

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.*

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 has 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

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!



**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 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

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	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
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**Expenditure by Cost Centre**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
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
	<u>49,318</u>	<u>50,387</u>
Balance of Expenditure over Income	<u>-2,615</u>	<u>-11,657</u>

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	<u>31,029</u>	<u>33,644</u>
Designated/Restricted Funds Remaining	6,715	12,122
Unrestricted Funds Remaining	24,314	21,522
Total funds remaining	<u>31,029</u>	<u>33,644</u>



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 signature]

Date:

12/11/2023

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.



**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:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>value</u>
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.

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