

THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 109
Autumn 2021

Meet Canalotto, Our Participant in This Summer's Buckingham Otter Trail



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 Autumn 2021 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

As a Society focused on restoration and conservation, we are now getting back up to speed, and are able to push forward once again and also recommence the good work involving the valuable volunteers from external organisations too. The restoration work around Bridge No.2 is now firmly within our grip, and the route beyond it to take us to and under the A5 is certainly becoming within our reach. Terry explains and illustrates this in more detail in the pages that follow.



Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo: Canalot to the Otter© Jo Lynch. This sculpture formed part of the Buckingham Otter Trail, details of which can be found on page 8.

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

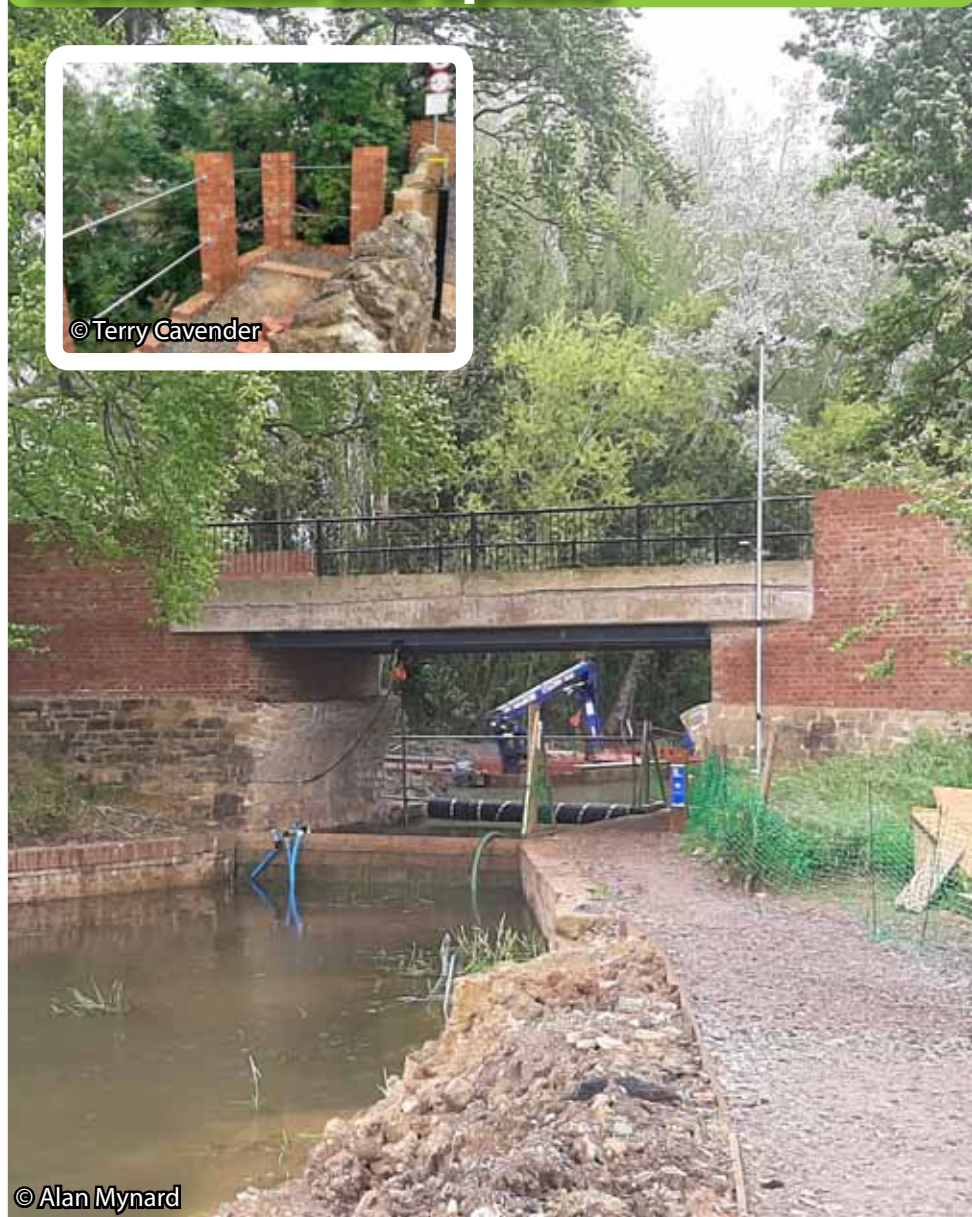
Watch us on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCUsImDM1ExIXiH2iW9zAJhg

Ian Matson
Editor

In this Issue

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 Restoration Site Update | 24 Win Big with Buckinghamshire Lottery |
| 10 Health & Safety Refresher | 25 The Grants & Funding Report |
| 11 Buckingham Canal Society News | 26 Funders |
| 12 Why Bother? | 26 Patrons, Partners & Supporters |
| 13 Partnerships | 27 Corporate Members |
| 13 Back Office | 27 Corporate & External Volunteer Groups |
| 14 Perseverance II - The Hand Over | 28 Work Party Dates 2021/2022 |
| 16 The Summer Wildlife Report | 29 Future Events |
| 21 The Community Engagement Report | 29 Next Navigator |
| 23 Shopping at Amazon Smile Supports BCS | 30 Contact the Committee |
| 24 Choose Us as Your Co-op Local Cause | |

Restoration Site Update



Restoring the towpath beyond Bridge No.1 to the west of it is progressing well, and the handrails on the offside bridge ramp (inset) have been completed.

Summer's Gone...

As summer drifts into memory when you are reading this, it's important to reflect and tune our near-term plans as we head off hopefully into a better time without lockdowns. So continue reading on, and then read "Why Bother?" on page 12.

Progress at Cosgrove

Progress is a funny thing. It feels as though we are riding a slow crawling glacier taking baby steps. But when we pick our heads up and look over our shoulders, it becomes a bit of a wow moment.

Some of the work that the team have been busy with includes:

- *Taking delivery of 200 tonnes of towpath stone and sand.*
- *Progressing with the towpath surfacing at Cosgrove (opposite).*
- *Helping Canal & River Trust repair a 'wash hole' near the horse tunnel (below).*
- *Rubbing down and painting Louise - our workboat.*
- *Erecting Heras fencing around Bridge No.2 (page 6, top).*
- *Agreeing access licence for Bridge No.1 across neighbouring farmland.*
- *Designing the repair to the flood sluice (page 6, middle) near Bridge No.2 after receiving engineering and heritage input from Canal & River Trust.*
- *Reed pulling with a return visit of around twenty-five folks from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake.*



© Terry Cavender





© Alan Mynard

Going Forward

This is all good stuff alongside the work by Athina and the team at Bourton Meadow and Hyde Lane, and it means we are making progress with the B-list items whilst we await the approvals for the next A-list item - namely Bridge No.2 (opposite, bottom left & right).

Initially, this will involve creating temporary works comprising of scraping the canal bed down to the clay from the A5 end (above, as viewed from Bridge No.2) and bringing the arisings to near Bridge No.2, where a temporary timber topped crossing point will be created by us. This will then enable farm vehicles etc to cross the canal whilst we excavate the site of the former bridge - which we have had input on from our friends at Canal & River Trust for engineering and heritage purposes.

Phases of work will be as follows: 0. Prepare; 1. Uncover; 2. Document; 3. Design and fund; 4. Build.

Once all the fencing is in place to keep the public and cattle safe, we will then begin with a slit trench from the A5 side to see what remains of the original bridge. So, lots of activity over the autumn and winter to get phases 0 and 1 done.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

...But We've Had an Otterly Good Time at Bourton Meadow

With COVID-19 risk assessments in place, Buckingham Canal Society have continued running the practical task work parties during lockdown with small groups working at both our Cosgrove and Bourton Meadow sites.

At Bourton Meadow the main task is to remove the reeds blocking the whole of the canal bed, but at the same time making sure we keep the reeds on the non towpath side for nesting birds. This has proved to be very successful, allowing Moorhens and Reed Buntings to build their nests. To help us in this task we now have our own Weed-Mate aquatic weed cutting machine which was tried out at Bourton Meadow on 8th July (opposite). It will be used once a month until the backlog of reeds have been cleared.

The hedgerow along the towpath side has been strimmed back lightly, and only where it had started to spread across the towpath. Again this was to protect any nesting birds.

We have also had some vandalism on site with our leaflet box being pulled off its hinges and a 'No Entry' sign at the far gate near Lock Meadow Cottage being broken. Because of lockdown we have had many more people walking along the canal towpath, which is great news, but unfortunately the public have started to walk on the non towpath side which is not a public footpath and not suitable for walkers. Therefore, the landowner has asked us to padlock the gate at the far end to stop people trying to make this a circular walk, and this seems to have worked.



Finally, the more exciting news is that we have been taking part in the Buckingham Otter Trail which began on Friday 23rd July. The Society has its own Otter, named 'Canalotto' (above), which has a scene from Bourton Meadow painted on it by local artist Zoë Day (above, far right). Rather appropriately, our Otter can be seen at the entrance to this restored section of the canal by the metal gate. Jo Lynch, our Marketing and Publicity Lead arranged to have the Mayor and the artist join a photo call at Bourton Meadow (above) back in June. We hope this will be good publicity for the Society in the future.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser



© Terry Cavender

Aimee Tidman prepares to operate our newly acquired Weed-Mate underwater aquatic weed cutter on the overgrown reedbeds on 8th July. This was its first test 'out in the field' and proved to make light work of the task in hand!

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

Buckingham Canal Society News

2nd Dredger 'Perserverance II' Kindly Donated to BCS



We have been fortunate to be given a second workboat by Rob Locatelli and the Basingstoke Canal Society. A 50' long, 12ft wide widebeam built in the 1970s, Perserverance II has a small 8 tonne excavator with grab bucket and a removable hopper/skip. Rob arranged for the Basingstoke volunteers (above) to bring the boat along the canal to Weybridge where he then continued with it to Teddington.

On Friday 2nd July, a Port of London Authority tug was then used to bring the workboat from Teddington Lock to Brentford where the Buckingham Canal Society team joined her and brought her up to moor at Brentford (below).

The 7th July saw us meet again at Brentford, but we had a few teething challenges before getting her to Southall using her own on-board engine and hydraulic propulsion



system. The hydraulic fluid needed topping up to solve the low propulsion power issue and the engine overheated once. But all in all, it is a great piece of kit to be given, and our collective gratitude goes to Rob Locatelli once again for his generosity and support for our restoration intentions.

Bean There, and Hopefully We Will be Done Fixing That!

The fields at Cosgrove are pending harvest of the bean crop, and as such we have slowed the water flow to reduce the wetting of the farmland so the harvest can be completed. We then intend to raise the water level again, subject to water availability.

We will also be undertaking some slit trenches in the bank and filling those with clay as guided by Canal & River Trust. This is to stop the three leaks identified that have not been resolved so far. This is a normal method the Trust use for leak resolution when 'fines' added to the water line have not resolved the leak.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

Why Bother?

Please go and look up Simon Sinek. I was recently introduced to him as an author. The following words have resonated with me and I think this is a good mantra for the restoration intentions of the Society.

"In finite games, like football or chess, the players are known, the rules are fixed, and the endpoint is clear. The winners and losers are easily identified."

"In infinite games, like business or politics or life itself, the players come and go, the rules are changeable, and there is no defined endpoint. There are no winners or losers in an infinite game; there is only ahead and behind."

"The leaders who embrace an infinite mindset, in stark contrast, build stronger, more innovative, more inspiring organizations. Their people trust each other and their leaders. They have the resilience to thrive in an ever-changing world, while their competitors fall by the wayside. Ultimately, they are the ones who lead the rest of us into the future."

"Simon now believes that the ability to adopt an infinite mindset is a prerequisite for any leader who aspires to leave their organization in better shape than they found it."

We need to bother keeping true to our course and current heading. It has highs, like the bridge, and lows, like COVID-19. But onwards we march westwards to Bridge No.2 and beyond.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

Partnerships

Detailed below are several various examples that demonstrate why we need our friends more than ever to help us restore the canal:

- **Old Stratford Parish Council:** *An approval to undertake the archaeological survey work on their land which will form the canal route between the A5 bridge and Watling Street.*
- **Old Stratford Trust:** *A consent to survey their land that adjoins the Passenham fields for part of the diversionary route.*
- **The Parks Trust:** *An agreement for us to survey their land at Passenham for the diversionary route*
- **Buckinghamshire Council:** *A grant for purchasing a Weed-Mate underwater aquatic weed cutter for use with our dinghy. The funding is also for us to harvest seeds from the various plants along the canal and share the seeds with a community seed bank.*
- **Buckinghamshire Council:** *A grant for a camera to enable the biodiversity to be viewed online by our members, followers and everyone who is interested anywhere via the internet.*
- **Rob Locatelli and the Basingstoke Canal Society:** *A donation of a second workboat to help us with dredging etc.*
- **West Northamptonshire Council:** *Adopting the local area plan for Cosgrove, including the protection for the canal and its restoration.*

Several other partnership outcomes are in the pipeline, and this all shows just how important working with all of our partners is to ensure the success of our restoration intentions.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

Back Office

It is that time again where we ask for your help! There are a range of tasks to be done in the 'back office' far away from digging or building or planting. Everything from reading draft documents, record keeping, photo tagging and much, much more.

If you feel like you have some time to help, please do get in touch using my contact details on page 30. YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

Perseverance II - The Hand Over

The call went out for volunteers to travel to London to collect our latest acquisition, the dredger Perseverance II. It seemed like there was a shortage of helpers, so I thought I would put myself forward to join the crew. It coincided with my non-working day, and I thought the accounts wouldn't miss me for another week. I don't get out much.

The 2nd July arrived and I set the satnav for Brentford High Street and off I went. I arrived on time, but because the satnav brought me into Brentford from the opposite direction to what I was expecting, I found myself looking at the wrong side of the road for the turning to take me into the dock. Obviously a downside to not setting the satnav to keep the map facing north.



With a little manual guidance, I eventually met up with the rest of the crew. We then spent an hour or so looking towards the Thames, waiting for something slow and large to come into view. When it did, some of us realised just how big this beast is. At the push of a button, the first gate to the gauging lock was opened (I had to read the display to find out what that was - gauging how much was on board to enable the toll to be set, from the days of commercial access). A small workboat which had pushed the dredger all the way from Teddington, very slowly eased Perseverance II into the lock, untied from her and went back out the way it came, albeit a good deal faster. We had taken possession of our dredger and were now on our own.

The first task was to clear the lock under her own power and find our temporary mooring. That turned out to be not that easy. It's about as manoeuvrable as a super tanker, but with time and patience we got there in the end. All that remained was to check her over to see what would be needed for the next task - getting her to a more secure temporary mooring at Southall which is three miles closer to Milton Keynes! That would take some time, but more on that another day.

Richard Dwight
Trustee and Treasurer



© Richard Dwight



© Richard Dwight

The Summer Wildlife Report

A Busy, if Unpredictable Start to the Summer at Bourton Meadow

As we progress through the year, local walkers Michael & Diane Hunt have continued to send us their wildlife sightings reports for 2021, this time taking in May, June and July and covering birds, reptiles, insects and flora. These promising and more expansive reports continue to demonstrate Bourton Meadow's importance as a habitat for key species of fauna and flora.

As mentioned in the previous edition, last year we had confirmed breeding Whitethroats along the canal at Bourton Meadow, and very possibly Reed Warblers, Sedge Warblers and Reed Buntings also raised their young here, although this wasn't confirmed. So far this year, we've only had reports of one breeding pair of Whitethroats and two pairs of Reed Warblers, the latter confirmed as having raised fledglings. Reed Buntings are about, but there's been no sightings of Sedge Warblers. A little concerning, as this suggests success rates for our feathered friends along this stretch of canal may be down on last year.

The Dragonflies (order Odonata, which contains the sub-orders Zygoptera (Damselflies) and Anisoptera (Dragonflies)) are exceptionally well represented here this time, with a dozen species, some in very high numbers, including one potential new species for the site, at least for Michael anyway. Butterflies are also well documented too, across eight species.

BIRDS: After a quiet start to the year, the Bourton Meadow wildlife reports continued in earnest with the first batch arriving in the inbox toward the end of spring on 9th May. Firstly, in the early hours along the canal bank, a stealthy and elegantly composed **Grey Heron** stood poised, ready to strike. Nearby, a distinctively black **Moorhen** with its bright red and yellow bill skulked effortlessly, twitching its white flashed tail amongst the reedbeds.



Late spring, and the aerial acrobats certainly did announce their arrival as always with a spectacle for the eyes and ears. The first screaming **Swift** was noted up high, and along with this bird's endless aerobatic displays, spring was also most welcomed by the song of a single **Skylark**, high above the northern fields with its never ending spring song carrying effortlessly in the warm breeze.



Grey Heron © Ben Sentance

Joining the Swift, the Hirundines (from the Latin *hirundo* meaning 'a Swallow') were represented by two **House Martins** and three **Sand Martins** feasting on the abundance of insects after the long journey from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa. It's a shame that there are no **Sand Martin** breeding colonies in the local area.

Other small passerines (perching birds) of note on the 9th included a singing **Blackbird**, three vocal yet illusive **Whitethroats**, three equally vocal **House Sparrows**, a single **Greenfinch** and a **Reed Bunting**.

The second report covered a rainy day on 16th May and saw the notable presence of a majestic **Red Kite**. An incredibly vociferous **Song Thrush** was seen singing its unmistakable song along the hedgerow. Three **Whitethroats**, likely the same three as on the 9th were reconfirmed today. **Reed Bunting** territories were growing once again, with three birds seen along the canal. Four **House Sparrows** were a most welcome sight, as were two **Linnets** and **Goldfinches**, which I always associate with having a similar 'jangly metallic' song. Listen carefully though, and you will notice the differences quite clearly

As spring was finally bowing out to a rather debatable summer (if you blinked you probably missed it), the big prize came on 29th May when something rather special happened. In Michael's own words: "Excitingly, early this morning a falcon called a **Hobby** appeared. A fabulous falcon that comes up from North Africa for the summer". Michael went on to state that "this individual was checking out the **House Martins** and **Swifts** which it can easily catch as part of its prey. Interestingly they also catch and feed on Dragonflies too".

The 26th July came, and a very productive morning was had on site. A **Green Woodpecker**, likely given away by its 'laughing' call, was recorded in the area. Two **Swallows** tumbling and twisting sharply through the air represented the only Hirundines of the morning.



Green Woodpecker © Ben Sentence



Reed Warbler © Ben Sentence

Breeding Warblers were represented once again this summer, with a breeding pair of **Whitethroats** confirmed today by the fact that one of these was seen to be carrying food. Two breeding pairs of **Reed Warblers** were seen with fledglings in the reedbeds too. Another successful year so far for these Warblers indeed! Let's hope for more good news in the next issue with these and other species. Finally, a flock of five gorgeously coloured **Linnets** made themselves known to the ear, along with a singing male **Reed Bunting** in its resplendent and striking plumage.

REPTILES: A single Grass Snake was recorded on 26th July. With sightings becoming more frequent, this can only be a positive and encouraging sign.

INSECTS: The first two newly emerged and strikingly blue (or green if female) **Azure Damselflies** were seen on 16th May, eleven days later than last year.

The next report for insect sightings came on 29th May, with Michael noting that "It was great to see Dragonfly activity at last". He was certainly right, as this and the following reports will certainly testify to. Two traffic light red **Large Red Damselflies**, good numbers of **Azure Damselflies** and seven newly emerged **Four-spotted Chasers** were seen. No doubt these emergences had some bearing on the aforementioned **Hobby's** presence on this day.

On the afternoon of 2nd June, Michael spent half an hour or so solely in search of Dragonflies and Damselflies, which produced a similar result, but on a far larger scale! Three **Large Red Damselfly**, a whopping seventy-one **Azure Damselflies**, a staggering twenty-three **Red-eyed Damselflies** and two **Four-spotted Chasers** were seen. Bourton Meadow was certainly bursting into life now, and just goes to show what an important site for Dragonflies this is!

The 26th July certainly saw a far more diverse range of insects reported. Firstly, the Damselflies included the first two unmistakable **Banded Demoiselles** of the year (males being notable for their dark banded wings), a further thirty-one **Azure Damselflies**, the first nine **Blue-tailed Damselflies** so far and five more **Red-eyed Damselflies**.



Small Red-eyed Damselfly - male
©superdove is licensed under
Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

FLORA: Ragged Robin and Yellow Flag Iris were both in flower by 16th May.

You Can Contribute to The Seasonal Wildlife Report Too!

Hopefully now the COVID-19 restrictions have more or less been lifted, we will see more and more wildlife records for Bourton Meadow in the coming months, and who knows, something rare or unexpected too! Do keep your eyes peeled, and not just here, as this autumn is promising to see a very good haul of rarer migratory birds, with species such as **Wryneck**, **Little Stint**, **Whinchat** and **Red-backed Shrike** to name but a few are already making landfall in larger than usual numbers, and in the case of these four examples they are turning up...well...seemingly anywhere! As always, the Society wishes to thank Michael & Diane Hunt for their contributions, which were forwarded to Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

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

Ian Matson
Editor

Additionally, there was a surprise in store on this morning's survey as Michael recorded his first ever **Small Red-eyed Damselfies** at this site. What a find, and an important milestone for the natural history and biodiversity of this patch indeed.

The Dragonflies came into their own this morning. Two **Brown Hawkers**, three **Emperor Dragonflies**, three **Four-spotted Chasers**, a single **Black-tailed Skimmer** and eleven **Common Darters** were observed. All except the **Four-spotted Chasers** were the first of the season so far. What a day for Odonata indeed!

Finally, the Butterflies were well represented, although not counted. They included **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma**, **Marbled White**, **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown**.



Comma -female © naturalengland is licensed
under Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Community Engagement Report

While the world slowly opens up after the pandemic, we have been edging back into attending a few events and running our work parties again. We are still joining in with online events too which has been a great way to keep up morale, especially among small charities like ourselves, and allows us to network locally without breaking any rules around safe numbers and maintaining social distancing. One of these events has been run by the Co-operative at Deanshanger where local charities supported by their members' giving scheme were able to get together and share how the scheme has helped them.

The strange and changeable weather has thrown us a few curve balls and meant that a couple of events have been called off, but we managed to attend two new events at the Wolverton Bathhouse where I manned a stall, both times in a heatwave. We plan to get along to a few more of these throughout the year, hopefully in slightly cooler weather! As well as this, by the time you read this article we will have attended the IWA Festival of Water in Worcester on the second bank holiday weekend of August (28th-30th). Our stall will have an array of vintage and second hand items, as well as opportunities to become a member and learn about the Society and its restoration work.



©Terry Cavender

We have been able to welcome back groups of volunteers recently which has been fantastic. We had a really great day with a large group from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake at our Cosgrove site (above and overleaf) where they split into groups of six and completed various tasks including towpath improvements, reed pulling and other more general jobs. They worked so hard and it

paid off as we have seen huge improvements as a result. As well as this we have also run days with Network Rail and Hallam Land Management Ltd at Bourton Meadow as part of our corporate volunteering scheme. **If you would like to bring your business into this scheme, then please do email us using our Registered Address/General Enquiries contact details on page 31.**



I spent two lovely mornings with the year 2 children from Bourton Meadow Academy showing them the section at Bourton Meadow and talking about the history of the canal, how it changed the face of Buckingham and its eventual fall into disrepair. The kids were amazed at the amount of wildlife there too, and we hope that they will be involved in future projects such as the seed collection we will be doing in early autumn.

By the time you read this, we will have run a youth volunteering day on the 26th August at our Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve at Hyde Lane. Suitable for children aged ten and up, it is taking place where we have been preparing the ground for the planting of wildflower seed, and also have included the sowing of some seeds in jiffy plugs to plant out early next spring. **If you or anyone you know would be interested in attending any future events, please contact me via email using my contact details on page 30.**

Finally, the Milton Keynes Heritage Day will have already taken place too. It takes place on 12th September and includes a tour of our edible hedgerow. This year it fits with the theme of edible England. While much of our work is focused around the restoration of the canal, we cannot forget that we also maintain the towpath and by default the hedges too. We have done work planting hedges and maintaining and laying hedgerows at all three of our sites and look forward to sharing the importance of the hedgerow and the bounty it can offer.

Here's wishing you all a delightful end to the summer and hopefully many walks along the canal.

Aimee Tidman
Community Engagement Worker

New in the Amazon app

Sign up to generate donations while
you shop, at no extra cost

amazon smile



For several years now, Amazon Smile has been a simple and automatic way for you to support our Society every time you've shopped, at no further cost to you. When you've shopped at www.smile.amazon.co.uk, you've been able to find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as at www.amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon would donate a portion of the purchase price to Buckingham Canal Society, your selected charity. Now, in addition to this, there's even more convenience at your finger tips...

...Now You Can Smile Even More When Using Your Amazon App Too!

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select Buckingham Canal Society as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

- 1. Open the Amazon app on your phone**
- 2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programmes & Features**
- 3. Select Buckingham Canal Society as your charity**
- 4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app**

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!

Choose Us as Your Co-op Local Cause

Please CO-OPERate and choose BCS as your fundraising cause when shopping at Co-op. We now receive 2% (previously 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

Win Big with Buckinghamshire Lottery

The Buckinghamshire Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes. Buckingham Canal Society has registered with the Buckinghamshire Lottery as a beneficiary.

Tickets are just £1 per week, and 50% of that will come directly to the Society, provided you nominate us as your preferred charity.

Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize, with a top prize of £20,000. Every ticket consists of 6 numbers and each of those is between 1 and 9. There is a draw every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination is picked. Match all 6 and you can win the jackpot!

However, before you buy, please do not forget to select Buckingham Canal Society as your preferred charity, otherwise your money will be directed into a general charitable fund, which we do not benefit from. Good Luck!

To play and support BCS you will need to visit the Vale Lottery website to register and buy tickets at: www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk.

The Grants & Funding Report

We have had just two successful grant applications during the last period. Firstly, we were granted £3,500 by Buckinghamshire Council's Buckingham & Villages Community Board towards a Seed and Weed Harvesting Project.

This has enabled us to purchase a Weed-Mate aquatic weed cutter, which has proved quite successful on its first trial at Bourton Meadow. Part of the scheme also involves the gathering and storage of seeds.

If this is something that you would like to get involved with, then please get in touch with Aimee Tidman, our Community Engagement Worker, using her contact details on page 31. She will be pleased to give you the details, as they become available.



We also received £750 from the Arnold Clark Community Fund. This will go towards our general costs.

As I mentioned briefly in Issue 107, an application is being prepared to Highways England for a scheme to overcome the barrier of the A5 where it breaches the canal path at Old

Stratford. However, this application is currently on hold until the final proposed route is determined.

As previously advised, we have been selected by the Co-op Local Community Fund for the next annual round of funding which started on 25th October 2020.



Supported by Co-op Members

During this time Co-op members can select their cause which will receive appropriate funds depending on spend. Please take the time to enrol for membership and nominate us as your chosen charity.

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 30.

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:

- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- Buckingham & Villages Community Board
- The National Lottery Awards for All England
- Co-op - Local Community Fund
- 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)

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:

- Hallam Land Management Ltd
- Network Rail
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake
- 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 2021/2022

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

January

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 9th
Sunday 30th

February

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 13th
Sunday 27th

March

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 13th
Sunday 27th

April

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 10th
Sunday 24th

May

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 8th
Sunday 29th

June

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 12th
Sunday 26th

July

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 10th
Sunday 31st

August

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 14th
Sunday 28th

September

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 11th
Sunday 25th

COVID-19 and BCS Work Parties and Events: Update

Our volunteer work parties continue to align with government restrictions as and when these are implemented. All activities are run in accordance with Health & Safety Executive regulations, and are aligned with best practice in effect on the day. Please bring your own food and refreshments

The Buckingham Canal Society trustees and project teams have resumed working with some face to face meetings again, while still holding some electronic ones. Whilst we look forward to welcoming everyone back and seeing our previous volunteers alongside any new ones, please consider your own health, especially if you are in a vulnerable group, before joining these sessions.

We recognise that the COVID-19 situation has been and still remains a 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 the date(s) and the task schedule(s).

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

Future Events

Thursday 14th October 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: The Grand Junction and Grand Union Canals - David Tucker

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

Thursday 18th November 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: The Suez Canal - Roger Squires

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

Thursday 16th December 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Branch Christmas Social - Ticketed Event

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

**DUE TO THE
COVID - 19 PANDEMIC,
PLEASE CHECK WITH THE
RELEVANT 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 110 (Winter 2021) by the 1st November 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

**Jo Lynch**

Trustee, Marketing and Publicity Lead
14 Edmonds Close, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 1YR
07469 888419
jo.lynnch@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

**Amanda Robinson**

Trustee, Heritage and Archaeology Lead
5 Burbage Close, Wolverhampton,
Staffs, WV10 9YG
07485 109966
amanda.robinson@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



Trustee

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



Ian Matson

Editor

63 Almnors Road, Lyne, Chertsey,
Surrey, KT16 0BH
07793 451958

ian.matson@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

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

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

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: wyvern@canalholidays.co.uk

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



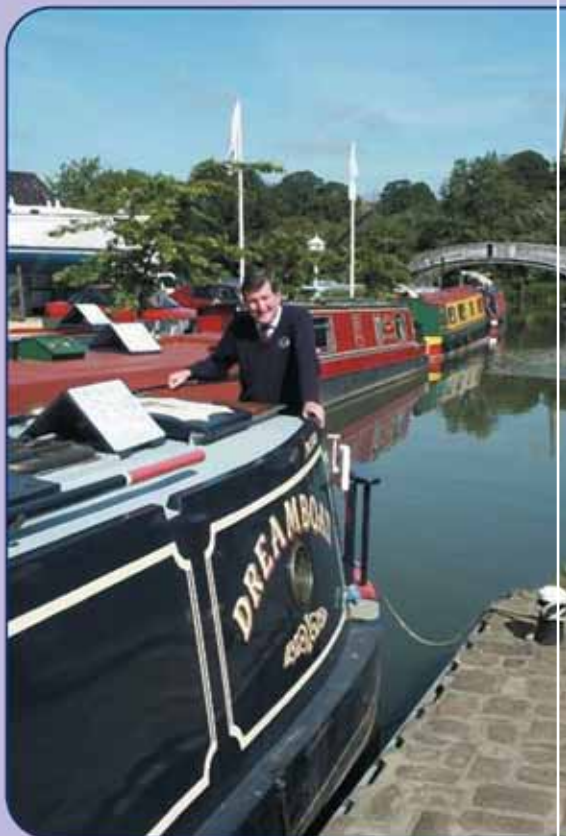
Buying or selling your DREAMBOAT?

*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, repainting, 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