

## Befriend us as a Member

Demonstrating public support is key in attracting funding for our canal restoration work. Fund raising activities and grant applications are the main sources of finance and many of these require our current membership figures. Every member counts! We cannot restore this canal on our own and your membership is truly valued.

As a member you have the option to receive our quarterly newsletter *"The Buckingham Navigator"*, either by email or post. This gives updates on the Society's progress, as well as informative articles on the history of the canal and waterways news.

Membership applications and payments can be made via our on-line shop:

<https://shop.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/>



## Befriend us as a Volunteer

Most of the Society's work is performed by our band of volunteers. They are a lynchpin in our restoration work. Voluntary work falls into roughly three categories:

- **Workparty volunteers:** We run regular work parties throughout the year, both on weekdays and at weekends. Tasks vary from routine maintenance of our sites to major building projects.
- **Corporate days:** Many local companies release employees for community service days. We welcome many such groups during the year. Tasks can be found for any level of ability.
- **Management team:** The Society does not run itself. We need people with a wide variety of office and management skills to assist with the operation of the society.

To find out more, please get in touch:

Email: [info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk](mailto:info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk)  
Phone: 01908 888439

## The Buckingham Canal Society

The Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) was founded in January 1992. It is a Registered Charity, number 1156662 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It is affiliated to the Inland Waterways Association and has members all over the UK.

The Society's aims are as follows:

1. Promote the restoration of the Old Stratford and Buckingham Arms of the Grand Union Canal to good and navigable order and to promote the maintenance and improvement of the Waterway for the benefit of the public.
2. Promote the fullest use of the Waterway by all forms of water borne traffic and for all forms of water-related commercial, local amenity, tourist and recreational activity for the public benefit.
3. Promote the education of the public in the history and use of the canals and waterways and Buckingham Canal in particular.

Restoration work has commenced at a number of sections of the canal, including Bourton Meadow, Hyde Lane, Little Hill Farm and Cosgrove. Plans are being prepared for creation of a new channel to replace the section from Old Stratford to Deanshanger. Regular maintenance work parties take place along all sections ensure the paths are clear of vegetation re-growth, providing free access for visitors.

The Society knows that none of this would be possible without its volunteer team. Regular friendly work parties are held each month, where you can learn many new skills, such as hedge-laying or bricklaying. If you'd like to support us, please contact us. See overleaf for membership information.

Email: [info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk](mailto:info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk)  
Website: [www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk)

Social links: [www.linktr.ee/bcsocietyuk](http://www.linktr.ee/bcsocietyuk)

Buckingham Canal Society is a  
Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation: no 1156662

Leaflet designed and printed by  
Buckingham Canal Society

We Support:



We are Social



## Corporate Volunteering Opportunities



# Buckingham Canal Society

**Restoring Canal Heritage  
for Future Generations**



## Join Us With Corporate Volunteering

**corporate volunteering (also called employee volunteering) is a really simple and effective way for your business to contribute to the community.**

Companies give their employees an allowance of paid time off annually, which they use to volunteer at a charity of their choice. This enables staff to make a difference in as little as an afternoon, and has incredible potential for community impact.



### Does your business have to do it?

For the moment, businesses don't have to have an employee-volunteering programme, or even allow employees to have time off (beyond statutory holiday entitlement).

Although employee volunteering is, for now, voluntary, more and more businesses are introducing it, and are recognising the hugely beneficial effects on the employee, the business and the community. Employee volunteering is fast becoming the norm, and a strong EV programme is crucial when it comes to staying ahead of your competitors.



## The Benefits of Corporate Volunteering



### To the Individual:

- Learn new skills, build confidence and improve communication skills
- Gain a real sense of achievement doing something worthwhile in the local community
- A great day out of the office with lots of positive benefits to the environment and local communities'
- Return to our sites with your family and friends and show them 'we did that'!

### To the Company:

- Live your organisation's purpose and CSR commitment and enhance staff morale and loyalty
- Support the Health & well-being of your staff whilst energising, de-stressing and motivating your team
- Team bonding: improve team working by taking people out of their comfort zone
- Identify new leaders: people thrive in unfamiliar situations with work-place barriers removed
- Bring alive the value of heritage and nature to enhance employees' understanding of the environment

### To the Buckingham Canal Society:

- Builds community links and valuable business support
- Helps us tackle work that would otherwise take days or even weeks to complete
- Benefits the local community and wildlife by creating better green spaces

## So, who's already doing it and what are they doing?

At the Buckingham Canal Society, we've seen volunteers from companies such as Santander, Network Rail and Argos join us on corporate volunteering days. Tasks vary from routine maintenance of our sites to major building projects.

We cater for all ages and abilities in groups of 6 to 20 people, depending on the tasks and equipment available. Larger numbers can be considered by special arrangement. We provide all tools and equipment and training is given where necessary. Health and Safety is very important to us. We always provide a safe working environment and a health and safety talk is given before the start of each work party.

We run work parties on alternate Thursdays and the second Sunday of the month throughout the year. Typically, they start at 10am and finish at 4pm and are at one of four sites along the disused Buckingham Canal, one of them being a designated nature reserve.

### What isn't it?

It's also worth pointing out what isn't employee volunteering. Your employees probably take part in loads of charitable activities already, from sponsored runs and bike rides, to volunteering in their spare time. This is great – but it's not employee volunteering. Employee volunteering must be a structured company policy, that not only supports its employee's own efforts, but gives them the time and opportunities to do so.

### Costs and Benefits?

Employee volunteering does wonders for engagement and productivity. The associated costs of brokering and organising the volunteering and the lost staff time, could be offset by potential reductions in staff turnover and improved productivity. In fact, employee volunteering may well save you money!

### Sounds great – how do I get involved?

The first thing to do is to create a good employee volunteering policy, and then think about how to organise it so that staff will actually get out of the office and volunteer. To find out more, please get in touch:

**Email: [info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk](mailto:info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk)**

**Phone: 01908 888439**