



Trip Boat is on its way

The boat has finally been ordered and is being built by Colecraft in Southam Warwickshire. We expect it will be delivered in April to be operational in May. There is still much to do, the electrical systems aren't fully designed yet, we expect to start making the tables ourselves in January. Please contact me if you could help make 18 wooden tables and we have to paint the interior in April/early May, help is needed for that too. Training the crew will start in the spring, quite a major task to train a Boatmaster to the MCA standard required for a 60+ passenger vessel. And the helms, deck crew and galley crew all have to have properly documented and internally assessed training before we can take on passengers in May. We still need some more volunteers to help on the boat one or two days per month. Please contact Don Allison if you would like to help.

We have ordered the boat despite not having raised all the purchase price even after the generous contributions of our sponsors: Barrus Engines, Owatrol Oil, Axiom Propellers, Worcester Marine windows, Leesan, Hempel paints and Brian Ward control panels. These companies have saved us over £10k, please give them your support when you can. We are still trying to raise more towards the cost of the boat and reduce our reliance on loans that we have to pay interest on. If you can help either by making a further donation or by helping fund raising or applying for grants please contact Don Allison.

Bookings have now opened for the boat from May 2013. Trips will be running every Saturday and Sunday twice per day. There will be a short trip each morning through the Town lock and back, with a 2-2 ½ hour trip in the afternoon through both Town Lock & Cardington Lock on Saturday, and upstream to Kempston on Sunday. During school holidays there will be two additional trips on Thursdays.

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'Love Bedford' welcomes boat

Bedford businesses have welcomed the idea of a boat bringing new customers to the town in 2013.

Recognising the river as being one of the top attractions in the town, the board of the Business Improvement District (BedfordBID) has agreed to give £5,000 towards the craft.

BID Chair Kevin Kavanagh has campaigned for greater use of the riverside for some years. Together with BID member Dominic Mills, General Manager of the Bedford Swan Hotel, which sits alongside The Embankment, Kevin met with Graham Mabbutt and Patrick Hall, former MP and part of the team which originally founded the BID in 2005, to discuss the idea. A subsequent meeting of the BedfordBID board agreed the sponsorship because of the benefits it will bring to the whole town.

BedfordBID will promote town centre businesses to customers coming to Bedford for boat trips - so when people step on dry land they know where to shop and eat for the rest of the day or evening.

Christina Rowe Director of BedfordBID said: "We are making a small

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Stop Press

As we go to press we have just heard the news that Covanta have agreed to construct a section of the waterway. Covanta are the company who are building a waste incinerator near Stewartby. As part of their planning conditions they will build a 0.1 km stretch across their site and two access bridges. Graham Mabbutt, Chairman of the Trust said "This is a great boost to the project which is now really gathering momentum". It is not known when the work will be completed but we hope to bring you further details in our next edition.



View From The Chair

As I write this in mid-December ready for you all to read in the New Year it's time to reflect a little and look forward a lot!

2012 was a year of steady progress for the waterway with a number of successful events happening and plans slowly coming to fruition. The appointment of Sir Samuel Whitbread as our first Patron, a successful Information Evening and A.G.M., and then in November our largest ever Partnership Conference at the Open University with an inspirational talk by the former Technical Director of British Waterways, Jim Stirling, who told us all about the project that built the Falkirk Wheel. We have set ourselves high standards to achieve in 2013.

The old year also ends on a positive note, you will have seen elsewhere in the newsletter that the Bedford Business Improvement District Board have sponsored the B&MK Community Boat to the tune of £5,000 with a further amount to follow if all goes well! And Bedford Borough Council has made up to £40,000 available as a loan at a low rate of interest which we can draw down if and when needed. Needless to say the more money we can raise in donations and grants then the less we will need to borrow!

The New Year opens with an exciting outlook; the launching on the Great Ouse at Bedford of a Trip Boat in May, the excavation of linear ponds that will form part of the waterway in the new Marston Vale Innovation Business Park and the adjoining stretches. So, plenty to look forward to at the Bedford end of our waterway route. In the middle of the route in Central Bedfordshire we look forward to the commissioning of a study to map the way forward by Ridgmont Station and behind the back of the Amazon building up to Brogborough Hill where we will need the equivalent of our own Falkirk Wheel!

At the Milton Keynes end the planning moves relentlessly on! A revised "Core Strategy" and a "Strategic Land Allocation Plan" and a Distribution Centre Planning Application all of which affect the waterway route are currently under discussion and your B&MK Trust directors are trying to get the best deal possible from the Council and the developers.

Milton Keynes Parks Trust have appointed a Commercial Leisure Development Consultant to look at the Newlands and Willen Lake sites to see what new developments could take place to enhance the visitor attraction and help facilitate the first section of the waterway from the Grand Union Canal into Willen Lake. Discussions are also taking place with a developer with a view to working together to progress the link from Willen Lake into Broughton Brook. MK Council has also commissioned a study on behalf of the



B&MK Waterway Consortium on flood and navigation management of the Broughton Brook. Thank you to all Trust members, volunteers, partner organisations, sponsors and individual supporters who have worked so hard to get us this far. All in all a lot is going on to keep us all very busy and we look forward to seeing this bear fruit as the waterway develops in 2013.

Bedford Bid continued from p1

contribution towards something which will be of a big benefit to Bedford. People are always saying that we do not make enough of the town's greatest asset and here is something which will bring new customers into the town centre".

Graham Mabbutt, Chairman of the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust said: "We are delighted to receive the support of the Bedford Business Improvement District. With the Community Boat and the "Love Bedford" campaign we are aiming to work with Bedford BID to promote the river and the business in the Town Centre and alongside the river as well as generating support and finance for the Trust".

Talks Report

Last year our speakers gave 15 talks to a total of around 550 listeners. Besides spreading the word about the proposed B&MK canal useful funds from donations are gained for the Trust.

Special thanks are due to our enthusiastic and knowledgeable speakers – David Fowler, Hilary Goldsmith, Roger Crews and we are pleased to welcome Paul Leech back on board. Patrick Hall has also given several talks to business clubs locally. Six talks are arranged for 2013.

If your group/association would like a talk this year, please contact us and if anyone would be interested in joining the Talks Team we would be happy to hear from you.

John & Sally Gunning (Talks Organisers)
Tel. 01234 305925
email: talks@b-mkwaterway.co.uk

B&MK News

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Comments or articles for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to

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Boat Project continued from p1

All public trips will depart from by the Market Square car park at the junction of Horne Lane, River Street & Commercial Road. MK40 1QS. This is between the Star rowing club and the Court building. See <http://www.bmkwaterway.co.uk/documents/Bedford-Community-Boat.pdf> for more information and prices. The boat is also available for private charter for parties etc, The 'booking office' is open 7 mornings a week from 9.30 to 13.00 and on Wednesday & Thursday afternoons from 13.30 to 17.00.

People may contact us by emailing bmkboat@gmail.com or calling 0330 1239 511 from a mobile (as part of your call allowance) or free on 0800 3282 803 from a landline. You will save the Trust 1p/ minute by calling the 0330 number! Payment is preferably by Credit/Debit card and PayPal. We currently have 7 volunteers doing 3 ½ hour shifts to offer the service from their homes, and we would like more so we could extend the afternoons and offer some evenings. If you could accept calls at your home regularly once a week, either mornings, afternoons or evenings, please contact me through the booking service by either email or phone. We also want someone that could take the out of hours calls on the BT answerphone service. Please publicise the service to all your friends and work colleagues and encourage them to take advantage of the 20% discounts we are offering in our first year to build popularity.

We would like some more crew volunteers if you could spare one or two days per month. The most urgent need now is help with marketing. Whether it is writing script, designing posters and flyers, helping with material for the new website or phoning prospective companies and schools etc. every hour offered would be a great help, again please contact me through the

The B&MK Waterway Consortium

The Trust is one of 9 organisations that make up the Consortium responsible for taking the waterway project forward:

Bedford Borough Council
Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust
Canal and River Trust
Central Bedfordshire Council
Environment Agency
Marston Vale Trust
Milton Keynes Council
Milton Keynes Parks Trust
Milton Keynes Partnership

The Consortium meets twice a year and works through two steering groups which cover the Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire/Bedford sections of the route.

booking service. More help with admin and secretarial work, DIY and engine maintenance, web development or any other skill you can offer will be very much appreciated. Volunteers will be offered free pre-launch trips on the boat with their families in April or May to test out all our systems before the first paying passengers come aboard. We will need passengers of ALL ages, some in wheel chairs and some with walking and hearing difficulties etc.

Roger Crews

Hello and welcome to members who joined in 2012

Simon Judge, London
John Glock, Leighton Buzzard
Stephen & Janet Thompson, Milton Keynes
Ruth Lutt, Bedford
Mr & Mrs Jayaraman, Milton Keynes
Hester Gallen & Phil Savage, Simpson
Dorothy Croston, Milton Keynes
Michael Annan, Fenny Stratford
Adrienne Jessop, Marston Moretaine
Jacquie Manners, Elstow Village
Roger Mason, Buckingham
Carin Jackson, Rugby
Richard Bouchier, Milton Keynes
Rodney & Doris Squires, Thame
Anthony Newberry, Royston
Simon Ling, Stourbridge
Mr & Mrs Lawrie, Cambridge
Peter & Denise Lawrence, Corby
Paul & Lesley Johnson, Cottenham
Ron Spencer, Long Melford
Mrs Barlett, Harlington
Tom Davies & Emma Ayre, Leighton Buzzard
Sonny Vincent, St Neots
John & Rosemary Coyle, Maulden
Richard Hills, Aylesbury
Tim Hatton, Bromham
Neil Scott, Bedford
Jean Moore, Clapham
Mr & Mrs Groff Gypps, Bedford
Keith Thompson, Bromham
Mr & Mrs Garrick, Bedford
James Sheehan, Higham Ferrers
Debbie Bradshaw, Biggleswade
Matt Edgeworth, Bedford
Rita Barnish, Bedford
Jim Curtis, Bedford
Susan Barrow, Bedford
Phil Swinbank, Milton Keynes
Dave & Barb Isherwood, Bassingbourn
James Glass, Bromham
Mr & Mrs David Evans, Greenfield
Peter & Isabel McDonald, Milton Keynes
Ian & Kathryn Morse, Bedford





Designing A Waterway for the 21st Century



Alex Rowbotham is a B&MK Trust member and is studying for a Ph.D. at the Open University. His research looks at how we can design the B&MK Waterway for a more sustainable future.

Alex, tell me something about your background.

My previous career has been in engineering and design, across both manufacturing and research, working for Lucas Automotive and Defence Science Technology Laboratories (Mod Research). I've also spent time in academia, at Northumbria, Cranfield and now the Open University. Since 2006 I have been focusing on Sustainability, through a Science Masters and various research projects. My choice to do a Ph.D. was driven by both employment requirements and a desire to become deeply involved in subjects I really enjoy.

How did you first hear about the B&MK?

While studying at Cranfield University there was a presentation on the proposed waterway. Creating a new waterway was such a fascinating idea and I could instantly see the potential. I come from Burnley in Lancashire where the canal is central to local history. We had family holidays on the canal and I used to play around (and in) them, so they have always been a part of my life. They are places of recreation and beauty, while also allowing for a mysterious solitude.

What is your main research interest?

In short my interest is in design and how it can enable sustainability. My research is based around the belief that sustainability is desirable, will require great change from our present position and that design can help bring about that change. Change at such a level does occur, and is called a transition. It involves a wide range of groups and factors, at all levels in society, working to bring about radical change over a long period of time (40-50 years). So more specifically I am interested in how design practices can enable sustainable transitions.

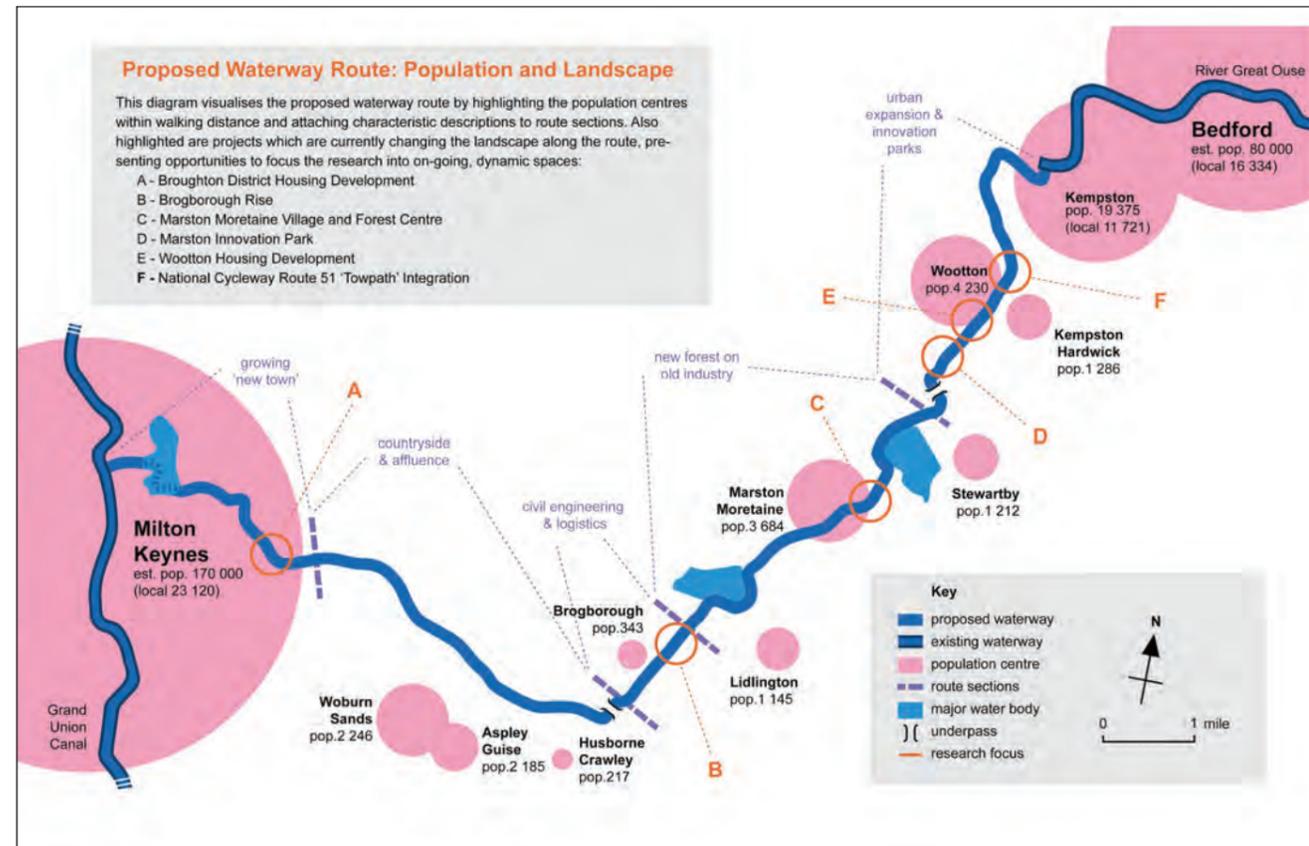
How does the B&MK waterway fit in with this?

The inland waterways infrastructure of the UK has a rich history, involving social and technological changes brought about by historical transitions. For instance, the inland waterways supplied fuel and food to centres of commerce enabling the transition to mechanisation, the infrastructures commercial role declined with the transition to steam power and the resultant rise of the railways, and finally the waterways have been rescued through social activism and a rise in recreation that can be attributed to our country's transition to a service economy. From the perspective of my research this begs the question: What will happen to the infrastructure within the next major transition? This makes the B&MK waterway an ideal case study for my research, studied as part of an on-going transition to sustainability. It's a live, local infrastructure project and has many different groups actively involved, which helps with the type of research I wish to carry out.

So what exactly are you trying to find out?

Although I'm interested in some big goals, it is the practice of design which I'm focusing on exploring in the research. Design is classically seen as solving problems through the creation of products and buildings. Design can also be about wider activities; such as creating services, improving communication and

views with key people, analyse historical project documents and continue my observations of project activities. All these activities will allow the research to focus onto a particular area of the project where design practices can be implemented and studied. The exact natures of the later phases of the research are yet to be determined, but for example may be some form of exhibition or workshop which allows for public participation and engagement.



changing consumer behaviour. So I am trying to find out how these various design practices can help address unsustainability and enable us to move to a more sustainable future.

How are you going about this?

My academic work so far has concentrated on carrying out a literature review which provides a deep level of understanding of the existing knowledge in the area. This has shown that there is a gap in the research about the role of design within transitions. I have had informative conversations with people involved with the project and observed at Trust meetings. My next steps are to carry out formal inter-

What are your findings so far?

Through observations of B&MK Trust meetings and conversations with members I have come to several relevant findings. The consortium engages a range of technical experts who provide input to the many physical aspects of the waterways design, so professional knowledge of technology for environmental sustainability is available. Also, gaining participation with the project from public local to the proposed waterway route is an issue which is repeatedly raised. My research shows that, according to 2007 Census figures, approximately 68,000 people live within roughly 1 mile of the waterway, with planned housing developments only increasing this number. It is important that local people understand the waterway project and are given a chance to influence its design in their local

area. This will build a broad base of support for the project, whilst also allowing opportunities for the creation of future visions of sustainable well-being. These findings have led the research to focus on design practices around public participation, which promote communication and engagement between experts and publics.

Any surprises?

Initially it was the range of people and organisations actively involved. The B&MK Waterway Trust and Consortium represent commitment and enthusiasm from the public, commercial and civic sectors. I was surprised at the level of progress achieved in defining and safeguarding the proposed route, achieved through these groups working together and adopting a pragmatic 25 year schedule to completion. More specifically I have noticed the range of language used to describe the project, which seems to have moved from 'canal' to 'inland waterway' to 'waterway park'. These changing terms can be seen as reflecting that a contemporary waterway project needs to accommodate a wide range of users and appeal to a diverse local public, in order to reach completion and become a 'waterway for all'.

When do you expect your research to be completed?

This research is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, who now strongly dictate a 3 year Ph.D. process. On that timescale I should have completed writing up by November 2014. It is at this point I will have analysed data and be able to make conclusions and insights from the research findings. My hope is that the findings will be able to inform the work of design practitioners on future projects involving transitions. Also, that the research will provide valuable information and tools for the B&MK Waterway project to promote a more sustainable infrastructure and help make the waterway a reality.

Thank you Alex. Will you let us know your findings in due course?

Of course, I will let you know the research findings and path it takes. I will also be glad to have conversations about my research and the subjects it covers with those who are interested. Find me at future B&MK events or email me: alex.rowbotham@open.ac.uk



Bedford Waterspace Study - 'One Year On'



Bedford Town Lock

Bedford Borough Council has hosted a Bedford Waterspace Study 'One Year On' event to review progress, by the many partners involved, including the Trust, on the vast range of plans and ideas for the future of Bedford's waterspace. It was good to hear about progress on many of the plans and ideas in the Study including:

- New riverside paths and cycleways
- New and refurbished pedestrian and cycle bridges
- The major Riverside North scheme in the heart of Bedford reaching planning application submission stage
- Plans prepared and implementation imminent for restoration of the south bank's St Mary's Gardens
- A very successful 2012 Bedford River Festival
- The opening and naming of the Etienne Stott White Water Arena
- Major Bedford Town Lock improvements
- The completion and commissioning of the Boatslide Weir Hydro Power Scheme
- The Community Boat project moving to construction stage
- A series of canoe/kayak portage improvements
- Major planning, woodland creation and access improvements for the new Bedford River Valley Park to the east of Bedford

An introduction by Bedford Borough Councillor Doug McMurdo, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, and presentations by Paul Vann of Bedford Borough Council, Paul Separovic of the Environment Agency and Richard Glen of Richard Glen Associates (who prepared the Study) were followed by wide ranging discussions about moorings, locks, bridge headroom, marinas, angling and much else, with key issues

being moorings in or near the town centre and the headroom of the Town Lock and Royal Engineers bridges.

[www.bedford.gov.uk/business/strategies, plans and research/bedford waterspace study 2011.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/business/strategies_plans_and_research/bedford_waterspace_study_2011.aspx)

Paul Vann
Economic Development Manager (Growth)
Bedford Borough Council

Whatever floats your boat



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Events Calendar 2013



Date	Event
Tues 15 Jan	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.
Weds 6 Mar	Members & Local Community Update & Social over drinks and nibbles with informal Q&A. 7-9pm at The Broughton Hotel MK10 9 AA.
Sun 10 Mar	Sunday Spring Walk the Route. Meet 11am at MK coachway (free parking) to trace the route along Broughton Brook, then an optional pub lunch in Salford and minibus back.
Tues 19 Mar	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.
Sat 4 May	Parks Trust May Day Festival. Come along all afternoon to see and join in the activities next to the Grand Union Canal – Campbell Park, Milton Keynes MK9 4AD.
Mon 6 May	MK Marina Open Day. Visit the Trust displays and watch or join in the many activities on and around the water at this Bank Holiday event.
Weds 8 May	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.
Thurs 16 May	Information Evening incorporating B&MK AGM with guest speakers and refreshments to follow.
Sat-Mon 25-27 May	Crick Boat Show. Come and help on the B&MK stand or drop by and say hello (stand 102 in the Kingfisher marquee) at the biggest canal show of the year.
Fri-Sun 14-16 Jun	Great Linford Waterside Festival weekend. A free open-air event in Great Linford Manor Park to celebrate a sense of community, local heritage and the environment through music, dance, sport, food and drink with creative and participatory activities.
Tues 16 Jul	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.
Fri-Sun 19-21 Jul	IWA National Festival. Cassiobury Park near Watford. More information: https://www.waterways.org.uk/events_festivals/national_festival_2013/iwa_national_festival_2013
Sat in late Jul (tba)	Linslade Canal Festival. Visit the B&MK display stand at this annual festival with 100s of craft and demonstration stands in Tiddenfoot Waterside Park LU7 2AE.
Sat-Sun 7-8 Sep (provisional)	Woodworks festival at The Forest Centre in Marston Vale. Visit the Trust stand at this weekend festival of wood craft, trees, machines, real ale, arena displays and fantastic folk and roots music at the Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park.
Sat 14 Sep	Walk the Route in association with the Bedfordshire Ramblers Walking Festival (7 th -15 th). Bedford Town Centre along the Great Ouse.
Sun 15 Sep	Heritage Open Days: Talks and BBQ in Broughton.
Thurs 19 Sep	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.

Come and join in on walks, hear our talks or visit the Trust stand at the above festivals and activities.

Un-shaded events are open to all, events shaded yellow are for Trust members – see our website at: <http://b-mkwaterway.co.uk/join.html> to join us and support the waterway.

Please contact the Trust Project Office on 01908 302592 or info@b-mkwaterway.co.uk to register or to find out more about any of the above events. Or visit the B&MK website's Talks and Walks page at: <http://www.b-mkwaterway.co.uk/talkswalks.html> where we post more information as events get closer.



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Name the B&MK Community Boat

The B&MK Waterway Trust are running a competition asking their members and supporters to come up with a suitable name for the B&MK Community Boat. The winning name will be chosen by the Directors of the Trading Company that the B&MK Waterway Trust has set up to run the boat operation.

The winners will be invited to the naming ceremony and the launch of the boat and will have a chance of a trip on the boat on one of its first cruises along the Great Ouse in Bedford .

The competition will be open to all readers of the B&MK Newsletter and the local press.

So to win a free trip e-mail your suggested name to: bmboat@gmail.com or by post to: B&MK Boat Competition, 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell MK16 8HJ by 28th. February 2013.



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