

Graham Receives an Award

B&MK Trust Chairman, Graham Mabbutt, was surprised and delighted to receive an invitation to attend the recent High Sheriff of Bedfordshire's Citizenship Awards Evening at The Higgins Art Galley & Museum.

Graham was amongst a number of volunteers at last month's event who received an award from the Lady High Sheriff, Deborah Inskip, for services to the local community.

On presenting the award, the High Sheriff spoke about the B&MK Waterway and what an asset it will be to the county. She also spoke about her experience on the *John Bunyan* Boat, including how she got covered with champagne at the naming ceremony.

Graham commented that he was highly honoured to receive the award for his voluntary work for the Trust, the B&MK Waterway project and the *John Bunyan* Boat project, and that he could not have contributed to the successes of the project without the teamwork of his colleagues.

Graham has been associated with the Waterway project since 2002, when he was approached by James Clifton of British Waterways to become Vice-Chairman of the B&MK Waterway Partnership Board.



Graham Mabbutt being presented with his award by the Lady High Sheriff, Deborah Inskip, at the Citizenship Awards Evening.





View from the Chair

What a very busy period we have just had. Since the beginning of December, a small group of us – led by our former Trust Chair and Vice-President, Jane Wolfson – have conducted a review of the running of our Enterprise Board, which manages the *John Bunyan* boat. We have produced a business plan for the next three years of trading. This plan included standing down the present Board and appointing a new one. The original Board worked very hard and delivered the boat project and we have a lot for which to thank them. The new Board will now have the job of running the *John Bunyan* like a business, to ensure its continued success. Both the Enterprise Company and the Trust have accepted the business plan and a new Board has been appointed under the chairmanship of Jane Wolfson. Details of the new Enterprise Board are provided in full in ‘*John Bunyan News*’.

The Trust has also been busy working with Milton Keynes Council to ensure that the waterway is accommodated in the new Eagle Farm North distribution centre development. As we could not get this section of waterway built as part of the development, we have been working instead to ensure that ownership of the land is passed to the Trust or the Council, to ensure that the land is obtained and held in safekeeping for the waterway.

Looking towards the future, we have our Annual Information Evening incorporating the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 15 May 2014 at the United Reformed Church in Newport Pagnell. Paul Vann from Bedford Borough Council and the B&MK Consortium will be giving an update on the waterway project and we are hoping to announce a guest speaker shortly.

We also need additional directors for the B&MK Waterway Trust, as David Fowler and Hilary Goldsmith are both stepping down as directors after many years of service. David was a founder member of the Trust, and although I will continue as a director I will have completed a three-year term as Chairman of the Trust. It is time for some new, younger and more energetic directors to join us. If you are interested, please do contact me or discuss this with any of the other Trust or Enterprise Company directors.

Graham Mabbutt.

P.S. Follow the B&MK Trust on Twitter: JohnBunyanBoat

MK Waterway Park

The B&MK Waterway has been broken down into A-Z sections, with the sections A-G known as the MK Waterway Park. Following is the latest update on each section.

We have reverted to the original route of the waterway, from the Grand Union Canal to Willen Lake (B1). We have done so because this section already has planning consent, and Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP), an MK Council-owned company, own the land and are planning to include in the development framework for this land a section of the link from the Grand Union into a marina development in Newlands. We hope to get some planning gain from this to progress a further section of waterway.

For the second section of the waterway from Willen Lake (C1), which also has planning consent, MKDP are planning to include the waterway into a design brief that they are putting together for Atterbury. Again, we are aiming to get a stretch of waterway through this section via planning gain.

This brings us into the Broughton Brook (sections D and E), where lack of funding is preventing progress. However, we are working with the Canal & River Trust and Cranfield University to meet the planning consent requirements.

For sections F and G, we are working with MK Planners where the land goes through the Gallagher development to ensure that not only is the route protected but the land is acquired.

For section G, we are working with the traffic and planning sections of MK Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to realign the waterway close to the A421, so that when the A421 dual carriageway is constructed, the earthworks for the waterway can be done at the same time. This is currently in the planning stage.

B&MK News

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

editor@b-mkwaterway.co.uk

B&MK Waterway Consortium: Major Achievements to December 2013



Planning Policy Support: all three planning authorities along the route (Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council) have clear planning policy support for the Waterway (see our website for details).

Economic Impact Assessment: an Economic Impact Assessment completed in 2009, identifying the significant economic benefits of the c. £200m waterway, including property and visitor economy spend uplifts and construction-related benefits.

Brooklands, Milton Keynes, Planning Permission: planning permission has been granted (and renewed) for the 6.5km Brooklands section of the waterway.

A421 Underpass Construction: a waterway and towpath underpass of the new dual carriageway A421 between Bedford and M1 Junction13 has been constructed and is now open to walkers.

Planning Permission for Marston Vale Innovation Park Strategic Landscaping: this planning permission includes the creation of four linear ponds marking the route of the waterway through the centre of the proposed innovation park.

Persimmon Planning Permission at Wootton, Bedford: the planning permission for this large housing site requires action, at various points of delivery of the houses, to support delivery of the waterway park through the site, including construction of the towpath and provision of land for the waterway.

Bedford Waterspace Study Support and Award: the Bedford Waterspace Study clearly highlights the Kempston Junction of the waterway with the River Great Ouse and includes a range of ideas for waterspace facilities associated with the junction. The study was runner-up in the national Waterways Renaissance Awards' strategy section.

Covanta Development to Fund Stewartby Waterway Section: engagement with the parliamentary decision-making process in respect of Covanta's Stewartby, Bedfordshire, proposal resulted in Covanta agreeing to pay £3.375m for the waterway section under Green Lane and the Copart Access Road near the old A421 in Stewartby parish.

Community Boat: led by the B&MK Trust and supported by many others, including members of the Consortium, the Bedford-based community boat, the *John Bunyan*, was launched in Summer 2013 and had carried over 4,000 passengers by the end of that year.

Magna Park, Milton Keynes: encouraged by Milton Keynes Council, Gallaghers has designed and made provision for a significant section of the waterway within its major Magna Park logistics development site alongside the A421 in Milton Keynes. Consortium partners are looking at how they can work towards planning approval that provides scope for construction as the park develops.

Bell Farm, Kempston, Waterway Routes Study: the study by Halcrow (commissioned by Bedford Borough Council) has identified route options including lock locations, drain crossings, groundwork requirements, cut and fill quantities, footprints and costings to assist delivery of the waterway around rather than through the Bell Farm, Kempston, employment area.

Crick Boat Show 24–26 May 2014



We have a stand in the Kingfisher Marquee so come and say hello!

Not got your ticket yet? Help us by volunteering on the stand for 2–3 hours and enjoy the rest of the show for free.

For more details contact:
Simon Reed events@b-mkwaterway.co.uk



John Bunyan News

Due to the amount of rain since mid-December, the river conditions had not allowed the *John Bunyan* Boat to leave its mooring from Christmas until a trial cruise on Sunday 16 March. The new programme of public cruises will start in earnest on Thursday 17 April 2014, although some trial public cruises will run from Thursday 3 April (see our public cruise leaflet and the B&MK website for details).

Bookings for charter hire cruises have been flowing in and the months of April, May and June are fully booked. What we now need for a successful year are more volunteers to help run the boat (see our advertisement on page 5).

Management Changes

As reported in the 'View from the Chair', there has been a complete change to the Enterprise Board (our trading company) who run the boat. Graham Mabbutt has stepped down from his position of Interim Chair to be replaced by Jane Wolfson, who is known to many of you as a former Chair, Founder Member and Vice-President of the Trust. Graham will now be responsible for sales. Further details of the new directors are as follows.

Chair: Jane Wolfson

Jane was a founding member of the Trust, a former Trust Chair and is currently a Vice-President. For over 30 years, she directed a successful learning and development business. She has led volunteer groups in health and politics and currently manages a community organ restoration. As a freelance business consultant, Jane works on bids, business plans, development and evaluation.

Volunteering: Chris Tilney

As a course leader and developer and a personal tutor and college tutor, Chris was responsible for developing new courses and working with teams to deliver them. Since joining the Enterprise project, she has worked closely with all the volunteer sub-groups and knows them well. As a member of the Trust since May 2013, she shows real enthusiasm for both the Waterway and Boat projects.

Sales: Graham Mabbutt

Graham has been Chairman of the Trust for the past three years, and took over as Interim Chair of the Enterprise Board in 2013, during which time he has built an excellent working relationship with local businesses, hotels and partners. He is a former sales and marketing executive in the record industry.

Marketing: Lynne Gray

Born in the shire of Bedford and educated at Bedford High School for Girls, four years at Art School followed. Lynne then worked at London advertising agencies, before she moved into marketing, PR and events. She worked with BT



The *John Bunyan* by the Bedford Swan Hotel, who have booked several cruises on the Boat.

for seven years, including a major rebrand. Lynne formed her consultancy in 1993, specialising in the hospitality, tourism and travel sector. She is an ambassador for social media and conscious travel.

Boat Operations: Bob Hurst

Bob is a manager of external staff dealing with planning, maintenance and provision of telecommunications services. He has a natural aptitude for problem-solving and the ability to prioritise workloads. He has been involved with charities and with working in a volunteer-run environment. Bob has a proven track record of getting the best out of any team. His strong points are listening to volunteers and working with them, and always giving feedback, whether good or bad. He has owned a narrow boat for 15 years and is also a Boat Safety Examiner for the Canal and River Trust (CRT). He has a lot of experience with the general public due to his work and helping his wife run a large marina.

Cabin Operations: Mary Onione

Mary has been a member of the Trust since its inception and became more involved when the Boat project became a reality. Having been a primary school teacher for nearly 40 years, she has been a member of the Senior Management Team as well as Numeracy Coordinator and Key Stage 1 Leader. Since taking early retirement, she has organised a Rainbows bereavement group and is on the school Chaplaincy team. She is particularly interested in providing good hospitality and ensuring trips are enjoyable and educational for all community groups.

Maintenance & Improvement: David Tucker

Since 1967, David has had a keen interest in boats. He was appointed Boat Engineer and Manager for the BBC boat, *Savoy Hill*. David completed a residential course on diesel engines with Listers. From 1996 to 2012 he was a boat examiner for the boat safety scheme, so

has extensive knowledge of this legislation. He has worked at Lockart Marine fitting out boats, doing the plumbing and electrical work. He has good management and motivational skills that he can put to use in this position.

Finance: Andrew Stanley

Andrew is a CIMA-qualified accountant with significant experience of working across a diverse range of businesses at senior levels, supporting and assisting management teams. Over a number of years in Stoke on Trent, he has supported Longton District Scouts and Moorlands Music Centre, utilising his business acumen and accounting skills to raise funds and financially manage both youth charities.

IT & Information Management: Darryl Clarke

With 30 years' experience in the IT industry and now semi-retired, Darryl is a keen boater, owning his own narrowboat. He became involved in the Enterprise just prior to the launch of the Boat and qualified as Boatmaster. He spent a hard but enjoyable first year on *John Bunyan* delivering trips, mentoring volunteers and becoming involved in organisational aspects of the Enterprise. Darryl's life experience and expertise will provide the Enterprise Board with a skill set to help support and deliver the next phase in the Enterprise's growth.

Community Involvement: Marilyn Leask

Marilyn is a Bedford resident and has been a Board Member of the Trust for about 15 years. Through her education role at the University and her engagement in local politics and events, she has contacts across the community and would be happy to take forward community engagement, working with other people locally both to develop volunteers and to let people know about the Boat.

Directors who have retired from the board are **Don Allison**, who led this project from a crazy idea through to reality, and **Roger Crews**, who brought such energy and drive to the development phase.



Barrett Homes advertising hoardings featuring the *John Bunyan* (arrow).

Our thanks and those of the Trust are due to them for their efforts.

Support from our Sponsors

We are delighted to announce that the **Bedford Business Improvement District ('Love Bedford')** have renewed their sponsorship for the coming year and will be contributing funding which will enable three large, new notice boards to be placed at Sovereigns Quay, Bedford Town Lock and Priory Marina, promoting the public cruises and other marketing material.

Bedford College Tourism and Marketing students

have formulated an Education Project for Key Stages 1 and 2 school children on geography and science subjects, complete with a very attractive package. We intend to market this during the Spring in order to implement the project with schools during the new school year, starting in September 2014.

Barrett Homes, although not sponsors, include a picture of the *John Bunyan* Boat in their latest advertising campaign.

The Bedford Swan Hotel have booked 12 cruises, including afternoon tea and sunset cruises.

We really are entering a very exciting period and only hope that there are no Spring floods!

Do you

Enjoy the open air? Like working with people? Appreciate nature?
Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Project needs YOU!



We have opportunities on Bedford's *John Bunyan* community boat and on the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Project. Many different skills and experience are needed across the project, so if you have the time, we are sure you have something to offer.

To join the *John Bunyan* team, please contact:
 Chris Tilney, Volunteering Director christine.tilneybmk@gmail.com



On the boat, we need:
 Crew – Maintenance – DIY enthusiasts
 Marketing communications
 Volunteer management

On the waterway project, we need:
 Project management – Event support
 Fundraising – Administration



B&MK Waterway Trust Spring Walk 12 April 2014 10.30am



Join us on this 5-mile circular route from Ridgmont Station

The walk will start at 10.30am. Heading to Lidlington, we will follow a 2-mile section of the planned Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Route.



Meeting in Ridgmont Station Car Park (look out for hi-vis jackets and the B&MK logo).

Refreshments are available to purchase from Ridgmont Station Tea Rooms both prior to and after the walk.



Parking & public transport: free parking is available at Ridgmont Station, which is also served by trains from Bedford and Bletchley.

For more information, contact us at info@b-mkwaterway.co.uk

www.b-mkwaterway.co.uk/walks

Support the Trust - by joining and getting involved

Events Calendar 2014



Saturday 12 April	Walk the Route Walk Join us on a circular route from Ridgmont Station Ridgmont Station Car Park, MK43 9NR, meet at 10.30am
Thursday 15 May	Information Evening incorporating B&MK AGM United Reformed Church, Newport Pagnell MK16 8AB, 7.30pm
Thursday 22nd May	Projects Group Box End Park, 7pm
Saturday 24 – Monday 26 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
Friday 20 – Sunday 22 June	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
Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 July	Bedford River Festival One of the biggest free family festivals in the UK, on the picturesque Victorian Embankment, Promenade and the River Great Ouse, Russell Park, the Festival is a unique combination of carnival, the musical and, of course, the nautical!
Thursday 24 July	Projects Group Box End Park, 7pm

Information Evening and B&MK AGM

Thursday 15 May 2014
7.30pm

United Reformed Church, High Street
Newport Pagnell MK16 8AB

Guest Speakers:
Paul Vann, B&MK Consortium
A member of the IWA Restoration
Team

Raffle and refreshments to follow.
Donations of raffle prizes would be
very welcome.

For more information contact:
info@b-mkwaterway.co.uk

Talks Report

Our Talks team have given five talks so far this year, with bookings for a further six to follow, and there are several talks planned on the *John Bunyan* for 2014.

Geoff Wheeler, Graham Mabbutt and Gordon Willey have joined the Talks team, however we are always looking for more volunteers.

If you would be interested in joining the team as a speaker, or would like to book a talk for your group in 2014, please contact us:

John and Sally Gunning
Email: talks@b-mkwaterway.co.uk
Tel: 01234 305925



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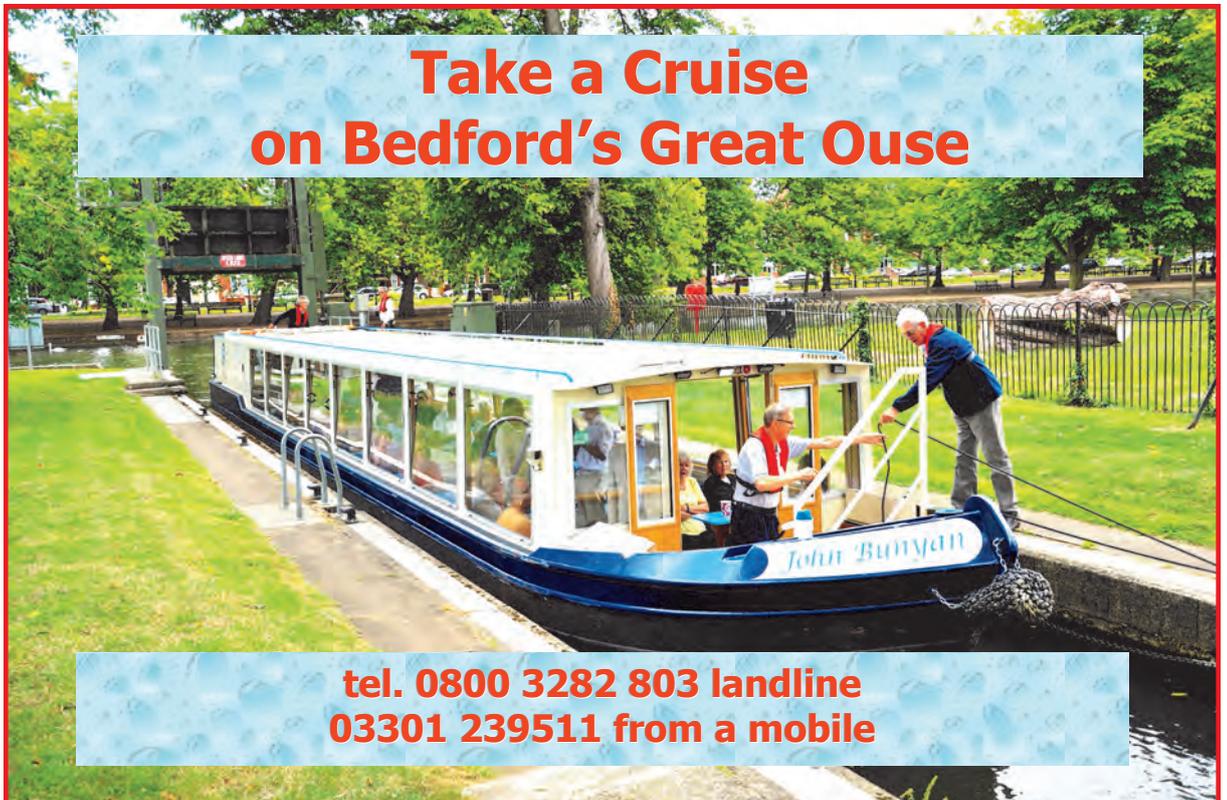
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