal network than there are today. They provided a level crossing for animals and vehicles which, from the point of view of those crossing them, provided better access than the steep, humped-backed, “permanent” bridges. But to boaters they were an inconvenience and to the canal companies they were yet another piece of infrastructure that needed constant maintenance. Combined with the increase in size and weight of road traffic as motor vehicles appeared, it’s no wonder they were mostly removed from the canals.

Today, you can still see a working example of this type of bridge at Fenny Stratford (below) on the southern edge of Milton Keynes.



© Alan Mynard

Did you know there used to be a swing bridge at Cosgrove Lock, by the entrance to the Buckingham Arm? You can see it in this photo (below, from a postcard) which was probably taken in the early 1900s.



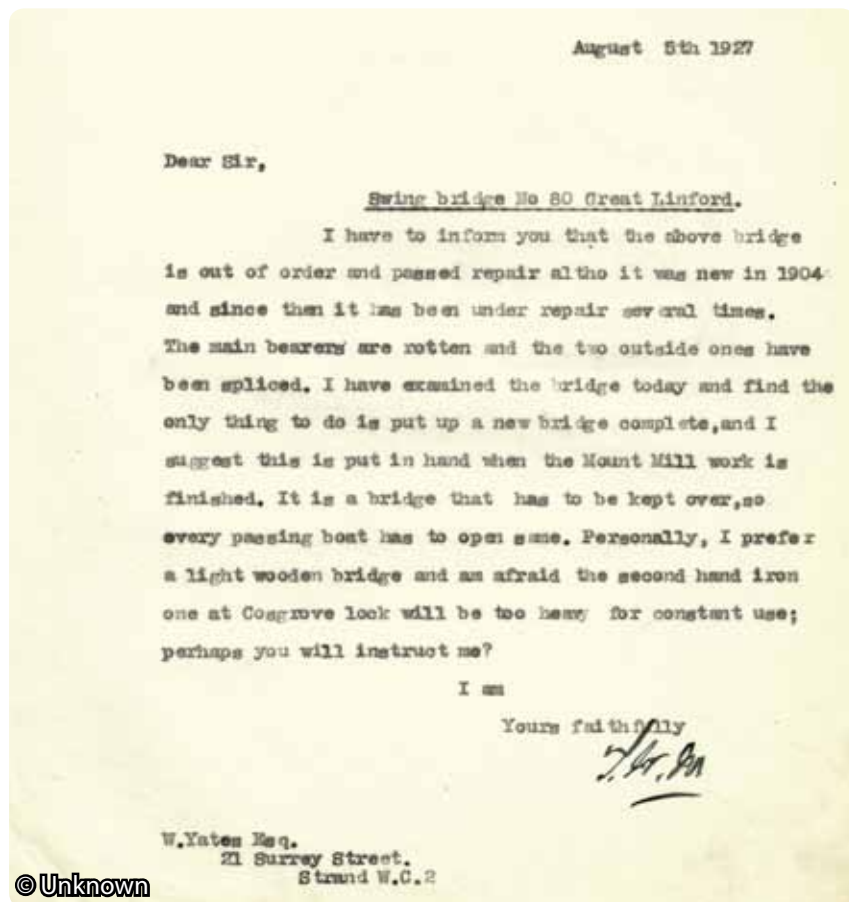
So why did Cosgrove have a swing bridge and what happened to it?

Throughout the commercial life of the Old Stratford and Buckingham Arm of the Grand Junction Canal, most of the boats navigating it would have been horse-drawn. The evidence of this is visible today in the uncovered remains of the original Bridge No.1 structure, where the sides of the bridge on the towpath side have grooves worn in them from the ropes of the passing horses and boats. Any boat moving in or out of the arm would have needed a means of getting the horse from the main line towpath (opposite the arm) to the towpath on the arm, or vice-versa. It's speculation on my part, but I assume this was the purpose of the swing bridge. Further north on the main line, in Cosgrove village itself, there is a horse tunnel under the canal. Maybe this could have been used to get horses to and from the arm, but it would have meant unhitching the boat by the lock followed by a long walk, via the tunnel and Bridge No.1, back to the other side of the lock.

The swing bridge was removed from Cosgrove lock sometime prior to August 1927. We know this from a couple of letters that we have in our archive collection. These show correspondence between W Yates, a Grand Junction Canal Co. Engineer based in the London headquarters, and Thomas Millner, the local engineer, based at Blisworth, responsible for the main line in this area and the Buckingham Arm.

The first letter (below) is from Thomas Millner and is reporting on the state of (dis-)repair of Swing Bridge No. 80 on the main line at Great Linford.

This bridge no longer exists. It's location is probably that of the current redway (footpath) bridge, 80A, just a few hundred yards north of what is now bridge 80 carrying H4 Danstead Way over the canal.

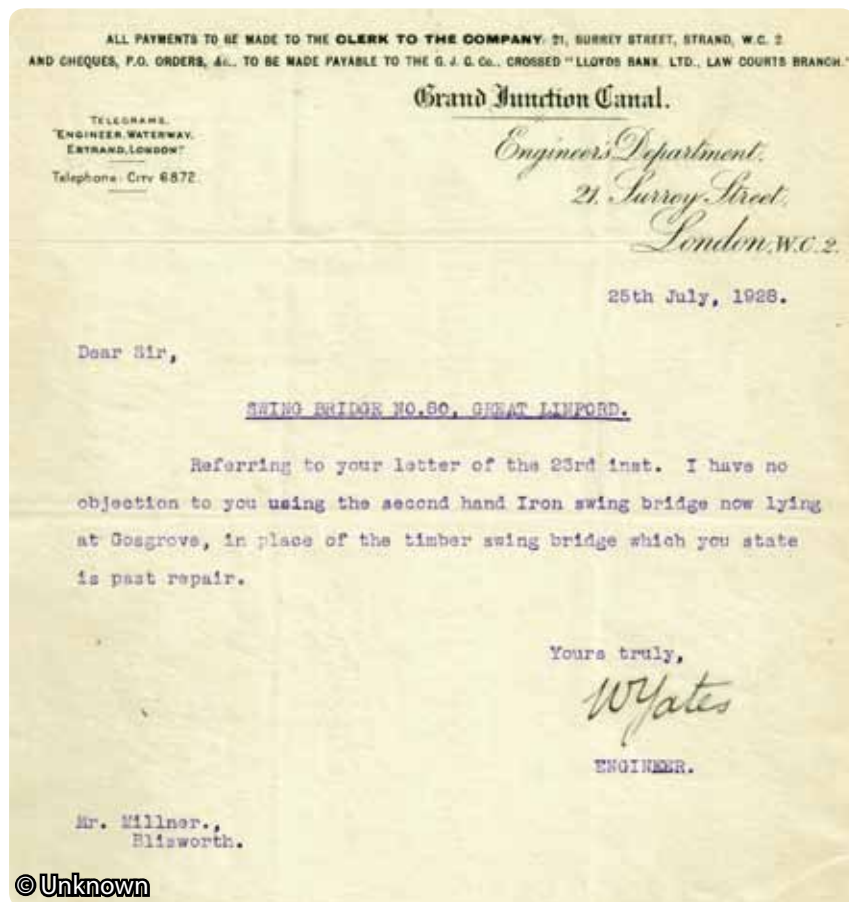


There are some interesting facts in this letter from which we can speculate other things. The wooden bridge at Great Linford was 23 years old and needed replacing because of rot. To some this may not seem very old, but when you compare it with other wooden structures it is not an unreasonable life span. Even today wooden lock gates have a life span of about 20 years. A swing bridge is not in the water, but it gets similar usage.

The reference to the "second hand iron one at Cosgrove lock" implies that that bridge has already been decommissioned. We have no other records to go on as to when this actually happened. This iron construction also implies that it was a very sturdy bridge, capable of supporting heavy loads. Why would this be necessary? Surely this would not

be needed just to allow the passage of horses? Also, horses would still have been used to pull some boats at this time, so how did they get over to the Buckingham Arm without the bridge being in place? If you, dear reader, have any knowledge, please do get in touch.

The second letter (below) is from the following year, in reply to other correspondence that we do not have.



We'll probably never know why the Cosgrove bridge was taken out of use. Or how boaters got their horses across the canal once it was removed.

Back to the current day, we are continuing to investigate new ways to bridge the lock with the aim of making pedestrian (including disabled) access to the Buckingham Arm safer than having to cross the lock gates.

Alan Mynard
Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist

BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY AGM & SOCIAL EVENING



7pm SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2020
BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTER,
CORNWALLS MEADOW, BUCKINGHAM
MK18 1RP

**Learn about our achievement of building Bridge 1 and the plans
for re-opening the canal section at Cosgrove.**

Listen to a fascinating talk by Neil Loudon entitled:

'Boats Without Water'
The Story of Edward Hayes of Stony Stratford

Cheese, Wine and Light Refreshments will be available during the mid-session break.

A raffle will be held at the end of the evening.

Everyone welcome - only members can vote on AGM resolutions.

Meeting at 7pm. AGM starts at 7.30pm

For more information:

email : info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

tel : 0300-323-1350

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



Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1156662

The Story of Louise - Our Latest Recruit

"Are we sailing? Yes we are sailing...to lift with you...not far away." Canals and boats are intrinsically linked like salt and pepper, so when Rob Locateli offered his 'old' workboat, the quest began. I hear you asking, what's in it for BCS, when is it happening and why?



So, what about the workboat in question? Well Louise is very nearly 100 years old. Built in the 1920s (we don't have an exact date, so I have chosen her birthday as July 2020 simply as this aligns with our festival!) as a Beet Barge for transporting Sugar Beet on the fens, she has a concrete floor for both structure and ballast. Oh, she also has a HIAB 085 L crane which has a crane hook, a winch and a timber grab. A few months ago, Rob Morris and I went up north to collect a grab bucket for Louise as a welcome to Cosgrove present. It is very useful for dredging canals such as the Buckingham Arm from Cosgrove lock to Bridge No.1. Also, it will be extremely useful for removing the earth dam, as we can't get an excavator in the void with the stop planks in place. This is because if the void fills with water, the excavator would be stuck.



So, over Christmas the gallant crew set off to bring a tug named Woodcock from Braunston to Cosgrove for our onward journey to Brentford. OK, that was doable. So having done it, we turned around, hooked up Louise so the real journey could begin.

There and Back Again - Bringing Back Louise



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Our intrepid helmsmen (Colin, Rob, and Gerry) cajoled the tug and Louise up the River Brent and onto the Grand Union Canal. The good news is that with Louise and Woodcock cabled together, they just about fitted into the lock chambers. This means we did not have to double operate or de-couple at each lock. So, in twenty calendar days we took possession of the tug, fetched and brought Louise all the way up to Cosgrove, and then returned the tug to Braunston! Our grateful thanks to Canal & River Trust (CRT) who provided the tug. A total of 1,100 volunteer hours were clocked up planning and moving the boat, and on top of that our van travelled around 1,500 miles doing the ferrying!

The crane is subject to lots of paperwork and operates under Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). It's made by Hydrauliska Industri AB (HIAB) and we are currently collating all the necessary paperwork for its practical use. As an example, Rob and I have been on a commercial lorry mounted crane course (yes, we know she's not a lorry) as a part of being able to operate this ourselves. The first mission is likely to be paying back our debt to CRT for the kind provision of the tug, as Louise is likely to be off on an adventure to Long Buckby to help with a project there for a week or so. Depending on timing, we will then be back down to Cosgrove to transport the metal railings for the bridge 'upstairs' and the stop planks for 'down below' at the end of February. Subject to paperwork, we then aim to expose the towpath walls by gentle removal of the earth bund so we can evaluate those bits of brickwork with the stop planks in place for safety to stop any inadvertent water loss.

The stop planks will also be subject to a stilling test which, for those wondering, is a way of establishing leakage measurements. Assuming we pass that test, we then just have to remove the dam. On a recent visit to Cosgrove by CRT staff, the provisional date of Easter has been discussed for removal of the dam and the piling. This will be done using Louise and her crane, with the dumper truck on the towpath to take the materials away.

Another job for Louise is going to be placing gravel on the main Grand Union towpath from Cosgrove lock to the sanitary station and up towards the horse tunnel by the Barley Mow pub. We hope to get this done in early spring, so it will be well bedded down by the time our Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair takes place in July. Of course, this will also make the towpath better for local residents, boaters and all towpath users.



The dredging of the Buckingham Arm that is already in water is also being planned for later in the year. More to come on this subject as plans are developed and landowners informed.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive
Officer

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. Last year's talks were as follows:

Date	Audience
1. January 11th	<i>Busy Bees Club</i>
2. January 14th	<i>Chess Valley U3A History Group</i>
3. February 6th	<i>Bicester Vintage Tractor Club</i>
4. April 3rd	<i>Syresham History Society</i>
5. April 11th	<i>IWA Chelmsford</i>
6. November 20th	<i>Adstock History Group</i>

If any other group or society would like to arrange a fascinating and informative talk or a guided walk, then please contact me using my contact on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

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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.

Retailing at £25 each, our sale of rag rugs that are 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 & Recycling Stall Needs You



Our Publicity & Recycling 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, these are the festivals and events that we attended last year:

- *Bicester Vintage Tractor Club in February*
- *Our own AGM in March*
- *Buckingham Spring Fair in April*
- *Stony Stratford Riverside Fair in June*
- *Milton Keynes Festival of History 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 Waltham Abbey in August*
- *Braunston Waterways Literary Festival in September*
- *Buckingham Christmas Parade & Community Fair in December*

Publicity & Recycling Stall Update

As you can see above, our stall attended eleven different events at various locations around the country last year, culminating in the Buckingham Christmas Parade & Community Fair in December (see photo on page 23). Here, we had a lot of interest in our walks and membership leaflets, plenty of which were handed out. My thanks go to all my helpers who set up and broke down the stall, including Jonathan, Jeremy, Ros, Les and Joan. I would also like to thank all those who have helped me throughout the last year.

All in all, the stall alone raised £1,788.18 for the BCS throughout the year. What an amazing feat indeed, and with your help, then maybe this year we can surpass that total!

We are always in need of items to sell on the stall, including books, games and other canal related items which can raise funds for BCS. If people would like to donate items we can usually collect.

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

As reported in the previous issue, the funding period of the Co-op Local Community Fund came to an end on 26th October 2019. The final amount that we received was £2,787. This money has been set aside to purchase another demountable container.



Supported by
Co-op Members



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As I write this report, we have been notified that we are to receive £870 from The National Lottery Community Fund's #CelebrateNationalLottery25 fund. We will use this money towards our Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair on 17th and 18th July.

Over the next few weeks I will be attending funding workshops run by Community Impact Bucks, Inland Waterways Association (IWA) and Northamptonshire Community Foundation. Hopefully these will help us to generate more successful funding opportunities that will further progress the restoration of our canal.

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

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:

- The National Lottery Community Fund
- 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
- Alpkitt Foundation
- DHL UK Foundation - Match It!
- 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



Lionhearts Cruising Club



Taverners Boat Club



The Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd



Inland Waterways Association Northampton Branch

We Support:



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)
- Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG)
- McAfee
- Eddyfi Technologies - TSC
- Vinci Technology Centre UK
- London Waterway Recovery Group (LWRG)
- Milton Keynes College
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) - Bit In The Middle (BITM)
- Computacentre
- Stowe House
- Stowe School
- Trees for Cities
- 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

Future Events

Saturday 21st March 7.00pm - 10.30pm

The Buckingham Canal Society's 28th 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 history of The Buckingham Canal. We will be joined by Neil Loudon who will be giving a fascinating presentation entitled: 'Boats Without Water - The Story of Edward Hayes of Stony Stratford.

So why not come along for what promises to be an enjoyable and informative evening, where you can catch up with friends and support BCS, your local canal restoration group.

Friday 3rd - Saturday 4th April

IWA Milton Keynes Canal Clean Up

Meet: Fenny Stratford Lock

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Tuesday 14th April 8pm

IWA Northampton Talk: Tales at the Tiller - Mike Partridge

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road,
Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS. Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 16th April 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes Talk: Canal de Garonne - Tim Armstrong

Milton Keynes Irish Centre, Manor Fields,
Watling Street, Fenny Stratford,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2HX. Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 30th April 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

Thursday 28th May 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

Thursday 28th June 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 2020/2021

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

January

Thursday 7th
Sunday 10th
Thursday 21st

February

Thursday 4th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 18th

March

Thursday 4th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 18th

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 104 (Summer 2020) by the 1st May 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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Trustee

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



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Structural Engineer

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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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info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

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.

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



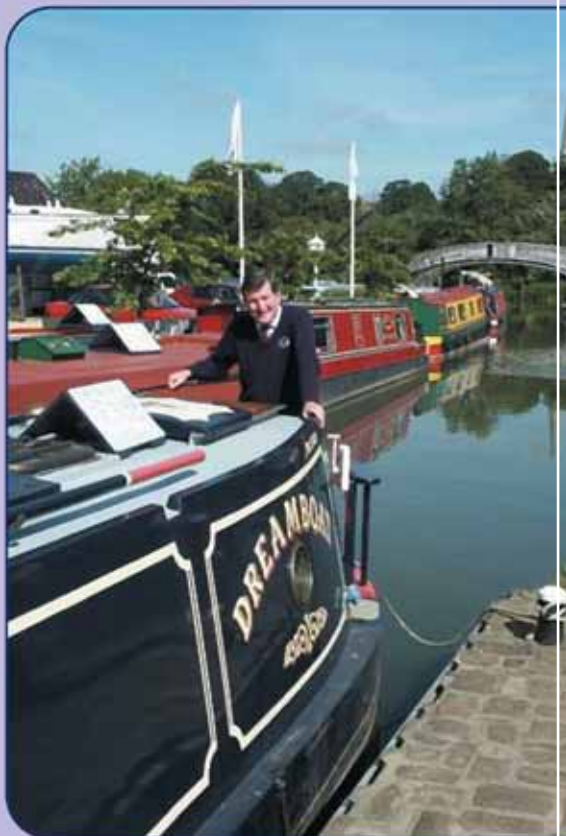
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