BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1156662

Details

Other names	BCS
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-04-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	2 Staters Pound Pennyland Milton Keynes MK15 8AX
Phone	01280860316
Email	enquiries@buckinghamcanal.org.uk
Website	www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD STRATFORD AND BUCKINGHAM ARMS OF THE GRAND UNION CANAL (HEREINAFTER TOGETHER CALLED "THE WATERWAY") TO GOOD AND NAVIGABLE ORDER AND TO PROMOTE THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATERWAY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.TO PROMOTE THE FULLEST USE OF THE WATERWAY BY ALL FORMS OF WATERBORNE TRAFFIC AND ALL FORMS OF WATER-RELATED COMMERCIAL, LOCAL AMENITY, TOURIST AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND USE OF CANALS AND WATERWAYS AND THE WATERWAY IN PARTICULAR.

Activities: Restoration and re-watering of 10.5 miles of the former Buckingham arm of the Grand Union Canal from Cosgrove to Buckingham.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Buckinghamshire
- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-11-30	£49,394	£55,931	-	-
2023-11-30	£87,104	£61,898	-	-
2022-11-30	£46,703	£49,318	-	-
2021-11-30	£38,730	£50,387	-	-
2020-11-30	£64,170	£78,490	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL RODGERS	Chair	2024-01-04
ATHINA BECKETT		1994-01-01
Amanda Morley		2024-01-04
Richard Dwight		2018-03-24
Ruth Millard		2024-01-04
STEPHEN MORLEY		2024-01-04

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BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1156662

Accounts

Trustees' report and accounts

for the year ending 30th November 2024

WERGIES – IN – ACTION





Piling continues along section two



Percy sails to new home

Introduction from the Chair

I am delighted to present my first Annual Report as Chairman of the Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) for the financial year ending 30th November 2024. This year, Edi has kindly taken the lead in producing this annual report for the AGM and I hope you will be equally encouraged and inspired as you read it. It provides a comprehensive summary of activities over the year and will give you a good view of how extensive the activities of the Society are and the impact we make, not only on the physical environs of the canal, but in the lives of the people and the organisations we work with week in, week out.

It was a privilege to have been formally elected by members at last year's AGM and to have been asked by Trustees to take on the role of Chair during the year. I am also pleased that we have co-opted Derin Adegun as Trustee this year. More information about the election of trustees can be found on page 25.

We have a strong Board of Trustees with the skills, experience, and importantly, the availability, to ensure that the Society is well managed, and that the ever-increasing activity is executed with vigour and competence. I give each of them my thanks.

The core task of our restoration and management of the waterway is both challenging and full of almost unlimited potential. Whilst we must stay focused on the core task, we should always have our eyes on the future potential of the canal and begin to establish the relationships, chart a course, and develop foundations on which those who will come after us in 50, perhaps 100 years, will be able to build and will have cause to praise our foresight.

In 2024, Trustees gave increased focus to underpinning the Society's potential to grow sustainably by reviewing the portfolios of both trustees and officers. This will see us put plans in place through the coming year for effective succession planning to ensure that the governance and operational activity of the Society remains robust.

I have often said that the capacity of any well-run charity is based on how it continually attracts, motivates, develops and utilises a passionate force of volunteers. Sometimes, when all around us is positive we might forget that we must continually strive to augment what is already a strong team. It is only when we are faced with the reality of an unexpected event that we recognise that we might be more vulnerable than we believe. I believe that the sad and untimely death of our committed, passionate and energetic volunteer and trustee, Gerry Millard, is just one of those wake-up calls. Gerry's contribution to the Society should not be underestimated and I hope that, as you read this Annual Report, and as we honour Gerry's lasting legacy, you will consider what greater part you might be able to play in the life of the Society as we plan for future growth. There is a role for anyone who is passionate about our goal, and I look forward to hearing from anyone who wants to get more involved.

Thank you for your continued support.
Paul Rodgers, Chair, Buckingham Canal Society

This annual report

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Agenda Item 5 - Buckingham Canal Society Trustees Report

Overview

2024 has been a fantastic year. Restoration work has been progress as well as maintenance at our other locations.

Site by site – Cosgrove: IT'S BEEN WET! WET!! WET!!!

The year at Cosgrove has been hampered as per the rest of the country with incredible amounts of rainfall leading to flooding, overtopping and many other outcomes of too much water.

The next obstacle as we progress with the restoration towards the A5 has been the partly collapsed land drain at the farm crossing where "section two" starts. This land consists of a 50-year-old plastic pipe that has become brittle, obstructed by roots, and partially collapsed. This was obviously causing the canal to leak into the pipe and down to the river; hence needing repair. The other aspect of the land drain has been to harvest the water to add to the canal. The land drain controls the excess water on the land surface which includes the surface water and the outflow from many springs up on the field above Stratford Road on the side of the valley and that water quality is considered suitable for the canal.

We now have a brick chamber, built by our amazing volunteers. The chamber is now complete. Next stage is to put the lid on it, including a special rescue crane, since the chamber is a confined space. After that, we will obtain and install a solar panel as well as a solar pump for the chamber, so that the water collected within the chamber can be harvested into the canal as a water source to help satisfy water source requirements.

Further west along the canal at Bridge 2, up to the A5, the excellent work undertaken by WRG (Waterway Recovery Group) during their 2023 Christmas Camp has uncovered the canal bed. During the flood, we ended up with water in that section to a depth of 18 inches (45mm). We also uncovered more of the wing walls of Bridge 2, ready for excavation when the planning application becomes known. Work to further unearth the wing walls further was again undertaken by WRG during their 2024 Christmas Camp. The volunteers of WRG also did an amazing job this Christmas of clearing behind the bin store to enable preliminary work to create accessible parking and moorings. They also removed 8 diseased trees. The trees were Sycamore which grew just after Bridge 1. One of the Sycamore trees fell two years ago, while another fell around November 2024. The removed trees were diseased as evidenced by the dead wood noticeable at the top. As per BCS policy, we will be replanting 5 new trees in place of each one felled. This replanting activity will be conducted within the vicinity in the nearest future.

Back by the bin store, we came into agreement with CRT to clear the vegetation. WHY? We aim, in the medium term, with CRT, to turn the area into an accessible parking area. This is something we have often been asked for as part of the Cosgrove festival; and we understand that some boaters with mobility challenges will also benefit from it – and I would personally benefit from it as well.

By the Cosgrove toilet block, we aim to put a disabled mooring area, which will also have an electric and water service bollard for electric boats such as Electra. Further work and final design for this would be agreed with CRT, and as we are aware, it is the starting that stops most people – and we have STARTED!

Low light of the year was the partial sinking of Louise, the Crane boat. As we write this, work is ongoing to recover the functionality of the powerpack engine for the hydraulics as well as arrange repair and overhaul of the outboard motor which will, going forward, form a more powerful propulsion unit for Louise.

Our partnership with CRT continues to be good. Over the years, the relationship has involved helping them with minor maintenance tasks, and we continue to do that. Early in the year, we did a crane lift for them using Louise at Stoke Bruerne to fit a new pump where the water is taken from the River Tove into the pound during low water levels, Of course, it has been high water level with the Tove spilling over into the canal for several months of the year; hence the title of this report – Wet, Wet, Wet – as their pound extends from Stoke Bruerne to Cosgrove and we get a lot of water.
During the year, we also obtained a “new” boat to be known as Fiona-Marie. Fiona-Marie is a 21-foot crabbing boat with a significant back deck, so we can use it for maintenance offside working and access both sides of the arm up to the A5 when it is rewatered, as well as the mainline. This vessel will be shared with CRT, and with the local Scouts. James and the local Scouts has been keen to form a Sea Scout group to offer something “different” to the young people of Hanslope and Cosgrove. This partnership of younger people being introduced to the canal is a wonderful way of making sure that this restoration and its operations are sustainable in years to come as we attract the interest of young people and their parents.
Also at Bridge 2, the compound has been fitted with a roof and sides to provide welfare shelter as we base more of our work at that end awaiting to start work on the bridge.






Top left: Volunteers at Cosgrove working on the land drain temporary bypass pipe for section 2. Top right: Volunteers of IWA WRG helping get rid of diseased trees at Cosgrove. Bottom left: Cows drinking from the rewatered section at Cosgrove. Bottom right: BCS volunteers emptying Hopper and adjusting offside bank.

Site by site – Corporate Groups



Above: Staff of WD40 after a successful work party at Bourton Meadow

Last year we received a lot of extra help from visits by corporate groups in fact the largest number of groups since we started having them join us! Overall, we had thirty-three corporate groups join at both Cosgrove and Bourton Meadow. Nineteen of them working at Cosgrove and fourteen of them at our Bourton Meadow site near Buckingham. There were seven visits from Santander and Network Rail who joined us on three separate occasions.

There were several groups joining us for the first time and these include GTC who made two visits to Bourton Meadow in June and July and another new group WD40 joined us at Cosgrove in July and paid a second visit on the 19th December to Bourton Meadow where a can of WD40 provided by them helped with our wheelbarrows.

In the past Corporate groups usually start visiting from about May onwards then usually stop by beginning of November but last year bookings started in March and continued until the 19th December so almost up to Christmas and at the time of writing we already have bookings February, March, April and July in 2025 and a special thanks must go to JNP who as well as providing us with some brilliant photos of their visit also made a generous donation to the BCS of £250




Volunteers at Bourton Meadow

The BCS Fleet!

The BCS "fleet" currently comprises of four vessels.

- Diana the dredger has joined us and is in active operational service
- Louise, the crane boat, was acquired by the BCS in Christmas 2020, thanks to Rob Locatelli of Canal and River Services. This 55ft long wide beam 100-year-old iron and concrete beet barge from the fens was converted by the National Trust in the 1980s and fitted with a HIAB crane, powerpack with pallet grab, grab bucket and a hook option.
- FIONA the 21ft fishing boat, recently acquired to support with minor renovations.
- Since October 2021, we have had use of SHOVELER, a long-term loan bantam class pusher tug from CRT, to aid the Cosgrove operations. The vessel, which has a twin-cylinder lister engine, is named after a duck.









Above Left: DIANA the Dredger moored at Braunston Marina during the 2024 Braunston festival just before she was moved to the drydock for restoration and painting (TC). Above Right: Tug SHOVELER about to move PERSERVERANCE II to Watford where she will be towed towards Essex for Essex Waterways (EI). Bottom left LOUISE (TC) and bottom Right: FIONA the fishing boat at Cosgrove

Our thanks to the CRT East Midlands Operations Team who have kindly arranged for the licence fees on both workboats to be discounted by 100% in recognition of the work we are able to do in assisting the Ops team and other voluntary groups in the Southern Area of the East Midlands Region. Additional thanks for the ongoing loan of Shoveler the tug to help us with dredging and other movements of vessels.

Site by site - Bourton Meadow

With little access to our Hyde Lane site in 2024 the Conservation volunteers spent most of their time working at Bourton Meadow and were helped by the visit of fourteen corporate groups who worked there from May to December. We have continued the work throughout the year of keeping excellent access to this site and making it look attractive and therefor attracting more visitors to walk the canal and then possibly want to support us by becoming a member or a volunteer or both. As well as

making the site look attractive, we have been maintaining the environmental and wildlife aspects of this site which is important as well. We have been helped in this list task by Michael Hunt who after each visit to site sends us a detailed list of the wildlife seen by him there.

Hedges were strimmed towpath strimmed several times over the summer months and four of the bench seats were repainted a new interpretation board and leaflet box were installed. The main problem over the summer months was the amount of weed taking over the canal bed which also had to be removed. From past experiences the best way to conduct this task has been for volunteers donning waders and work in the canal bed itself. This always proved an immensely popular task for both our volunteers and visiting groups in the summer months and because of the very mild winter weather we were able to continue working in this way right up till December.

As said at top of this article most of the practical tasks lead by me were at Bourton Meadow but for the first few months at the beginning of 2024, I lead several tasks at Cosgrove where I

worked with children and their parents taking park in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme something I have done in the past and would love to continue doing.

Hopefully 2025 will be as successful 2024 where we continue the work at Bourton Meadow, and I look forward to seeing all the Spring flowers starting to grow there and I am happy to be to being part of it again this year.





Above Bourton Meadow volunteers clearing the waterway to keep it an open space

We also have a camera at Bourton Meadow which is linked to Youtube. Look and see at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfbomsVilyQ or search Youtube for Buckingham canal cameras

The Green Gym – Exercise That Is Effective

Green Gyms were set up about twenty five years ago by two GPs who felt giving people the opportunity to work outside in the fresh air and carry out conservation and environmental work would help some people recover more quickly and improve their health that just taking pills so the Green Gym system was started and has proved very successful over the past twenty five years.

The BCS has set up its own Green Gym in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers. Our conservation group conduct practical tasks on alternative Thursdays and on the second Sunday of each month are now working as part of a new Green Gym. After all a much cheaper way of getting fit than paying a fee at a regular gym and a fantastic way of giving something back to the environment and making friends.



Thanks to our people.

As always, a massive thank you to all our partners, volunteers, members, supporters, neighbours, and many others. We would like to highlight a few examples of some of the less visible works that we have been involved in:

- Keith Rawlings – ongoing as our structural engineer. Keith is a seconded volunteer via the IWA and BCS fund the professional indemnity insurance for this secondment.
- Ian Matson - is our newsletter editor who continues to do an excellent job despite working remotely. Ian helps us with producing the excellent Navigator and various other posters.
- Alan Mynard and Matt Lane for their hours of patient work behind the scenes repairing and restoring engines and boats and all things mechanical

Partnerships

Our many great partnerships continue to firmly position the society for the short and medium term. Our financial health allows us to remain viable, but we are always looking for innovative ideas and folk to join the team. Thanks to our members, donors, grantors, and other benefactors for allowing us to keep our financial head above water. Thousands of hours of hard work have once again been given to the society by current and past trustees, volunteers, members, partners, and supporters. The current trustees thank you all for your time, energy, and funding to keep us on track towards the restoration.

BCS continues to enjoy support from MKDons, a significant adjacent landowner, and we are formalizing the access track to the canal at Cosgrove following the granting of planning permission. This will ensure BCS has unrestricted access to the bridge and the canal channel, making materials and equipment access much easier. We are grateful to the commercial team at MKDons for supporting us through the planning discussions for this.

We are ***also*** fully engaged with the new owners of the land adjacent to the canal from bridge two to the A5, Frontier Developments. They have been kind enough to facilitate the land access license, allowing us to get vehicles, ***equipment***, and machinery to Bridge two and the channel.

We have continued to enjoy an outstanding partnership with CRT, who have helped us with various training aspects, technical guidance, providing materials including clay and stone, and of course, the loan of the tug Shoveler. BCS has, in return, assisted with signage and several maintenance tasks around Cosgrove, as well as the ongoing dredging. The trustees collectively express their thanks to Linny Beaumont and her regional team for their support and tolerance as we strive to achieve the restoration.

Membership

Membership numbers have remained steady, although we have sadly lost a few older members. However, we have been able to attract some new members during the year through the aid of our online payment system. This is now provided via Sum-Up through the BCS online shop and can be used by people wishing to join for the first time or by existing members to renew their membership. For more information, please visit: https://www.shop.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

The marketing team have revamped our information and membership leaflets. Increasing our membership numbers remains a continuing priority, and we extend our thanks to Jean and Chris for their work supporting the membership administration.

Community Engagement

While the role of a Community Engagement Officer remains unfilled, a few volunteers have been doing an excellent job in attending community engagement events on behalf of the Society. We hope to do more in the coming year to unlock more funding that would require some active community participation.

Strategic Plan

We are fortunate to have the help from Geoff Lambert who has helped BCS develop a Strategic Plan. This sets out the eleven themes we are pursuing in re-creating the waterway to Buckingham. The plan is a living document and sets out the progress we expect to make in a rolling 2-3-year window with a focus on the progress we want to make in the next 12 months. This is designed to ensure we have a clearer understanding of the range of tasks we need to undertake and who we need to partner with in achieving our goals; the order in which events need to take place and ensure that we obtain the necessary authorities to proceed; protect the environment and biodiversity of the route; maximise landowner and Community involvement, and plan for appropriate income streams in the future.

If you would like a copy of the Strategic Plan or feel able to help in its maintenance as an important part of the restoration, please contact any of the trustees preferably by email to

Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Trustees' statements

The trustees have considered the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit and concur that the society continues to fulfil this.

For completeness, we confirm the following regarding reserves as stated in our financial policy regarding reserves:

10.1 The executive committee will consider the level of reserves that is prudent for the charity to have at its first meeting after the AGM. Consideration will be given to redundancy liabilities; lease agreements and any other significant factors that should be taken into account were the charity to close.

Trustees are recruited on an open basis. Anyone wishing to become a trustee is required to be a member of the society as per the constitution. Members are encouraged to discuss their wish to become a trustee and attend a trustees meeting to understand the roles and responsibilities of the position. Proposer and seconder are then required for a vote of co-option for the nominee as a trustee who is appointed subject to charity commission eligibility checks.

Publicity & Fundraising Stall

Since Covid the stall has resumed its role of publicising the work of the society, recruiting new volunteers and raising funds for the BCS. Over the last few years, the stall has raised over £1,100 to support the work of the society.

Last year the stall visited several smaller local festivals and travelled further afield to visit the Braunston Historic Boats festivals at Braunston, the Linford Canal festival as well as our own festival at Cosgrove.

One of the main attractions on the stall are the had made rag rugs made by Athina Beckett and sold on the stall for £25 and she is always looking for more old tee shirts that can be recycled and made into rag rugs again raising more funds for the BCS

Hours and Work Parties

While some offices have since become accustomed to working from home, others have allowed most of their key staff return to office. This has had a significant positive effect on turnout of corporate volunteers this year compared to previous years after COVID. Over 7,000 hours of volunteer work were recorded at Bourton Meadows in 2024. This time on site was made possible through the participation of companies, groups, and Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) visits, collaborating with our own volunteers. Without their assistance, much of the work achieved during last year may not have been possible. From our records, we had a total of 7,325 hours of volunteer work contributed by over 1,000 volunteers. This is a remarkable achievement and amounts to a match funding value of over £100,000 in lottery terms.

We currently aim for over 150 planned workdays each year subject to weather etc. The work parties involve a range of tasks, and everyone is welcome to join any of them. The work parties are on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on the second Sunday of each month. On alternate Thursdays and on the second Sunday, Athina Beckett runs work parties at Bourton Meadow and Hyde Lane focusing on conservation and the environment at these two sites. At Cosgrove, the teamwork Tuesday and Thursday with focus on dredging, bricklaying, construction work and equipment maintenance.





Above left - hedge planting at the bridge steps and right Hyde Lane after a bit of a tidy up!

BCS Talks

In 2024, Athina Beckett gave talks to various groups which include FOLIC, Winslow Library, Potterspury History Group, Stony Stratford History group and Maids Moreton U3A .again raising more funds for the BCS

BCS Festival and Craft Fair

The 29th annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair was quite successful with incredibly good turnout for both days because of clear skies and lovely weather. Once again, the hard work and rapid organisation of the team ensured the festival was successful.

The excitement started building from Thursday onwards as colourful boats and traders arrived to set up their stalls. Visitors kept coming with estimates indicating that the festival again attracted over a thousand people. It was rewarding to see so many people enjoying themselves over the two-day festival. There were plenty of canal-themed activities, wonderful entertainment, delicious food, and drink, making it a worthwhile event for everyone.

The Buckingham Canal Society's information tent was in prime position on the towpath, providing a platform to chat with festivalgoers, promote the canal, raise awareness, and recruit new volunteers (it is not too late to express an interest!). Visitors were also encouraged to take a stroll to view the bridge and the progress of all their other projects along the arm and surrounding area.

Social Media

We have increased our social media presence with more than 3,500 people following the society on Facebook. 30,000 people saw one recent post. Even if we do not use social media in our personal lives, we all know people who are avid users, and it is a necessary outlet for information these days. Our reach has increased, which is critical for sharing information about our activities and plans. Apart from Instagram and Twitter (now X), we have added LinkedIn to our list of social media accounts, hoping to attract more corporate volunteers and donors. Do you know anyone who can help keep our pages up to date? Please chat with a trustee!

To find us:

Search Facebook for "Buckingham Canal Society": or go direct to	https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamCanalSociety/
for X (Twitter):	@BCSocietyUK
on Instagram:	BuckinghamCanalSociety
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/bcsocietyuk
Youtube:	https://www.youtube.com/@BuckinghamCanalSociety

We have been actively maintaining our website too, with Alan as our dedicated Webmaster. He has been doing a great job of keeping the website content up to date, reflecting the progress we have made so far and our future plans. Many thanks to Alan for his many hours of back-room projects as well as help with engines, painting and much, much more.

Goodbye Gerry

In October, the Society lost one of their long-time volunteers and trustee, Gerry Millard. He died peacefully in hospital after suffering from various medical problems for some months. He will be missed, especially for his mechanical and electrical skills and for his wonderful personality. It was always a pleasure to have him on our work parties and as harbour expert at the Cosgrove Canal Festival.



FESTIVAL HELP NEEDED

The 2024 festival was successful thanks to a small group of trustees and volunteers. To avoid the 2025 being the last festival, we need more help. It does not have to be all weekends! A few hours on Friday helping setup, or Sunday taking down would be welcomed as well as help on the Saturday and Sunday at the event itself. Help would also be welcomed in the planning of events.

Please contact any of the trustees or events team to find our more or offer you time

SAVE THE DATE: weekend of 19th July 2025

Fancy a Natter? - Projects and Operational

The Projects group meets monthly to cover all operational aspects of BCS, including maintenance, events, and work party planning. We alternate between face-to-face meetings and conference calls each month, currently on the 3rd Monday, to work through multiple tasks related to each project and section of the canal. This ensures we are prepared when opportunities arise that will further the canal restoration work, while also ensuring focus around governance and strategy for trustee meetings. If you would like to be involved, please contact any of the trustees at Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

Keith Rawlings, a structural engineer, is another much-valued member of our team. He kindly gives us his time "pro bono" in designing the structural elements, such as Bridge One at Cosgrove and the towpath wall.

We are always looking for further help, both on the ground and in "back office" roles. Please think of everyone you know and how they could help us as we continue the drive for restoration. That help might be on a work party, fundraising, becoming a member, lobbying local councillors, or joining in the management of the society to help guide us to the next stages. We all believe in the aim of restoration, and many discussions at preliminary stages are driving this to become very real.

BCS Grants and fundraising

Our grant income has again been challenging this year mostly through grant bodies still targeting different criteria such as cost of living and hardship.

We hope to pursue more grant funding during the coming year alongside other strategic funding opportunities

GDPR

New data protection legislation came into force in May 2018. The law applies to all public bodies, businesses, and other organizations that process personal data, including the BCS.

Our GDPR principles are as follows:

- We will process all personal data fairly and lawfully.
- We will only process personal data for specified and lawful purposes.
- We will endeavour to hold relevant and accurate personal data, and where practical, we will keep it up to date.
- We will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary.
- We will keep all personal data secure.
- We will endeavour to ensure that personal data is not transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) without adequate protection.

BCS will comply with the GDPR as a controller and processor of data. We will implement relevant policies and practices to protect any data managed by the BCS, including data for our employees, customers, suppliers, partners, and stakeholders.

For further details, please visit our website.

Heritage and Archaeology

There has again been no significant progress with regards to further progressing the archaeological work that is required including several geophysical surveys in the past 12 months.

If you or anyone you know would like to help develop this activity, please chat to any of the trustees.

Collaborating closely with the local council's Heritage Department we have managed to start protecting several structures, including Thornto Brdge on a local level. We intend to progress these to potential restoration as soon as possible. Hopefully, we will be able to add them to a national list as well.



Thornton Bridge



Uncovering the landing stage remains at Cosgrove

Agenda item 6 and 7 –Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Explanatory Notes
The report format follows the new look we adopted since the 2022 AGM. The figures are sorted first by income or expenditure type, the "what," then by the "where.."

Income by General Ledger type shows how the income was generated.
Expenditure by General Ledger type shows what the money was spent on.
Income by Cost Centre shows where it came from.
Expenditure by Cost Centre shows where the funding came from.
The trustees control the use of Designated and Unrestricted funds.
The use of *Restricted* funds is dictated by the donor, for a specific project or use, and must be kept separate.

The General Picture
Expenditure exceeded income by £6,538. This leaves us with sufficient funds to cover our core costs, those expenses we cannot avoid, such as insurance and equipment maintenance, currently standing at around £25k p.a.

On the income side, the two big variables from year to year are grants and donations. With the current economic situation, many grants are now being focused more on improving the circumstances of individuals rather than project works. This makes searching-out new funding opportunities more complex and time consuming, reading all the small print. Any help in this area will be appreciated.

Richard Dwight
Treasurer and Trustee

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
Income by General Ledger type	£	£
Advertising	44	88
Bank Interest	560	209
Donations:General (includes expenses donated back)	16,369	58,158
Donations (Payroll & Local Giving)	0	572
Fundraising (excluding Raffles)	71	83
Fundraising (Lottery)	279	297
Grant Income	10,049	10,000
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	12,971	5,415
Insurance Claim	0	5,170
Membership Subscriptions	1,958	1,268
Sale of Assets	5,000	0
Sale of Goods & Services	0	3,236
Sales Stand (BCS) & Online Shop	563	1,083
Sales Stand (Third Party/Concessions)	1,530	1,525
	49,394	**87,104**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2023 (continued)

	2024	2023
Income by Cost Centre	**£**	**£**
Designated Income Funds: Bourton Meadow Visitors Centre	3,250	0
Designated Income Funds:Co-op LCF 2023	0	1,164
Designated Income Funds:Cosgrove Piling	0	18,000
Designated Income Funds: Contingencies	0	2,000
Restricted Income Funds:Big Lottery Fund:Reaching Communities	0	5,000
Restricted Income Funds:Member Restoration Works	180	180
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan "Diana" Fund (Dredger)	0	10,000
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan Bridge fund	0	10,000
Restricted Income Funds:Bucks Heritage Trail	0	3,236
Restricted Income Funds:HoB - Tools & Equipment	0	5,000
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Board Gazebo	979	0
Restricted Income Funds:John Deere Tractor Fund	834	0
Restricted Income Funds:MKCF Boat equipment grant	9,070	0
Unrestricted Funds:Events & Functions	3,877	3,448
Unrestricted Funds:General income (includes expenses donated back)	23,837	27,808
Unrestricted Funds:HQ:Membership (includes life memberships)	1,958	1,268
Unrestricted Funds: Watercraft	5,409	0
	49,394	**87,104**

Expenditure by General Ledger type		
Advertising	2,792	594
Computer, phone & internet charges	1,434	980
Event costs	36	115
Fuel, oil & sundries	1,573	2,808
General office expenditure	36	0
Grant-funded wages	0	3,815
Hire of premises	1,216	667
Insurance	7,126	6,837
Licences & permits	61	150
Materials	8,636	22,328
Plant & Equipment purchases	17,535	2,663
Plant & vehicle maintenance	3,395	9,264
Plant hire	180	801
Professional Fees	0	1,775
Refreshments & Hospitality	208	267
Road tax	335	320
Stationery, printing & postage	1,764	1,878
~~Stock for Online Shop~~	~~0~~	~~0~~
Subscriptions	172	167
Training & Development	1,315	470
Travel Expense:Mileage Claims (Mostly donated back)	8,118	5,999
	55,931	**61,898**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2023 (continued)

	2024	2023
Expenditure by Cost Centre	£	£
Designated Income Funds:Co-op LCF 2023	811	352
Designated Income Funds:Cosgrove Piling	4,306	12,806
Designated Income Funds:Van Purchase Fund	0	2,735
Designated Income Funds:Boat Maintenance	2,000	0
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Board: Weed & Seed	0	147
Restricted Income Funds:Big Lottery Fund:Reaching Communities	2,705	4,573
Restricted Income Funds:Buckinham Town Council - Interpretation Board	0	1,150
Restricted Income Funds:Heart of Bucks Covid Grant J026	0	354
Restricted Income Funds:Bucks Heritage Trail	0	2,086
Restricted Income Funds:National Lottery:Cosgrove Lock Island Garden	76	5,354
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Board Gazebo	979	0
Restricted Income Funds:RadcliffeTrust (Craft Training) J019	475	470
Restricted Income Funds:Tesco Bags of Help 3/Hyde Lane Footbridge	0	626
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan "Diana" Fund (Dredger)	1,492	5,901
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan Bridge fund	0	60
Restricted Income Funds:John Deere Tractor Fund	834	0
Restricted Income Funds:HoB - Tools & Equipment	5,000	0
Restricted Income Funds:Cosgrove Marina (BR2)	250	0
Restricted Income Funds:IWA training grant	700	0
Restricted Income Funds:MKCF Boat equipment grant	9,070	0
Restricted Income Funds:Skinners Lady Neville Grant (BR 2)	490	0
Unrestricted Funds:Events & Functions	662	717
Unrestricted Funds: Membership	10	0
Unrestricted Funds:Navigator magazine	138	349
Overheads: Insurance, publicity, office costs	11,387	0
Unrestricted Funds:General Restoration works	11,334	19,316
Unrestricted Funds:Plant & Equipment	773	3,281
Unrestricted Funds:Vehicles	1,411	1,621
Unrestricted Funds: Watercraft	1,029	0
	55,931	**61,898**
Balance of Income over Expenditure	**-6,537**	**25,206**

Reconciliation		
Bank and cash balances at 01/12/2023	56,235	31,029
Expenditure more than income for the year	-6,538	25,206
Bank and cash balances at 30/11/2024	**49,698**	**56,235**
Designated/Restricted Funds Remaining	9,806	24,681
Unrestricted Funds Remaining	39,891	31,554
Total funds remaining	**49,698**	**56,235**

Statement of assets and liabilities

The balance sheet at the year-end is as below. The Creditors value is a loan from a trustee. The major fixed asset is Bridge 1 at Cosgrove.

Balance Sheet
As of November 30, 2024

	TOTAL	
	AS OF NOV 30, 2024	**AS OF NOV 30, 2023 (PY)**
Fixed Asset	£286,918.30	£285,307.92
Cash at bank and in hand	£49,698.36	£56,235.44
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£49,698.36	£56,235.44
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£49,698.36	£56,235.44
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	£336,616.66	£341,543.36
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	£21,000.00	£21,000.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£315,616.66	£320,543.36
Charity funds	£315,616.66	£320,543.36

We are grateful for the continued support of our patron Lord Boswell of Aynho as well as Lord and Lady Scott of Foscote

Discussions with relevant organisations are ongoing to establish further partnerships both formal and informal. We have existing partnerships with the following:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA)**
- **Buckinghamshire Council (BC)**
- **Environment Agency (EA)**
- **Anglian Water**
- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)**
- **Buckingham Town Council**
- **Canal & River Trust (CRT)**
- **West Northamptonshire Council**

We are grateful for the ongoing support of:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch**
- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch**
- **Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers**

We have been recognised by the following:

- **Cosgrove Parish Council**
- **Maids Moreton Parish Council**
- **Thornborough Parish Council**
- **Milton Keynes Council**
- **Foscote Parish Meeting**
- **Old Stratford Parish Council**
- **Thornton Parish Meeting**
- **Deanshanger Parish Council**

We thank our corporate members for their continued support as well as WRG, IWA and Canal & River Trust for their ongoing support, help, and partnership.

Wyvern Shipping Co.

Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.

Nikon

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Taverners Boat Club

Braunston Marina

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

LIONHEARTS CRUISING CLUB

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

Donations in kind

We are pleased to record the following donations in kind, from organisations that have provided us with valuable services during the year rather than direct financial contributions:

Organisation	**Service**	**value**
Buckinghamshire Council	Raster and vector map data for canal route	£20,000
Salesforce.com	Project Management software	£15,000
Canal & River Trust	Training, materials, and equipment	£15,000
Cosgrove Marina	Portacabins and materials storage facility plus mooring and Wi-Fi	£6,000
MKSET	Storage adjacent to bridge one and at canal side field at Cosgrove	£5,000
Microsoft via TT Exchange	Microsoft software	£44,000
	Total	£105,000

The trustees are pleased to confirm that the accounts have been reviewed and approved by an independent examiner and no issues of concern found. The examiner's statement above page is from the form which will be submitted to the Charity's Commission after the AGM. The signature has been redacted for the purpose of this report.

Agenda item 8 – election of trustees

In accordance with our constitution, one third of the trustees must stand down each year and may stand for re-election. During 2024, one new trustee was co-opted and stands for election at this AGM along with Terry Cavender and Richard Dwight who stand as part of the rotation.
Gerry Millard served as trustee until his death in October 2024

.

Nominee	**Proposer**	**Seconder**	**Comment**
Derin Adegun	Paul Rodgers	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee
Terry Cavender	Paul Rodgers	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee
Richard Dwight	Paul Rodgers	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee

Full list of other trustees for completeness are:

Trustee	**Role**	**(re)elected**
Richard Dwight	Treasurer	March 2018
Terence (Terry) Cavender	Executive Officer	March 2018
Athina Beckett	Trustee talks volunteer contact and work party leader	March 2022
Edima Inwang	Trustee and Digital Marketing Lead	March 2022
Paul Rodgers	Chair	March 2023
Steve Morley	Trustee	March 2023
Mandy Morley	Trustee and Safeguarding Officer	March 2023
Ruth Millard	Trustee	March 2023
Colin Levett	Trustee	Coopted Feb 2025

Do you dig canals?

.... *We do!*

Thank you for joining us for our Annual Meeting. Do you feel you could help us further? Below are just some of the things we do that you can get involved in. Please come and have a chat with any of the members of the committee. If you already are part of it, then thank you and please show this to someone new so they can get involved as well.

Publicity	**Planning**	**Projects**	**Event organiser**
Fundraising	**Become a trustee**	**Conservation**	**Restoration**
Brickwork	**Maintenance**	**Digging**	**Hedge Laying**
Grant writing	**Budgeting**	**Recruiting**	**Heritage**
Lengths-person	**Journalist**	**Editor**	**Project Manager**
And many others!			

Please use this document, 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.





Above left rewatering section 2 towards the oil pipeline crossing
Above right rebuild flood sluice near bridge two

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CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Buckingham Canal Society		
On accounts for the year ended	30 November 2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1156662
Set out on pages	1,2 & 3		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/11/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

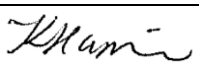
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		**Date:**	8 April 2025
Name:	Kameliya Harrison		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)		
Address:	Tearle and Carver Ltd, Chandos House, School Lane, Buckingham, MK18 1HD		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1156662

Accounts

Trustees' report and accounts

for the year ending 30th November 2023

Over 500m of connected waterway fully restored in 2023

- ✓ *Section one linked to main Grand Union*
- ✓ *Piling continues along section one*
- ✓ *A5 underpass is viable.*
- ✓ *Trees and biodiversity continue to thrive.*









Buckingham Canal Society - Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156662.
10th Annual General Meeting of the CIO. 32nd Annual Society Meeting

Agenda

Saturday 2nd March 2024 at Buckingham Community Centre from 7pm

1) Introductions
2) Apologies
3) Minutes
4) Matters Arising
5) Trustee's Report
6) Treasurer's Report Year ending 30.11.2023
7) Adoption of Accounts
8) Election of Trustees
9) Resolutions
10) Members' questions.
11) Any Other Business
12) Closing Remarks

All photographic copyright is acknowledged.



Above – farm crossing "narrows" 500m along section one now "full"; Front cover – Left – Section one now open! ; top right – "DIANA" approaching the bridge; right middle – Mike Freeman (one of the original trustees of BCS) cuts the cake; right bottom, David Suchet "opens" section one with Tim Coglan after naming "DIANA" in memory of his wife

Introduction

Cosgrove Section One - Open! Done! Finished! Complete!

We thank all the many current and past volunteers over the years as we celebrate opening 500m (plus) of canal at Cosgrove linked under Bridge One to the main Grand Union Canal. Our gratitude must also go to the nay sayers for motivating us to this collective success.

As we write this just before Christmas, there is still some work to complete before we can moor boats here, but it will enable BCS to have an income stream which won't be grant nor donation based. Restoration has to be sustainable at financial, environmental, hydrological and several other "dimensions". Having this income stream will be vital for BCS to stand up as a viable restoration business.

We also start 2024 with a number of changes in personnel as four of our trustees have stepped down during 2023.

- Rob Morris, our chairman, stood down following health issues along with work pressures. We are grateful to his commitment over the years he has been involved.
- Amanda Robinson has also stood down for separate health issues.
- Paul Sayer has moved to be closer with his son and their young family near Cambridge and has stood down. Paul has been amazing to work with in his knowledge gained over years and years of "pouring concrete" across the world.
- Colin Levett has decided to stand down as Trustee and Grants Officer. His tenacity will be missed although he remains as an active volunteer.

Four newish faces join us as trustees being:

- Steve Morley
- Mandy Morley
- Ruth Millard
- Paul Rodgers

More information about these folk further in this annual report alongside their nominations for re-lection following co-option in January.

This annual report

This document has been produced, printed, and published by the Trustees of the Buckingham Canal Society which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered number 1156662.

The Society's registered address is 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8AX

Agenda item 3

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18th March 2023

1	Introductions	Terry Cavender welcomed those present. Trustees Present: Terry Cavender (Exec Officer), Colin Levett (Grants Officer), Richard Dwight (Treasurer), Athina Beckett, Paul Sayer. Gerry Millard, Edima Inwang (co-opted).
2	Apologies	Lord Boswell, Lord and Lady Scott, Ray & Margaret Titmus, Ian Orton, Martin Tett, Sharron Comerford, Margaret Gately, Mayor of Buckingham, Ros &Jeremy Woodford, Geoff & Marian Wheeler. Don & Jill Alison, Howard Mordue, Rob Morris, Amanda Robinson. **NB**. As 31 people were present the meeting was deemed to be quorate.
3	Minutes	The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 25th March 2022 were accepted as a correct record. (Proposed Gerry Millard, seconded Mandy Morley).
4	Matters Arising	None.
5	Opening Comments	Terry explained our chairman was unable to be present, due to work commitments.
6	Trustee Report	This was presented by Terry as CEO, who walked through the report, adding comments on what other canal organisations were doing and what we might learn from them, explaining that BCS future plans are restricted by funding and land ownership issues, which we are ever hopeful of overcoming. Cosgrove lease was expected to be signed in next few weeks. Terry explained why we have acquired our boats and how they would be used as work tools and provide an income stream for third party works. Shivanshi was introduced as our new support worker. There were no questions from the floor.
7	Treasurer's Report for year ending 30th November 2022	The Treasurer gave a brief report on the year's finances, explaining some of the larger figures. There was one question from the floor on income from goods and services. Terry explained that it was a payment from CRT to provide assistance for works they were carrying out nearby on the Grand Union, an example of co-operative working.
8	Adoption of Accounts	The accounts were presented, agreed and unanimously accepted. Proposed Alan Mynard, seconded Dianne Witts.
9	Election of Trustees	Terry Cavender for re-election, proposed Colin Levett, seconded Paul Sayer. Edima Inwang for election (previously co-opted), proposed Colin Levett, seconded Paul Sayer. 18 members voted for, none against.
10	Resolutions	There were no resolutions.
11	Members Questions	There was a question on whether the river could be used for navigation. There was a short discussion on how this had been the case in the past but was no longer suitable.
12	A.O.B.	None
13	Closing Remarks	Terry thanked everyone for coming and their continued support and closed the formal part of the meeting, inviting all attendees to remain for the buffet and the talk on the historical impact of the Buckingham Canal.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

Agenda Item 5 - Buckingham Canal Society Trustees Report

Overview

2023 was another great year. Restoration work has been progress as well as maintenance at our other locations.

Site by site - Cosgrove

- At Cosgrove, the stop planks under Bridge One have been removed and allowed the rewatered and restored Section One to become connected to the mainline of the Grand Union
- Bridge One continues to be in use for the farm traffic and astound people at the achievement.
- Bugingham Palace, a bug hotel for our creepy crawly residents is increasing its population with each season.
- Hedge laying along the bridge ramps and the community orchard on the land adjacent to the bridge ramp continue to mature.
- When you visit Bridge One (and please do visit), you will see that the wooden stop planks are now stored at the side of the towpath. These await their final storage being build net to the bridge
- There is some minor dredging work to be completed along with bank profiling to bring this section to be suitable for mooring and fully remediate the leaks. Following reviews with CRT engineering staff, there are 3 places that we are preparing to add sheet piles.
- At the farm crossing we have formed a “narrows” with stop planks which enabled the connection at Bridge One in September. The last of the piling work here on the towpath side is in progress should be completed in first quarter of 2024.



Top left: Volunteers from Arriva. Top right: Wildlife in the rewatered section at Cosgrove. Middle left: Wildlife in the rewatered section at Cosgrove. Middle right: work at the landing stage,

- Additionally, we have continued rewatering the bed in section two at Cosgrove and beyond the oil pipeline into section three taking us towards the bund created at bridge two. We have also commenced work to harvest the ground water from the field drain which will be lifted into the canal using a solar pump.
- All the sections in water to varying depths continue to thrive in terms of vegetation and wildlife. Discussions continue to form a winding hole at section two near the wooded area combined with recreation of a slipway at this location when funds re available. Meanwhile, the water level is being maintained whenever water is available, and restoration works allow.
- At Bridge 2, the equipment and materials are relocated from bridge one compound to bridge two. We continue to enjoy the formal access licence from the gate near the bus stop to enable us to work at Bridge Two thanks to Frontier Developments. We still await the final signatures on the CRT lease which is at version 6 following input from Richard Smith of Sandstone Law for whom we are extremely grateful for his pro-bono assistance. The flood sluice has been reinstated and is pending a CCTV survey of the culvert which is discharges through.
- Discussion with CRT and the Inland Drainage Board along with landowners are still ongoing for exactly where and how we route the descent channel to the A5.
- Design work has continued to progress with National Highways (NH) for the canal passing under the A5 bridge structure. NH have confirmed structural teams and geotechnical team approved the concept design work and we now await the criteria for next round of funding. It's a government process so the timeline is beyond our control but still getting positive updates from the NH team.
- At the risk of repeating previous overviews, it has again been another wonderful year for the Society. All the "in water" parts continue to flourish as a mature canal section with a rich range of aquatic related biodiversity now fully established. Indeed, our work at the Cosgrove bridge continues to be used by farm traffic throughout all the seasons. Many conversations continue with various councils and landowners to enable our restorations plans to proceed.

- ***Site by site - Little Hill Farm***

- A mile of the canal has previously been cleared and the bridge restored. No work has been undertaken this past year at Little Hill Farm although we hope to return there soon to clear vegetation and discussions are ongoing to facilitate this.



Above: the farm bridge restored by BCS at Little Hill Farm

Site by site - Hyde Lane Nature Reserve

The solar panel, pump, and control system continue to successfully bring water into the old canal section, maintaining levels according to the depth of water in the reservoir and amount of sunlight available. The rewatering process is being intentionally carried out at a slow pace as we make efforts to repair any damage caused by tree roots and animal burrows to the clay, with the ultimate goal of maintaining the water level once rewatered. The slow rewatering process also allows wildlife to gradually adapt to the changes. Over the year, several trees have fallen, and our volunteers have worked to clear them to keep the right of way open whenever possible. While most of the channel is ready for rewatering, leak remediation will still be required as the clay fully rehydrates to prevent any wash through. At Hyde Lane the lock gates have been painted, foliage cleared from both inside and outside lock chamber, canal towpath strimmed, and canal bank cleared.





Clearing the lock at Hyde Lane

The BCS Fleet!

The BCS "fleet" currently comprises of four vessels.

- Diana the dredger has joined us and is in active operational service
- Louise, the crane boat, was acquired by the BCS in Christmas 2020, thanks to Rob Locatelli of Canal and River Services. This 55ft long wide beam 100-year-old iron and concrete beet barge from the fens was converted by the National Trust in the 1980s and fitted with a HIAB crane, powerpack with pallet grab, grab bucket and a hook option.
- Rob also facilitated the acquisition of another dredger, PERSEVERANCE II, which is moored at in stages to Cosgrove. Previously used for dredging on the Basingstoke Canal, PERCY is a 50ft long

wide beam steel boat fitted with an excavator mounted with a grab bucket and on boat mud hopper. It also has a large rake that can be put on the end of the arm.

- Since October 2021, we have had use of SHOVELER, a long-term loan bantam class pusher tug from CRT, to aid the Cosgrove operations. The vessel, which has a twin-cylinder lister engine, is named after a duck.









Above Left: CRT Tug SHOVELER moored at Cosgrove with “Harvey” the Hopper waiting to start unloading more dredgings (TC). Above Right: Tug SHOVELER bringing PERSERVERANCE II north to Cosgrove where she will help us with dredging works whilst being restored and painted. Bottom left LOUISE (TC) and bottom Right: DIANA at the opening of Section One at Cosgrove

Our thanks to the CRT East Midlands Operations Team who have kindly arranged for the licence fees on both workboats to be discounted by 100% in recognition of the work we are able to do in assisting the Ops team and other voluntary groups in the Southern Area of the East Midlands Region. Additional thanks for the ongoing loan of Shoveler the tug to help us with dredging and other movements of vessels.

Site by site - Bourton Meadow

Work parties have continued at our sites at Bourton Meadow and Hyde Lane Nature Reserve on alternative Thursdays and on the second Sunday of each month throughout the year.

At Bourton Meadow the tow path has strimmed as well as hedges maintained and adjacent areas of the public space. Massive amounts of weed and reeds removed from the canal by both our own volunteers and helped by outside company visits and we already have more outside companies booked for 2024. Wildflowers have been planted on canal offside and about seventy saplings planted in hedge next to tow path and seating area cleared of stinging nettles.





Above Bourton Meadow volunteers clearing the waterway to keep it an open space

We also have a camera at Bourton Meadow which is linked to Youtube. Take a look and see at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfbomsVilyQ or search Youtube for Buckingham canal cameras

Thanks to our people.

As always, a massive thank you to all our partners, volunteers, members, supporters, neighbours, and many others. We would like to highlight a few examples of some of the less visible works that we have been involved in:

- Keith Rawlings – ongoing as our structural engineer. Keith is a seconded volunteer via the IWA and BCS fund the professional indemnity insurance for this secondment.
- Colin Levett - has done an amazing job in managing the various grants. You will see in the accounts the income generated from grants. We believe that this averages out to about 5 hours of effort for every £1,000 of grant income, which is a significant amount of time and money. Colin has now stood down as grants officer but continues to support the grants team in what we hope will be a successful year of applications.
- Ian Matson - is our newsletter editor who continues to do an excellent job despite working remotely. Ian helps us with producing the excellent Navigator and various other posters.
- Alan Mynard, Gerry Millard and Matt Lane for their hours of patient work behind the scenes repairing and restoring engines and boats and all things mechanical

Partnerships

Our many great partnerships continue to firmly position the society for the short and medium term. Our financial health allows us to remain viable, but we are always looking for new ideas and folk to join the team. Thanks to our members, donors, grantors, and other benefactors for allowing us to keep our financial head above water. Thousands of hours of hard work have once again been given to the society by current and past trustees, volunteers, members, partners, and supporters. The current trustees thank you all for your time, energy, and funding to keep us on track towards the restoration.

BCS continues to enjoy support from MKDons, a significant adjacent landowner, and we are formalizing the access track to the canal at Cosgrove following the granting of planning permission. This will ensure BCS has unrestricted access to the bridge and the canal channel, making materials and equipment access much easier. We are grateful to the commercial team at MKDons for supporting us through the planning discussions for this.



We are ***also*** fully engaged with the new owners of the land adjacent to the canal from bridge two to the A5, Frontier Developments. They have been kind enough to facilitate the land access license, allowing us to get vehicles, ***equipment***, and machinery to Bridge two and the channel.

We have continued to enjoy an outstanding partnership with CRT, who have helped us with various training aspects, technical guidance, providing materials including clay and stone, and of course, the loan of the tug Shoveler. BCS has, in return, assisted with signage and a number of maintenance tasks around Cosgrove, as well as the ongoing dredging. The trustees collectively express their thanks to Linny Beaumont and her regional team for their support and tolerance as we strive to achieve the restoration.

Membership

Membership numbers have remained steady, although we have sadly lost a few older members. However, we have been able to attract some new members during the year through the aid of our online payment system. This is now provided via Sum-Up through the BCS online shop and can be used by people wishing to join for the first time or by existing members to renew their membership. For more information, please visit: https://www.shop.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

The marketing team have revamped our information and membership leaflets. Increasing our membership numbers remains a continuing priority, and we extend our thanks to Jean and Chris for their work supporting the membership administration.

Community Engagement – Goodbye Shivanshi

Shivanshi has left BCS employment to take full time employment after finishing her master's course. The funding for this role has now concluded its 5 years and we are in process of re-applying to the Lottery for a further 5-year funding stream to be able to appoint a successor

During her time with us, Shivanshi has driven several initiatives, and this have helped us advance in a number of new ways all resulting in Community Engagement. We wish her good luck and are pleased that she has agreed to remain with us as a member and volunteer.

COMMUNITY FUND

Five-year grant 2019-2024



Strategic Plan

We are fortunate to have the help from Geoff Lambert who has helped BCS develop a Strategic Plan. This sets out the eleven themes we are pursuing in re-creating the waterway to Buckingham. The plan is a living document and sets out the progress we expect to make in a rolling 2-3-year window with a focus on the progress we want to make in the next 12 months. This is designed to ensure we have a clearer understanding of the range of tasks we need to undertake and who we need to partner with in achieving our goals; the order in which events need to take place and ensure that we obtain the necessary authorities to proceed; protect the environment and biodiversity of the route; maximise landowner and Community involvement, and plan for appropriate income streams in the future.

If you would like a copy of the Strategic Plan or feel able to help in its maintenance as an important part of the restoration, please contact any of the trustees preferably by email to

Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Publicity & Fundraising Stall

Since Covid the stall has resumed its role of publicising the work of the society, recruiting new volunteers and raising funds for the BCS. Over the last few years, the stall has raised over £11,00 to support the work of the society.

Last year the stall visited several smaller local festivals and also travelled further afield to visit the Braunston Historic Boats festivals at Braunston, the Linford Canal festival as well as our own festival at Cosgrove.

One of the main attractions on the stall are the had made rag rugs made by Athina Beckett and sold on the stall for £25 and she is always looking for more old tee shirts that can be recycled and made into rag rugs again raising more funds for the BCS

Hours and Work Parties

With COVID restrictions lifted, people were able to meet outdoors again. Unfortunately, some offices had become accustomed to working from home and allowed most of their key staff to continue working remotely. This had a negative impact on the turnout of volunteers for work parties as staff numbers dwindled. Despite this, over 5,000 hours of volunteer work were recorded at Bourton Meadows in 2022. This time on site was made possible through the participation of companies, groups, and Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) visits, working alongside our own volunteers. Without their assistance, much of the work achieved during last year may not have been possible. In addition, the trustees and management team contributed over 4,000 hours of voluntary work outside of the project site. This is a remarkable achievement, given the disruptions caused by COVID, and amounts to over 9,000 hours of voluntary effort, equivalent to over 1,200 person days and a match funding value of over £100,000 in lottery terms.

We currently aim for over 150 planned workdays each year subject to weather etc. The work parties involve a range of tasks, and everyone is welcome to join any of them. The work parties are on Tuesdays Thursdays and on the second Sunday of each month. On alternate Thursdays and on the second Sunday Athina Beckett runs work parties at Bourton Meadow and Hyde Lanne focusing on conservation and the environment at these two sites. At Cosgrove, the teamwork Tuesday and Thursday with focus on dredging, bricklaying, construction work and equipment maintenance..





Above left - hedge planting at the bridge steps and right Hyde Lane after a bit of a tidy up!

BCS Talks

In 2023 the BCS Athina Beckett gave talks to various groups which include FOLIC, Winslow Library, Potterspury History Group, Stony Stratford History group and Maids Moreton U3A .again raising more funds for the BCS

BCS Festival and Craft Fair

The 28th annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair was successful albeit a very wet Saturday afternoon. Once again, the hard work and rapid organization of the team ensured the festival was successful.

The excitement started building from Thursday onwards as colourful boats and traders arrived to set up their stalls. Visitors kept coming with estimates indicating that the festival again attracted over a thousand people. It was rewarding to see so many people enjoying themselves over the two-day festival. There were plenty of canal-themed activities, wonderful entertainment, delicious food and drink, making it a worthwhile event for everyone.

The Buckingham Canal Society's information tent was in prime position on the towpath, providing a platform to chat with festivalgoers, promote the canal, raise awareness, and recruit new volunteers (it's not too late to express an interest!).Visitors were also encouraged to take a stroll to view the bridge and the progress of all their other projects along the arm and surrounding area.

FESTIVAL HELP NEEDED

The 2023 festival was successful thanks to a small group of trustees and volunteers. In order to avoid the 2024 being the last festival, we need more help. It doesn't have to be all weekend! A few hours on Friday helping setup, or Sunday taking down would be welcomed as well as help on the Saturday and Sunday at the event itself. Help would also be welcomed in the planning of events.

Please contact any of the trustees or events team to find our more or offer you time

SAVE THE DATE: weekend of 20th July 2024

Social Media

We have increased our social media presence with almost 3,000 people following the society on Facebook. One recent post was seen by nearly 20,000 people. Even if we do not use social media in our personal lives, we all know people who are avid users, and it is a necessary outlet for information these days. Our reach has considerably increased, which is critical for sharing information about our activities and plans. Apart from Instagram and Twitter (now X), we have added LinkedIn to our list of social media accounts, hoping to attract more corporate volunteers and donors. Do you know anyone who can help keep our pages up to date? Please chat with a trustee!

To find us:

Search Facebook for "Buckingham Canal Society": or go direct to	https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamCanalSociety/
for X (Twitter):	@BCSocietyUK
on Instagram:	BuckinghamCanalSociety
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/bcsocietyuk
Youtube:	https://www.youtube.com/@BuckinghamCanalSociety

We've been actively maintaining our website too, with Alan as our dedicated Webmaster. He's been doing a great job of keeping the website content up to date, reflecting the progress we've made so far and our future plans. Many thanks to Alan for his many hours of back-room projects as well as help with engines, painting and much, much more.

Fancy a Natter? - Projects and Operational

The Projects group meets monthly to cover all operational aspects of BCS, including maintenance, events, and work party planning. We alternate between face-to-face meetings and conference calls each month, currently on the 3rd Monday, to work through multiple tasks related to each project and section of the canal. This ensures we are prepared when opportunities arise that will further the canal restoration work, while also ensuring focus around governance and strategy for trustee meetings. If you would like to be involved, please contact any of the trustees at Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

Keith Rawlings, a structural engineer, is another much-valued member of our team. He kindly gives us his time "pro bono" in designing the structural elements, such as Bridge One at Cosgrove and the towpath wall.

We are always looking for further help, both on the ground and in "back office" roles. Please think of everyone you know and how they could help us as we continue the drive for restoration. That help might be on a work party, fundraising, becoming a member, lobbying local councillors, or joining in the management of the society to help guide us to the next stages. We all believe in the aim of restoration, and many discussions at preliminary stages are driving this to become very real.

BCS Grants and fundraising

Our grant income has been challenging this year mostly through grant bodies targeting different criteria such as cost of living and hardship.

However, we have been fortunate to receive two, including the following. We are especially grateful to Colin for his previous work as grants officer. Ruth Millard is now taking this role on going forward with support from all the trustees as well as Colin and Claire

Big Lottery	£5,000	Community Engagement Lead funding
Heart of Bucks	£5,000	Tools and equipment

We have also been very fortunate to receive a significant donation of £50,000 from Tim Coglan at Braunstone Marina. This has funded the piling work that has enabled section 1 to reopen as well as the purchase and restoration for DIANA our dredger named in memory of Tim's wife.

Please note that some of these figures are different to the grant funding amounts shown in the accounts. This is because not all awarded amounts have been processed &/or expended in our 2022/23 financial year.

GDPR

New data protection legislation came into force in May 2018. The law applies to all public bodies, businesses, and other organizations that process personal data, including the BCS.

Our GDPR principles are as follows:

- We will process all personal data fairly and lawfully.
- We will only process personal data for specified and lawful purposes.
- We will endeavour to hold relevant and accurate personal data, and where practical, we will keep it up to date.
- We will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary.
- We will keep all personal data secure.
- We will endeavour to ensure that personal data is not transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) without adequate protection.

BCS will comply with the GDPR as a controller and processor of data. We will implement relevant policies and practices to protect any data handled by the BCS, including data for our employees, customers, suppliers, partners, and stakeholders.

For further details, please visit our website.

Heritage and Archaeology

There has been no significant progress with regards to further progressing the archaeological work that is required including several geophysical surveys in the past 12 months.
If you or anyone you know would like to help develop this activity, please chat to any of the trustees.

Working closely with the local council's Heritage Department we have managed to start protecting several structures, including Thornton Bridge on a local level. We intend to progress these to potential restoration as soon as possible. Hopefully, we will be able to add them to a national list as well.



Thornton Bridge



Uncovering the landing stage remains at Cosgrove

Agenda item 6 and 7 –Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Explanatory Notes
The report format follows the new look we adopted at the 2022 AGM. The figures are sorted first by income or expenditure type, the "what", then by the "where".

Income by General Ledger type shows how the income was generated.
Expenditure by General Ledger type shows what the money was spent on.
Income by Cost Centre shows where it came from.
Expenditure by Cost Centre shows where the funding came from.
The use of *Designated* and *Unrestricted* funds is controlled by the trustees.
The use of *Restricted* funds is dictated by the donor, for a specific project or use, and must be kept separate.

The General Picture
Income exceeded expenditure by £25,206. This leaves us with sufficient funds to cover our core costs, those expenses we cannot avoid, such as insurance and equipment maintenance, currently standing at around £25k p.a.

On the income side, the two big variables from year to year are grants and donations. With the current economic situation, it appears that many grants are now being focused more on improving the circumstances of individuals rather than project works. This makes searching-out new funding opportunities more complex and time consuming, reading all the small print. Any help in this area will be greatly appreciated.

Richard Dwight
Treasurer and Trustee

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
Income by General Ledger type	£	£
Advertising	88	44
Bank Interest	209	18
Donations:General (includes expenses donated back)	58,158	25,699
Donations (Payroll & Local Giving)	572	280
Fundraising (excluding Raffles)	83	424
Fundraising (Lottery)	297	352
Grant Income	10,000	10,100
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	5,415	2,974
Insurance Claim	5,170	0
Membership Subscriptions	1,268	2,508
Sale of Goods & Services	3,236	2,035
Sales Stand (BCS) & Online Shop	1,083	1,294
Sales Stand (Third Party/Concessions)	1,525	975
	87,104	**46,703**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2023 (continued)

	2023	2022
Income by Cost Centre	**£**	**£**
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 2	0	1,000
Designated Income Funds:Co-op LCF 2023	1,164	0
Designated Income Funds:Cosgrove Piling	18,000	0
Designated Income Funds: Contingencies	2,000	750
Restricted Income Funds:Big Lottery Fund:Reaching Communities	5,000	5,000
Restricted Income Funds:Cosgrove Marina	0	250
Restricted Income Funds:Member Restoration Works	180	165
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan "Diana" Fund (Dredger)	10,000	10,000
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan Bridge fund	10,000	0
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Bd Wildlife Cameras	0	2,950
Restricted Income Funds:Bucks Heritage Trail	3,236	0
Restricted Income Funds:HoB - Tools & Equipment	5,000	0
Unrestricted Funds:Events & Functions	3,448	3,263
Unrestricted Funds:General income (includes expenses donated back)	27,808	20,817
Unrestricted Funds:HQ:Membership (includes life memberships)	1,268	2,508
	87,104	**46,703**

Expenditure by General Ledger type		
Advertising	594	827
Computer, phone & internet charges	980	1,996
Event costs	115	20
Fuel, oil & sundries	2,808	2,021
General office expenditure	0	73
Grant-funded wages	3,815	4,565
Hire of premises	667	781
Insurance	6,837	5,346
Licences & permits	150	512
Materials	22,328	1,006
Plant & Equipment purchases	2,663	14,867
Plant & vehicle maintenance	9,264	5,759
Plant hire	801	222
Professional Fees	1,775	0
Refreshments & Hospitality	267	218
Road tax	320	290
Stationery, printing & postage	1,878	1,745
Stock for Online Shop	0	36
Subscriptions	167	89
Training & Development	470	1,200
Travel Expense:Mileage Claims (Mostly donated back)	5,999	7,745
	61,898	**49,318**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2023 (continued)

	2023	2022
Expenditure by Cost Centre	£	£
Designated Income Funds:Co-op LCF 2023	352	0
Designated Income Funds:Cosgrove Piling	12,806	0
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 1	0	400
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 2	0	395
Designated Income Funds:Van Purchase Fund	2,735	1,975
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Board: Weed & Seed	147	0
Restricted Income Funds:Big Lottery Fund:Reaching Communities	4,573	5,076
Restricted Income Funds:Buckinham Town Council - Interpretation Board	1,150	0
Restricted Income Funds:Heart of Bucks Covid Grant J026	354	0
Restricted Income Funds:Bucks Heritage Trail	2,086	0
Restricted Income Funds:National Lottery:Cosgrove Lock Island Garden	5,354	66
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Bd Wildlife Cameras	0	2,950
Restricted Income Funds:RadcliffeTrust (Craft Training) J019	470	1,200
Restricted Income Funds:Tesco Bags of Help 3/Hyde Lane Footbridge	626	235
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan "Diana" Fund (Dredger)	5,901	13,225
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan Bridge fund	60	0
Unrestricted Funds:Events & Functions	717	576
Unrestricted Funds:Navigator magazine	349	791
Unrestricted Funds:General Restoration works	19,316	18,888
Unrestricted Funds:Plant & Equipment	3,281	2,843
Unrestricted Funds:Vehicles	1,621	682
	61,898	**49,318**
Balance of Income over Expenditure	**25,206**	**-2,615**

Reconciliation

Bank and cash balances at 01/12/2022	31,029	33,644
Income in excess of expenditure for the year	25,206	-2,615
Bank and cash balances at 30/11/2023	**56,235**	**31,029**
Designated/Restricted Funds Remaining	24,681	6,715
Unrestricted Funds Remaining	31,554	24,314
Total funds remaining	**56,235**	**31,029**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Buckingham Canal Society		
On accounts for the year ended	30 November 2023	**Charity no (if any)**	1156662
Set out on pages	Pages 1 & 2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/11/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	REDACTED	**Date:**	6/1/2024
Name:	DR JOHN P BARBER		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (RETIRED)		
Address:	ASH TREES, GREEN LANE, ASPLEY GUISE, MILTON KEYNES MK17 8EN		

We are grateful for the continued support of our patron Lord Boswell of Aynho as well as Lord and Lady Scott of Foscote

Discussions with relevant organisations are ongoing to establish further partnerships both formal and informal. We have existing partnerships with the following:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA)**
- **Buckinghamshire Council (BC)**
- **Environment Agency (EA)**
- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)**
- **Buckingham Town Council**
- **Canal & River Trust (CRT)**
- **West Northamptonshire Council**

We are grateful for the ongoing support of:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch**
- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch**
- **Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers**

We have been recognised by the following:

- **Cosgrove Parish Council**
- **Maids Moreton Parish Council**
- **Thornborough Parish Council**
- **Milton Keynes Council**
- **Foscote Parish Meeting**
- **Old Stratford Parish Council**
- **Thornton Parish Meeting**
- **Deanshanger Parish Council**

We thank our corporate members for their continued support as well as WRG, IWA and Canal & River Trust for their ongoing support, help, and partnership.

Wyvern Shipping Co.

Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.

Nikon

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Taverners Boat Club

Braunston Marina

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

LIONHEARTS CRUISING CLUB

Donations in kind

We are pleased to record the following donations in kind, from organisations that have provided us with valuable services during the year rather than direct financial contributions:

Organisation	Service	value
Buckinghamshire Council	Raster and vector map data for canal route	£20,000
Salesforce.com	Project Management software	£14,400
Canal & River Trust	Training, materials, and equipment	£15,000
Cosgrove Marina	Portacabins and materials storage facility plus mooring and Wi-Fi	£5,500
MKSET	Storage adjacent to bridge one and at canal side field at Cosgrove	£4,000
Microsoft via TT Exchange	Microsoft software	£44,000
	Total	£107,900

The trustees are pleased to confirm that the accounts have been reviewed and approved by an independent examiner and no issues of concern found. The examiner's statement above page is from the form which will be submitted to the Charity's Commission after the AGM. John's signature has been redacted for the purpose of this report.

Agenda item 8 – election of trustees

In accordance with our constitution, one third of the trustees must stand down each year and may stand for re-election. During 2023, Paul (Sayer), Colin, Rob and Amanda have stood down. Four new trustees were co-opted, and they stand for election at this AGM

.

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Comment
Paul Rodgers	Terry Cavender	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee
Mandy Morley	Terry Cavender	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee
Ruth Millard	Terry Cavender	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee
Steve Morley	Terry Cavender	Edima Inwang	Election as trustee

Full list of other trustees for completeness are:

Trustee	Role	(re)elected
Richard Dwight	Treasurer	March 2018
Terence (Terry) Cavender	Executive Officer	March 2018
Athina Beckett	Trustee talks volunteer contact and work party leader and loads of other stuff	March 2022
Gerry Millard	Trustee and construction manager	March 2019
Edima (Edi) Inwang	Trustee and Digital Marketing Lead	September 2022




Above left Parapet wall work on Bridge One. Above right Athina at the history festival in 2019 which we hope we will soon be able to attend again.




Above: left Hallam Land Management staff are one of the corporate groups to have helped seen at Bourton Meadow (AB).
Right: scraping the bed at section three near Bridge Two




Above: left Kingfisher mosaic at Bridge One (AB).
Right: BCS volunteers assisting CRT contractors to replace pumps at Cosgrove Lock 21

Do you dig canals?

.... *We do!*

Thank you for joining us for our Annual Meeting. Do you feel you could help us further? Below are just some of the things we do that you can get involved in. Please come and have a chat with any of the members of the committee. If you already are part of it, then thank you and please show this to someone new so they can get involved as well.

Publicity	**Planning**	**Projects**	**Event organiser**
Fundraising	**Become a trustee**	**Conservation**	**Restoration**
Brickwork	**Maintenance**	**Digging**	**Hedge Laying**
Grant writing	**Budgeting**	**Recruiting**	**Heritage**
Lengths-person	**Journalist**	**Editor**	**Project Manager**
And many others!			

Please use this document, 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.





Above left rewatering section 2 towards the oil pipeline crossing
Above right rebuild flood sluice near bridge two

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BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1156662

Accounts

Trustees' report and accounts

for the year ending 30th November 2022









✓ *Piling under way beyond bridge one*
✓ *A5 underpass is viable.*
✓ *Trees and biodiversity are thriving.*

Buckingham Canal Society - Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156662. 9th Annual General Meeting of the CIO. 31st Annual Society Meeting

Agenda

Saturday 18th March 2023 at Buckingham Community Centre

1) Introductions
2) Apologies
3) Minutes
4) Matters Arising
5) Trustee's Report
6) Treasurer's Report Year ending 30.11.2022
7) Adoption of Accounts
8) Election of Trustees
9) Resolutions
10) Members' questions.
11) Any Other Business
12) Closing Remarks

All photographic copyright is acknowledged.





Above left – section 3 in water at Bridge Two for first time in over 75 years
Above right - start of uncovering the west wing walls of Bridge Two at Cosgrove

Front cover – Top – Farm crossing preparing for temporary fencing to allow excavations (TC)
Bottom left: Shoveler with Diana the dredger
Bottom Right: Orchard planting at Bridge One and preparing the access ramp at the farm crossing

Chairman’s Introduction

Welcome to your 2023 annual report and general meeting. We hope that you have had a good year since our last AGM, for those returning welcome back and for those attending for the first time welcome and we hope you enjoy the meeting. After the meeting, we will take a short break for snacks and drinks before our speaker takes the floor.

This year has been a busy year with the significant reduction and cessation of covid restrictions allowing a greater number of work parties to take place. We have seen the return of our much-valued corporate groups as well as some of our stalwart volunteers. Admiral Cavender has extended his fleet of ships, and there has been much work in preparing the first section at Cosgrove for opening. We hope to have commenced piling in preparation for this by the time of the meeting. Our work at the other sites has continued, and Bourton Meadow remains an area of beauty and tranquility, with significant biodiversity.



We are aware of the proposed developments in the Cosgrove area and are keeping a close eye on them for any impact they may have on our goal of restoring the canal. We have recently formed a closer relationship with Cranfield and have a number of post-graduate students completing project plans. Some of you may have heard about the sinking of one of our boats. This was quickly rescued without significant damage and returned to full use. Building on the success of last year's festival, it is returning this year, hopefully in a larger format, with both a greater number of trading boats and towpath traders. There will, of course, be our usual craft market in the village hall. So, mark the weekend of the 22nd/23rd of July in your diaries and prepare for a fun weekend. This provides not only an opportunity to wander the towpath and look at all the wares on sale but also take a chance to explore the work carried out at Cosgrove and check out the guests at the bug hotel just past bridge 1.

Rob Morris, Chairman BCS

This annual report

This document has been produced, printed, and published by the Trustees of the Buckingham Canal Society which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered number 1156662.

The Society’s registered address is 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8AX

Agenda item 3

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 25th March 2022

1	**Introductions:**	Rob Morris welcomed those present. Present: Trustees: Rob Morris (Chair), Terry Cavender (Exec. Officer), Colin Levett (Grants Officer), Richard Dwight (Treasurer), Athina Beckett, Amanda Robinson, Paul Sayer.
2	**Apologies:**	Lord Boswell, Roger Squires, Ade Osibogun, Peter Caswell, Margrett Titmus, Rodney and Wendy Evans, Ros and Jeremy Woodford, Gerry Millard, Alan Mynard, Anthony Smith-Robinson. **NB.** As 48 people were present, the Meeting was deemed to be quorate
3	**Minutes:**	The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 20 March 2021 were accepted as a correct record. (Proposed Chris Smith, seconded Mandy Morley).
4	**Matters Arising:**	None.
5	**Opening comments**	Rob introduced Lord and Lady Scott as our new Patrons. He stated that despite COVID, progress had still been maintained. He thanked Robert Jones who had acted as minute secretary and ha now resigned due to health. Rob also noted the sad loss of Vernon who had been heavily involved in the society in many ways. Mention also made of Aimee moving on and Becky now in the Community Engagement role as well as our upcoming Festival in July this year.
6	**Trustees Report:**	This was presented by the Terry as CEO, who went through it in detail. No questions were raised. Terry also thanked Rob Locatelli for his support with LOUSIE, PERCY and pile extraction.
7	**Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 30.11.2021**	The Treasurer gave a brief report on the financial situation. No questions were raised.
8	**Adoption of Accounts**:	The Accounts were presented, agreed and unanimously accepted. (Proposed Mandy Moreley, seconded Chris Smith).
9	**Election of Trustees**:	Proposed Candidates: Athina Beckett for re-election. Proposed: Terry Cavender. Seconded: Amanda Robinson. Unanimously accepted.
10	**Resolutions**:	There were no resolutions, but reference was made to the previous AGM resolution to update the charitable objectives which has been approved by the Charity Commission
11	**Members Questions**:	None
12	**Any other Business**:	None.
13	**Closing Remarks:**	Rob Morris thanked everyone for their support.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

Agenda Item 5 - Buckingham Canal Society Trustees Report

Overview

2022 was a great year despite the fact that we just came out of the pandemic. Restoration work was in full swing at all our locations.

Site by site - Cosgrove

At Cosgrove, Bridge One continues to be in use for the farm traffic and astound people at the achievement. Bugingham Palace, a bug hotel for our creepy crawly residents is gradually increasing its population with each season. Hedge laying along the bridge ramps and further work on the stone walls has also been completed as well as the planting of an orchard on the land adjacent to the bridge ramp. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this labour!

When you visit Bridge One (and please do visit), you will see that we still have wooden stop planks in place whilst we continue the work to bring this section to navigable level and remediate the leaks. Following reviews with CRT engineering staff, there are 3 sections that we are preparing to add sheet piles. One of the is at the farm crossing and will form a “narrows” with more stop planks and should be completed in first half of 2023. This will then enable the removal of the stop planks under Bridge One and for our workboats to access this rewatered section of canal to complete the towpath bank profiling ready for moorings.






Top left: Volunteers from Arriva. Top right: Wildlife in the rewatered section at Cosgrove. Middle left: Wildlife in the rewatered section at Cosgrove. Middle right: work at the landing stage,













Above top left Cosgrove slit trench repairs. Top right, Bridge 2 bed exploration of the approach form the A5 side with our 1y6t excavator Bottom team setting up bridge two compound.
Middle both: Planting the Cosgrove orchard planting almost completed by volunteers from Mitie.
Bottom left Volunteers from Arriva at Cosgrove interpretation board.
Bottom right: Mooring of Shoveler and tug at Cosgrove with scaffolding for painting bridge.

Additionally, we have continued rewatering section two and beyond the oil pipeline into section three taking us towards the bund created at bridge two. We achieved water at the east of Bridge Two for the first time in 75 years. Rewatering rehydrates the clay bed at these sections subject to water availability etc. All the sections in water to varying depths are thriving in terms of vegetation and wildlife. Discussions have been started to form a winding hole at section two near the wooded area combined with recreation of a slipway at this location when funds re available. Meanwhile, the water level is being maintained whenever water is available, and restoration works allow.

At Bridge 2, the equipment and materials are relocated from bridge one compound to bridge two. We continue to enjoy the formal access licence from the gate near the bus stop to enable us to work at Bridge Two thanks to Frontier Developments. We await the final signatures on the CRT lease which is at version 6 following input from Richard Smith of Sandstone Law for whom we are extremely grateful for his pro-bono assistance. The flood sluice has been reinstated and is pending a CCTV survey of the culvert which is discharges through.

Discussion with CRT and the Inland Drainage Board along with existing and new landowners are still ongoing for exactly where and how we route the descent channel to the A5. Additionally, design discussions continue to progress with National Highways for the canal passing under the A5 bridge structure.

At the risk of repeating last year's overview, it has been another wonderful year for the Society. All the "in water" parts continue to flourish as a mature canal section with a rich range of aquatic related biodiversity now fully established. Indeed, our work at the Cosgrove bridge continues to be used by farm traffic throughout all the seasons. Many conversations continue with various councils and landowners to enable our restorations plans to proceed.

Site by site - Little Hill Farm

A mile of the canal has previously been cleared and the bridge restored. No work has been undertaken this past year at Little Hill Farm although we hope to return there soon to clear vegetation.



Above: the farm bridge restored by BCS at Little Hill Farm

Site by site - Hyde Lane Nature Reserve

The solar panel, pump, and control system continue to successfully bring water into the old canal section, maintaining levels according to the depth of water in the reservoir and amount of sunlight available. The rewatering process is being intentionally carried out at a slow pace as we make efforts to repair any damage caused by tree roots and animal burrows to the clay, with the ultimate goal of maintaining the water level once rewatered. The slow rewatering process also allows wildlife to gradually adapt to the changes. Over the year, several trees have fallen, and our volunteers have worked to clear them to keep the right of way open whenever possible. While most of the channel is ready for rewatering, leak remediation will still be required as the clay fully rehydrates to prevent any wash through. At Hyde Lane the lock gates have been painted, foliage cleared from both inside and outside lock chamber, canal towpath strimmed, and canal bank cleared.





Clearing the lock at Hyde Lan

Site by site - Bourton Meadow

Work parties have continued at our sites at Bourton Meadow and Hyde Lane Nature Reserve on alternative Thursdays and on the second Sunday of each month throughout the year.

At Bourton Meadow three new bench seats have been installed, the tow path strimmed, and massive amounts of weed and reeds removed from the canal by both our own volunteers and helped by outside company visits and we already have more outside companies booked for 2023. Wildflowers have been planted on canal offside and about seventy saplings planted in hedge next to tow path and seating area cleared of stinging nettles.









Above left An example image from the Bourton Meadow Camera Bourton Meadow after its reeds had been cleared (bottom left).

We also have a camera at Bourton Meadow which is linked to Youtube. Take a look and see at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfbomsVilyQ or search youtube for Buckingham canal cameras

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BCS Craft Group

The BCS Craft Group creates a variety of handmade items for sale, but their production has been impacted by COVID-related restrictions. The group typically meets on the last Thursday of each month, primarily in Stony Stratford, and occasionally in Pennyland. It is expected that these sessions will resume as soon as possible. Members are encouraged to bring any crafts they are working on to share and discuss with other members. The primary task of the group is to assist with the creation of rag rugs, which are sold at festivals for £25 each, with the proceeds going towards funding the BCS. The group is currently seeking a supply of old t-shirts to continue their work on the rugs. If you are interested in joining the group or can assist in any way, please contact Athina ***athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk***

Thanks to our people.

As always, a massive thank you to all our partners, volunteers, members, supporters, neighbours, and many others. We would like to highlight a few examples of some of the less visible works that we have been involved in:

- Keith Rawlings – ongoing as our structural engineer. Keith is a seconded volunteer via the IWA and BCS fund the professional indemnity insurance for this secondment.
- Colin Levett - has done an amazing job in managing the various grants. You will see in the accounts the income generated from grants. We believe that this averages out to about 5 hours of effort for every £1,000 of grant income, which is a significant amount of time and money.
- Ian Matson - is our newsletter editor who continues to do an excellent job despite working remotely. Ian helps us with producing the excellent Navigator and various other posters.

Partnerships

Our many great partnerships continue to firmly position the society for the short and medium term. Financially, our health allows us to remain viable post COVID and the loss of income from events. Thanks to our members, donors, grantors, and other benefactors for allowing us to keep our financial head above water. Thousands of hours of hard work have once again been given to the society by current and past trustees, volunteers, members, partners, and supporters. The current trustees thank you all for your time, energy, and funding to keep us on track towards the restoration.

BCS continues to enjoy support from MKDons, a significant adjacent landowner, and we are formalizing the access track to the canal at Cosgrove following the granting of planning permission.



This will ensure BCS has unrestricted access to the bridge and the canal channel, making materials and equipment access much easier. We are grateful to the commercial team at MKDons for supporting us through the planning discussions for this.

We are ***also*** fully engaged with the new owners of the land adjacent to the canal from bridge two to the A5, Frontier Developments. They have been kind enough to facilitate the land access license, allowing us to get vehicles, ***equipment***, and machinery to Bridge two and the channel.

We have continued to enjoy an outstanding partnership with CRT, who have helped us with various training aspects, technical guidance, providing materials including clay and stone, and of course, the loan of the tug Shoveler. BCS has, in return, assisted with signage and a number of maintenance tasks around Cosgrove, as well as the ongoing dredging. The trustees collectively express their thanks to Linny Beaumont and her regional team for their support and tolerance as we strive to achieve the restoration.

Despite the COVID delays, we are continuing to progress discussions with a local quarry operator that should result in the medium-term restoration of around another five miles of the canal.

The BCS Fleet!

The BCS "fleet" currently comprises of four full-time vessels.

- Louise, the crane boat, was acquired by the BCS in Christmas 2020, thanks to Rob Locatelli of Canal and River Services. This 55ft long wide beam 100-year-old iron and concrete beet barge from the fens was converted by the National Trust in the 1980s and fitted with a HIAB crane, powerpack with pallet grab, grab bucket and a hook option.

- Rob also facilitated the acquisition of another dredger, PERSEVERANCE II, which has been moved in stages to Cosgrove. Used for dredging on the Basingstoke Canal, PERCY is a 50ft long wide beam steel boat fitted with an excavator mounted with a grab bucket and on boat mud hopper. It also has a large rake that can be put on the end of the arm.

- Since October 2021, the newest member of the fleet is SHOVELER, a long-term loan bantam class pusher tug from CRT, to aid the Cosgrove operations. The vessel, which has a twin-cylinder lister engine, is named after a duck.

- Another vessel in the fleet is HARVEY, a 70ft mud hopper named after the chairman's rabbit. Lastly, there is DIANA.

Our thanks to the CRT East Midlands Operations Team who have kindly arranged for the licence fees on both workboats to be discounted by 100% in recognition of the work we are able to do in assisting the Ops team and other voluntary groups in the Southern Area of the East Midlands Region

Additional thanks for the ongoing loan of Shoveler the tug to help us with dredging and other movements of vessels.









Above Left: CRT Tug SHOVELER moored at Cosgrove with “Harvey” the Hopper waiting to start unloading more dredgings from the Buckingham Arm (TC). Above Right: Tug SHOVELER bringing PERSERVERANCE II north to Cosgrove where she will help us with dredging works whilst being restored and painted. Bottom left LOUISE painted gunnels (TC) and bottom Right: Paul Rodgers, Chairman of IWA, admires the BCS Blue painted cabin of LOUISE when visiting the Archaeology dig (TC)

Membership

Membership numbers have remained steady, although we have sadly lost a few older members. However, we have been able to attract some new members during the year through the aid of our online payment system. This is now provide via Sum-Up through the BCS online shop and can be used by people wishing to join for the first time or by existing members to renew their membership. For more information, please visit: https://www.shop.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

We have also hoping the marketing team will revamp our information and membership leaflets. Increasing our membership numbers remains a continuing priority, and we extend our thanks to Jean and Chris for their work supporting the membership administration.

Community Engagement – Goodbye Becky, hello from Shivanshi

Becky has left BCS employment after an exciting 10-month run. Shivanshi Marwah has joined us and writes…



Hi, I am Shivanshi, currently an MBA student at Cranfield University. Recently moved to the UK to pursue higher education, I have previously worked across multiple industries and geographies - I have trans-versed through Hotel operations to venture into the corporate as an Integrated Facility Manager in India. A hospitality professional - I am more of a pragmatic and activist and enjoy working on the shop floor. Thus, the role and the cause of BCS were alluring for me, and I look forward to contributing towards this organisation. I have spent some time working with Athina on work parties, and with Terry on mobilising a project management team, and so far it has been a great learning and fun experience.

I am passionately curious, constantly wanting to learn new things and stress-testing current inherent beliefs and ideas. I pride myself on being a simplifier - following the basic approach- making things easier for most (if not all). I am enthusiastic about developing new experiences and enabling value for clients and colleagues.

Every day, I look for someone who can change my mind, and I enjoy meeting exciting conversations and forming deep connections. I am an avid reader and a passionate traveller. What books are you currently reading, and where are you planning for your next break? Feel free to connect and let us talk over the same at the next work party!

COMMUNITY FUND

Five-year grant 2019-2024



Strategic Plan

We are fortunate to have the help from Geoff Lambert who has helped BCS develop a Strategic Plan. This sets out the eleven themes we are pursuing in re-creating the waterway to Buckingham. The plan is a living document and sets out the progress we expect to make in a rolling 2-3-year window with a focus on the progress we want to make in the next 12 months. This is designed to ensure we have a clearer understanding of the range of tasks we need to undertake and who we need to partner with in achieving our goals; the order in which events need to take place and ensure that we obtain the necessary authorities to proceed; protect the environment and biodiversity of the route; maximise landowner and Community involvement, and plan for appropriate income streams in the future.

If you would like a copy of the Strategic Plan or feel able to help in its maintenance as an important part of the restoration, please contact any of the trustees preferably by email to

Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Publicity & Re-Cycling Stall (formerly the Bric a Brac Stall)

The Publicity and Recycling stall was successful in 2019 before the COVID pandemic, and it managed to raise over £1,700 for the Society. It is hoped that we can resume attending as many of these events in 2023 as possible, subject to government guidelines. We are always on the lookout for items to sell on the stall, which includes books, jigsaws, and bric-a-brac.

Some of the events that we attended included venues at Buckingham, Bicester, Stony Stratford, Braunston, and Linslade, among others. It is our hope to attend these events again, assuming they happen as planned.

Hours and Work Parties

With COVID restrictions lifted, people were able to meet outdoors again. Unfortunately, some offices had become accustomed to working from home and allowed most of their key staff to continue working remotely. This had a negative impact on the turnout of volunteers for work parties as staff numbers dwindled. Despite this, over 5,000 hours of volunteer work were recorded at Bourton Meadows in 2022. This time on site was made possible through the participation of companies, groups, and Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) visits, working alongside our own volunteers. Without their assistance, much of the work achieved during last year may not have been possible. In addition, the trustees and management team contributed over 4,000 hours of voluntary work outside of the project site. This is a remarkable achievement, given the disruptions caused by COVID, and amounts to over 9,000 hours of voluntary effort, equivalent to over 1,200 person days and a match funding value of over £100,000 in lottery terms.

The BCS now runs work parties on most Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as the second Sunday and last Sunday of each month, for a total of over 150 planned workdays each year. The work parties involve a range of tasks, and everyone is welcome to join any of them.

The second Sunday and alternate Thursdays are usually run by Athina and focus on vegetation, painting, and towpath work. The Tuesday, "in between" Thursday, and last Sunday focus on bricklaying, equipment maintenance, and construction work.





Above left - hedge planting at the bridge steps and right Hyde Lane after a bit of a tidy up!

BCS Talks

Fortunately, now that Covid restrictions have been lifted I was able to continue the enjoyable task of giving talks on behalf of the Buckingham Canal Society. In 2022 I gave talks to Barclays MK Retirement club, Twystory Local History Group, Tingewick Historical Society and Olney Inner Wheel and already have had requests for several talks in 2023. from local groups.

I was asked by Northampton IWA to be their 'Speaker' at their Annual Dinner on Saturday 12th November at the Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne.

Athina Beckett, *Trustee; Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser*

BCS Festival and craft fair

The 27th annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair returned on July 23rd and 24th for the first time since 2019, marking a triumphant comeback. Initially, the organizers were uncertain about how to proceed safely in the post-COVID-19 period, resulting in last-minute planning. However, the hard work and rapid organization of the magnificent team made the festival a resounding success.

The excitement started building from Thursday onwards as colourful boats and traders arrived to set up their stalls. The organisers were relieved and delighted that the weather was fantastic throughout the weekend, and visitors kept coming. Initial estimates indicate that the festival attracted over a thousand people. It was rewarding to see so many people enjoying themselves over the two-day festival. There were plenty of canal-themed activities, wonderful entertainment, delicious food and drink, making it a worthwhile event for everyone.

The Buckingham Canal Society's information tent was in prime position on the towpath, providing a platform to chat with festivalgoers, promote the canal, raise awareness, and recruit new volunteers (it's not too late to express an interest!). The team was thrilled to welcome Julie Sharman, the Chief Operating Officer from Canal & River Trust. They took her on a tour of the Buckingham Arm to inspect their work, including the newly restored and rebuilt Bridge No.1. Visitors were also encouraged to take a stroll to view the brand-new bridge and the progress of all their other projects.

Social Media

We have increased our social media presence with almost 3,000 people following the society on Facebook. One recent post was seen by nearly 20,000 people. Even if we do not use social media in our personal lives, we all know people who are avid users, and it is a necessary outlet for information these days. Our reach has considerably increased, which is critical for sharing information about our activities and plans. Apart from Instagram and Twitter, we have added LinkedIn to our list of social media accounts, hoping to attract more corporate volunteers and donors. Do you know anyone who can help keep our pages up to date? Please chat with a trustee!

To find us:

Search Facebook for "Buckingham Canal Society": or go direct to	https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamCanalSociety/
for Twitter:	@BCSocietyUK
on Instagram:	BuckinghamCanalSociety
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/bcsocietyuk
Youtube:	https://www.youtube.com/@BuckinghamCanalSociety

We've been actively maintaining our website too, with Alan as our dedicated Webmaster. He's been doing a great job of keeping the website content up to date, reflecting the progress we've made so far and our future plans. Many thanks to Alan for his many horus of back-room projects as well as help with engines, painting and much, much more.

Fancy a natter? - Projects and operational

The Projects group meets monthly to cover all operational aspects of BCS, including maintenance, events, and work party planning. We alternate between face-to-face meetings and conference calls each month, currently on the 3rd Monday, to work through multiple tasks related to each project and section of the canal. This ensures we are prepared when opportunities arise that will further the canal restoration work, while also ensuring focus around governance and strategy for trustee meetings. If you would like to be involved, please contact any of the trustees at Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk.

Keith Rawlings, a structural engineer, is another much-valued member of our team. He kindly gives us his time "pro bono" in designing the structural elements, such as Bridge One at Cosgrove and the towpath wall.

We are always looking for further help, both on the ground and in "back office" roles. Please think of everyone you know and how they could help us as we continue the drive for restoration. That help might be on a work party, fundraising, becoming a member, lobbying local councillors, or joining in the management of the society to help guide us to the next stages. We all believe in the aim of restoration, and many discussions at preliminary stages are driving this to become very real.

BCS Grants and fundraising

Once again, our income has been severely reduced due to COVID, both directly through cancelled events and indirectly through grant bodies targeting different criteria.

However, we have been fortunate to receive further grants, including the following. We are especially grateful to Colin for his work as grants officer.

Arnold Clark: £750 - awarded 14/06/2021
Lady Neville Trust: £500 – awarded 18/11/2021
Moto: £275 – awarded 18/08/2021
Waitrose: £300 – awarded 18/08/2021 (cheque may have been collected sometime later)
Co-op: £1777 – final payment made 19/11/2021(awarded a year earlier)
Community garden: £6,200 – awarded 29/01/2021
BCCB: I have no details
Bucks Culture: £250 – paid 10/10/2022
BP Collins: £500 – awarded 23/03/2022
Woodruff Benton: £750 – awarded 30/09/2022

Please note that some of these figures are different to the grant funding amounts shown in the accounts. This is because not all awarded amounts have been processed &/or expended in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

GDPR

New data protection legislation came into force in May 2018. The law applies to all public bodies, businesses, and other organizations that process personal data, including the BCS.

Our GDPR principles are as follows:

- We will process all personal data fairly and lawfully.
- We will only process personal data for specified and lawful purposes.
- We will endeavour to hold relevant and accurate personal data, and where practical, we will keep it up to date.
- We will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary.
- We will keep all personal data secure.
- We will endeavour to ensure that personal data is not transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) without adequate protection.

BCS will comply with the GDPR as a controller and processor of data. We will implement relevant policies and practices to protect any data handled by the BCS, including data for our employees, customers, suppliers, partners, and stakeholders.

For further details, please visit our website.

Heritage and Archaeology

Due to multiple factors, there has been no progress with regards to the archaeological work that is required including the geophysical surveys in the past 12 months. We are very much hoping to restart this work this year and will keep you all updated on the progress.

However, we have worked closely with the local council's Heritage Department and managed to start protecting several structures, including Thornton Bridge on a local level. Hopefully, we will be able to add them to a national list as well.

Amanda Robinson, Trustee; Archaeology and Heritage



Thornton Bridge



Uncovering the landing stage remains at Cosgrove

Agenda item 6 and 7 –Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Explanatory Notes
The report format follows the new look from last year. The figures are sorted first by income or expenditure type, the "what", then by the "where".

Income by General Ledger type shows how the income was generated.
Expenditure by General Ledger type shows what the money was spent on.
Income by Cost Centre shows where it came from.
Expenditure by Cost Centre shows where the funding came from.
The use of *Designated* and *Unrestricted* funds is controlled by the trustees.
The use of *Restricted* funds is dictated by the donor, for a specific project or use, and must be kept separate.

The General Picture
Expenditure exceeded income by £2615, the deficit being taken from our reserves. Although not a huge difference, it does show we have to carefully consider which projects can proceed and at what pace, whilst still leaving sufficient funds to cover our core costs, those expenses we cannot avoid, such as insurance and equipment maintenance, currently standing at around £25k p.a.

On the income side, the two big variables from year to year are grants and donations. With the current economic situation, it appears that many grants are now being focused more on improving the lot of individuals rather than works. This makes searching-out new funding opportunities more complex and time consuming, reading all the small print. Any help in this area will be greatly appreciated.

Outside of core costs, our largest expenditure was on plant and equipment, with the acquisition of a grant-funded dredger for £7k. This will help with generating an income stream for the future.

Richard Dwight
Treasurer and Trustee

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2022	**2022**	**2021**
Income by General Ledger type	£	£
Advertising	44	44
Bank Interest	18	3
Donations:General (includes expenses donated back)	25,699	16,645
Donations (Payroll & Local Giving)	280	709
Fundraising (excluding Raffles)	424	0
Fundraising (Lottery)	352	394
Grant Income	10,100	17,975
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	2,974	527
Membership Subscriptions	2,508	1,729
Sale of Goods & Services	2,035	0
Sales Stand (BCS) & Online Shop	1,294	704
Sales Stand (Third Party/Concessions)	975	0

	46,703	38,730
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2022	**2022**	**2021**
Income by Cost Centre	**£**	**£**
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 1	0	1,000
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 2	1,000	0
Designated Income Funds:Contingencies	750	0
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Fund:Weed & Seed	0	3,500
Restricted Income Funds:Big Lottery Fund:Reaching Communities	5,000	5,000
Restricted Income Funds:National Lottery:Cosgrove Lock Island Garden	0	6,200
Restricted Income Funds:Skinners Lady Neville Grant	0	500
Restricted Income Funds:Cosgrove Marina	250	0
Restricted Income Funds:John Dodwell Restoration Works	165	0
Restricted Income Funds: REDACTED "Diana" Fund (Dredger)	10,000	0
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Bd Wildlife Cameras	2,950	0
Unrestricted Funds:Events & Functions	3,263	582
Unrestricted Funds:General income (includes expenses donated back)	20,817	20,219
Unrestricted Funds:HQ:Membership	2,508	1,729
	46,703	**38,730**
Expenditure by General Ledger type		
Advertising	827	711
Building purchase	0	250
Computer, phone & internet charges	1,996	765
Event costs	20	274
Fuel, oil & sundries	2,021	1,448
General office expenditure	73	48
Grant-funded wages	4,565	4,868
Hire of premises	781	433
Insurance	5,346	6,078
Licences & permits	512	150
Materials	1,006	12,627
Plant & Equipment purchases	14,867	5,300
Plant & vehicle maintenance	5,759	4,483
Plant hire	222	270
Professional Fees	0	437
Refreshments & Hospitality	218	416
Road tax	290	275
Stationery, printing & postage	1,745	2,248
Stock for Online Shop	36	0
Subscriptions	89	179
Training & Development	1,200	1,080
Travel Expense:Mileage Claims (Mostly donated back, includes previous year)	7,745	8,047
	49,318	**50,387**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2022	2022	2021
Expenditure by Cost Centre	**£**	**£**
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 1	400	600
Designated Income Funds:IWA Christopher Power Award 2	395	0
Designated Income Funds:Van Purchase Fund	1,975	0
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Board: Weed & Seed	0	3,352
Restricted Income Funds:Big Lottery Fund:Reaching Communities	5,076	5,003
Restricted Income Funds:D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	0	2,750
Restricted Income Funds:IWA John Faulkner Cosgrove Bridge Grant	0	960
Restricted Income Funds:National Lottery:Cosgrove Lock Island Garden	66	256
Restricted Income Funds:Postcode Local Trust Grant	0	9,044
Restricted Income Funds:BC Community Bd Wildlife Cameras	2,950	0
Restricted Income Funds:RadcliffeTrust (Craft Training) J019	1,200	0
Restricted Income Funds:Tesco Bags of Help 3/Hyde Lane Footbridge	235	0
Restricted Income Funds:Tim Coghlan "Diana" Fund (Dredger)	13,225	0
Unrestricted Funds:Events & Functions	576	184
Unrestricted Funds:Membership	16	26
Unrestricted Funds:Navigator magazine	791	642
Unrestricted Funds:General expenditure	17,370	9,658
Unrestricted Funds:Plant & Equipment	2,843	3,518
Unrestricted Funds:Restoration works	1,518	11,428
Unrestricted Funds:Vehicles	682	2,966
	49,318	**50,387**
Balance of Expenditure over Income	**-2,615**	**-11,657**

Reconciliation

Bank and cash balances at 01/12/2021	33,644	45,301
Expenditure in excess of income for the year	-2,615	-11,657
Bank and cash balances at 30/11/2022	**31,029**	**33,644**
Designated/Restricted Funds Remaining	6,715	12,122
Unrestricted Funds Remaining	24,314	21,522
Total funds remaining	**31,029**	**33,644**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Buckingham Canal Society		
On accounts for the year ended	30 November 2022	**Charity no (if any)**	1156662
Set out on pages	Pages 1 & 2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/11/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: [redacted] **Date:** 12/1/2023

Name: DR JOHN PHILIP BARBER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (RETIRED)

Address: ASH TREES, GREEN LANE, ASPLEY GUISE
MILTON KEYNES MK17 8EN

We are grateful for the continued support of our patron Lord Boswell of Aynho as well as Lord and Lady Scott of Foscote

Discussions with relevant organisations are ongoing to establish further partnerships both formal and informal. We have existing partnerships with the following:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA)**
- **Buckinghamshire Council (BC)**
- **Environment Agency (EA)**
- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)**
- **Buckingham Town Council**
- **Canal & River Trust (CRT)**
- **West Northamptonshire Council**

We are grateful for the ongoing support of:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch**
- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch**
- **Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers**

We have been recognised by the following:

- **Cosgrove Parish Council**
- **Maids Moreton Parish Council**
- **Thornborough Parish Council**
- **Milton Keynes Council**
- **Foscote Parish Meeting**
- **Old Stratford Parish Council**
- **Thornton Parish Meeting**
- **Deanshangar Parish Council**

We thank our corporate members for their continued support as well as WRG, IWA and Canal & River Trust for their ongoing support, help, and partnership.

Wyvern Shipping Co.

Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.

Nikon

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Taverners Boat Club

Braunston Marina

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

LIONHEARTS CRUISING CLUB

Donations in kind

We are pleased to record the following donations in kind, from organisations that have provided us with valuable services during the year rather than direct financial contributions:

Organisation	**Service**	**value**
Buckinghamshire Council	Raster and vector map data for canal route	£20,000
Salesforce.com	Project Management software	£14,400
Canal & River Trust	Training, materials, and equipment	£15,000
Cosgrove Marina	Portacabins and materials storage facility plus mooring and Wi-Fi	£5,500
MKSET	Storage adjacent to bridge one and at canal side field at Cosgrove	£4,000
Microsoft via TT Exchange	Microsoft software	£44,000
	Total	£107,900

The trustees are pleased to confirm that the accounts have been reviewed and approved by an independent examiner and no issues of concern found. The examiner's statement above page is from the form which will be submitted to the Charity's Commission after the AGM. John's signature and address has been redacted for the purpose of this report.

Agenda item 8 – election of trustees

In accordance with our constitution, one third of the trustees must stand down each year and may stand for re-election. During the year, Anthony Smith-Roberts has stepped down as trustee so there are just two trustees for re-election. Edi was co-opted during 2022 and is therefore standing for re-election.

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Nominee	**Proposer**	**Seconder**	**Comment**
Terence Cavender	Colin Levett	Paul Sayer	Re-election as trustee
Edima (Edi) Inwang	Colin Levett	Paul Sayer	Election as trustee

Full list of trustees for completeness are:

Trustee	**Role**	**(re)elected**
Rob Morris	Chairman	March 2018
Colin Levett	Grants Officer	March 2018
Richard Dwight	Treasurer	March 2018
Terence (Terry) Cavender	Executive Officer	March 2018
Athina Beckett	Trustee talks volunteer contact and work party leader and loads of other stuff	March 2022
Gerry Millard	Trustee and construction manager	March 2019
Paul Sayer	Trustee and construction engineer	March 2020
Amanda Robinson	Trustee; Archaeology and Heritage	November 2020
Edima (Edi) Inwang	Trustee and Digital Marketing Lead	September 2022




Above left Parapet wall work on Bridge One. Above right Athina at the history festival in 2019 which we hope we will soon be able to attend again




Above: left Hallam Land Management staff are one of the corporate groups to have helped seen at Bourton Meadow (AB).
Right: scraping the bed at section three near Bridge Two




Above: left Kingfisher mosaic at Bridge One(AB).
Right: BCS volunteers assisting CRT contractors to replace pumps at Cosgrove Lock 21

Do you dig canals?

.... *We do!*

Thank you for joining us for our Annual Meeting. Do you feel you could help us further? Below are just some of the things we do that you can get involved in. Please come and have a chat with any of the members of the committee. If you already are part of it, then thank you and please show this to someone new so they can get involved as well.

Publicity	**Planning**	**Projects**	**Event organiser**
Fundraising	**Become a trustee**	**Conservation**	**Restoration**
Brickwork	**Maintenance**	**Digging**	**Hedge Laying**
Grant writing	**Budgeting**	**Recruiting**	**Heritage**
Lengths-person	**Journalist**	**Editor**	**Project Manager**
And many others!			

Please use this document, 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.





Above left rewatering section 2 towards the oil pipeline crossing
Above right rebuild flood sluice near bridge two

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BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1156662

Accounts

Trustees' report and accounts

for the year ending 30th November 2021







- ✓ *Bridge two is starting*
- ✓ *Dredging continues to progress*
- ✓ *Water is rising as leaks are repaired*
- ✓ *Trees and biodiversity are thriving*

Buckingham Canal Society - Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156662. 8th Annual General Meeting of the CIO. 30th Annual Society Meeting

Agenda

Friday 25th March 2022 at Buckingham Community Centre COVID permitting

1) Introductions
2) Apologies
3) Minutes
4) Matters Arising
5) Trustee's Report
6) Treasurer's Report Year ending 30.11.2021
7) Adoption of Accounts
8) Election of Trustees
9) Resolutions
10) Members' questions.
11) Any Other Business
12) Closing Remarks

All photographic copyright is acknowledged



Above – Hedge laying along the Bridge One ramps (AM)
Front cover – Top - Bridge two preparing for temporary fencing to allow excavations (TC)
Bottom left – Dredgings ready to be offloaded at Cosgrove (TC) Bottom right – Bug Hotel (TC)

Chairman's Introduction



It has been another exciting year for the society. It is great to now be able for us all to meet in person with the loosening of the restrictions put in place due to covid. This has been reflected in the move from safety maintenance work to more active restoration, which is in progress and covered elsewhere in this report.

We are very pleased to inform you of the kind acceptance by Lord and Lady Scott to become our new patrons. Lord Scott has had a highly distinguished career in the law whilst Lady Scott has been regularly active in local politics and supporting local causes. We are very privileged to have two such distinguished and hardworking individuals as patrons.

"Admiral" Cavender has seen our fleet of work boats expand by the addition of Perseverance a wide beam workboat set up for dredging, which should be arriving in Cosgrove soon. We also have tugboat Shoveler on long term loan from our CRT partners.

All of us were sorry to see Robert Jones resign from his role as minutes secretary to the society. His diligence and hard work in keeping accurate records of committee discussions and circulating minutes has been a true asset to our work. On behalf of all trustees, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert for all his hard work.

It is also with much sadness that we must remember the passing of Vernon, who has worked for a significant number of years on behalf of the society. Latterly, Vernon has worked with our membership team ensuring everyone receives timely reminders of renewal as well as ensuring the Navigator is accurately circulated

.

This coming July see's the return of our canal festival, keep an eye on Navigator for full details. We will however be running our usual lock assist, as well as a craft fair in Cosgrove Village Hall alongside the floating market. We would welcome any and all volunteers to come along and assist on the weekend even if it is only for a few hours.

Aimee has now left BCS and gone to work for the parks trust. We are delighted to gain Becky as our community engagement lead. Becky has been fully engaged with promoting the society and has enjoyed great success with her rock hunt, as well as attending numerous work party's and community events representing the society.

Rob

Rob Morris, Chairman BCS

This annual report

This document has been produced, printed, and published by the Trustees of the Buckingham Canal Society which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered number 1156662.

The Society's registered address is 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8AX

Agenda item 3

Draft minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 20th March 2021by teams

Trustees present: Rob Morris (Chair), Terry Cavender (Exec. Officer), Colin Levett (Grants Officer), Richard Dwight (Treasurer), Athina Beckett, Jo Lynch, Amanda Robinson, Paul Sayer.

Members present: Don & Jill Allison, Claire Cavender, Emily Cavender, Pam Cavender, Vernon & Marie Draper, Les Franklin, Matthew Lane, Alistair Palmer, Robert Jones.

Apologies:
Apologies: Gerry Millard, Alan Mynard, Anthony Smith-Robinson, Aimee Tidman.

NB. As nineteen members (including 8 Trustees were present, the meeting was deemed to be quorate.

Terry Cavender was appointed to Chair for the Meeting.

Minutes:
The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 March 2020 were accepted as a correct record. (Proposed Richard Dwight, seconded Amanda Robinson).

Matters Arising:
None.

Trustees Report.
This was presented by the Chair, who went through it in detail. No questions were raised.

Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 30.11.2020
The Treasurer gave a brief report on the financial situation. No questions were raised.

Adoption of Accounts
The Accounts were presented, agreed, and unanimously accepted. (Proposed Terry Cavender, seconded Jill Allison).

Election of Trustees
Proposed Candidates: Jo Lynch and Amanda Robinson.
Both Proposed: Terry Cavender. Both Seconded: Rob Morris. Unanimously accepted.

Resolutions
The Resolution, as indicated in the Annual Report, covering the Amendment to the BCS Constitution was accepted and passed unanimously. (Proposed Richard Dwight, seconded Colin Levett).

Members Questions
GDPR: Vernon Draper queried whether the personal data of a member/contact could be withdrawn if the relevant questionnaire were not returned to BCS. (No-one's data had been withdrawn yet). Vernon stated that he would investigate this proposal further.

Any other Business - None.

Closing Remarks.
Rob Morris thanked everyone for tuning in and hoped that the next AGM would be carried out in more familiar surroundings.

Agenda Item 5 - Buckingham Canal Society Trustees Report

Overview

Despite everything the COVID pandemic threw at us, restoration continues at multiple sites

Site by site - Cosgrove

At Cosgrove, Bridge One is truly “one and done.” The bridge is completed and is in use for the farm traffic. The 65-year-old piling has been removed and dredging continues along the entire arm after the removal of the soil bund (dam) from under the bridge. The temporary farm crossing has been completely removed and the site of the crossing made good including the creation of Bugingham Palace, a bug hotel for our creepy crawly residents! Hedge laying along the bridge ramps and further work on the stone walls has also been completed.



When you visit Bridge One (and please do visit), you will see that we still have wooden stop planks in place whilst we continue the work to bridge this section to navigable level and remediate the leaks. To achieve this, we have been spending some time digging “slit trenches” as per guidance from CRT. This is a 9” (225mm) wide trench (i.e., narrow excavator bucket) to a depth of around 6’6” (2m) in the towpath parallel to the channel. These are then filled with puddle clay that is mashed into place by the excavator to create a clay wall in the trench behind the original bank. We have been gradually raising the level to allow any remaining dry clay to also rehydrate. The puddle clay has been provided by CRT and is to their specification. Although this work has not been as quick as we would have liked, there are signs that this technique as advocated by our CRT partners should minimise the leakage from what we have seen on the journey to this point. The water level in section one is around 200mm (8”) below navigation depth thanks to the work undertaken on the leaks that we have identified and addressed so far. We have also been progressing with the towpath reinstatement along the arm and have now reduced the size of the compound at bridge one to a maintenance presence. The team are also undertaking periodic checks on the bridge to establish the necessary maintenance for the structure.

Additionally, we have been rewatering section two and beyond the oil pipeline into section three taking us towards the bund created at bridge two. Rewatering is under way to rehydrate the clay bed on these sections subject to water availability etc. All the sections in water to varying depths are thriving in terms of vegetation and wildlife. Discussions have been started to form a winding hole at section two near the wooded area combined with recreation of a slipway at this location. Meanwhile, the water level is being maintained.





Above left one of the amazing rebuilt stone walls on the bridge approach ramps.
Above right the piling being told its days are numbered and prepared for extraction.

At Bridge 2, the equipment and materials are relocated from bridge one compound to bridge two. We have now been granted a formal access licence from the gate near the bus stop to enable us to work at Bridge Two thanks to Frontier Developments. We await the final signatures on the CRT lease which is at version 5 following input from Richard Smith of Sandstone Law for whom we are extremely grateful for his pro-bono assistance. The flood sluice has been reinstated and is pending a CCTV survey of the culvert which is discharges through.

Discussion with CRT and the Inland Drainage Board along with existing and new landowners are ongoing for exactly where and how we route the descent channel to the A5. Additionally, design discussions are under way with National Highways for the canal passing under the A5 bridge structure.

At the risk of repeating last year's overview, it has been another wonderful year for the Society. All the "in water" parts continue to flourish as a mature canal section with a rich range of aquatic related biodiversity now fully established. Indeed, our work at the Cosgrove bridge continues to be used by farm traffic throughout all the seasons.











Above top left bridge one stop planks in place. Above top right is bridge deck after completion Above left dredging with crane boat LOUISE. Above right: the new 5-star bug hotel. Bottom: the new mooring created by BCS at Cosgrove











Above top Wildlife in the rewatered section at Cosgrove. Middle left slit trench work: Middle right, Bridge 2 bed exploration of the approach form teh A5 side with our 1y6t excavator Bottom team setting up bridge two compound

Site by site - Hyde Lane Nature Reserve

The solar panel, pump and control system continue to bring water into the old canal section and maintain levels subject to the depth of water in the reservoir and amount of sun. This is deliberately a slow process as we make efforts to repair tree roots and animal burrow damage to the clay with an aim to maintain the water level once rewatered. The slow rewatering also allows wildlife to adapt. Several trees have fallen over the year, and these have been cleared by our volunteers to help keep the right of way open whenever possible. Most of the channel here is ready although will need leak remediation as it is gently rewatered to allow the clay to fully rehydrate and not wash through.







Hyde lane corporate group and slow rewatering

Site by site - Bourton Meadow

Bourton Meadow saw lots of visitors as part of the town council's "Otter Trail" which was aimed to promote visitors to the town post lockdown. This remains as our flagship section of restoration and is very much in water. Pleased to report that no significant issues have affected this stretch other than the virulent growth of the planting. The wildlife continues to thrive with further sightings of rare butterflies, dragon flies and birds being reported to name but some. This section of canal continues to receive much praise from the residents, dog walkers and others, who make use of this blue-green space on the fringe of Buckingham. We have applied for and will be working to install a "live stream" camera at this location so people can watch from everywhere at the wonderful nature that can be seen here.

Much effort goes in to pruning some of the enthusiastic plants and plans are still in hand to harvest seeds of locally prevalent plants for use elsewhere in the canal network both in Buckingham and potentially beyond. We are extremely grateful for the support from Nick Hawes of ATN Farms in allowing us to retain this section of the canal.







.Above top ***left***: wildflowers attracting many insects and birds; ***Above top right, one of the towns otter carvings at the entrance to Bourton Meadow.*** Bottom ***left***: one of our ***reptilian*** residents smiling for the camera at Bourton Meadow after its reeds had been cleared (bottom left).

Site by site - Little Hill Farm

A mile of the canal has previously been cleared and the bridge restored. No work has been undertaken this past year at Little Hill Farm although we hope to return there soon to clear vegetation.



Above: the farm bridge restored by BCS at Little Hill Farm

BCS Craft Group

The BCS Craft Group create a range of items for sale although this has been affected by COVID. Subject to restrictions, the group meet on the last Thursday of each month usually in Stony Stratford or sometimes in Pennyland. It is anticipated these sessions will resume as soon as possible. Members can bring along any crafts they are working on to show and discuss with other members. The other main task is to help with the making of rag rugs which we sell at festivals for £25 each raising funds for the BCS. The group is also in need of a supply of old Tee shirts to keep the rag rugs going. If you can help in any way or want to join the group, please contact Athina ***athing.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk***

The BCS Fleet!









Above Left: CRT Tug SHOVELER moored at Cosgrove with “Harvey” the Hopper waiting to start unloading more dredgings from the Buckingham Arm (TC). Above Right: Tug SHOVELER bringing PERSERVERANCE II north to Cosgrove where she will help us with dredging works whilst being restored and painted. Bottom left LOUISE painted gunnels (TC) and bottom Right: Paul Rodgers, Chairman of IWA, admires the BCS Blue painted cabin of LOUISE when visiting the Archaeology dig (TC)

The BCS “fleet” now has four full time vessels

- As many of you will know, LOUISE the crane boat joined us Christmas 2020 after BCS were lucky enough to be offered the boat by Rob Locatelli of Canal and River Services. Fitted with a HIAB crane, powerpack with pallet grab, grab bucket and a hook option. The boat is a 55ft long wide beam 100-year-old iron and concrete beet barge from the fens that was converted in the 1980s by the National Trust
- Rob has kindly facilitated another dredger PERSEVERANCE II, and this has been moving north to Cosgrove in stages. Used for dredging on the Basingstoke Canal, PERCY is a 50ft long wide beam steel boat with an excavator mounted with a grab bucket and on boat mud hopper. She also has a large rake that can be put on the end of the arm
- As of October 2021, our newest member is on a long-term loan bantam class pusher tug from CRT to help us at Cosgrove. SHOVELER is named after a duck and has a twin cylinder lister engine
- HARVEY the 70ft mud hopper is so named after our chairman’s rabbit. Hmm!

Much painting to be done and the cabin on LOUISE was painted BCS blue in the summer
At the time of writing, we now have eight qualified helmsmen. We also have five qualified Hiab crane operators.

Our thanks to the CRT East Midlands Operations Team who have kindly arranged for the licence fees on both workboats to be discounted by 100% in recognition of the work we are able to do in assisting the Ops team and other voluntary groups in the Southern Area of the East Midlands Region

Thanks to our people

As always, a massive thankyou to all our partners, volunteers, members, supporters, neighbours, and many others. A few examples of some of the less visible works are:

- Keith Rawlings – ongoing as our structural engineer. Keith is a seconded volunteer via the IWA and BCS fund the professional indemnity insurance for this secondment
- Colin Levett –amazing in managing the various grants. You will read in the accounts the grant income. We believe it is averages out to about 5 hours effort for each £1,000 of grant income and that is a lot of time …. and money
- Ian Matson – our newsletter editor. Although working remotely, Ian continues to help us with the excellent Navigator and various other posters etc

Partnerships

Our many great partnerships continue to firmly position the society for the short and medium term. Financially our health allows us to remain viable despite COVID and loss of income from events. Thanks to our members, donors, grantors, and other benefactors for allowing us to keep our financial head above water. Thousands of hours of hard work have once again been given to the society by trustees current and past, volunteers, members, partners, and supporters. The current trustees thank you all for your time, energy, and funding to keep us on track to the reality of restoration.

BCS continues to enjoy support from MKDons as the significant adjacent landowner and are formalising the access track to the canal at Cosgrove following the granting of planning permission. This will ensure BCS has unrestricted access to the bridge and the canal channel. That will make materials and equipment access much easier as the current track through the farmyard is at risk of damaging the sewer that runs under it. Grateful thanks to the commercial team at MKDons for supporting us through the planning discussions for this.

We are ***also*** now fully engaged with the new owners Frontier Developments of the land adjacent to the canal from bridge two to the A5. They have been kind enough to facilitate the land access licence to allow us to get vehicles, ***equipment,*** and machinery to Bridge two and the channel.

We have continued to enjoy outstanding partnership with CRT who have helped us with various training aspects, technical guidance, providing materials including clay and stone and of course the lone of the tug Shoveler. BCS have in return assisted with signage and a number of maintenance tasks around cosgrove as well as the ongoing dredging. The trustees collectively express their thanks to Phil Mulligan and his regional team of their support and tolerance as we strive to achieve the restoration.

Despite the COVID delays, we are continuing to progress discussions with a local quarry operator that should result in medium term restoration of around another five miles of the canal.

Community Engagement – Goodbye Aimee, hello from Becky

Aimee has left BCS employment to take up a role at The Parks Trust in Milton Keynes. We wish her every success after the splendid work she progressed for BCS. Beck Hall has joined us and writes…

Hello, I am Becky. I joined the BCS team in mid-October as the community engagement lead. I am extremely excited to get started.

The canal restoration is such a fantastic project and I feel honoured to be part of it. I have got lots of ideas and am looking forward to putting them into practice. I am doing my best to contact as many people involved with BCS as I can, whether in person or online.

Now that covid restrictions are starting to change, I am hoping to be able to get out into the community more, starting with attending some Christmas markets. I am also looking at having stalls other events and markets next year to raise awareness and hopefully get more people involved. I have various training courses booked that will help me develop some of my ideas, including Dementia Friends training, visiting the Green Roof Project and several Sustain workshops.

I will be working with Athina at our regular volunteer task days and aim to try to increase our numbers as well as joining in with the conservation work. I have already helped plant lots of wildflower seeds along the canal bank at Hyde Lane and cannot wait to see the results in the spring!

Next year, assuming covid restrictions remain eased, I hope to be able to welcome back more corporate volunteer groups, school groups and work experience students to the canal for task days as we had before the pandemic.

Thinking even further ahead, we have the festival in Cosgrove in the summer and following our successful Heritage Open Days event in September, I hope to help organise something even bigger! So many plans, I cannot wait to put them into action!

COMMUNITY FUND

Five-year grant 2019-2024



Strategic Plan

We are fortunate to have the help from Geoff Lambert who has helped BCS develop a Strategic Plan. This sets out the eleven themes we are pursuing in re-creating the waterway to Buckingham. The plan is a living document and sets out the progress we expect to make in a rolling 2-3-year window with a focus on the progress we want to make in the next 12 months. This is designed to ensure we have a clearer understanding of the range of tasks we need to undertake and who we need to partner with in achieving our goals; the order in which events need to take place and ensure that we obtain the necessary authorities to proceed; protect the environment and biodiversity of the route; maximise landowner and Community involvement, and plan for appropriate income streams in the future.

If you would like a copy of the Strategic Plan or feel able to help in its maintenance as an important part of the restoration, please contact any of the trustees preferably by email to

Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Membership

Membership numbers remain steady: although, with sadness, we have lost a few of our older members. With the aid of our online payment system provided by Golden Giving and our increased presence on social media, we have been able to attract some new members during the year. The online payment system works in co-operation with another charity, Golden Giving and can be used by people wishing to join for the first time or by existing members to renew their membership. For more information please visit: https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/buckingham-canal-society

Our updated information and membership leaflet introduced last year, along with an additional leaflet focused on providing information for corporate volunteer groups, are available. Increasing our membership numbers remains a continuing priority. Our thanks to Jean and Chris for their work supporting the membership administration.

Publicity & Re-Cycling Stall (formerly the Bric a Brac Stall)

The Publicity and Re-Cycling stall did well back in 2019 before COVID and raised over £1,700 for the Society.. It is hoped to resume attending as many of these events in 2022 as possible subject to Government guidelines. We are always looking of items to sell on the stall which includes books and jigsaws as well as bric-a-brac.

Events attended included venues at Buckingham, Bicester, Stony Stratford, Braunston and Linslade amongst others. It is hoped to attend these assuming they happen as planned.

Hours and Work Parties

2021 was again an amazing year for volunteer time despite COVID with over 7,200 hours on project sites. More than a further 3,000+ hours have been given by our trustees and management team outside of the project site work. That is a staggering total of over 10,000 hours voluntary effort equivalent to over 1,400 person days and in lottery terms around £125,000 of match funding value in volunteer time! Given COVID "getting in the way," this is a remarkable achievement for the year

This time on site has been achieved once again via companies, groups, and Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) visits to work alongside our own volunteers. Without the assistance of the groups that have attended, much of work achieved during last year may not have happened.

BCS now run work parties on most Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as the 2nd Sunday and last Sunday each month. This makes a total of over 150 days when work is planned to happen each year. The work parties have a range of tasks, and everyone is welcome to join any of them.

- The second Sunday and alternate Thursdays are usually run by Athina and focus on vegetation, painting, and towpath and similar work
- The Tuesday, "in between" Thursday and last Sunday focus on bricklaying, equipment maintenance and construction work.





Above left - hedge planting at the bridge steps and right Hyde Lane after a bit of a tidy up!

BCS Talks

Athina is hoping to continue giving talks in 2022. None were undertaken in 2021 due to COVID.

BCS Festival and craft fair

Our long running and ever popular annual event, the Cosgrove Canal Festival and Craft Fair regrettably both fell foul of COVID again in 2021. But we plan for 2022 event to proceed although the trustees await guidance from Government and CRT whilst planning this year's events.

Social Media

We have again increased our presence on social media with over 2,500 people on Facebook following the society. One recent post has been seen by nearly 10,000 people!. Even if we do not use it in our personal lives, we all know people who are avid users of these services, and it is a required outlet for information these days. We have considerably increased the scope of people who now know about the BCS. This is a critical outlet for information concerning our activities and plans. We have also spread out onto Twitter and Instagram to post photos and snippets of information about what we are doing. Know anyone that can help keep tis UpToDate? Please chat to a trustee!

To find us:

Search Facebook for "Buckingham Canal Society": or go direct to
https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamCanalSociety/
for Twitter: @BCSocietyUK
on Instagram: BuckinghamCanalSociety

And we have not forgotten our website either. Thanks again to Alan for acting as Webmaster and making minor updates to the content of the website to ensure that it is up to date with the progress we have been making and our plans.

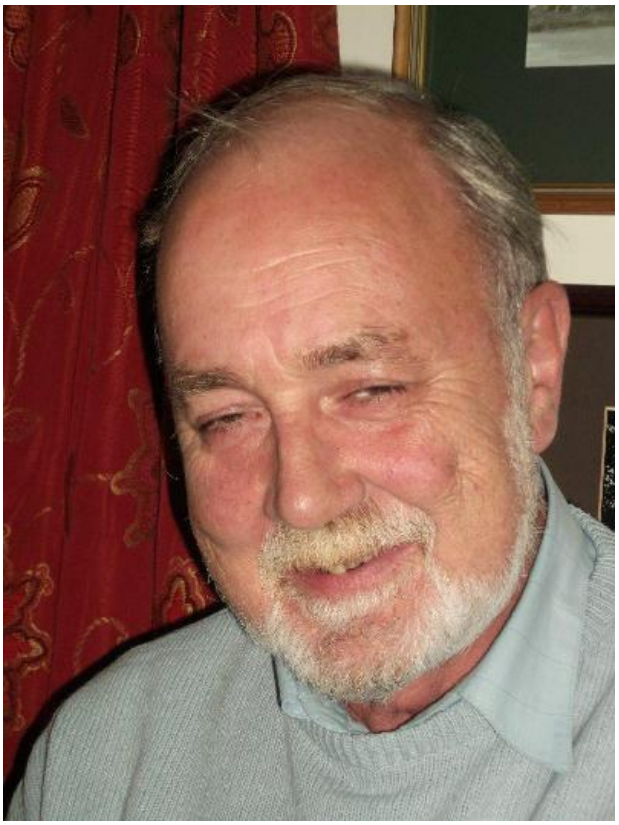
Fancy a natter? - Projects and operational

The Projects group continues to meet monthly to cover all the operational aspect of BCS including maintenance, events, and work party planning. We alternate between a face to face (COVID permitting) and a conference call each month currently on the 3rd Monday when we work our way through multiple tasks regarding each project and section of the canal. This also ensures we are prepared when opportunities arise that will further the canal restoration work, whilst at the same time ensuring focus around governance and strategy for the trustee meetings. If you would like to be involved, please contact any of the trustees Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk .

Another much-valued member of our team is Keith Rawlings who is a structural engineer. Keith continues to kindly give us his time “pro bono” in this role and has been helping us in the design of the structural elements such as Bridge One at Cosgrove and the towpath wall.

We are always looking for further help both on the ground and in “back office” roles. Please think of everyone you know and how they could help us as we continue the drive for restoration. That help might be on a work party, fund raising, becoming a member, lobbying local councillors, or joining in the management of the society to help guide us to the next stages. We all believe in the aim of restoration and many discussions at preliminary stages are driving this to become very real.

Vernon Draper



It is with deep regret that we announce that long time Buckingham Canal Society member and dear friend Vernon Draper sadly passed away on Saturday 22nd January 2022.

Vernon was our Treasurer from 5th February 2004 to 6th November 2013. After standing down as Treasurer Vernon continued volunteering for the Society and was one of our longest serving volunteers. He worked alongside Membership Secretaries Chris and Jean Beddard to produce the membership spreadsheets for the Society and committed to various other tasks including his invaluable work in proofreading The Buckingham Navigator newsletter. He was also an integral part of the Cosgrove festival committee for many years and volunteered at our annual Cosgrove Canal Festival and Craft Fair.

He and his wife Marie were both keen boaters and you would most likely have seen their canal boat Reflections attending our annual festival or cruising far and wide along the canal systems .
As well as volunteering with the BCS Vernon helped various other local group including Milton Keynes IWA where he ran their web site. worked with the B & Mk and was involved with several other local group in New Bradwell where he lived.

He will be greatly missed by the Buckingham Canal Society and all the groups he volunteers with. Our thoughts are with his wife Marie and family

Athina Beckett

BCS Grants and fundraising

Once again, our income has been severely reduced due to COVID both directly through cancelled events and indirectly through grant bodies targeting different criteria.

However, we have been fortunate to receive during the year further grants including the below. We are especially grateful to Colin in his work as grants officer.

Funder	Value £
Arnold Clark Trust	£750
Lady Neville trust	£500
Moto Fund	£500
Waitrose	£300
Coop Local Fund	£1,777
National lottery Community Garden	£6,200
Buckinghamshire Council Community Board	£3,500
Total	**£13,527**

Please note that some of these figures are different to the grant funding amounts shown in the accounts. This is because not all awarded amounts have been processed &/or expended in the 2020/21 fiscal year

GDPR

New data protection legislation came into force in May 2018. The law applies to all public bodies, businesses and other organisations that process personal data, which includes the BCS.

1. Our GDPR principles
    a. we will process all personal data fairly and lawfully
    b. we will only process personal data for specified and lawful purposes
    c. we will endeavour to hold relevant and accurate personal data, and where practical, we will keep it up to date
    d. we will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary
    e. we will keep all personal data secure
    f. we will endeavour to ensure that personal data is not transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) without adequate protection

2. GDPR compliance
    BCS will be complying with the GDPR as a controller and processor of data.
    We will implement the relevant policies and practices to ensure we protect any data handled by the BCS – for its employees, customers, suppliers, partners and stakeholders.

Further details can be found on our website

Heritage and Archaeology

In the last 12 months we have gained permissions from several landowners to either do a geophysical survey or to do both survey and excavate on their land which they are allowing us to utilise for the canal restoration.

In September we had a team of volunteers, which consisted of veterans and professional archaeologists stay with us and show locals how to do field walking, geophysical surveys, archaeological excavation and how to record any finds. This was extremely popular with home educated children. During this week we discovered a bronze age ditch. We were hoping to repeat this in the summer but with the current situation in the Ukraine many of those who ran the camp and whose surveying equipment was used are not available so I am hoping that we will be able to get back under way early next year.

Earlier in the summer, we worked with veterans doing a geophysical survey of the meadow land at Cosgrove, this showed that the field has no buildings in it, at a later date we are anticipating going back and use the magnetometry equipment to see if it contains evidence of metal working.

We are also waiting for Historic England to get back to us regarding granting permission for a rescue excavation to be carried out at the scheduled ancient monument ("Roman Villa") as every year that it is farmed causes further potential damage to the monument itself.

Later this year we should start to archaeologically excavate at bridge two and see how many bricks and stones from the original can be reused in the restoration of the bridge. We are also going to be having meetings with the local heritage officer in order to get some local landmarks listed on the heritage at risk register.

Amanda Robinson, Trustee; Archaeology and Heritage







Above top excavations of the Burrows site near the brook. Bottom left field walking and bottom right geophysics on the meadow land at Cosgrove

Agenda item 6 and 7 –Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The report looks a little different this year. I inherited the previous format when I took over some years ago, when the finances and life in general were much simpler. The new format presents the information in a much clearer fashion, more akin to modern best practice, taking up less space and able to be produced in a much shorter time.

You will notice that he first two and second two groups of figures have the same totals. It is the same money, added up in two different ways. The terminology used below to describe the groups of figures may differ from company to company

Income by General Ledger type shows how the income was generated.
Income by Cost Centre shows where it came from.

Expenditure by General Ledger *type* shows what the money was spent on.
Expenditure by Cost Centre shows where the funding came from.

The use of **Designated and Unrestricted funds** is controlled by the trustees. The use of **Restricted funds** is dictated by the donor, for a specific project or use, and must be tracked separately.

The overall picture shows a significant decrease in financial activity this year. The reason for that is twofold and common to most charities. Covid has reduced the capacity of our workforce, and our income has reduced. That is not to say that the overall level of activity has greatly diminished. Planning and exploratory work for future projects has continued, along with ways on how to finance them.

Funding will always be an issue. It hopefully will not stop us achieving our goals, but it may slow us down. Our core costs for 2020/21 represented 40% of our total income. These are the unglamorous things that we would struggle to cut back on but are essential for the day-to-day running of the society, such as insurance and maintenance of plant and equipment. They are also the things that it is difficult to get grants for and for which we rely heavily on the generosity of our supporters.

Richard Dwight - Treasurer and Trustee

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2021	**2021**	**2020**
Income by General Ledger type	£	£
Advertising	44	44
Bank Interest	3	108
Donations: General (includes expenses donated back)	16,645	1,665
Donations (Payroll & Local Giving)	709	3,906
Fundraising (excluding Raffles)	0	40
Fundraising (Lottery)	394	211
Grant Income	17,975	53,509
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	527	2,717
Membership Subscriptions	1,729	1,651
Sale of Goods & Services	0	8
Sales Stand (BCS)	704	51
Sales Stand (Third Party/Concessions)	0	260
	38,730	**64,170**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2021
(continued)

Income by Cost Centre	**2021** £	**2020** £
Designated Funds : HQ:Covid-19 Virus	0	1,358
Designated Income Funds : IWA Christopher Power Award	1,000	0
Restricted Income Funds : BC Community Fund: Weed & Seed	3,500	0
Restricted Income Funds : Big Lottery Fund: Reaching Communities	5,000	5,000
Restricted Income Funds : Cosgrove Bridge LEADER Fund	0	39,266
Restricted Income Funds : HDH Wills Wildlife Grant	0	500
Restricted Income Funds : Heart of Bucks Covid Grant	0	5,000
Restricted Income Funds : National Lottery: Cosgrove Lock Island Garden	6,200	0
Restricted Income Funds : Skinners Lady Neville Grant	500	0
Restricted Income Funds : VAHT: Covid Grant	0	2,000
Unrestricted Funds : Events & Functions	582	381
Unrestricted Funds : General income (includes expenses donated back)	20,219	9,014
Unrestricted Funds : HQ: Membership	1,729	1,651
	38,730	**64,170**

Expenditure by General Ledger type		
Advertising	711	1,204
Building purchase	250	2,312
Computer, phone & internet charges	765	793
Event costs	274	12
Fuel, oil & sundries	1,448	1,323
General office expenditure	48	600
Grant-funded wages	4,868	5,070
Hire of premises	433	374
Insurance	6,078	4,461
Licences & permits	150	204
Materials	12,627	37,593
Plant & Equipment purchases	5,300	19,752
Plant & vehicle maintenance	4,483	1,898
Plant hire	270	200
Professional Fees	437	0
Refreshments & Hospitality	416	242
Road tax	275	352
Stationery, printing & postage	2,248	2,001
Subscriptions	179	99
Training & Development	1,080	0
Travel Expense : Mileage Claims (Mostly donated back, includes previous year)	8,047	0
	50,387	**78,490**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2021
(continued)

Expenditure by Cost Centre	**2021** **£**	**2020** **£**
Designated Income Funds : Cosgrove Bridge Match Funding	0	14,564
Designated Income Funds : Foyle Trust	0	5,000
Designated Income Funds : IWA Christopher Power Award	600	0
Designated Income Funds : Large Excavator Fund	0	6,560
Designated Income Funds : M J Camp Charitable Foundation	0	2,484
Designated Income Funds : Rank Trust	0	1,000
Restricted Income Funds : BC Community Board: Weed & Seed	3,352	0
Restricted Income Funds : Big Lottery Fund : Reaching Communities	5,003	5,468
Restricted Income Funds : Co-op Local Fund	0	137
Restricted Income Funds : Cosgrove Bridge LEADER Fund	0	20,161
Restricted Income Funds : D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	2,750	0
Restricted Income Funds : Heart of Bucks Covid Grant	0	900
Restricted Income Funds : Heart of Bucks Equipment Grant	0	1,179
Restricted Income Funds : IWA John Faulkner Cosgrove Bridge Grant	960	0
Restricted Income Funds : NHB Micro Grant	0	1,058
Restricted Income Funds : National Lottery : Cosgrove Lock Island Garden	256	0
Restricted Income Funds : Postcode Local Trust Grant	9,044	2,500
Restricted Income Funds : VAHT Thriving Communities	0	2,312
Restricted Income Funds : VAHT Community Chest	0	601
Unrestricted Funds : Events & Functions	184	218
Unrestricted Funds : Membership	26	131
Unrestricted Funds : Navigator magazine	642	615
Unrestricted Funds : General expenditure	9,658	8,454
Unrestricted Funds : Plant & Equipment	3,518	1,047
Unrestricted Funds : Restoration works	11,428	1,729
Unrestricted Funds : Vehicles	2,966	2,372
	50,387	**78,490**
Balance of Expenditure over Income	**-11,657**	**-14,320**
Reconciliation		
Bank and cash balances at 01/12/2020	45,301	59,621
Expenditure in excess of income for the year	-11,657	-14,320
Bank and cash balances at 30/11/2021	**33,644**	**45,301**
Designated/Restricted Funds Remaining	12,122	17,887
Unrestricted Funds Remaining	21,522	27,414
Total funds remaining	**33,644**	**45,301**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Buckingham Canal Society		
On accounts for the year ended	30 November 2021	**Charity no (if any)**	1156662
Set out on pages	1 to 3		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 / 11 / 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: [redacted] **Date:** 11/1/2022

Name: DR JOHN PHILIP BARBER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Retired Chartered Accountant

Address: ASH TREES, GREEN LANE, ASPLEY GUISE, MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8EN

We are grateful for the continued support of our patron Lord Boswell of Aynho as well as Lord and Lady Scott of Foscote

Discussions with relevant organisations are ongoing to establish further partnerships both formal and informal. We have existing partnerships with the following:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA)**
- **Buckingham Town Council**
- **Buckinghamshire Council (BC)**
- **Canal & River Trust (CRT)**
- **Deanshangar Parish Council**
- **Environment Agency (EA)**
- **Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)**
- **West Northamptonshire Council**
- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)**

We are grateful for the ongoing support of:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch**
- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch**
- **Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers**

We have been recognised by the following:

- **Cosgrove Parish Council**
- **Foscote Parish Meeting**
- **Maids Moreton Parish Council**
- **Old Stratford Parish Council**
- **Thornborough Parish Council**
- **Thornton Parish Meeting**
- **Milton Keynes Council**
- **Deanshangar Parish Council**

We thank our corporate members for their continued support as well as WRG, IWA and Canal & River Trust for their ongoing support, help, and partnership.

Wyvern Shipping Co.

Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.

Nikon

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Taverners Boat Club

Braunston Marina

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

LIONHEARTS CRUISING CLUB

Donations in kind

We are pleased to record the following donations in kind, from organisations that have provided us with valuable services during the year rather than direct financial contributions:

Organisation	**Service**	**value**
Buckinghamshire Council	Raster and vector map data for canal route	£20,000
Salesforce.com	Project Management software	£14,400
Canal & River Trust	Training, materials, and equipment	£15,000
Cosgrove Marina	Portacabins and materials storage facility plus mooring and Wi-Fi	£5,500
MKSET	Storage adjacent to bridge one and at canal side field at Cosgrove	£4,000
Microsoft via TT Exchange	Microsoft software	£44,000
	Total	£107,900

The trustees are pleased to confirm that the accounts have been reviewed and approved by an independent examiner and no issues of concern found. The examiner's statement above page is from the form which will be submitted to the Charity's Commission after the AGM. John's signature and address has been redacted for the purpose of this report.

Agenda item 8 – election of trustees

In accordance with our constitution, one third of the trustees must stand down each year and may stand for re-election. During the year, Lee Whiting and Jo Lynch have stepped down as trustees is just one trustee for election.

.

Nominee	**Proposer**	**Seconder**	**Comment**
Athina Beckett	Terence Cavender	Amanda Robinson	Re-election as trustee

Full list of trustees for completeness are:

Trustee	**Role**	**(re)elected**
Rob Morris	Chairman	March 2018
Colin Levett	Grants Officer	March 2018
Richard Dwight	Treasurer	March 2018
Terence (Terry) Cavender	Executive Officer	March 2018
Anthony Smith-Roberts	Health and Safety Officer	March 2017
Athina Beckett	Trustee	March 2017
Gerry Millard	Trustee and construction manager	March 2019
Paul Sayer	Trustee and construction engineer	March 2020



Above the 2019 AGM held March 2020 outside the hall due to COVID. The 2021 AGM was held online as per government guidelines.





Above left Parapet wall work on Bridge One. Above right Athina at the history festival in 2019 which was sadly again cancelled this year due to COVID.





Above left Hallam Land Management staff are one of the corporate groups to have helped seen at Bourton Meadow (AB). Right starting the work scraping the bed at section three near Bridge Two

Do you dig canals?

.... *We do!*

Thank you for joining us for our Annual Meeting. Do you feel you could help us further? Below are just some of the things we do that you can get involved in. Please come and have a chat with any of the members of the committee. If you already are part of it, then thank you and please show this to someone new so they can get involved as well.

Publicity	**Planning**	**Projects**	**Event organiser**
Fundraising	**Become a trustee**	**Conservation**	**Restoration**
Brickwork	**Maintenance**	**Digging**	**Hedge Laying**
Grant writing	**Budgeting**	**Recruiting**	**Heritage**
Lengths-person	**Journalist**	**Editor**	**Project Manager**
And many others!			

Please use this document, 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.





Above left rewatering section 2 towards the oil pipeline crossing
Above right rebuild flood sluice near bridge two

BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1156662

Accounts

Trustees' report and accounts

for the year ending 30th November 2020







- ✓ ***Bridge One completed***
- ✓ ***Water is under the bridge***
- ✓ ***Piling is removed.***

Agenda

Saturday 20th March 2021 by electronic meeting

1) Introductions
2) Apologies
3) Minutes
4) Matters Arising
5) Trustee's Report
6) Treasurer's Report Year ending 30.11.2020
7) Adoption of Accounts
8) Election of Trustees
9) Resolutions
10) Members' questions.
11) Any Other Business
12) Closing Remarks

Photographic copyright is acknowledged, and owners are identified by initials

CL Colin Levett
MF Mike Freeman
SM Steve Morley
RW Richard Winnett
AM Alan Mynard
TC Terry Cavender
KD Kate Dodington
UK unknown



Above – LEADER and IWA plaques at Bridge 1, which is now completed
Front cover – Top - Bridge one first tractor crossing November 2020 (SM), Bottom left - Water under the bridge (MF)
Bottom right - piling removal (AM)

Chairman's Introduction



It is with great pleasure that I write the introduction for the Buckingham Canal Society's Annual General Meeting. I would normally add how good it is to see everybody, however with the use of technology I am not sure how many will have their cameras on or are sitting in their pyjamas so avoiding the camera.
It has been a challenging year for the society as it has indeed been for everyone. Time lost due to COVID 19 and the lockdowns when we could only carry our essential safety work, then the impact of tiers and social distancing including the loss of outside companies spending a day volunteering with us.

All is not doom and gloom. As you will have seen from social media and Navigator, those volunteers who have been able to get on site have achieved many impressive milestones. Standing out is the completion of the bridge at Cosgrove, removal of the pilings and water under the bridge. What does this mean for us? Well, we can now remove the old farm crossing and get on with opening the first stretch of navigation, from which arises the key question, which boat will be first under the bridge and who will she be carrying? We have had some outside groups brave the challenges and come along. I worked alongside the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, a fantastic group of young people who cheerfully threw themselves at every task, worked hard but with a sense of fun and community. Other groups have included Network Rail and Hallam Land Management.

As we look to a hopefully brighter future, we now have a new trustee who is a qualified archaeologist. Amanda will be looking at taking plans forward to carry out an archaeological survey of our proposed areas of development. More of this later.

Our community engagement has continued despite all the restrictions doing their best to trip her up and slow things down. We are in a good position to continue to enhance our community engagement across the board once things return to normal. Marketing has taken on a more coordinated and professional approach and is working closely with all areas of society to maximise our exposure.

We continue to work closely with Canal and River Trust (CRT) including our help to clear a manmade beach out of the Grand Union near to the tunnel entrance at Stoke Bruerne, as well as delivering bags of MOT1 for towpath work. This is a reciprocal relationship and CRT offers vast amounts of support, often behind the scenes, such as use of their tugs and hoppers without which we could have made the progress we have so far. This special relationship benefits both BCS and CRT alongside the general network of canal users in our area. It is a relationship the trustees and I are keen to maintain and develop.

Colin has again worked tirelessly in applying for grants. This is where those of our supporters who cannot come to site for numerous reasons can offer practical support that makes a real impact on our abilities to deliver the society's goals. Please like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter etc, forward our posts, re-tweet comment. If you don't follow us, please do - it's an immense help with grant applications especially when people like and share posts. If you are not on social media, then ask family and friends. The more activity on social media the more the society is known about and grows. Our future reflects these efforts, every single like or forward grows our support and helps advance the society's goals.

Rob

Rob Morris, Chairman BCS

This annual report

This document has been produced, printed and published by the Trustees of the Buckingham Canal Society which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered number 1156662.

The Society's registered address is 2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8A

Bridge one and rewatering under it - done!



Despite everything the COVID pandemic threw at us in 2020, its done:

1. The bridge is completed
2. It is in use for the farmer's traffic as shown on the front cover. Well done to everyone as we have achieved this milestone.
3. The 65-year-old piling has been removed
4. Dredging is under way including the removal of the soil bund (dam)
5. The temporary farm crossing has already been partly removed and the gates replaced with fence and hedge. The remaining boards are now in use as a compound for repairing the towpath at that location

That's the five fingers for the high five 😊

Stop planks are now also in place under Bridge One to enable us to progress with the towpath bank repairs and plans are afoot to relocate the main bridge compound to bridge two.







Above top left Cosgrove Bridge One first tractor crossing (SM). Above bottom left WB LOUISE dredging near the bridge (TC). Above right our new excavator removing one of the bog mats from the bridge void (CL).

Agenda item 3

Draft minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 21st March 2020, at Buckingham Community Centre

Trustees present:	Rob Morris- BCS Chairman (via facetime), Terry Cavender- Executive Officer. Colin Levett (Grants Officer), Richard Dwight (Treasurer), Gerry Millard
Members present:	Ruth Millard, Steve Morley, Claire Cavender, Clare Tupman, Tony Purbrick Alistair Palmer, Matthew Lane
Apologies:	Alison Leighton, Lord Boswell, Phil Mulligan- CRT, Sarah Willetts- CRT Jan Roffe- Grants Officer AVDC, Richard Parry- Chief Executive CRT

NB. As 11 members (including 4 Trustees were present, the meeting was deemed to be quorate.

Terry Cavender was appointed to Chair for the Meeting.

The following members had given their proxy vote for the Meeting to the Chairman, if required:

532 John Webber	596 Janet Davies	505 Alan Hall
579 John & Jan Halford	244 Athina Beckett	260 Rodney & Wendy Evans
391 Rima & Richard Scott	239 Jill & Don Allison	555 Bernard Page
407 Ros & Jeremy Woodford	249 Nigel Bromley	496 Richard Lewis
600 Richard Dwight	609 Les & Sheila Franklin	308 William Thomas
546 Alan Mynard	636 Robert Jones	501 Diane & Andrew Witts
428 Chris & Jean Beddard	562 Rhona & John Bate	463 Pat & Chris Durham
626 Ray & Margaret Titmus		

As the country (and the World)! was in the grip of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) epidemic, the AGM was conducted as a business meeting only. There were no guest speakers or refreshments, and the meeting was held in the car park so that the requisite safe spacing between persons could be achieved. Further, the pen was re-sanitised between each person signing in.

1. Annual Report for Year 2018/2019

   This was presented by the Chairman who went through the Report in detail and answered several relevant questions.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 23 March 2019

   These were agreed and unanimously accepted.
   Proposed: Claire Cavender Seconded: Colin Levett

3. Treasurer's Report for Year 2018/19

   These were presented, agreed and unanimously accepted.
   Proposed: Steve Morley. Seconded: Clare Tupman

4. Election of Trustees

   Proposed Candidate: Paul Sayer
   This proposal was agreed and unanimously accepted.
   Proposed: Terry Cavender. Seconded: Rob Morris.

5. Any Other Business. None
   .
6. Close Meeting Closed at 1920hrs. .

Agenda Item 5 - Buckingham Canal Society Trustees Report

Overview

Despite the COVID19 challenges it has once again, been another great year for the Society. Bourton Meadow continues to flourish as a mature canal section with a rich range of biodiversity now fully established. Our work at the Cosgrove bridge has achieved a major milestone with the tractor crossing and the piling removed. The continuance of the in-water sections at Cosgrove have further demonstrated real progress. The solar pump remains operational and rewatering at Hyde Lane and our many great partnerships continue to firmly position the society for the short and medium term. Financially our health allows us to remain viable despite COVID and loss of income from events. Thanks to our members, donors, grantors and other benefactors for allowing us to keep our financial head above water. Thousands of hours of hard work have once again been given to the society by trustees current and past, volunteers, members, partners and supporters. The current trustees thank you all for your time, energy and funding to keep us on track to the reality of restoration.

We continue to enjoy support from MKDons as the significant adjacent landowner and are formalising the access track to the canal at Cosgrove following the granting of planning permission. This will ensure BCS has unrestricted access to the bridge and the canal channel. That will make materials and equipment access much easier as the current track through the farmyard is at risk of damaging the sewer that runs under it. Grateful thanks to the commercial team at MKDons for supporting us through the planning discussions for this.

Despite the COVID delays, we are continuing to progress discussions with a local quarry operator that should result in medium term restoration of around another 5 miles of the canal.

Crane boat LOUISE



Above WB LOUISE moored at Cosgrove with CRT tug 212 and a flat waiting to start unloading the hopper of dredging which is out of picture at the Buckingham Arm (TC).

As many of you will know, LOUISE the crane boat joined us last Christmas after BCS were lucky enough to be offered the boat by Rob Locatelli of Canal and River Services. Fitted with a HIAB crane, powerpack with pallet grab, grab bucket and a hook option.

We have used these items for a range of tasks during her life with BCS so far including:

- Removing the piling at Bridge One
- Dredging the Buckingham Arm with the grab bucket
- Recovering washed in gravel at Stoke Bruerne
- Offloading bags of grit at Long Buckby

She will also be used for the offloading of dredging's from the hopper at Cosgrove, removal of the bund (dam) materials at the bridge and transport to the bridge of materials when access track conditions are too wet.

At the time of writing we now have four qualified helmsmen plus four awaiting assessment. We also have two crane operators with plans to have another two go through certification.

Dredger PERSERVERANCE

BCS have now also been offered an additional purpose-built dredger formerly owned by the Environment Agency. Called PERSERVERANCE she is currently on the Basingstoke Canal and plans are afoot to bring her to Cosgrove in the Spring of 2021.
Our thanks to the CRT East Midlands Operations Team who have kindly arranged for the licence fees on both workboats to be discounted by 100% in recognition of the work we are able to do in assisting the Ops team and other voluntary groups in the Southern Area of the East Midlands Region

Inter-charity co-operation

In this Annual Report you will see the accounts and financial statements for the year. In addition to this we benefit from a range of gifts in kind which do not show up in the accounts, but which form a significant contribution to our aim of restoring the Buckingham Canal.

Thankfully the old negative attitudes of British Waterways to restoration are in the past and we can maintain a much more co-operative relationship with the Canal & River Trust (CRT). This relationship has positively flourished working with the Ops team in East Midlands. In the past year we have received

- The loan of a tug to go to Brentford and transport 'Louise' back to Cosgrove
- Registration and licence fees for the workboat
- Silt/soil environmental testing for the excavations at Cosgrove
- Training for work party members, including pole saw, woodchipper, boat handling and hedge laying.

This is all in the spirit of mutual co-operation; for example, as soon as 'Louise' arrived at Cosgrove she was used to help re-float a sunken CRT maintenance boat. She has since been loaned to CRT for the distribution of materials to sites inaccessible by delivery truck for towpath repairs at Long Buckby, working with other local canal volunteer groups. CRT East Midlands do not maintain their own crane boat, preferring to hire in craft as necessary, and borrowing 'Louise' in exchange for other support is therefore to the mutual benefit or CRT and BCS.

A few years ago, BCS re-laid the towpath along the Buckingham Arm to Bridge One, which while this is CRT land, it has been to our benefit for transporting materials to site and for the boaters accessing their moorings.

Future scheduled collaborative work includes CRT providing 'soft' piling for the deteriorating bank at Cosgrove junction. BCS will set up this and use the area to deposit the dredgings and spoil from removing the bund in front of Bridge 1, enabling BCS to dredge the arm prior to connecting the wet and dry sections. Therefore, CRT get the canal bank repaired and BCS have somewhere to deposit the material which would otherwise cost many thousands to cart away and tip.

By looking at the bigger picture and working in partnership we can carry out work to enhance the waterways in ways which do not necessarily affect the balance sheet.

Steve Morley, work party volunteer

Community Engagement – Aimee

It has been a funny old year, started really well with a great session at Stoney Stratford library during February half term, after which I was asked to do more across the other libraries in MK, sadly though a few weeks later Lockdown version 1 hit just before the Easter holiday for schools and the time I would have been running them. The feedback from the first one was great from both the families attending and the staff at the library so at least I know that my ideas were well received.

Terry and I also visited both Northampton and Milton Keynes colleges early in the year, both were set to start work with us early in March; again, Covid thwarted those plans entirely as both cancelled the week they were due to begin. We have since hosted a day with The Milton Keynes students in November and plan to have them back after the Holidays end in January.

As you can imagine Covid has made getting to schools and such pretty much impossible as they are not currently allowing outside speakers in or school assemblies or offsite visits. Many scout groups and similar

groups are also suspending outside visits as well which has meant that I have not been able to organise events for them This is a shame however I made use of a few training seminars and online courses and put most of my time into helping out the marketing team and looking at increasing our social media presence as a way to get people involved. There were a couple of excellent seminars about increasing volunteering and I will be excited to get my teeth into this hopefully this year as soon as restrictions allow.

COMMUNITY FUND

Five-year grant 2019-2024



I attended the farmers market in Stony Stratford at the end of August (pictured above) which, although quiet, was overwhelmingly positive. I have tried to book a slot at the Buckingham one but to no avail yet. When restrictions ease in tier 4 I will be booking in to do Wolverton, Stony and some others closer to Buckingham as well. Unfortunately, the new restrictions make it harder to do this particularly when juggling school closures too!

The Social media presence was helped by sharing posts from the page into various local groups which did result in a lot of enquiries and 3 new volunteers for the week we did the dredging. This should be something we do now as a matter of course so I am periodically sharing important posts with them. Also, I attended the Leighton Buzzard Charity Christmas market, despite freezing conditions and a fog that did not lift all day! I gave out a fair amount of literature and made just over £75 on the stall, selling books and bric a brac that Athina kindly passed on to sell.

Most recently I have been planning and meeting with a Cosgrove local who happens to be a landscape gardener/builder about the proposed community garden on the Lock island at Cosgrove, he is very willing to help out as much as he can which is really good. I have also submitted some proposals for wildflower seeds and cutting equipment in order to run some family and youth-oriented workshops over the Spring and Summer

Thanks to our people

As always, a massive thankyou to all our partners, volunteers, members, supporters, neighbours and many others. A few examples of some of the less visible works are:

- Keith Rawlings – ongoing as our structural engineer. Keith is a seconded volunteer via the IWA and BCS fund the professional indemnity insurance for this secondment
- Colin Levett –amazing in managing the various grants. You will read in the accounts the grant income. We believe it's averages out to about 5 hours effort for each £1,000 of grant income and that's a lot of time …. and money
- Ian Matson – our newsletter editor. Although working remotely, Ian continues to help us with the excellent Navigator and various other posters etc

BCS Craft Group

The BCS Craft Group continues to create a range of items for sale although this has been affected by COVID. Subject to restrictions, the group meet on the last Thursday of each month usually in Stony Stratford or sometimes in Pennyland. Members can bring along any crafts they are working on to show and discuss with other members. The other main task is to help with the making of rag rugs which we sell at festivals for £25 each raising funds for the BCS. The group is also in need of a supply of old Tee shirts to keep the rag rugs going. If you can help in any way or want to join the group, please contact Athina ***athing.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk***

Strategic Plan

We are fortunate to have the help from Geoff Lambert who has helped BCS develop a Strategic Plan. This sets out the 11 themes we are pursuing in re-creating the waterway to Buckingham. The plan is a living document and sets out the progress we expect to make in a rolling 2-3-year window with a focus on the progress we want to make in the next 12 months. This is designed to ensure we have a clearer understanding of the range of tasks we need to undertake and who we need to partner with in achieving our goals; the order in which events need to take place and ensure that we obtain the necessary authorities to proceed; protect the environment and biodiversity of the route; maximise landowner and Community involvement, and plan for appropriate income streams in the future.

If you would like a copy of the Strategic Plan or feel able to help in its maintenance as an important part of the restoration, please contact any of the trustees preferably by email to

Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

What's in a name?

We need a few names. The restoration programme has various phases and the use of phase 1 and phase 2 etc is a little boring. It's also a recommendation that we name the phases when applying for the large £1M+ funding. So, looking for suggestions of names for these phases

- Phase 1 – was Buckingham.
- Phase 2 – Cosgrove Bridge One to the A5
- Phase 3 – Cosgrove down to and under the A5 and along to Watling Street Bridge
- Phase 4 – Watling Street Bridge to Passenham Quarry
- Phase 5 – Passenham Quarry to Hyde Lane
- Phase 6 – Hyde Lane to Buckingham
- Phase 7 – Buckingham Terminus

We also have a new girl on the team affectionally known as "The Big Orange Beast". A second-hand excavator bought with various grant contributions and donated funds. She is already in use helping move the "bog mats" as well as digging some serious holes.
"Big Orange Beast" is no title for a lady - she needs a name 😊. So thinking caps on please and email the trustees with suggestions to Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Left is the "new" Hitachi 16 tonne ZX160-LC excavator

- She weighs in at 16 tonnes
- made in 2003
- has around 10,000 hours on the clock
- the 42" wide digging bucket lifts over a cubic metre of material out of the ground each bucket full
- 3 people can stand in the bucket!
- the grading bucket is the size of a bathtub

BCS Talks

Athina is hoping to continue giving talks in 2021. None were undertaken in 2020.

Hours and Work Parties

2020 has seen an amazing year for volunteer time despite COVID with over 5,000 hours on project sites. More than a further 3,000+ hours have been given by our trustees and management team outside of the project site work. That's a staggering total nearing 10,000 hours voluntary effort equivalent to over 1,400 person days and in lottery terms around £125,000 of match funding value in volunteer time! Given COVID "getting in the way", this is a remarkable achievement for the year

This time on site has been achieved once again via companies, groups and Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) visits to work alongside our own volunteers. Without the assistance of the groups that have attended, much of work achieved during last year may not have happened.

BCS now run work parties on most Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as the 2nd Sunday and last Sunday each month. This makes a total of over 150 days when work is planned to happen each year. The work parties have a range of tasks and everyone is welcome to join any of them.

- The second Sunday and alternate Thursdays are usually run by Athina and focus on vegetation, painting, and towpath and similar work
- The Tuesday, "in between" Thursday and last Sunday focus on bricklaying, equipment maintenance and construction work.

Everyone is always welcome to come and join in!





Above left - hedge planting at the bridge steps and right Hyde Lane after a bit of a tidy up!

Membership

Membership numbers remain steady: although, with sadness, we have lost a few of our older members. With the aid of our online payment system provided by Golden Giving and our increased presence on Social Media, we have been able to attract some new members during the year. The online payment system works in co-operation with another charity, Golden Giving and can be used by people wishing to join for the first time or by existing members to renew their membership. For more information please visit: https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/buckingham-canal-society

Publicity & Re-Cycling Stall (formerly the Bric a Brac Stall)

Below is a list of outings for the Publicity and Re-Cycling stall in 2019 and the money raised for the Society. We are always looking of items to sell on the stall which includes books and jigsaws as well as bric-a-brac. It is hoped to continue this in 2021

Saturday 15th December Bucks Christmas Fair	£95.70
Wednesday 6th February Books Sale Bicester Tractors	£20.00
Saturday 23rd March BCS AGM	£19.00
Sunday 28th April Buckingham Spring Fair	£46.00
Saturday 8th June Stony Riverside Festival	£72.50
Sat 15th - Sun 16th June History Festival	£45.35
Sat 29 = Sun 30th June Braunston Historic Boats	£25.00
Sat 29 - Sun 30th June "	£315.30
Sat 29 - Sun 30th June "	£200.00
Saturday 20th - Sun 21st July BCS Cosgrove	£310.50
Saturday 27th July Linslade	£117.55
Sat 24th - Mon 26th August IWA Waltham Festival	£268.28
Saturday 14th September Braunston Literary Festival	£153.00
Monday 11th November Folding Bikes	£100.00
Total	£1,788.18

Our updated information and membership leaflet introduced last year, along with an additional leaflet focused on providing information for Corporate volunteer groups, are available. Increasing our membership numbers remains a continuing priority. Our thanks to Jean, Chris and Vernon for their work supporting the membership administration.

Social Media

We have again increased our presence on Social Media. Even if we don't use it in our personal lives, we all know people who are avid users of these services and it is a required outlet for information these days. We have considerably increased the scope of people who now know about the BCS. Our Facebook page continues to have an increasing number of followers (over 1,600 at time of writing) and is an important outlet for information concerning our activities and plans. We have also spread out onto Twitter and Instagram to post photos and snippets of information about what we are doing.

To find us:

Search Facebook for "Buckingham Canal Society": or go direct to https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamCanalSociety/

for Twitter: @BCSocietyUK

on Instagram: BuckinghamCanalSociety

And we have not forgotten our website either. Thanks to Alan for acting as Webmaster and making minor updates to the content of the website to ensure that it is up to date with the progress we have been making and our plans.

Projects and operational

The Projects group continues to meet monthly to cover all the operational aspect of BCS including maintenance, events and work party planning. We have a conference call each month currently on the 3rd Monday when we work our way through multiple tasks regarding each project and section of the canal. This also ensures we are prepared when opportunities arise that will further the canal restoration work, whilst at the same time ensuring focus around governance and strategy for the trustee meetings. If you would like to be involved, please contact any of the trustees Trustees@buckinghamcanal.org.uk .

Another much-valued member of our team is Keith Rawlings who is a structural engineer. Keith continues to kindly give us his time “pro bono” in this role and has been helping us in the design of the structural elements such as Bridge One at Cosgrove and the towpath wall.

We are always looking for further help both on the ground and in “back office” roles. Please think of everyone you know and how they could help us as we continue the drive for restoration. That help might be on a work party, fund raising, becoming a member, lobbying local councillors, or joining in the management of the society to help guide us to the next stages. We all believe in the aim of restoration and many discussions at early stages are driving this to become very real.

Site by site - Cosgrove

Alongside our major achievements of Bridge One at Cosgrove, we have also now started to rewater section two and beyond the oil pipeline into section three taking us towards Bridge two. Rewatering is under way to rehydrate the clay bed on these sections subject to water availability etc. In addition to this, work to finalise building up the towpath level to mitigate its erosion over the years is approved and can proceed subject to enough people and weather. All the sections in water to varying depths are thriving in terms of vegetation and wildlife.

We are hoping for a grant to form a new winding hole near bridge two. We also continue to finalise design solutions with CRT and relevant landowners. Meanwhile, the water level is being maintained and we aim, subject to COVID, to remediate this coming summer the small number of leaks that have not self-sealed. Then we will complete the bank raising and the towpath stone surface.

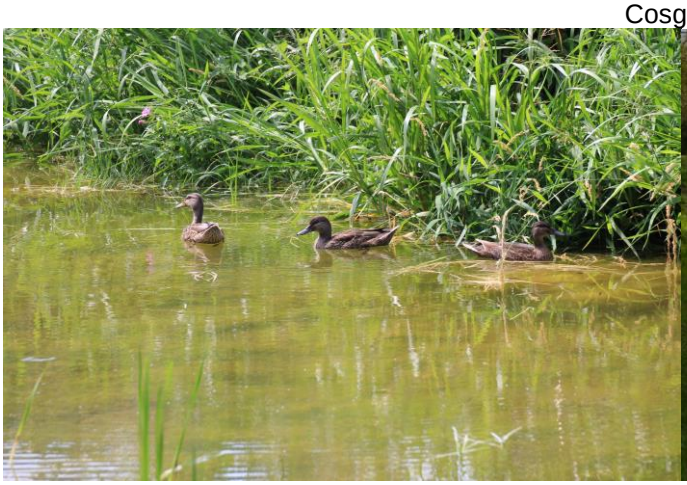








Above top left bridge one before completion wit work in progress. Above top right is after completion Above middle left "that's what a hundred and thirty tonnes of MOT/1 looks like". Above bottom right last of the parapet walls nearing completion. Below: Wildlife enjoying the offside wetlands at Cosgrove and the swans exploring the open water at Cosgrove





Site by site - Hyde Lane Nature Reserve

The solar panel, pump and control system continue to bring water into the old canal section and maintain levels subject to the depth of water in the reservoir and amount of sun. This is deliberately a slow process as we make efforts to repair tree roots and animal burrow damage to the clay with an aim to maintain the water level once rewatered. The slow rewatering also allows wildlife to adapt.

Most of the channel here is ready although will need leak remediation as it is gently rewatered to allow the clay to fully rehydrate and not wash through. We anticipate that rewatering will reduce the overall effort to manage the canal bed vegetation.





Top left and top right: previous volunteers at the Hyde Lane Lock

Site by site - Little Hill Farm

A mile of the canal has previously been cleared and the bridge restored. No work has been undertaken this past year at Little Hill Farm although we hope to return there soon to clear vegetation.



Above: the farm bridge restored by BCS at Little Hill Farm

Site by site - Bourton Meadow

Bourton Meadow remains as our flagship section of restoration and is very much in water. Other than too much or too little water, no issues have affected this stretch other than the virulent growth of the planting. The wildlife continues to thrive with further sightings of rare butterflies, dragon flies and birds being reported to name but some.

This section of canal continues to receive much praise from the residents, dog walkers and others, who make use of this blue-green space on the fringe of Buckingham. Much effort has gone in to pruning some of the enthusiastic plants and plans are still in hand to harvest seeds of locally prevalent plants for use

elsewhere in the canal network both in Buckingham and potentially beyond. We are extremely grateful for the support from Nick Hawes of ATN Farms in allowing us to retain this section of the canal.









Above top: wildflowers attracting many insects and birds; Bottom right: one of our residents smiling for the camera at Bourton Meadow after its reeds had been cleared (bottom left).

BCS Festival and craft fair

Our long running and ever popular annual event, the Cosgrove Canal Festival and Craft Fair regrettably both fell foul of COVID. The trustees await guidance from Government and CRT before planning this year's events.

BCS Fundraising

Our income has been severely reduced due to COVID both directly through cancelled events and indirectly through grant bodies targeting different criteria.

However, we have been fortunate to receive during the year further grants including the below. We are especially grateful to Colin in his work as grants officer.

Please note that some of these figures are different to the grant funding amounts shown in the accounts. This is because not all awarded amounts have been processed &/or expended in the 2019/20 financial year

Funder	Value £	Purpose
Vales of Aylesbury COVID 19 Fund	2,000	Contribution for core costs
Bucks Local Authority Discretionary Grant	1,358	Contribution for core costs
HDH Wills	500	Wildlife support
Heart of Bucks Coronavirus Fund	5,000	Contribution for core costs
Total	**6,858**	

Marketing and Communication

I discovered the Buckingham Canal close to my home in Buckingham, during Lockdown #1 – having lived in the town for nearly 3 years, I had no idea of its existence! Whilst being furloughed from my role as a Head of Local Sales and Marketing for a large UK restaurant chain, I decided to find out more – and found the proposed plan fascinating as it includes much diversity across not just restoring a waterway, but historic architecture in the form of the bridges and buildings, wildlife, tourism potential, and so much more.
So a phone call later, and I volunteered to 'help' with publicity to tell more local people along the length of the canal about what BCS do – and within a very short space of time took on the full marketing role, with a small team of volunteers in support, and also have now become a trustee.

Covid inevitably put much activity on hold during 2020, but there are now plans to increase our exposure to people and businesses, in the form of:

- A comprehensive marketing plan to encourage new volunteers, members, supporters and just general interest in what we do
- A robust social media plan, to increase our following and engagement to a wider audience
- Engagement and interaction with other historic waterways / canal restoration groups, to share learnings and best practice
- Increasing the already great work carried out in our local communities via Aimee, our Community Engagement Officer
- Improved way fair and general signage, and interpretation boards along the length of the Canal

Another big piece of work undertaken in my early stewardship of the marketing team, is to ensure we remain compliant and legal in terms of GDPR. In renewing your membership, or interacting as volunteers, you will have been contacted to 'opt in' or 'opt out' of receiving communications from us, to ensure we are only sending you what you want to hear about. This would include all forms of communication, such as receiving the Buckingham Navigator, our new regular bulletin, volunteering opportunities and details of work party groups, and so on.

As mentioned previously in this report, our social media following is increasing and reaching a wider audience across the entire UK canal network, which is important for us in terms of interaction with other canal groups, businesses and of course people, whether they are local to our Canal, or further afield. If you are a social media user, please do follow us, like, comment or share our posts – and help us spread the word further. It really does help!

Jo Lynch, Trustee ; Marketing and Communication

Heritage and Archaeology

During a rather difficult year for the society and its volunteers, an immense amount of progress has been made with regards to the conservation and heritage of the canal.

At Cosgrove, the rebuilding and restoration of bridge one has been completed with a clear distinction made between the original bridge and the restorative building of the new bridge including the flanking drystone walls, which took volunteers several hundred volunteer hours to complete. There is also a Buckingham gate in place along the wall to give us access to different areas, those who would like to know what a Buckingham gate is, are encouraged to visit Cosgrove to view it.

The Chairman and I spent many hours collaboratively writing an archaeology plan that will cover us across all sites requiring archaeological investigations and possible excavation. The society hopes to start the preliminary archaeological investigations early in 2021 with a view to starting excavations in late spring to early summer, subject to consent from the landowners. This work will be conducted in phases, which are explained in the archaeology plan.

Throughout 2020, we have conducted site visits to all the sites that will be investigated as part of the planning applications to allow continuing work on the restoration of the Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal. These sites include but are not limited to: Passenham, Little Hill Farm and Thornton Bridge. We have made several attempts to contact the local authority to meet with the heritage officer with a view

to having Thornton Bridge included on the local heritage at risk register, unfortunately this has not yet been achieved although we hope to be able to update you on progress for this soon.

In early 2021, the society hope to start clearing the overgrowth at Bridge two. This will enable us to conduct a more detailed survey of the area and develop a plan of action as to how to protect her in the best possible way both for the society, the landowner and the local community.

It is the society's desire to create a heritage trail along the canal showing historic information and pictures as to how and when the canal was built, what it was used to transport, and when each section was closed.

Amanda Robinson, Trustee; Archaeology and Heritage

GDPR

New data protection legislation came into force in May 2018. The law applies to all public bodies, businesses and other organisations that process personal data, which includes the BCS.

1. Our GDPR principles
    a. we will process all personal data fairly and lawfully
    b. we will only process personal data for specified and lawful purposes
    c. we will endeavour to hold relevant and accurate personal data, and where practical, we will keep it up to date
    d. we will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary
    e. we will keep all personal data secure
    f. we will endeavour to ensure that personal data is not transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) without adequate protection

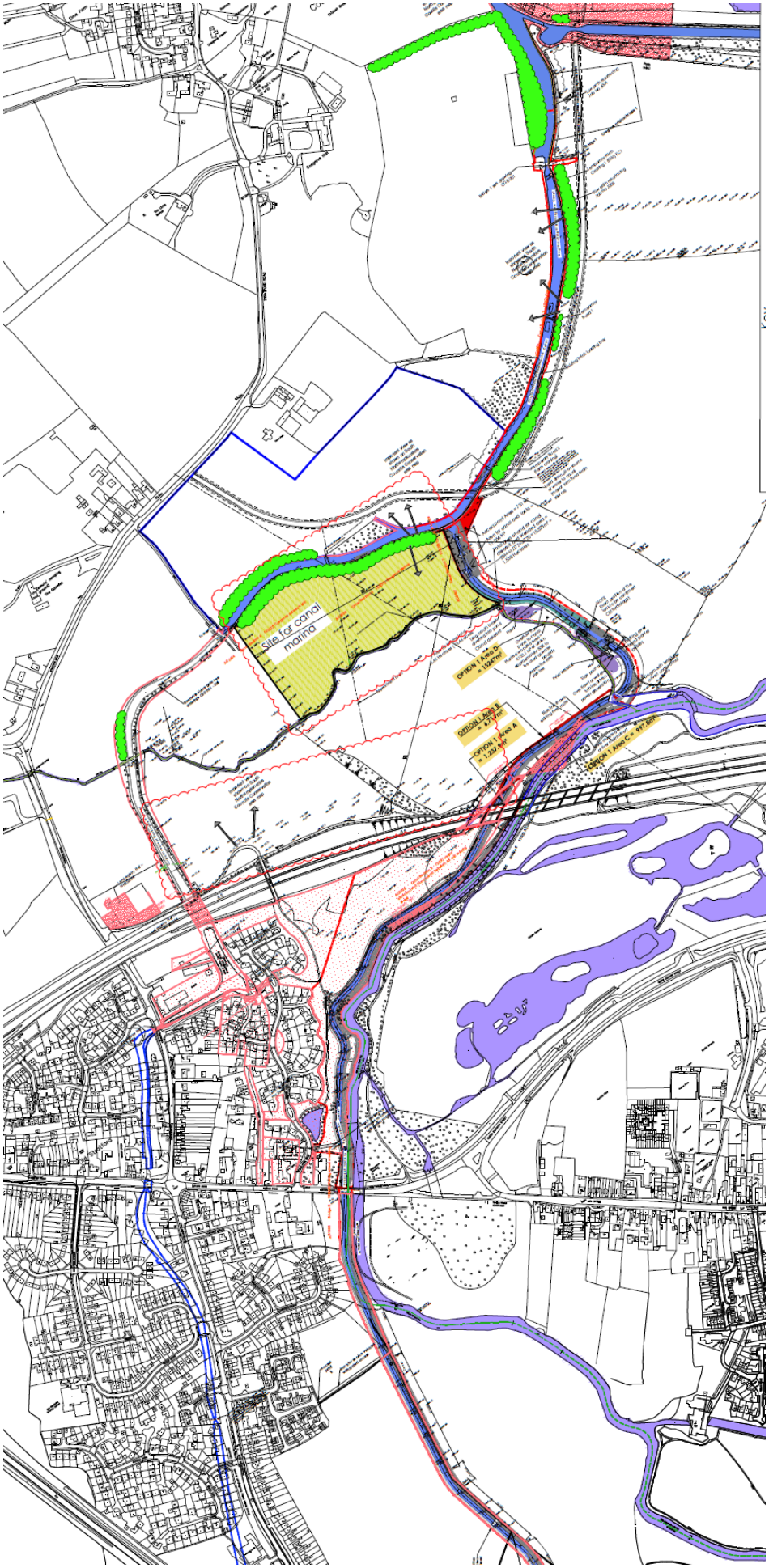
2. GDPR compliance
    BCS will be complying with the GDPR as a controller and processor of data.
    We will implement the relevant policies and practices to ensure we protect any data handled by the BCS – for its employees, customers, suppliers, partners and stakeholders.

Further details can be found on our website





Above left one of the amazing rebuilt stone walls on the bridge approach ramps.
Above right the piling being told its days are numbered and prepared for extraction.



Probable restoration route from the Cosgrove bridge westwards

Agenda item 6 and 7 –Treasurer's Report and Accounts

We are all very tired of Covid and it is a common theme running through our annual report. Whilst the worst of the pandemic may appear to be over by the time you read this, the financial affects will rumble on for some time. We have been lucky enough to receive some Covid related funding, but not enough to offset our usual levels of income. We are looking at ways to increase income to cover our core costs. As this is the less glamourous aspect of our work it can be more difficult to find grants for, but without which we would cease to operate.

While costs in general remained static in the last year, one area where they are rising is insurance, a market where fewer companies are operating in this sphere owing to poor returns. Unfortunately, we cannot achieve our goals without it, as we would not be able to perform many of our more technical restoration tasks. It is our biggest single overhead which we have little control over.

The second claim under the LEADER Grant for the bridge reconstruction at Cosgrove was successful, which has made up the bulk of our income this year. As referred to elsewhere, most of the work has been completed.

Thank you to those of you who have agreed to Gift-Aid your membership fees and donations to us. The sum received is well worth having. As a reminder, Gift Aid forms are available on our website, or through contacting any of our trustees or other officers. It is important to tell us if you are no longer a UK tax-payer, or if your name or address details have changed.

As our AGM is online this year it may be more difficult to deal with questions, so if there is anything you would like information on or have explained, then please do get in touch via our website.

Richard Dwight, Treasurer

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2020

		2020	**2019**
Income	Note	£	£
Festivals/Events/Functions		381	1,887
General Sales (Events, Goods & Services, including advertising)		52	2,948
Grants/Donations (Unrestricted Use)	1	5,886	17,131
Grants/Donations (Designated Use)	2	1,358	8,500
Grants/Donations (Restricted Use)	3	51,766	56,404
HMRC Gift Aid		2,717	1,941
Interest		108	285
Membership Subscriptions		1,651	1,987
Raffles/Lotteries		251	379
		64,170	**91,462**
Payments			
Administration/Overheads (Excludes IT costs)	4	6,723	6,951
Festivals/Events/Functions		218	835
IT Costs (Software licences, web access etc.)		794	337
Newsletter/Magazine/Printing/Postage/Stationery		718	1,521
Publicity (excluding Events & Functions)		146	346
Hospitality/Refreshments/Expenses for guests at meetings etc.		231	199
Restoration (Unrestricted)	5	5,736	12,198
Restoration (Designated)	6	29,608	2,401
Restoration (Restricted) Including Support Workers	7	34,316	33,514
Training and Development		0	527
		78,490	**58,829**

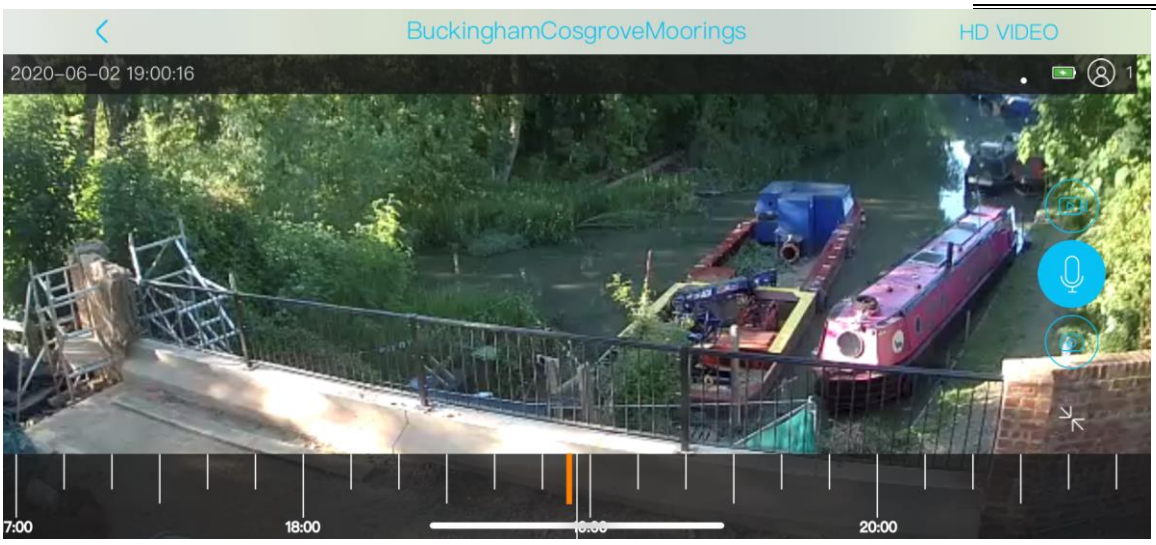
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2020 (cont'd)	2020	2019
	£	£
Balance of Income over Expenditure	**-14,320**	**32,633**
This inbalance was incurred as a result of the match-funding required as a condition of the LEADER grant and to complete the works on Cosgrove bridge		
Reconciliation		
Bank and cash balances at 01/12/2019	59,621	26,988
Expenditure in excess of income for the year	-14,320	32,633
Bank and cash balances at 30/11/2020	**45,301**	**59,621**
Designated/Restricted Funds	17,887	28,687
Unrestricted Funds	27,414	30,934
	45,301	**59,621**
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS		
1 Grants/Donations Received (Unrestricted Use)		
Braunston Marina	0	30
Buckinghamshire Council	0	100
Charities Trust	0	50
Co-op Local Fund R4	0	2,788
Internet-based anonymous donation sites	245	53
IWA	0	300
Mark Master Masons	0	200
Pitney Bowes (LCVS)	4,292	3,913
Private Donors	849	9,697
VW Group	500	0
	5,886	**17,131**
2 Grants/Donations (Designated Use)		
Foyle Foundation (Plant sinking fund)	0	5,000
M J Camp Charitable foundation (Plant sinking fund)	0	2,500
Rank Foundation (Plant sinking fund)	0	1,000
Buckinghamshire Council Covid Grant	1,358	0
	1,358	**8,500**
3 Grants/Donations (Restricted Use)		
Alpkit Foundation - Benches	0	250
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities	5,000	5,000
Buckingham Town Council (Tools and equipment)	0	1,150
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	0	3,000
Foundation for Social Improvement	0	60
HDH Wills Wildlife Grant	500	0
Heart of Bucks Covid Grant	5,000	0
LEADER Fund (Cosgrove Bridge)	39,266	31,272
MK Heritage Association (Ouse Valley Walk leaflet)	0	276
NHB Micro Grant	0	1,058
Radcliffe Trust	0	2,500
Santander	0	500
South Northants Community Fund	0	1,007
Tesco Bags of Help	0	1,000
Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust	2,000	9,331
	51,766	**56,404**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2020 (cont'd)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2020	2019
4 Administrative Expenditure	£	£
General Marketing & Advertising	0	0
Insurance Premiums	4,461	2,513
Membership of other organisations	99	99
Miscellaneous (Premises hire, legal fees)	1,167	483
Office equipment & furniture	0	9
Printing & Photocopying (Includes magazine, events and projects)	985	0
Trustees Expenses	11	3,847
	6,723	**6,951**

5 Restoration (Unrestricted Funds)		
Bourton Meadow Re-watering Project	0	15
Cosgrove Access Track	0	285
Cosgrove Bridge enabling works	259	868
Cosgrove Channel Re-watering Project	115	3,644
Cosgrove Marina (£2000 Partial refund of planning fees)	0	-1,544
Cosgrove Storage Facility	147	135
Plant, Tools, PPE, Vehicles & Equipment	2,686	3,624
Routine Works & Maintenance, Running Costs, Fuel	2,529	5,171
	5,736	**12,198**

6 Restoration (Designated Funds)		
BCS Excavator Fund	6,560	0
Cosgrove Bridge BCS match funding for LEADER Grant	14,564	2,401
Foyle Trust	5,000	0
MJ Camp Charitable Foundation	2,484	0
Rank Trust	1,000	0
	29,608	**2,401**



Above CCTV cameras mounted on Bridge One.
This allows us to remote monitor security and safety of the site and equipment

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2020 (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS	**2020**	**2019**
7 Restoration (Restricted Funds)	£	£
Adviza BBF (Support Worker employment costs)	0	36
Alpkit Foundation - Benches	0	250
Beds and Luton Community Foundation (solar pump)	0	53
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities	5,468	2,110
Co-op Local Fund	137	0
Cosgrove Bridge Project (LEADER Grant)	20,161	18,451
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	0	250
Foundation for Social Improvement	0	60
Heart of Bucks Covid Grant	900	0
Heart of Bucks Grant 1	0	136
Heart of Bucks Grant 2	1,179	0
MK Heritage Association (Ouse Valley Walk leaflet)	0	276
NHB Micro Grant	1,058	0
People's Postcode Local Trust Grant	2,500	846
Santander	0	526
South Northants Community Fund	0	1,022
Tesco Bags of Help (Tools and equipment)	0	225
Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (Community Chest)	601	0
Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (Thriving Communities)	2,312	9,273
	34,316	**33,514**

Donations in kind

We are pleased to record the following donations in kind, from organisations that have provided us with valuable services during the year rather than direct financial contributions:

Organisation	**Service**	**value**
Buckinghamshire Council	Raster and vector map data for canal route	£20,000
Salesforce.com	Project Management software	£14,400
Canal & River Trust	Training and equipment	£10,340
Cosgrove Marina	Portacabins and materials storage facility plus mooring and Wi-Fi	£5,500
MKSET	Storage adjacent to bridge 1 and at canal side field at Cosgrove	£4,000
Microsoft via TT Exchange	Microsoft software	£44,000
	Total	£98,240

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Buckingham Canal Society		
On accounts for the year ended	30 November 2020	**Charity no (if any)**	1156662
Set out on pages	1 to 4		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 / 11 / 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [redacted] **Date:** 11/2/2021

Name: Dr John Philip Barber

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body Retired Chartered Accountant

(if any):	
Address:	[illegible]

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

The trustees are pleased to confirm that the accounts have been reviewed and approved by an independent examiner and no issues of concern found. The examiner's statement above page is from the form which will be submitted to the Charity's Commission after the AGM. John's signature and address has been redacted for the purpose of this report.

We are grateful for the continued support of our patron Lord Boswell of Aynho

Discussions with relevant organisations are ongoing to establish further partnerships both formal and informal. We have existing partnerships with the following:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA)**
- **Buckinghamshire Council (BC)**
- **Deanshangar Parish Council**
- **Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)**
- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)**
- **Buckingham Town Council**
- **Canal & River Trust (CRT)**
- **Environment Agency (EA)**
- **South Northamptonshire District Council**

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of:

- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch**
- **Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch**
- **Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers**

We have been recognised by the following:

- **Cosgrove Parish Council**
- **Maids Moreton Parish Council**
- **Thornborough Parish Council**
- **Milton Keynes Council**
- **Foscote Parish Meeting**
- **Old Stratford Parish Council**
- **Thornton Parish Meeting**
- **Deanshangar Parish Council**

We thank our corporate members for their continued support as well as WRG, IWA and Canal & River Trust for their ongoing support, help, and partnership.

Wyvern Shipping Co.

Nikon Optical UK. Ltd.

Nikon

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Taverners Boat Club

Braunston Marina

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

LIONHEARTS CRUISING CLUB

Agenda item 8 – election of trustees

In accordance with our constitution, one third of the trustees must stand down each year and may stand for re-election.

During the year, Jo Lynch and Amanda Robinson were co-opted and hence stand for re-election. Alan Mynard stepped down as trustee and continues as Webmaster. Hence there are 2 trustees for election.

.

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Comment
Jo Lynch	Terence Cavender	Rob Morris	Re-election as trustee
Amanda Robinson	Terence Cavender	Rob Morris	Re-election as trustee

Full list of trustees for completeness are:

Trustee	Role	(re)elected
Rob Morris	Chairman	March 2018
Colin Levett	Grants Officer	March 2018
Richard Dwight	Treasurer	March 2018
Terence (Terry) Cavender	Executive Officer	March 2018
Anthony Smith-Roberts	Health and Safety Officer	March 2017
Lee Whiting	Trustee and equipment manager	September 2018
Athina Beckett	Trustee	March 2017
Gerry Millard	Trustee and construction manager	March 2019
Paul Sayer	Trustee and construction engineer	March 2020
Jo Lynch	Trustee; Marketing and Communications	November 2020
Amanda Robinson	Trustee; Archaeology and Heritage	November 2020

Agenda item 9 – resolution

The Constitution was originally established 20 years ago, there are more objectives now. The trustees propose to amend the Society's constitution.

- To promote the restoration of the Old Stratford and Buckingham Arms of the Grand Union Canal to full navigable order and to promote the maintenance and improvement of the Waterway in the interests of heritage, conservation, biodiversity, water betterment and the local quality of life.

- To promote the fullest use of the Waterway by all forms of waterborne traffic and for all forms of water-related commercial, local amenity, tourist and recreational activity for the public benefit and to use the restoration as a catalyst or wider social, economic and environmental regeneration in areas neighbouring the canal.

- To promote the education of the public in the history and use of the canals and waterways and Buckingham Canal in particular.

If approved by the members, this will be referred to the Charity Commissioners for their ratification.



Above the 2019 AGM held March 2020 outside the hall due to COVID





Above left Parapet wall work on Bridge One. Above right Athina at the history festival in 2019 which was sadly cancelled this year due to COVID.





Above left Hallam Land Management staff are one of the corporate groups to have helped seen at Bourton Meadow (AB). Right starting the work scraping the bed at section three near Bridge Two

Do you dig canals?

.... *We do!*

Thank you for joining us for our Annual Meeting. Do you feel you could help us further? Below are just some of the things we do that you can get involved in. Please come and have a chat with any of the members of the committee. If you already are part of it, then thank you and please show this to someone new so they can get involved as well.

Publicity	**Planning**	**Projects**	**Event organiser**
Fundraising	**Become a trustee**	**Conservation**	**Restoration**
Brickwork	**Maintenance**	**Digging**	**Hedge Laying**
Grant writing	**Budgeting**	**Recruiting**	**Heritage**
Lengths-person	**Journalist**	**Editor**	**Project Manager**
And many others!			

Please use this document, 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.





Above left rewatering section 2 towards the oil pipeline crossing
Above right Cosgrove preparing to start towpath repairs now bridge is opened