



Covanta 'Waste to Energy' Plant to provide a section of the B&MK Waterway

You will have seen as a Stop Press Item in our last newsletter that as a planning obligation the Covanta "Waste to Energy" development has to provide for the waterway through that area. As well as including a section of the waterway it also includes two bridges under roads that cross the line of the waterway. A major complicating factor would have been the positioning of the electricity service cables which had to be placed in such a position that they do not impinge on the waterway.

The highly controversial development was referred to a Parliamentary Joint Committee. The Committee heard evidence from Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council on a range of matters, including evidence to justify our request that Covanta should be required to contribute to the delivery of the section of the Waterway affected by the development proposal (the section between and including Green Lane and the Copart access road).

The Committee members felt that there was merit in our case. Therefore the Councils have been negotiating with Covanta regarding this section of the Waterway. The outcome is that Covanta will give the Councils the funding required to construct this section of the Waterway – a total of £3,375,000. This agreement has recently been signed by all the organisations involved.

The money will be paid when Covanta is operational, so Covanta will have installed the cabling that crosses the Waterway route which enables them to connect to the National Grid first. However, to ensure that this isn't an insurmountable obstruction to the Waterway, up to £200,000 will be paid before Covanta install the cables so that the detailed design work can be done. This will ensure that the cables are installed in a location that doesn't cause problems for the later creation of the Waterway.

Community Boat Name Announced 'John Bunyan'

As the B&MK Community boat nears completion we can reveal that it is to be named after Bedford's most famous 'son', John Bunyan.

A competition to name the boat was advertised in both the B&MK News and the Times and Citizen newspaper. The deadline was 28 February 2013. and 22 names were submitted.

The criteria used to choose the name included:

- The link between the name and the town.
- The extent to which the name would have meaning for local people and tourists.
- The potential of the name to attract tourists.
- The story behind the name and its relevance to potential markets.

The name John Bunyan was chosen as providing the closest match with these criteria.

The winning entry was submitted by Basil Hubbard from Eccles-on-Sea, Norfolk. Congratulations Basil.

This is an excellent outcome for the creation of the Waterway; it puts the Councils (who are members of the Waterway Consortium) in control of the timescale and the funding for creating this section of the Waterway. In addition, the provision to carry out the design work 'up front' ensures that Covanta's cabling will be placed in a suitable position so as not to conflict with the construction of the Waterway. It also reinforces the pattern that both Councils have been setting as Local Planning Authorities; that those carrying out development along the route of the Waterway will be expected to get involved with the delivery of the relevant section of the Waterway, either by delivering it, or by fully funding it.

Continued on page 3

John Bunyan
The story behind the name on the boat.
- see page 3





View From The Chair

What a busy start to 2013. The Community Boat project moves ahead, a myriad of Boat Operating Group Meetings, meetings with potential supporters and sponsors, training for the volunteer crews, visits to the boat builders, writing, designing, printing and publication of the public and charter cruise leaflets and a host of other things including working with the students of Bedford College on marketing the boat and various cruises. I'm delighted that our boat now has a name. We hope to announce the date of the naming ceremony, and the start of the cruises soon. Watch out for these dates on the website.

In Milton Keynes I've had a host of meetings with developers, partners, and designers to try and agree detailed plans for the waterway. We are grateful for the support of David Lock Associates for all the planning work that they have done for us free of charge. This culminated in the MK Members and Supporters Update Briefing at the Broughton Hotel at which fellow trustee John Best and I gave a presentation to a mixture of Trust members, local residents, councillors and planners from Milton Keynes Council.

At the Bedford end, progress continues to be made with studies being commissioned for the waterway near Ridgmont Station going behind the back of the Amazon building close to the railway line which will become the electrified East-West Rail link. Another study is being commissioned to take the waterway under Station Road at Marston Moretaine next to a site for which a planning application has been made.

You will also have read the exciting headline news of the planning gain from the Covanta "Waste to Energy" development which was granted planning permission with the condition that the waterway construction is fully funded through that area as part of the community contribution.

On the funding side the Environment Agency is the latest partner to contribute funds to the boat project, as has Bedford College, and a very positive meeting has been held with the new Vice Chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire thanks to the intervention of fellow trustee Patrick Hall. I have also been in contact with the Chief Executive of the BIG Lottery Fund to see if there are any avenues we can explore with them since we were among the runners up for the Living Landmarks Funds in 2007 and I have briefed them on the progress that we have made since then.

2013 so far is turning out to be a very productive year for the Trust! Come and hear the latest update at our Information Evening (incorporating the Annual General Meeting) on Thursday 16th May, 7.30pm at the United Reform Church, High Street, Newport Pagnell.



Boat Project is becoming the Boat Enterprise

As I write this in Mid March, the construction of the boat's steelwork is complete and priming and undercoating will start next week ahead of schedule. My greatest worry is the ongoing difficulties with the design of the electrical systems. This is now the critical path that will determine the delivery date expected at the end of April.



Steve Braund stepped up to the plate in January to take on the added responsibility of producing our search and rescue plan, surveying the river from Kempston to Great Barford with his dog, in the cold winter months, with the river in flood. He has identified over 20 Rendezvous points to meet ambulances and fire engines, should the need ever arise, and produced a 35 page plan.

We have started to train over 40 crew members, and this will intensify once the boat has arrived and we can start the practical training. Our training has to meet very high standards set by the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) for all crew members, and for Boatmasters it is particularly demanding. Other trusts train their Boatmasters over a period of 2 or 3 years; we are attempting to do it in less than six months. Besides being able to helm the boat they have to gain a competency certificate in each of:-

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First Aid, Fire fighting, and rescue from the river. Our training is being overseen by five qualified Boatmasters from other trusts. **Kevin & Pat Crawley** long time supporters of ours and now leaders of our training programme from the Wey & Arun Trust. **Patrick Titman** who has produced much of the course material, from the Kennett & Avon Trust and the National Passenger Boat Association. **Ian Moore** and **Tim Cadle** from the Basingstoke Canal Society. All five are giving up their time to come to train our Boatmasters and crew on boats we are borrowing, and hopefully soon on our own boat. We have also received much help from the committees of all three trusts that has saved us both time and money.

We have scheduled 92 trips between June and the end of September with more planned and expected. This is already beginning to keep our dedicated phone booking team busy. The booking line **0330 1239 511** from a mobile (as part of your call allowance) or free on **0800 3282 803** from a landline, is open 7 mornings a week from 9.30 to 13.00 and on Wednesday & Thursday afternoons from 13.30 to 17.00, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. I hope that by the time you read this we will have more afternoons and evenings too. And we could still benefit from the support of more people to take calls at their homes. We will shortly be able to take online bookings through our new website: www.b-mkwaterway.co.uk/make-a-booking too.



So, we are taking bookings and will soon have a boat, now we have to deliver an excellent service, day in day out, week in week out into the winter season. For that, we need a much bigger team of part time volunteers to produce real results. The boat has cost £120,000, we have debts of £68,000 and forecast a trading loss of £4k this year that has to be turned to a profit the following year by growing turnover by 150%.

We need business managers, administrators, and coordinators to run special trips, such as 10 Santa trips with 300 presents to buy and wrap! I am getting regular enquiries for cream teas on the boat that we can't respond to without a coordinator, we don't have enough people to service and maintain the boat, and our marketing is dependent on the people who should be concentrating on promoting the Trust.

We are already developing a strong team, who are enjoying the exhilaration of being part of something special and growing. Soon we will have our very own party venue. Come and join us and be part of the team. Whatever you can do, it will make a difference. Get in touch bmksboat@gmail.com.

Finally we are grateful for the support of our many sponsors:

[Bedford Borough Council](#), [Barrus Engines](#), [Colecraft Engineering](#), [Priory Marina](#), [Bedford BID](#), [Environment Agency](#), [University of Bedford](#), [Bedford College](#), [Owatrol Oil UK](#), [Axiom Propellers](#), [Worcester Marine Windows](#), [Hempel Paints](#), [Leesan](#), [Brian Wards Panels](#), [Bedazzled LED Lighting](#), [Awards for all](#).

Roger Crews

John Bunyan – the story behind the name on the boat.

John Bunyan is probably the best known 'son' of Bedford and there is widespread, world wide recognition of his name

His life story is one which has resonance today. In many countries free thinkers like him find themselves in jail and persecuted for their beliefs. His life story also shows an interesting journey from, it is said, being a young tearaway to an upright citizen.

'Pilgrim's Progress', which he wrote whilst he was locked in the County jail for his beliefs, is his most well known publication

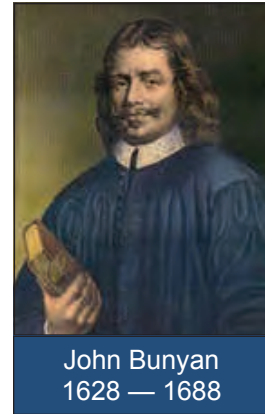
He can also be seen to be one of a number of free thinkers who are associated with Bedford. Others include John Howard, Trevor Huddleston, and Joanna Southcott all of whom have statues or monuments or notable sites around the town centre. The Free Thinker theme can lead to a variety of tourism offers – walks, visits to museums, churches and the village of Elstow where John Bunyan was born — and of course **boat trips** can soon be added to this list.

For Bunyan trail enthusiasts there is potential to attract tourists from the US market as John Bunyan is recognised in the US as a significant religious thinker.

Covanta cont.

The detail of how the design work and construction work will be carried out is still being discussed between the Councils (who will be the recipients of the money from Covanta) and other members of the Waterway Consortium.

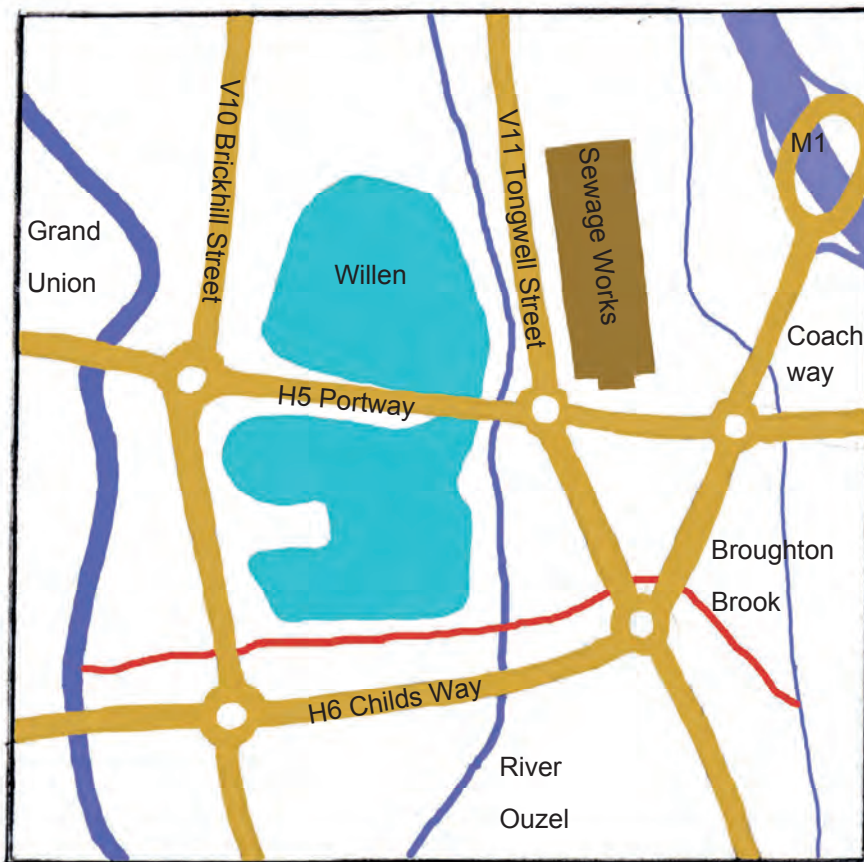
Thanks are due to the members of both the Councils' team for achieving this result, to Halcrow, who provided technical support and guidance, and to Laura Kitson in particular who had the difficult task of presenting the argument to the Parliamentary Committee.



Three Possible Routes Through Milton Keynes

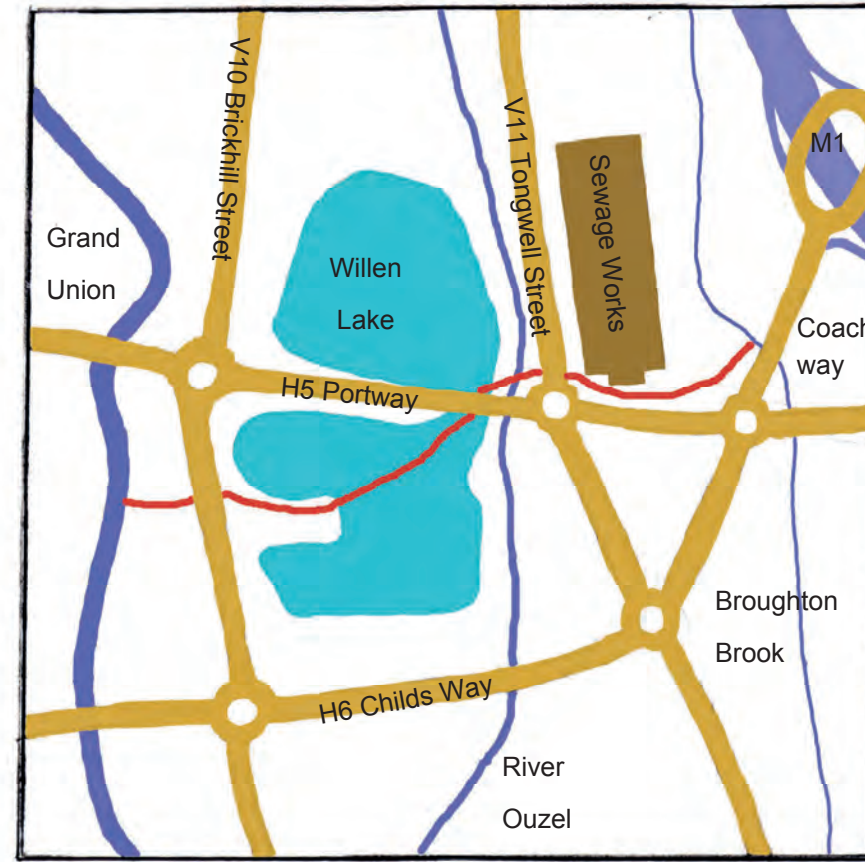
Throughout the history of the B&MK, the exact route that the waterway will follow has been continually redefined as barriers have been overcome and opportunities have arisen.

Much progress has been made in finalising the route closer to Bedford where the land is largely undeveloped, but weaving a new waterway through a built up area like Milton Keynes is more of a challenge. Currently there are three possible routes being considered to take the waterway from the Grand Union Canal to Broughton Brook which it will follow towards Kingston Bridge and onwards towards Junction 13 of the M1 motorway.



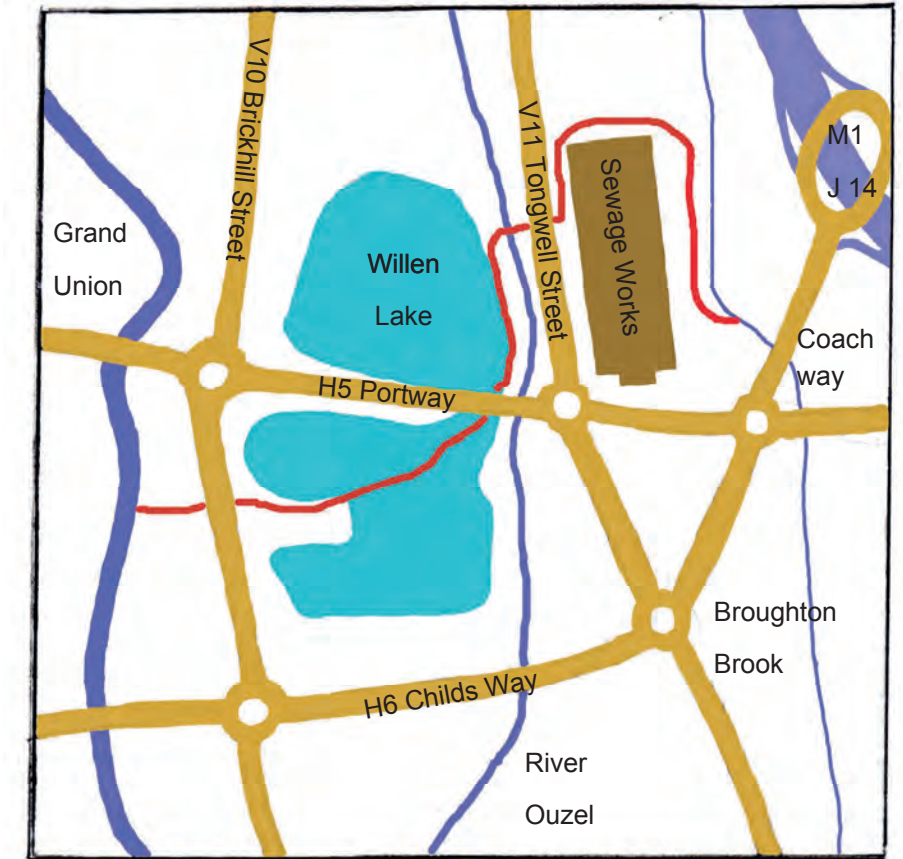
Route A

This was the original route which was developed at the time of the Lottery bid and is waymarked with marker posts and interpretation boards. It has planning permission from Milton Keynes Council but it would require a costly new underpass under Brickhill Street and its path around the Fox Milne roundabout is very tight. The route passes the Hindu centre in Atterbury before joining the brook.



Route B

This route leaves/joins the Grand Union Canal closer to Campbell Park. It runs between the two Gulliver sites and might include a deep lock to drop down to the level of Willen Lake. It could pass under Brickhill Street using the existing pedestrian/cycle underpass which would be a huge cost saving on route A. It would cross Willen Lake on a bouyed channel to avoid conflict with other lake users.



Route C

This is the latest modification. It follows route B as far as Willen Lake but then continues north to cross the River Ouzel further downstream. Like the other two routes, crossing the Ouzel would require an aqueduct but this route crosses downstream of the weir which might mean that the aqueduct could be lower. It would also join Broughton Brook lower downstream and would use existing bridges to pass under H5, H6 and V11.

Walk The Route

**Information Evening
& B&MK AGM
16th May 7.30
United Reform Church
Newport Pagnell**

Guest speakers; Paul Vann, B&MK Consortium, and Helen Preston, Buckingham Canal Society. Raffle and refreshments to follow.

Donations of raffle prizes would be very welcome



Despite the light snow, 20 people turned up at MK Coachway. We shared out hi-viz jackets then got absorbed in a much larger crowd of hi-viz jackets who were shepherding the MK half-marathon whose interest in the project was so keen they decided to join us on part of the walk! At Broughton we decided to vary the route to separate us from those occasional supporters and made our way to the A5130. Lunch at the Red Lion, Salford rounded off the morning nicely.

**Crick Boat Show
25 - 27 May**

Come and visit our stand

- or get in FREE by volunteering to help us!

Broughton Update Meeting

The Waterway Progress Update in Broughton, held on the evening of 6th March, was very well attended by a diverse group made up of local councillors, planning officers, residents, supporters and members of the Trust.



Although the MK Mayor, Cllr Catriona Morris was unable to attend due to another engagement in the mayoral diary, she sent best wishes and confirmed her continuing support for the project. David Hill, Chief Executive of MK Council, had also hoped to join us for the evening, but was prevented by other pressures on his diary.

52 people gathered at the Broughton Hotel to first hear B&MK Director, John Best, talk through the challenges and progress made with each of the planned sections through Milton Keynes, conjuring up visions of spectacular aqueducts at the gateway to MK in the southeast on the approach from M1 Jct13. John's talk was followed by opening the floor to the audience, and their opportunity to have all their burning questions answered by Trust Directors.

Questions ranged from "Are powered canal boats permitted on Willen Lake?" (answer: they will be licensed, and permitted in a buoyed off section through the lake so they don't interfere with the current lake users, or the wildlife on the north lake), to "Who should pay to mitigate the noise pollution if the route is to be pushed hard up against the M1 through section F in Eagle Farm North?" (answer: the route will be raised at this point to cross a high pressure gas main, there will not be scope in the budget for screening between the M1 and waterway - however, anecdotal evidence suggests that boaters delight in comparing their journey-style with those (suffering) the motorways!).

Other topics of discussion encompassed the effluent outflow tunnel from the Cotton Valley Sewage Works, from a retired city engineer; how to cover costs of pumping water to the 3 high-points shown on the longitudinal section of the route (answer: water transfer costs partly borne by boaters' licences, but in cases like Brogborough-Stewartby Lake where no pipe or link exists, the waterway will aid the Marston Vale water cycle strategy, and so the pumping could be a partnership between the water authorities and the waterway).

The Bedford Borough model of Marston Vale Innovation Park was widely praised and held up as an example of how to develop commercially and yet still deliver green infrastructure for the community. In areas such as MK, where the Local Authority does not own the land, the waterway route has wide cross-party support and is embedded in the local planning strategy - so the onus falls upon the planning department to enforce the provision of the route. It was great to see such a strong representation from the MK Planning Dept, who commented that they had learned a lot about the project.

Graham Mabbutt, Trust Chairman, outlined the plan to build each section in synergy with local developments, as they come forwards, so the waterway won't grow from east to west, or west to east, or even from each end and meet in the



middle, but as a series of projects - each a long thin lake that will all be joined to deliver a waterway after 15-20 years. **Claire Gathard**

Give as you Live

If you regularly shop on the Internet, you can help the Trust easily, and at no cost to yourself. Give as You Live (giveasyoulive.com) is a site which collects a small percentage of what you spend and passes it to charities. If you pick Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust as your charity, we can collect when you spend at thousands of online stores.

A few of the more popular sites are:

- Amazon 1.5%**
- Last minute.com 6.5%**
- B&Q 1.75%**
- Debenhams 2.5%**
- John Lewis 1.0%**
- M&S 1.5%**
- Asos 1.5%**
- Expedia 6.0%**
- Argos 1.0%**
- Next 0.5%**

And some sites give a single amount when you sign up. You can download an add-in for common browsers, or start at the Give as You Live site and follow the link to you favourite site. You must click the link each time you shop for it to work and so that the Trust gets a share. You pay the same price either way, so this is income for the Trust with no cost to you.

Events Calendar 2013



Date	Event
Sat 4 May	Parks Trust May Day Festival. Come along all afternoon (noon-5pm) 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 afternoon event.
Weds 8 May	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.
Thurs 16 May	Information Evening incorporating B&MK AGM with guest speakers; Paul Vann, B&MK Consortium, and Helen Preston, Buckingham Canal Society. Raffle and refreshments to follow. 7.30 start
Sat-Mon 25-27 May	Crick Boat Show. Come and help on the B&MK stand or drop by and say hello 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 27 Jul	Linslade Canal Festival. Visit the B&MK display stand (11am-5pm) at this annual festival with 100s of craft and demonstration stands in Tidden-foot Waterside Park LU7 2AE.
Sat-Sun 7-8 Sep	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 to Kempston Mill, with the option of returning by boat (subject to availability). Meet 10:30am at Aspects Leisure Centre, Newnham Ave, MK41 9LN
Sun 15 Sep	Heritage Open Days: Talks and BBQ in Broughton.
Thurs 19 Sep	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.
Thurs 7 Nov	4th Annual Partnership Conference at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick, Central Bedfordshire with the latest progress on the route from B&MK Waterway Consortium.
early-mid Nov	Projects Group at Box End Park from 6pm.

We are delighted that the Restoration Committee of the IWA has decided to include the B&MK as one of four projects featured on its stand this year.

April – date tba	Bedford Community Boat naming ceremony
June – date tba	1st public trip on the Bedford Community Boat
June – date tba	Bedford Community Boat launch ceremony

Talks Report

The Talks team continue to spread the word to many and varied groups. In March we got together and welcomed two new members, Patrick Hall and Steve Braund. David Fowler updated the team with the latest developments, putting us all in the picture. If anyone would like a talk arranged for their group or organisation, please contact us .



Back row
Patrick Hall
Steve Braund,
Roger Crews
Hilary Goldsmith

Front Row
David Fowler,
Sally Gunning,
John Gunning

John & Sally Gunning
01234 305925
talks@b-mkwaterway.co.uk

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