

THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR ~RE-UNIFICATION EDITION~

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 106
Winter 2020



Cosgrove Marina

Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR

01908 562467



Contact us for short, medium and long term moorings.



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

RAWLINGS
LIMITED
structural design

Dryden,
Rock Lane,
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
LU7 2QQ
T: 07415 461917
W: rawlings.uk.net

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 Winter 2020 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

As we navigate our way through the pandemic and the challenges it brings, restoration work is beginning return to some form of normality. Another major milestone has been reached with the Buckingham Arm having been re-united with the Grand Union Canal, at least as far as the stop planks! Bridge No.1 is itself nearing completion too. With our eyes firmly set on Bridge No.2 and beyond, the work completed thus far should demonstrate that we really are serious about our vision for the Buckingham Arm.



With so much news sent in for publication in this issue, regretfully the Autumn Wildlife Report will be now published in the spring issue.

Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo: Re-unification Day at Cosgrove © Alan Mynard. See the full report on pages 4-7. **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, and please stay safe, save lives, and protect the NHS. On behalf of all at Buckingham Canal Society, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Ian Matson
Editor

In this Issue

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 Restoration Site Update | 25 Shopping at Amazon Smile |
| 12 Health & Safety Refresher | Supports BCS |
| 13 The Autumn Statement | 26 Funders |
| 15 Buckingham Canal Society News | 26 Patrons, Partners & Supporters |
| 19 Scale Pilot Cutter Sails Bourton Meadow | 27 Corporate Members |
| 20 Then & Now - The Buckingham Canal | 27 Corporate & External Volunteer Groups |
| 24 Our 2021 Annual General Meeting | 28 Work Party Dates 2021 |
| 24 Choose Us as Your Co-op Local Cause | 29 Future Events |
| 25 The Quarterly Grants Update | 29 Next Navigator |
| | 30 Contact the Committee |

Restoration Site Update



© Terry Cavender

BREAKING NEWS! The last of the piles at Bridge No.1 was successfully removed on 14th November! Re-unification of the Grand Union and Buckingham Canals is now complete!



© Alan Mynard

The Buckingham Arm is Re-united with the Grand Union Canal for the First Time Since 1944!

Thursday 5th November saw another true milestone as the piles blocking the canal under Bridge No.1 at Cosgrove were successfully removed. Despite being day one of the second national lockdown, Canal & River Trust confirmed this work could proceed as planned, since it was deemed to be a part of the continuing construction work at the bridge. Volunteering can also continue, as long as COVID safe practices are observed.

The Buckingham Canal Society team was overseen by the expertise of Rob Locatelli, the Director of River and Canal Services Ltd. As illustrated across these and the following two pages, they provided the piling removal kit and also the relevant guidance as we progressed with extracting the piles that had been in place for around sixty-five years. These were installed a few years after the branch was cut off in 1944. With lots of "two metre" reminder shouts to ensure a COVID safe task was delivered, it was as great a team effort as ever. Unfortunately, one pile remains at the time of writing, and has crumbled due to corrosion. It will be taken out as part of the soil bund removal and winter dredging of the channel (see BREAKING NEWS opposite). Our thanks go to the Canal & River Trust team for their ongoing support in the restoration, with special thanks to Neil Owen, Adrian Lole and the East Midlands Ops Team for their assistance in so many ways.



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard

And After One..., it's Two!

Okay, so it has been a strange few months. Personally, I have had COVID-19, as well as leg infections. But I am back on the job now!

Over the past few months, the team have successfully installed the stop planks under Bridge No.1 (opposite, top left & right), and as I write, I anticipate minimal and acceptable leakage by the coming weekend. This will clear the way to the anticipated piling removal AND FIREWORKS on 5th November (see pages 4-8), subject to dredging progress and a final Canal & River Trust engineering sign off. That will see the earth dam removed and boats can then get under the bridge!

The team have also been doing amazing work with the stone walls at the bridge (opposite, middle), and we plan to have a farm tractor test during November. If successful we will then close and remove the temporary farm crossing and begin remediation of that area. This will see the immediate work around Bridge No.1 as more or less complete (opposite, bottom, shows the bridge nearing completion at the end of October). Thank you to the naysayers for their motivational help! It has been a little over three years, including time lost through COVID-19 restrictions and due to a change of approvals at Canal & River Trust. Come visit and stand on the bridge. As a member, supporter or volunteer, you have been a part of this amazing achievement. Be proud, it has been a team effort!

Looking forward, we will soon start working further along the arm next to the site of Bridge No.2, although currently there is no plan to restore the bridge itself. The section of canal that lies further west between Bridge No.2 and the A5 will be connected by pipe to the arm and hence will be in water. However, based on present assumptions, Bridge No.2 will be where the end of this newly restored and navigable section of the Old Stratford Cut finishes. Here we will be creating a winding hole to be able to turn the boats in. Additionally, it is hoped to create two or three moorings at that location, as well as the winding hole. In the longer term we hope to feed water from the Buckingham side to the A5 end if the flood management elements of the restoration can obtain funding.

As part of the planning permission obtained last year, we are looking to start work in the summer on the actual access road and vision splay onto Stratford Road. There will be a tarmac vision splay and road for approximately 20 metres, then a pair of gates. This is to allow lorries to pull off the road. The access track will continue as compacted gravel to the canal, where it will then head towards Bridge No.2 and cross the track over the canal adjacent to the winding hole. We will need to put ducting in for services such as power, broadband and water for the compound and security cameras. We anticipate we will have the vision splay and the MOT Type 1 gravel for the access track covered by other funding.

Finally, I would like to say that any donations you feel you are able to make in order to help with the cost of getting the services connected would be very helpful.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer



© Terry Cavender



© Terry Cavender



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Terry Cavender

External Volunteers Flourish Again at Bourton Meadow...

On the second Sunday of each month our volunteers have been continuing the task of catching up with the backlog of work at Bourton Meadow to remove the excess of reeds growing in the canal bed. If left unchecked, they would end up blocking the whole area. Wearing waders and life jackets and working on the canal bed has proven to be the most popular and effective method of clearing the reeds. I have been surprised by how many of the external volunteers that have opted to try this method, and actually enjoyed themselves.



Unfortunately, the number of such companies joining us this year has been very much reduced. Last year we had seventeen groups, and this year has seen about four. The groups who have managed to join us have proved to be very hard working and interesting people though.



On Thursday 24th September we had a group from the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake join us (above, left & right). Some were from the USA and others from Australia, and all were spending eighteen months in England before returning to their own countries. As well as being very hard working and interesting to talk to, this group sang as they worked! This was the first of three planned visits, with the second being at Cosgrove on Saturday 24th October. November's visit has been postponed.

Thursday 8th October saw a group from Hallam Land Management Ltd join us (right). This company are based in Northampton and Bristol, and some of the Bristol team had to leave home at 7am to join the work party. With a very bad weather forecast for the day, this just shows how keen they all were! In fact, the weather wasn't as bad as predicted, and I think the photos show just how much work has been achieved by both groups!



If you are free on a Sunday, then do come and join us, it's a beautiful site to work on and it will look even better once the reeds have been reduced to a manageable level.

...While Essential Maintenance Tasks Resume at Hyde Lane

Because of the work being carried out at Cosgrove and Bourton Meadow, work at this site has been much reduced, but the seating area has been kept clear (right) as has the towpath for the walkers. The recent storms caused a problem with trees blocking the towpath, but these were removed by myself and another volunteer so that people can continue to enjoy this area.



We are hoping to carry out some hedgelaying at this site in the future and are awaiting more information from Canal & River Trust who will be running some hedgelaying courses. **If anyone is interested in hedgelaying, please let me know using my contact details on page 30.**

At present I plan to run work parties between Bourton Meadow and the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve at Hyde Lane over the next few months, depending of course upon where the work is most needed. This will be on the second Sunday of each month. Everybody is welcome and no experience is necessary. **If you are interested in joining us, then please get in touch with me using my contact details on page 30.**

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Do You Dig Canals?...We Do!



Work parties are now held every Tuesday, Thursday and the second & last Sunday of each month and are always friendly, welcoming and very rewarding. Most Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as the second and last Sunday of each month will take place at Cosgrove. Some of the other dates will be at Bourton Meadow or Hyde Lane.

Further information can be found on page 28, 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/

If you would like to become involved, please contact either myself or Terry using our contact details on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Health & Safety Refresher

Buckingham Canal Society 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. As a part of this, we work within many of the principles and methods of Waterway Recovery Group.

You will always be given a Health and Safety 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 Waterway Recovery Group's Health & Safety video (via the link below) within the past twelve 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 Waterway Recovery Group'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 Waterway Recovery Group's Health & Safety policy and additional documentation and videos, please visit:

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

For more information about Waterway Recovery Group, please visit:

www.waterways.org.uk/wrg

The Autumn Statement

Hello, and welcome to the new edition of The Buckingham Navigator. As I sit and write this with fireworks in the background, I am aware it will soon be the New Year and hopefully the reset button will be activated and it will be a better year for us all. I hope you will have a joyous Christmas, New Year, and holiday period.



Well, since the last edition, there have been some amazing changes in the calendar. For the first time in history I believe June had 1200 days and July went on for over 3000 days. We have made fantastic progress despite these increasingly long months of restrictions. Highlights include the fact that now we have a functioning bridge (left). I walked over it and would happily drive Terry's car onto it. We are now awaiting the test runs with farm equipment to prove serviceability before we can commence with the removal of the temporary farm crossing and the opening up the first section in water.

The stop planks were also installed (left), and after much advice and prayer we finally sealed them to a satisfactory standard to allow the pilings to be removed, although one is being very stubborn and refusing to be evicted from its watery home (see **BREAKING NEWS** on page 4). The removal (bar that one) was smooth and achieved under the expert supervision and guidance of Rob Locatelli, the

Director of River and Canal Services Ltd. Rob was the previous owner of our workboat Louise, and is very supportive of what we are trying to achieve.

We had a group of young people from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake come and spend a day at Cosgrove with us (below). They had already sent a group in September to Bourton Meadow to help with the reed pulling. At Cosgrove, they achieved an awful lot around the site and had such a great time that they were due to spend a third day with us in November focused on some tree planting. However, this has been postponed.





© Athina Beckett

We have struggled with corporate groups (left) this year due to various levels of lockdown and the need to provide a COVID safe work environment. However, those that have been able to attend all reported a very positive experience. Terry has worked hard on ensuring a COVID safe environment, and there have been regular cries of “two metres!” Everything has been liberally sprayed with wild rhubarb spray too. I’m starting to think he has shares in the company manufacturing it!

Future groups and plans are in hand, but as is always the case, they are now wholly dependant on legislation and medical

advice for health protection. At present, outdoor volunteering and construction activities can continue in full. That said, we have taken the position of restricting all work to essential activities for the protection of our volunteers and members.

Planning is in hand for next year’s AGM, which like this year’s, will be an online event. Every member will receive due notice and details. Our marketing team are working hard on creating new and exciting ways to keep all our members informed and engaged in all our activities, so keep an eye out.

We have two new trustees to be, and currently they are going through all the relevant checks. Hopefully there will be more details about them soon. As is always the case when we appoint new trustees, their terms only run until their confirmations at the AGM.

We are creating a time capsule, so any ideas of what to include will be gratefully received. More details and contact information will follow soon.

So, like the year, this article is coming to an end, and so it is with heartfelt thanks that I must acknowledge the hard work of all the trustees, group leaders, volunteers, members and partner organisations, without whom none of the work to restore the Buckingham Arm would be possible. So thank you all and I hope you all have a fantastic 2021 and I look forward to seeing you (even if it’s electronically) at the AGM.

As we enter a second period of lockdown, it is important to take time to look after ourselves. The uncertainties of life are only complicated by COVID-19, and after time these worries start to tell on all of us. Now is the time to take a walk along the arm and admire all the work we have undertaken. Have a look at the archived photos available on the website to see all the changes that have occurred. Take time to admire the peace and quiet of the countryside. Look out for all the wildlife we have. A walk along the canal can provide a mental break from real world worries, and can also be a kick-start into trying a new hobby or rediscovering a lost passion. It would be great if you took the time to record what you see in pictures or verse and let us have a copy. Who knows - your photograph, drawing or painting could make the next cover picture.

Rob Morris

Trustee and Chairman

Athina Wins the Prestigious IWA Christopher Power Prize!

The IWA Volunteer Award winners for 2020 have been revealed, and I am sure that I speak for all who know her when I say that I am extremely proud to announce here in these pages that Athina Beckett, our very own Volunteer Leader, Work Party Organiser and former Chairman has won the prestigious Christopher Power Prize!

The following is the statement from the Inland Waterways Association award winners page at: www.waterways.org.uk/about-us/news/awards2020.

This prize is awarded to a person, society or trust who has made the most significant contribution to the restoration of an inland waterway.

The winner – Athina Beckett – was nominated by Chris Durham of IWA Milton Keynes Branch for her dedicated and enthusiastic contribution to the ongoing restoration of the Grand Union's Buckingham Branch.

Athina joined Buckingham Canal Society in 1993 as a volunteer and as is so often the way, further roles soon followed. In 1997 she took on the job of work party leader, a role she continues to hold today, and has been particularly successful at encouraging corporate volunteering involvement with the restoration project. Athina is a Trustee of the Society and an ex-Chair of Trustees and through the years has been a volunteer with Waterway Recovery Group's BITM group, getting hands-on involved across the country at a large number of restoration sites. Audrey [Smith OBE] said "I am delighted we have been able to recognise the work and success of such an extraordinary woman." Athina receives the Christopher Power Prize and Buckingham Canal Society receives a cheque in the sum of £1000.

On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and members of Buckingham Canal Society, and all those that have known and worked alongside you, very well done indeed Athina! This is so thoroughly deserved in recognition of all of your extremely hard work, passion and dedication involving the restoration of the Buckingham Arm. Whether as a volunteer, Work Party Leader, Chairman or Trustee, you've been so hugely instrumental in navigating the Society for much of its life. From its very humble beginnings through to where we are today, and beyond, you've been pivotal in achieving such huge milestones. Thank you!



© Jonathan Brown

Ian Matson
Editor



©Terry Cavender

Dredging it All Up

For the first time in over twenty years, the Bridge No.1 end of the Buckingham Arm at Cosgrove has seen dredging! We did do some from the towpath side about six years ago, but this time it is with the grab bucket on Louise the workboat, with Harvey the hopper playing partner. The intention is to fence part of the offside of the canal by the trip boat and lock where there has been cattle

damage. We will then fit some special micro netting to form a fenced area for depositing the dredging materials. All permits and approvals and silt testing have been completed and we are GO GO GO!

For each session we need an operator (currently Rob or myself) plus one or preferably two deckhands alongside one or two bankside safety marshals. Please feel free to come along. **Contact myself or Athina to confirm session dates using our contact details on page 30.**



© Unknown

Towering Over

Back in September, Chris Bent and I attended a one day PASMA (Prefabricated Access Supplier's and Manufacturers' Association) course. So what, I hear you ask? It is the construction industry course that gives you a competency 'ticket' for using, putting up, taking down, and inspecting scaffold towers. It also enables us to be fully compliant with the Health & Safety Executive. The picture shows other course attendees, most of which were from Waterway Recovery Group, and we were all socially distanced of course!

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

We've Been Out Spreading the Word Once Again

It seems like a long time since I have relayed our activities. In this time we would have normally been attending a whole host of summer festivals, and even had our very own canalside festival at Cosgrove. Sadly, all of these events have been cancelled over the summer months, although I am due to attend a Christmas Festival in Leighton Buzzard in December, so keep your fingers crossed!

At the end of August I attended the Stony Stratford Farmers Market with the big red van and a table full of information. While it was not particularly busy, there was a fair amount of passing interest in the activities of the Society with a few people expressing an interest in volunteering and supporting us. If I saw you there, then I will say a big thank you! Every single supporter makes a huge difference to our ability to be able to apply for grants and funding, so it really does mean a lot. Please do like or follow us on the Facebook and Instagram pages too, as we really do value every single one.



© Terry Cavender



© Terry Cavender

In September we hosted a table at Bridge No.1 for the Heritage Open Days event. It was a lovely day; the sun shone on us and Waterway Recovery Group were in attendance too, providing valuable volunteering time. There was a lot of passing interest in our activities and I spoke to a fair amount of people on the day about what we do. It has been a strange time lately but it is so lovely to meet people who are making use of the outdoor spaces and appreciating the value that the canal network brings to the area.

I've also been working closely with the marketing volunteers to try and increase our local presence as well as creating some interesting new content for the website. Hopefully we will have some news for you soon on that front. We would really like to hear from anyone with memories of the canal and any images would be fantastic too!

Aimee Tidman
Community Engagement Worker

Our 2020 Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair - Cancelled!

COSGROVE CANAL FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR



SAT 18th - SUN 19th JULY 2020
COSGROVE LOCK, GRAND UNION CANAL
& COSGROVE VILLAGE HALL, COSGROVE
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Historic Boats • Trading Boats • Local Produce • Kids' Activities • Stalls • Craft • Entertainment

Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm
Cosgrove Lock, Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR
Cosgrove Village Hall, Bridge Road, Cosgrove, MK19 7JA
For more information, visit buckinghamcanal.org.uk
or email events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Fund raising for

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1156662

Buckingham Canal Society has held a Canal Festival at Cosgrove every summer for many years now. It initially started as a small boaters rally. In 2001 it became the Bicentenary Boaters Rally, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Buckingham Canal (which was finally opened all the way

to Buckingham on 1st May 1801). Since then the event has matured into a fully fledged festival with trading boats, historic boats, canalside stalls and musicians. In recent years we have also incorporated a craft fair element which is held in the village hall. So you can imagine the regret it caused when we had to cancel this year's event.

As with so many things this year, the dreaded Coronavirus pandemic took its toll. We held on as long as possible before cancelling, but it eventually got to the point where, even if boaters had been able to get to site, we knew it would not be possible to hold a COVID-19 safe event. We did not give up entirely...maybe we could hold a smaller event of some kind later in the year around October time? However as the second wave of the virus started to hit it became apparent that even this would not be possible.

So, moving on, what can we do next year? It is too early to say at this time. We normally start sending out invitations to attendees around Christmas. Is that too soon to know whether the pandemic will be under control by next July? Who knows. Whatever happens, you can be sure that we will be doing everything possible to bring you a Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair at some point in the future.

Alan Mynard

**Website Administrator and
Archivist**



Scale Pilot Cutter Sails Bourton Meadow



The Stella Mary is a 1 inch to the foot (traditional dolls house scale) scale model based on the Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter named Breeze, which was built at Coopers Yard in Pill in 1887. It is described as a gaff rigged cutter because it has two headsails and a gaff rigged mainsail. The topsail and jib (the white sails) are only used in light airs, whereas the red sails are always bent on the spars and are treated to a preservative that gives them their iconic colour. The full sized vessel is currently undergoing a complete keel up restoration in Bristol.

The model is 39 inches long at the deck level and 55 inches in length overall when including the bowsprit. She has no auxiliary motor, relying solely on wind power, and so is decidedly green. Steering and sail trimming is via a radio control system. Stability is maintained with the inclusion of 20lbs of lead melted into the hull cavity which brings her down to her lines correctly.

It was built by myself over a sixteen year period. One of the trickier issues was to produce a rope making machine so that I could manufacture my own scale rope from cotton in the diameter I wanted. Most of the rigging is made of 1.5mm rope that equates to 3/4 inch rope on the real thing.

The COVID-19 virus has been a strain on everyone. As restrictions eased and the constant rainy weather abated, it seemed like a good idea to break the monotony and sail the boat on the canal on a quiet day. I think you will agree that at Bourton Meadow the vegetation along the towpath is looking great. For the expedition I made an additional topsail to include the BCS logo. This worked out well. Now I can hardly wait for the chance to sail her under the new bridge at Cosgrove.



Paul Sayer
Trustee

Then & Now - The Buckingham Canal

We were recently contacted by Hugh Potter, the Archivist for Friends of the Cromford Canal. He had been sorting through his collection of old photographs and came across some from the Buckingham and Old Stratford Cuts of the Buckingham Canal.

Back in his younger days, Hugh was a member of the Peak Forest Canal work party, later supplemented by the Oxford University Canal Society, both groups taking regular canal hire boat holidays (in the days when students could afford to hire boats). They used to explore derelict navigations that they could readily access. He believes the photos would have been taken on one or possibly two visits around March or April 1972.

The photos are of various locations along the route, starting at Buckingham and ending up at Cosgrove, and these were scanned into digital form in 2009. A selection of these photos are presented here, paired with corresponding modern shots showing how things have changed in the last 48 (yes 48! Gulp!) years...

Locations given using What3Words (///) co-ordinates: what3words.com/

Image Set 1: Lock Cottage at Bourton Meadow (Lock No.2)

///blurs.dreaming.drifting

Both of these photos show the eastern end of the cottage looking towards Buckingham. In 1972 the lock chamber was still open and the remains of the lift bridge are in place (Image 1a). At some point since then, the cottage underwent considerable extension and modernisation.

The lock was filled in (how much of it remains is unknown) and a second 'wing' was built on the southern side, maybe using the lock chamber wall as a foundation. It's not possible to get a modern day view from the same angle because of the barn that stands in the way, but you can clearly see that the original chimney has gone and windows have been put into the end wall (Image 1b).

Image Set 2: Lock Cottage at Bourton Meadow (Lock No.2)

///stocky.take.conspired

Looking east this time, these two photos are from almost the same point physically, but 48 years apart! The tree just creeping into right of frame on the older photo (Image 2a) is probably the same one as in the newer shot. In the modern photo (Image 2b) you can just about make out the remains of the lock's wing walls. The canal itself has been infilled at this point and now forms the 'dam' at the end of the restored and re-watered Bourton Meadow section of the canal.

Image Set 3: Bridge No.16 on the Buckingham Cut - Little Hill Farm

///meanwhile.functions.rails

Spot the difference! A little less water now (Image 3b) but still clearly a canal. We did some conservation work on the bridge a few years back which will help to preserve it. We have not been back to the Little Hill site for some time now, so it is probably overgrown again!



1a © Hugh Potter



1b © Alan Mynard



2a © Hugh Potter



2b © Alan Mynard



3a © Hugh Potter



3b © Alan Mynard



4a © Hugh Potter



4b © Alan Mynard



5a © Hugh Potter



5b © Alan Mynard



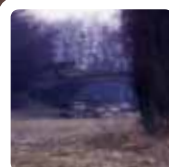
6a © Hugh Potter



6b © Alan Mynard



7a © Hugh Potter



7b © Alan Mynard

Image 4: Bridge No.2 on the Buckingham Cut - Watling Street, Old Stratford

///minivans.margin.panoramic

When this 1972 photo (Image 4a) was taken, this bridge (or is it a tunnel? - see the article in Issue 104) was still carrying the A5 over the canal. With the development of Milton Keynes, the A5 was moved, but the name of the road remains the same: London Road (Watling Street). It is no longer possible to take a photo from the same spot, as the site is now private industrial units. The canal has been filled in, but the buildings remain. The 2020 photo (Image 4b) is taken from where the bridge was, looking down to where the 1972 version was taken. The road has been lowered to level it out, so the bridge itself was probably knocked in. We believe the tunnel portals still exist but just how much remains is unknown.

Image Set 5: Hayes Basin Wharf - Old Stratford

///tilts.bravery.puns

Back in its heyday this site (Image 5a) would have been a hive of activity - the main wharf that was the end of the Old Stratford Cut and the start of the Buckingham Cut. Today, unless you know exactly what you are looking for, you would be hard pressed to find it. But it is still there, in a very overgrown area in the middle of a housing estate (Image 5b). Water is still visible through the undergrowth. A bit of effort and this could be turned into a very pleasant pond area for local people and wildlife!

Image Set 6: Bridge No.2 on the Old Stratford Cut

///alarm.denoting.parkland

These two photos are taken from approximately the same position. Sometime after 1972, this bridge (Image 6a) suffered the same fate as Bridge No.1, being knocked in, levelled and covered over. The second photo (Image 6b) is circa 2010 when we did some exploratory clearing of brambles from the remains of the bridge. Its condition today is much the same, although the brambles have grown back again obscuring it from view. A future restoration project?

Image Set 7: Cosgrove Junction - The Start of the Old Stratford Cut

///tests.select.highlight

Looking west along the start of the Old Stratford Cut. If you look at the 1972 photo (Image 7a) carefully you can just about make out Bridge No.1 (inset) in the background. The trees lining the offside have matured and now obscure the view (Image 7b). One of the reasons for the demise of the Old Stratford Cut, and particularly the Buckingham Cut, was reed growth which was clearly visible in the 1972 shot. This is becoming a problem again for us in the sections that we have re-watered!

Alan Mynard

Website Administrator and Archivist

Our 2021 Annual General Meeting



Our next AGM is planned for Saturday 20th March 2021, to commence at 7:30pm.

Please note that there will be a members vote on a resolution to amend the constitution so that it has stronger emphasis on some of our heritage and environmental outcomes.

Currently we anticipate it will be an online event.

Further details on how to join, or to confirm any changes to the format etc can be found at:
www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/agm-2021/

Information will be updated on this web page in the run up to the event.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

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/44221, or ask in your local store for details.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

The Quarterly Grants Update

As previously reported, due to the COVID-19 pandemic most of the grant funders have switched tack and are now focusing on helping those most affected. However, a few are able to help charities such as ours to get through these difficult times, when funds are not easily raised. We have however had a number of successful applications.

Buckinghamshire Council have awarded us a Local Authority Discretionary Grant of £1,358.00 to help with our core costs at a time when we are unable to raise funds as normal. Also, HDH Wills Charitable Trust has donated £500 through their Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Fund to support the local wildlife as we continue with our canal restoration.

We have also been awarded £5,000 from the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire and their Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund to help us move forward from this period of difficulty. £4,500 of this sum was provided by Anglian Water, with whom we are now forming a working partnership to support our joint aims.



Supported by
Co-op Members

Once again, we have been selected by the Co-op Local Community Fund for the next annual round of funding which started on 25th October 2020. During this time, Co-op members can select their cause which will receive appropriate funds depending on spend. In the 2018/19 round we received almost £3,000! With your help we can do even better this time.

As always, we are extremely grateful to all of 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

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!

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:

- Heart of Bucks Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire - Bucks Coronavirus Stabilisation Fund
- HDH Wills Charitable Trust - Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Fund
- Buckinghamshire Council - Local Authority Discretionary Grant
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust - Thriving Communities Fund
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Rank Foundation
- The Radcliffe Trust
- The Foyle Foundation
- South Northamptonshire Council - Community Event Fund
- Milton Keynes Heritage Association
- 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!
- Co-op - Local Community Fund
- Rectory Homes

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:

- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Buckingham Town Council
- Canal & River Trust
- Deanshanger Parish Council
- Environment Agency
- Inland Waterways Association - Corporate Member
- Northamptonshire County Council
- South Northamptonshire District Council

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of:

- Inland Waterways Association - Milton Keynes Branch
- Inland Waterways Association - Northampton Branch
- Waterway Recovery Group 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:

- Network Rail
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake
- Hallam Land Management Ltd
- Waterway Recovery Group - London
- Santander
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group
- McAfee
- Eddyfi Technologies - TSC
- Vinci Technology Centre UK
- London Waterway Recovery Group
- Milton Keynes College
- Waterway Recovery Group - Bit in the Middle
- 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 - Forestry

Work Party Dates 2021

January

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 10th
Sunday 31st

February

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 14th
Sunday 28th

March

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 14th
Sunday 28th

April

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 11th
Sunday 25th

May

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 9th
Sunday 30th

June

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 13th
Sunday 27th

July

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 11th
Sunday 25th

August

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 8th
Sunday 29th

September

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 12th
Sunday 26th

October

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 10th
Sunday 31st

November

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 14th
Sunday 28th

December

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 12th
Sunday 26th

COVID-19 and BCS Work Parties and Events: Update

We are pleased to confirm that we resumed our volunteer work parties at the start of July 2020, in line with government restrictions being relaxed. All activities will be run in accordance with Health & Safety Executive and Inland Waterways Association guidance and will be managed in line with the government guidelines in effect on the day. Please bring your own food and refreshments. You are advised to travel alone whenever possible.

The Buckingham Canal Society trustees and project teams continue working in the background with electronic meetings etc., ensuring the restoration work can continue. Whilst we look forward to welcoming everyone back and seeing our previous volunteers alongside any new ones, you must consider your own health, especially if you are in a vulnerable group, before joining these sessions. We recognise this is a very challenging time for everyone. If any of you need to chat, then you are welcome to call any of the trustees. Please stay safe and well. We look forward to seeing you now our work parties have resumed.

Most Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as the second and last Sunday of each month will take place at Cosgrove. Some of the other dates will be at Bourton Meadow or Hyde Lane. **For planning purposes, please confirm which date(s) you would like to attend by using my contact details on page 30. I can then verify those date(s) and the task schedule(s).**

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

Future Events

Thursday 21st January 8pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: Panama Canal -

Richard Thomas

Location: TBC/Possibly Online

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 18th February 8pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Branch AGM and Talk:

Wendover Arm Restoration -

Clive Johnson

Milton Keynes Irish Centre, Manor Fields,

Watling Street, Fenny Stratford,

Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2HX.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 18th March 8pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: Canal du Midi -

Tim Armstrong

Milton Keynes Irish Centre, Manor Fields,

Watling Street, Fenny Stratford,

Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2HX.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Saturday 20th March 7.30pm

BCS AGM - Online Event

Details:

www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/agm-2021/

DUE TO COVID-19,

**PLEASE CHECK WITH THE
RELEVANT EVENT
ORGANISERS FOR THE
LATEST UPDATES**

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 107 (Spring 2021) by the 1st February 2021 via email, CD, or typed/handwritten letter (in that order of preference) to:

editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk or

Ian Matson, 63 Alnners 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

Contact the Committee

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser
2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8AX
01908 661217 / 07721 319404

athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer
7 Buckingham Road, Akeley,
Bucks, MK18 5HL
01280 860316
07976 629440

terry.cavender@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Richard Dwight

Trustee and Treasurer
34 Hazell Park,
Amersham,
Bucks, HP7 9AB
01494 728611

treasurer@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Colin Levett

Trustee and Grants Officer
47 Bradwell Common Boulevard,
Bradwell Common,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK10 9DN
07950 997177

colin.levett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Gerry Millard

Trustee and Construction Manager
32 Campbell Close,
Linden Village, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 7HP

gerry.millard@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Rob Morris

Trustee and Chairman
218 Bushbury Road,
Fallings Park, Wolverhampton,
Staffs, WV10 0NT
07818 035299

rob.morris@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Paul Sayer

Trustee and Construction Engineer
Sunnyside, 25 Moreton Drive,
Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 1JG
07825 190867

paul.sayer@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Anthony Smith-Roberts

Trustee and Health & Safety Officer
Glasdir Cottage, Pen-y-Ffordd,
Treffynon, Sir y Fflint, CH8 9HU
07801 506411

anthony.smith-roberts@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Lee Whiting

Trustee and Plant & Equipment Manager

lee.whiting@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Trustee

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



Other Key Contacts :

Registered Address/General Enquiries

Buckingham Canal Society
c/o 2 Staters Pound,
Pennyland, Milton Keynes,
Bucks, MK15 8AX
0300 323 1350
info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Jean Beddard

Membership Secretary
5 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8AX
01908 674447
membership@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Robert Jones

Minutes Secretary
8 Manor Close, Aston,
Bampton, Oxon, OX18 2DD
01993 851663 / 07792 561514
robert.jones@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Ian Matson

Editor and Publicity & Communications Manager
63 Almnors Road, Lyne, Chertsey,
Surrey, KT16 0BH
07793 451958
ian.matson@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Alan Mynard

Website Administrator and Archivist
Milton Keynes, Bucks
alan.mynard@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Keith Rawlings

Structural Engineer
Dryden, Rock Lane,
Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 2QQ
07415 461917
keith.rawlings@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Aimee Tidman

Community Engagement Worker
aimee.tidman@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Illustrated Talks & Presentations

talks@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Cosgrove Festival Team

events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Finance Manager

This position is currently vacant

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.

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.

Boat builders - Repairs - Dry Dock - Blacking - Repaints
Waterside Cottage

The WYVERN SHIPPING Co Ltd

Rothschild Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 2TF
Tel: 01525 372355 Fax: 01525852308

Website: www.canalholidays.co.uk Email: wavern@canalholidays.co.uk

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



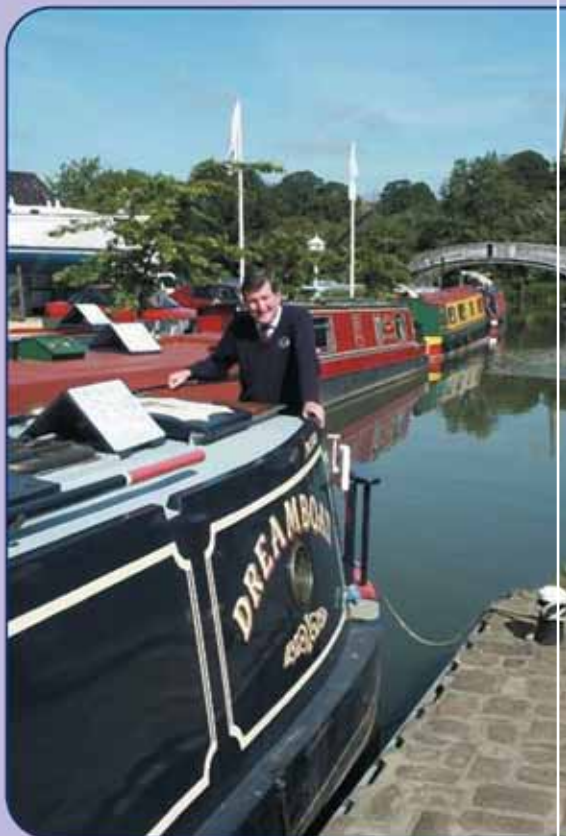
Buying or selling your DREAMBOAT?

*Then make Braunston Brokerage
– at the heart of England's
waterways – your first port of call!*

*Established in 1988, we are
a major player in the selling
of narrowboats – new and
secondhand – with a
reputation for professionalism
that is second to none.*

*Our marina offers the fullest
range of support services.
Uniquely, we have two dry
docks on-site for surveys,
hull-blackening, repaints, sign-
writing and below waterline
repairs. Also engineering and
refit facilities.*

*Sell your Dreamboat
where it will be seen!*



For full information – including our
competitive brokerage package –
contact Tim Coghlan at:

Braunston Marina Limited, Braunston,
Nr Daventry, Northants NN11 7JH
Telephone 01788 891373
Fax 01788 891436

Website: www.braunstonmarina.co.uk
Email: sales@braunstonmarina.co.uk