

THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 114
Winter 2022



Featuring:

- **Athina's Work is Celebrated and Honoured**
- **Another Dredger and a New Bridge...Almost**
- **New Damselfly Species at Bourton Meadow**



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Please re-use this publication which incorporates a variety of information about some of our activities, to promote the work of the Buckingham Canal Society to a friend / neighbour / colleague / relative or other interested people.

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of The Buckingham Navigator.

After nearly thirty years of service with Buckingham Canal Society, former Chairman Athina Beckett was honoured with a beautiful custom made Kingfisher mosaic by artist Melanie Watts, and a dedication plaque at a ceremony by Bridge No.1 on 15th October. These were unveiled by MK Dons Chairman Pete Winkleman and commemorates her winning the Inland Waterways Association's Christopher Power Award back in 2020 in recognition of her many years of service to the work of restoring the Buckingham Canal. I'm sure you would all agree that this award couldn't go to a more deserving, dedicated, passionate and hard working person. Well done Athina, and may you continue to inspire future generations to carry on your great work! **See page 16 for the full report.**



Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo: Athina Beckett, Melanie Watts, Pete Winkleman and Terry Cavender at the mosaic & plaque unveiling ceremony for Athina's Christopher Power Award © Alan Mynard. **Why not drop me an email about what you enjoyed in this issue, and furthermore, why not contribute ideas or articles for future editions (see page 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/buckinghamcanalsociety

On behalf of all the team here, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Ian Matson
Editor

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Restoration Site Update



© Paul Sayer

On 15th September, volunteers John Reynolds (**above**) and Paul Sayer set up the long awaited new footbridge access that runs across the outflow stream to the canal at our Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve. **Read more on pages 8 & 10.**

Maintaining the Sites While Progressing Behind the Scenes



© Alan Mynard

It's been a lazy summer with lots of unseen progress involving conferences, meetings, and site visits etc. The team have been busy with lots of maintenance tasks. For example, the Heritage Landing Stage (**above**), Bridge No.1 (**below**), and Mitie Group plc also joined us on 13th September at Cosgrove (**page 6**). All this and more whilst we still await the finalisation of the lease for Cosgrove which unlocks the exploration of Bridge No.2.



© Alan Mynard

At the Cosgrove Arm segment, we have been able to have a site meeting with two of the key staff from the engineering team of Canal & River Trust regarding this section. This has now set out our plan of action for managing water and the remaining leaks



© Terry Cavender



© Terry Cavender



© Terry Cavender

at Cosgrove. Next up is to cost the design options for some piling work, and we aim to get the final consents to hopefully undertake the task this winter. The concept is to pile twenty-five metres of the leaking bank in three places to remediate the remaining leaks, as well as creating three mooring spaces. Starting firstly with the one adjacent to the farm crossing, stop planks will be incorporated into that piled section. Once these are in, the planks under Bridge No.1 will be removed enabling us to get the workboats in to pile the section near the bench at the bridge.

Regarding the Cosgrove new channel, the back-office work continues as we liaise with other landowners and their plans, as well as awaiting the outcome from the National Highways team that are reviewing the proposal to go under the A5 at the existing bridge. **Our team is, as always, looking for extra help. Please get in touch using my contact details on page 30.**

Watch Our Volunteers Working...Remotely on YouTube!

At Bourton Meadow, Athina and her team have been busy working with controlling the vegetation. **See Athina's full report on page 8.** Meanwhile, Gerry, Paul and I have been busy pumping water to top up the canal when the drought was at its peak (**volunteers clearing vegetation to get the pump running at Bourton Meadow - below on the River Great Ouse, and overleaf, top right, on the spillweir**). The solar pump (**overleaf, top left**) is designed to stop when the River Great Ouse is low, but we are still allowed to abstract twenty cubic metres per day unless a 'hands off' has been ordered by the Environment Agency.



© Terry Cavender



The wildlife camera that was mentioned in the last issue is now up and running at Bourton Meadow, and is available to watch at your leisure on YouTube. **It can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfbomsVilyQ.**

‘Wood’ You Believe it? We’ve Only Made Another Bridge!

At Hyde Lane, Paul Sayer has led the work to create a wooden footbridge (**page 4**) to enable us to get safer access on the offside of the canal. This was funded before the COVID-19 pandemic, and at the time of writing, it is around 98% complete.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

A Short, Back ‘n’ Sides for the Canal Banks Please...

After a short break, we returned to Bourton Meadow on Thursday 29th September to start up the work parties again, and we found the site to be so overgrown that it was impossible to see the water in the canal from the towpath. This was because the reeds had grown so much over the last few months. The first task was to strim back these reeds and remove the weed from the canal bed which had spread because of those very hot summer months we had.



We are still continuing with this work at Bourton Meadow and most of the reeds have been cut back on the towpath side, whilst a lot more of the weeds have been removed from the water (**above**). This task should be completed over the next month or so. The area at the top of the canal (which was left because of the bird nesting season) will also be cleared as well. The newly installed bench seats in this area have been painted too.

We will be getting some extra help with these tasks with several corporate volunteer groups joining us. These will include Cummins UK Ltd on Thursday 24th November and Mitie Group plc on Thursday 8th December.

As mentioned in the previous issue, a security camera is now in place at Bourton Meadow which should help to prevent any more vandalism to this site, and with all the above work carried out, this stretch of canal will continue to be a very attractive place for people to walk.

...and a Lick 'o' Paint on Them Lock Gates Too!

Over the summer months the lock gates at our Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve were painted, and part of the wood on one of the lock gates was replaced by a one of our volunteers. Work has also continued on installing a new bridge (**page 4**) over the stream which feeds the canal from the Hyde Lane lakes, and this work should be finished shortly. We hope to get all the bench seats at the nature reserve painted in the near future, as well as doing the regular work of strimming around them and along the towpath bank of the canal.

I'm already taking bookings for corporate and external group visits for next year, and already have two bookings for next March which should help us keep both of these sites looking good throughout 2023.

We are always looking for more volunteers to work across all of our sites, so if any of the tasks discussed by Terry or myself interest you, then please read on below for details on how to get involved.

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 29, and more detailed information about these and extra curricular dates can be found by visiting our work parties web page at:

www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/events-and-news/work-parties/

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.

Buckingham Canal Society 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 & 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.

Waterway Recovery Group's Health & Safety video contains important Health & Safety information that all new volunteers need to know. All volunteers are required to watch the Waterway Recovery Group Health & Safety video before they go on site. Please watch the video 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 along with additional documentation and other important 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

Dredger Diana

The fleet continues to grow as we have now acquired 'dredger three'. This one comes from Canal & River Trust - London & South East region.

As I write this, she is part way on her journey moving up towards Cosgrove for some much needed tlc. This has all been made possible by a very generous donation, more of which will be announced next year.

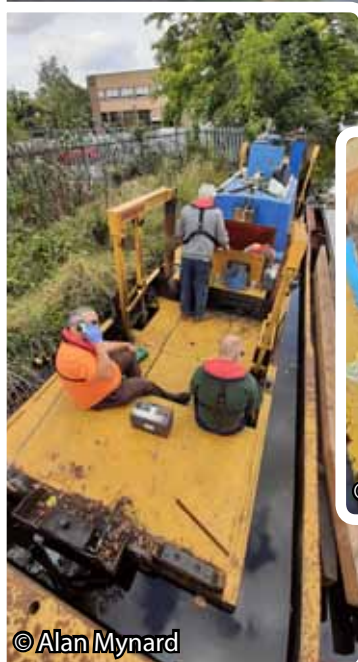
This dredger will be known as 'Diana' (**right, cabin detail & overleaf**).

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer





© Terry Cavender



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard



© Alan Mynard

A Dose of Local Canal History & Plenty of Healthy Exercise!

As part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme in September, Becky Hall our Community Engagement Lead had arranged for the Society to run three events, but by the time September came around she had unfortunately left us to move to Yorkshire. I therefor agreed to take over one of the events which was a five mile walk starting at Cosgrove Lock. The plan was to walk the first mile along the Buckingham Canal, go through to Stony Stratford Nature Reserve, returning to Cosgrove Lock via the horse tunnel and the Iron Trunk aqueduct. I would explain the history of the canal and point out any interesting features encountered along the way.

Sixteen people turned up for the walk (**below**), and we started off along the Buckingham Canal where I was able to point out the various points of interest including the bridge re-built by our volunteers, the hedgelaying work, the dry stone walling restoration and the bug hotel. All this work was carried out by our own volunteers.

We continued along the Buckingham Canal to the A5 where I gave details about our plans and proposals for the new section of canal. I also pointed out the parts of the canal in Old Stratford which can still be viewed, including the original tunnel which is under the main road through Old Stratford. Also mentioned was the lady who lives in the first tall stone house that owns part of the canal tunnel underneath it!

We then continued through Stony Stratford Nature Reserve and stopped to look at the Old Mill on the River Great Ouse near Wolverton House. Now turned in to flats, this is where, in the past, goods used to be transported to the Buckingham Canal to be loaded on to canal boats.

The walk continued via the horse tunnel under the Grand Union Canal at the Iron Trunk Aquaduct, then up to the towpath and back along the canal to Cosgrove Lock once more.

It was a very enjoyable walk, and sixteen people left hopefully knowing much more than they did before about the Buckingham Canal and our efforts to restore it!



© Athina Beckett

Athina Beckett

**Trustee, Volunteer Leader
and Work Party Organiser**

The Autumn Statement



Hello and welcome to the new edition of The Buckingham Navigator.

Christmas will soon be upon us, so now is the time to look at the Buckingham Canal Society shop for those little stocking fillers. The new calendar (**left**) is now available to order to allow you to start planning for all those important things for next year.

Please order from our online shop at:
<https://shop.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/>

Some of you may have seen on Facebook that Admiral Cavender has taken command of a new boat (below). I'm using the term boat in its true sense, as currently it is semi-submerged and is waiting to be re-floated. As much as he might want them, we have not (yet) issued Terry with torpedoes with which to completely dispatch it! Following much hard work from our volunteers, we have had to admit defeat and call in recovery experts who I am sure will see the boat restored to full floating strength and allow her onward journey. She is our newest dredger, and is named Diana. **See page 11 for Terry's report.**



In happier news, Athina's mosaic and plaque unveiling ceremony at Bridge No.1 on 15th October was a resounding success (**opposite**). This formed the central part of our Buckingham Canal Society Open Day. If you have not yet had a chance to wander down and see it, then I highly encourage you to do so. **Read Athina's full event report on page 16).**



© Alan Mynard

The festival team are already hard at work and looking to build on the success of this year's event. The desire is for the event to extend above Cosgrove Lock towards the Craft Fair at the village hall with an ever more diverse assortment of boat and canalside traders. The event was so popular, we have already had some traders book in for next year to ensure they have a space. The is on the weekend of 22nd & 23rd July 2023 so mark it down on your new Buckingham Canal Society calendar! **If you are able to volunteer and help with organizing and running the event, or are a trader wishing to book a mooring, canalside or village hall space, then please contact the Cosgrove Festival Team using the details on page 31.**

Our work parties are ongoing despite the downturn in the weather, thus following the military doctrine of "there is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothing". Despite saying this, our volunteers who turn up despite the worst weather are to be admired. As I sit in the office at work looking out at the driving rain I do think of our volunteers working hard on restoring and maintaining our canal with admiration for their dedication.

Finally, it is with much sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Robert Jones. Robert took on the role of Minutes Secretary for the trustees and worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that minutes were not only accurate but distributed in the timeliest of timely fashions. His sad passing will leave a hole in the Buckingham Canal Society family, where his diligence and sense of humour will be missed.

Rob Morris
Trustee and Chairman

Buckingham Canal Open Day

Our Buckingham Canal Society Open Day took place on Saturday 15th October, and as well as showing invited guests around our site at Cosgrove and explaining our future plans, it also gave them a chance to see the work already achieved.

The other main feature of the day was the unveiling of a mosaic of a Kingfisher (**below**) by the very talented artist Melanie Watts (**opposite, bottom**). The MK Dons Chairman Pete Winkleman (**opposite, top with myself & Terry Cavender**) had agreed to carry out this task and entertained the audience with a very amusing and informative speech about the work of Buckingham Canal Society and its future aims.



The mosaic was funded by the money awarded to our Society through the Inland Waterways Association's Christopher Power Award. This was awarded to me back in 2020 in recognition of my 'many years of service to the work of restoring the Buckingham Canal'. I would like to thank the Inland Waterways Association and all the members who put my name forward for this prestigious award.



It was a very special day for me, as well as the Society. Around fifty people were in attendance including some specially invited guests such as Richard Parry (Chief Executive Officer of Canal & River Trust) **(below, second right)**, the chairmen of both the Milton Keynes and Northampton branches of Inland Waterways Association, and also various local councillors.



© Alan Mynard

After the speech, Pete Winkleman mingled, chatted and shared a joke or two with the audience **(below, with myself, Jonathan Brown & Terry Cavender etc)** before leaving to join his football team who were playing at home that day.



© Alan Mynard

Attendees were then taken on tours of our work party sites, the recently built Buggingham Palace bug house, and our work boats Louise and Perseverance.



© Alan Mynard



© Tim Coghlan

A big thanks goes to our Treasurer Richard Dwight who, just as it was getting rather cool, produced cups of coffee and tea for the visitors. All in all a very successful day!

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Brown Trout Wins at IWA Festival of Water

The IWA Festival of Water took place this year at Burton-upon-Trent over the bank holiday weekend of 27th to 29th August. We normally try and go to this festival each year on our annual holiday in our canal boat Brown Trout. This year was different as my partner Jonathan is now on dialysis full-time, due to a kidney problem.

So the big question this year was would we be able to keep our boat and could Jonathan carry out his dialysis on the boat? So in August we set out to try and answer this question by travelling to Burton-upon-Trent, with the understanding that if problems arose we could return early.

We left home to travel to Burton just after that very hot weather we had, and hoped there would be enough water in the Trent and Mersey Canal to get us to Burton, which in the end proved fine. I was a lot fitter when we arrived as I had become the main lock wheeler for the trip, but Canal & River Trust volunteer lock keepers were also very helpful when they understood our problems.



Arriving at Burton-upon-Trent we found a very attractive festival site with seventy-nine boats in attendance. We were given a canalside mooring which made it much easier to take part in the Illuminated Boats event. As we had done well in previous years we decided to have a go again, and my partner Jonathan (**above, right**) decorated Brown Trout with most of the fairy lights we had on board (**above, left**), and we thought she looked great! The judges must have felt the same way too as we won the event!



Jonathan received a certificate from Inland Waterways Association which was scribed with the following words:

THE RAY DUNFORD TROPHY
BURTON FESTIVAL OF WATER 2022
Presented to
JONATHAN BROWN n.b. BROWN TROUT
For the best illuminated boat at the
Burton on Trent Festival of Water 2022

This was accompanied by a lovely silver trophy which unfortunately we have to give back next year.

The journey back was a little more eventful as our tunnel light gave out in the Braunston Tunnel! We did most of the journey through it by using my mobile phone torch light. It's not a thing I would want to do again!

Back home at our base at Pennyland Boat Basin in Milton Keynes, we hope to still go boating again next year.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

The Autumn Wildlife Report

Bourton Meadow Keeps Surprising, with Another Site First!

The days of the heady and extreme heatwave of mid summer lingered on into August, gradually tapering off before giving way to stormier weather as Autumn drew in. Now it is rain, rain and more rain! Still nowhere near enough to fill those reservoirs though, judging by my visit to Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire in late October. On the flipside, my garden is either waterlogged or underwater. It's on a very old gravel pit and has a very high water table. The stormy weather of late has certainly blown in a few exceptionally rare vagrant birds, especially from across the pond! The milder temperatures have also affected migration somewhat, with some species staying on our shores later than usual. Juvenile Ospreys, for example, were still on the Kent coast in the second week of November!

Roving wildlife recorders Michael & Diane Hunt have been out and about again as the temperatures dropped away, and sent in four more reports of sightings at Bourton Meadow. This article mainly covers September, for which I received three reports. There were no reports for the month of August and only one for the beginning of October. All the submitted records of Birds, Reptiles and Insects are included in this Autumn Wildlife Report.

With no more reports of successful offspring or late breeding attempts, it still appears that Bourton Meadow enjoyed a marginally more successful year on the avian front than last year. As already reported, we have had two successful pairs of Reed Warblers and up to three Whitethroat nests observed. Reed Buntings showed encouraging signs, but once again no Sedge Warblers have been reported all season for the second year running which is very concerning.

The Dragonflies (order Odonata, which contains the sub-orders Zygoptera (meaning 'paired-wings' - Damselflies) and Anisoptera (meaning 'unequal-winged' - Dragonflies)) are represented by only five species here this time, with some in high numbers. One of these, however, is a record first for site! Unfortunately, for reasons unknown, no Butterflies were recorded at all in the three months covered by this report.



Hobby - male © gilgit2
is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

BIRDS: On a bright and sunny morning, four **Common Buzzards** were seen soaring together high above the meadows on 12th September, given away by their distinctive contact calling.

But more excitingly, and far less common, another raptor in the shape of an undeniably beautiful and elegant **Hobby (left)** was seen, in Michael's words, "attending" a large group of migrating Hirundines on 3rd September.

This potential prey interest included forty **Swallows (below)** and four **House Martins**, all of which were no doubt panicked by the presence of this sharp eyed and agile apex hunter. The Swallows and Martins were feasting on plenty of insects for the journey south, and the Hobby, with its mind focused on only one thing, would have been hoping to feast on...well...you get the picture. It is nature after all!

Being a migratory species, like their prey, they literally follow the Hirundines north to our shores in the spring, and back south again in the autumn to warmer central & southern African climes. Just like their quarry, these Falcons are so mesmerising to watch in flight, with swift aerobatics and the ability to catch and eat their prey on the wing with such nimbleness is always so astounding and a real privilege to see!

Two secretive **Moorhens** were observed foraging quite concertedly along the canal banks on the afternoon of 2nd October. A possible confusion species is the Coot (both are types of Rails). They both have an almost all black appearance, but Moorhens are told apart by their yellow-tipped red bills, large yellowish feet and their white edged flicking tails. Moorhens tend to be more solitary whereas Coots are often more gregarious.



Swallow © Bryce Bradford
is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

The illuminating sight of a flash of azure blue from what could only be a **Kingfisher** certainly caught Mike & Diane's attention on the afternoon of 12th September!

A vociferous and unmistakable **Great-spotted Woodpecker** was noted in the trees along the meadows and canal on the afternoons of 12th September & 2nd October.

The 12th September also saw the welcome sight of a **Blackcap (right)** and two **Chiffchaffs**. By



Blackcap - juvenile female © Mick Sway
is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0.

now, the spring and summer songs of songbirds like these will have washed away, giving way to secretive calls from the Blackcaps and the lonesome and sometimes intense calling from Chiffchaffs that still hold territories. That said, I personally heard Chiffchaffs singing on 10th September this year at Harrington Air Force Base Nature Reserve (along with two calling Blackcaps), and the last one I actually saw and heard calling this year (so far) was at Grafham Water on 27th October. Both are migratory species, although a few now over-winter here in the UK due to our climate gradually warming through the winter months.

The first two **Redwings** of the autumn were observed on 2nd October. These colourful migratory Thrushes are always a real treat to see, feasting on our seasonal fair of berries, and are seen often in small flocks or when perhaps accidentally flushed from ground cover whilst foraging.

A first report for this sight within these pages, a single **Bullfinch** was seen on 12th September. These are unmistakable birds, but not necessarily a common sight. Males have diagnostic Salmon pink underparts (with white vent) right through to the cheeks, with a crisp edged black cap & throat. They also possess a bluish grey mantle and grey barred black wings and black tail. Females are essentially the same, with more muted beige pink underparts and beige tinged uppers. Certainly a showstopper in my book!

REPTILES: A third known sighting this year of a single **Grass Snake** was made on 12th September along the restored section of the Buckingham Canal.

INSECTS: As summer becomes a distant memory with winter fast approaching, the species of Damselflies and Dragonflies on the wing changes too. Only one representative from the sub-order of the Damselflies was reported for the period, but what a record indeed! Michael reported on 12th September that there was "great excitement for us this afternoon as I have seen my first ever **Willow Emerald Damselfly (Chalcolestes viridis) (overleaf)** at this site, and it undoubtedly arrived this year." He went on to state that "they have been spreading across the area in recent years, this year being the best."



The largest of the four Emerald Damselflies found in the UK, these attain a maximum size of 47mm for males (44mm for females). Both sexes (**left**) are very much alike with the male exhibiting a striking but darker metallic green colouring than the others. The female's abdomens are a little broader and perhaps tinged a little browner. Both have diagnostic uniformly pale cream pterostigma or wing spots. These spots are different in colour from the other three Emerald species.

Only gradually becoming more widespread in very recent years, it wasn't until 1992 that the first report surfaced of a single larval exuvia found in the North Kent Marshes. It wasn't correctly identified until a few years on, and had not been recorded again, at least in numbers, until 2009 when significant and increasing numbers of

adults were noted in East Anglia. But what a record for Bourton Meadow though! Fingers crossed we will see more next year, and who knows, perhaps a breeding record too! Still waters such as at this site are ideal, especially when Willow Trees are present!

The sub-order of Dragonflies produced a few more sightings. **Migrant Hawkers** were noted in good numbers throughout. On 12th September Mike & Diane saw eight examples, increasing to ten on 21st and then eleven on 2nd October. These are often a gregarious species, with males hawking in groups for ovipositing females. Strikingly marked (like most Hawkers) with predominantly blue on black (male) or greenish yellow on brown (female) markings, they are easily confused with some of the others. However, a small yellow triangular marking at the base of the abdomen should separate this species.

The **Brown Hawker** was represented by only a single specimen on 3rd October, making this only the second record of the year. This species of Hawker with blue (male) or yellow (female) abdominal markings and lemon yellow thorax stripes, is clearly defined as this species of Hawker by its diagnostic amber or brown tinted wings. Quite a striking species indeed as the sunlight catches it!

As the name suggests, the **Common Darter** is the most common of it's namesake. It is our largest native Darter, reaching 43mm. Like several other confusion species, the male is a superb bright orange-red, and females are greenish ochre. However, the Common has diagnostic yellow markings on its thorax and pale leg stripes, and the abdomen is somewhat thinner and redder than the Ruddy Darter's, which is more club shaped.

The first record was on 12th September when eighteen were seen, dipping to nine on 21st, then more than doubling to twenty-two on 2nd October! These can be quite confiding, and its not unusual to have one alight on your arm! Often seen perching on bankside vegetation, they always seem unsettled but often return to the same spot.

Three **Ruddy Darters** were recorded along the canal on the afternoon of 12th September. As already noted, they are strikingly similar to the Common, although somewhat smaller and stouter at a maximum of 36mm. They are often seen further away from water, even in woodlands, and hover for longer periods than the Common. They have a slightly more contracted period on the wing than the Common, flying from May to November. I'm sure most of you will have seen one of these species in a habitat such as along a canal, around a heavily vegetated slow moving river, or especially lakes or ponds. Ruddys typically prefer shallower, still waters and even woodland streams. The males of both species are unmistakable with their bright reddish colours and their seemingly 'unable to settle' waspish flight!

You Too Can Contribute to The Seasonal Wildlife Report!

Hopefully we will continue to see more and more wildlife records for Bourton Meadow and our other sites in the coming months, and who knows, something rare or unexpected too! Do keep your eyes peeled, and not just at the sites in this report. 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.bbowl.org.uk.

Ian Matson
Editor

Buckingham Canal Society Craft Group



Our craft group still isn't meeting, but I still continue to make the rag rugs which are sold on our Society stall for £25 each, raising much needed funds for us. In fact, six were sold at this year's Fellows, Morton & Clayton Ltd Rally & Canal Festival at Braunston Marina back in June. By the time you read this, I hope to have sold even more at the Craft Fair in Cosgrove Village Hall on 19th & 20th November.

If any members have any unused or old T-shirts which are not wanted, then please get in touch with me using my contact details on page 30. They can still be used to make even more rag rugs.

Athina Beckett
Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

The Grants & Funding Report

We have had two small successful grant applications during the last period. Firstly, we have been granted £750 by The Woodroffe Benton Foundation, which will go towards our general costs. Next was an award of £4,500 from the Buckingham & Villages Community Board which will go towards the provision of interpretation boards at suitable locations along our Buckingham Canal Heritage Trail.



I am also delighted to let you know that once again, Buckingham Canal Society is part of the Co-op Local Community Fund. What does this mean? Well, we have been selected to be part of the current round which runs from 23rd October 2022 to 21st October 2023, and Co-op members can choose to raise funds for our cause! For every £1 members spend on selected Co-op branded products and services, 1p will go directly to their chosen cause.

So the next time you shop at Co-op, you can ask the attendant how you can become a member and support Buckingham Canal Society. They will explain how to do this. **You can also open this link on your browser: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/67994>. Here you can learn more about how you can help raise money to support our restoration work.**

Once setup, to collect rewards and contribute to your cause, you must swipe or scan your membership card when you shop. So please become a member and select Buckingham Canal Society as your chosen cause.

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

Our Publicity & Recycling Stall Needs You

Our Publicity & Recycling stall is out and about throughout the year attending canal festivals and village events, while raising funds for the Society. If anyone fancies a change of scene, we readily welcome new people to come along and give a helping hand in running the stall. It's really good fun and you'll also get the chance to attend a wide variety of canal festivals and local events whilst helping to raise funds for our Society to restore the Buckingham Canal.

So why not come along and help us make a difference. You won't regret it.



To try and tempt you, some of the events previously attended include:

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

We will certainly attend many of these events and more in the future. The Village at War event, for example, is always great fun, as you get the chance to dress up in 1940s costume! It's worth noting that over £1,800 was raised for our canal restoration work by this stall alone in 2019! I'm sure we can beat that this year now we are back and out & about!

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

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

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:

- Co-op - Local Community Fund
- Buckingham & Villages Community Board
- The Woodroffe Benton Foundation
- Heart of Bucks Community Foundation - B P Collins Fund
- The Skinners' Company - The Lady Neville Charity
- Waitrose & Partners
- Moto in the Community Trust
- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- The National Lottery Awards for All England
- 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

Patrons, Partners & Supporters

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

- Lord Boswell of Aynho
- Lord & Lady Scott of Foscote

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
- West Northamptonshire 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:

- Mitie Group plc
- Network Rail
- Arriva UK Bus - Procurement
- Audi UK
- HSBC UK Bank plc
- British Telecommunications plc
- The Royal Latin School
- Milton Keynes College
- NHBC
- Santander
- Sava
- Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles
- Ingram Micro
- Waterway Recovery Group - Bit in the Middle
- Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group
- Waterway Recovery Group -London
- RS Components
- Marsh LLC
- Hallam Land Management Ltd
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Northampton Stake
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- McAfee
- Eddyfi Technologies - TSC
- Vinci Technology Centre UK
- Computacentre
- Stowe House
- Stowe School
- Trees for Cities
- Argos
- Network Rail - Bletchley Maintenance
- Virgin Money UK
- Mayflex UK

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!

Future Events

Tuesday 10th January 2.30pm

IWA Northampton Members' Videos

The Boat Inn, Bridge Road, Stoke Bruerne,
Nr Towcester, Northants, NN12 7SB

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 19th January 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes Talk: TBC- Kay Andrews

Bletchley Conservative Club,
105-111 Queensway, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2DN.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Tuesday 14th February 2.30pm

IWA Northampton Talk: A Romantic Canal Honeymoon, 1962 - Roger Butler

The Boat Inn, Bridge Road, Stoke Bruerne,
Nr Towcester, Northants, NN12 7SB

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 16th February 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes Branch AGM & Talk: Early English Canals - an Overview of Roman and Anglo Saxon Canals - John Pomfret

Bletchley Conservative Club,
105-111 Queensway, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2DN.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Tuesday 14th March 7.30pm

IWA Northampton Branch AGM & Talk: Update on Bedford to MK Link - Jane Hamilton

The Boat Inn, Bridge Road, Stoke Bruerne,
Nr Towcester, Northants, NN12 7SB.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 16th March 7.45pm

IWA Milton Keynes Talk: The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway - Steve Ashley

Bletchley Conservative Club,
105-111 Queensway, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK2 2DN.

Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Work Party Dates 2023

January

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 8th
Sunday 29th

February

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 12th
Sunday 26th

March

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 12th
Sunday 26th

April

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 9th
Sunday 30th

May

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 14th
Sunday 28th

June

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 11th
Sunday 25th

July

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 9th
Sunday 30th

August

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 13th
Sunday 27th

September

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 10th
Sunday 24th

October

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 8th
Sunday 29th

November

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 12th
Sunday 26th

December

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Sunday 10th
Sunday 31st

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 115 (Spring 2023) by the 1st February 2023 via email, CD, or typed/handwritten letter (in that order of preference) to:

editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk or

Ian Matson, 63 Almers Road, Lyne, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0BH

Advertising with us

We welcome advertisements in the Navigator to assist funding. Rates are as below. Payment is required before copy date. Cheques made payable to "Buckingham Canal Society". 33% reduction for 3 issues.

Whole Page: £16

Quarter Page: £6

Back Page: £22

Half Page: £10

Inserts: £7.50

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

**Edima Inwang**

Trustee and Marketing Manager
129 North Ninth Street,
Milton Keynes,
Bucks, MK9 3AW
07596 033295

edima.inwang@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

**Amanda Robinson**

Trustee, Heritage and Archaeology Lead
218 Bushbury Road, Fallings Park,
Wolverhampton, Staffs, WV10 0NT
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

**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

Ian Matson

Editor
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

Illustrated Talks & Presentations

talks@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Cosgrove Festival Team

events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



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Buckingham Canal Society, Aylesbury Canal Society.



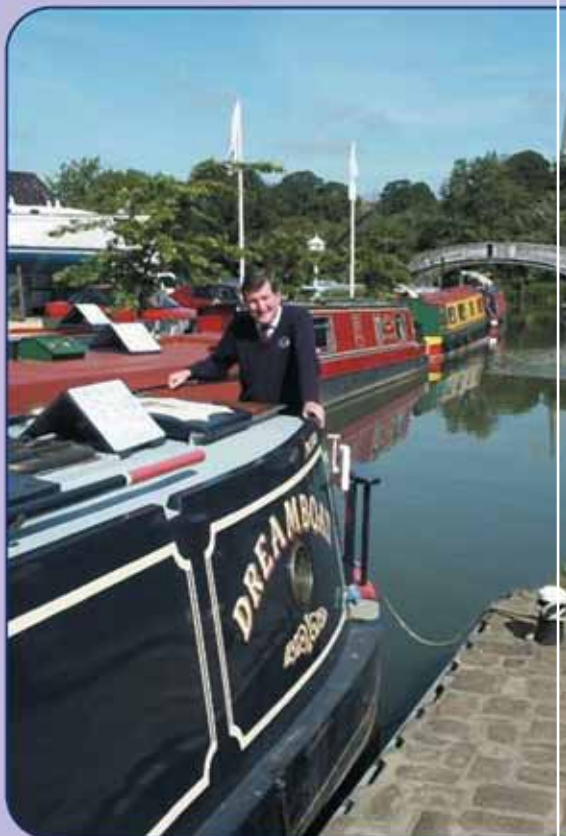
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