

## GO CYCLING

Free organised cycle rides across Milton Keynes



## WILDLIFE CHALLENGE

Help us construct a bug hotel



## ARTS ON THE CANAL

Gongoozler: An Artist's residency on the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes



# ISSUE 3 canals EDGE



Canal & River Trust

July – September 2017

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/mk50](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/mk50)

## 50 things to do on the canal for MK50

FREE to canal lovers!

You can explore the **MK Canalside** by walking, running or cycling. Alternatively join in with one of the exciting events in this programme of 50 things to do on the canal for MK50 (22–33). Previous issues of **canals EDGE** presented the first 22 'things to do' on the canal. Go to [canalrivertrust.org.uk/mk50](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/mk50) to download your copy.

### July

#### 22) MK Festival of Nature

**Sat 1 – Sat 8 July**

A week of activities across canals and parks in Milton Keynes (organised by the Parks Trust). [theparkstrust.com](http://theparkstrust.com)



#### Wildlife Challenge

**Sat 1 July, 11 – 2pm**

Giffard Park, MK14 5QN. Parking is available at Giffard Park Local Centre, Knebworth Gate, Milton Keynes, MK14 5QD (a short walk away from the Canal). The event is free, just come along and join in.

Join the Canal & River Trust to explore the wildlife on the Grand Union Canal, join in with a wildlife walk, and help us construct a bug hotel to encourage more wildlife to the area. All ages welcome.

#### 23) Join a cycle ride

Free organised cycle rides including Health Rides and Family Rides at venues around MK; a great way for beginners to get out and ride. Events run until September. More information can be found here: [milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/cycling/events/join-a-cycle-ride](http://milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/cycling/events/join-a-cycle-ride)

#### 24) Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair

**Sat 22 July – Sun 23 July**

Deans Road, MK12 5NA.

Don't miss the 24th annual Cosgrove Canal Festival & Craft Fair, presented by the Buckingham Canal Society. Where? Cosgrove Lock (MK19 7JR) [buckinghamcanal.org.uk](http://buckinghamcanal.org.uk)

#### 25) Linslade Canal Festival

**Sat 29 July, 11am – 5pm**

This will be the fifteenth year of the Linslade Canal Festival which has become one of the biggest events in Linslade and Leighton Buzzard.

The 2017 Leighton Buzzard Canal Festival will be held at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park, Mentmore Road, Linslade. [leighton-buzzard.co.uk/canalfestival.htm](http://leighton-buzzard.co.uk/canalfestival.htm)

### August

#### 26) MK Playday

**Wed 2 Aug, 11am – 4pm**

Biggest day of play presented by the MK Play Partnership. Free entry. Visit [mkplayday.wordpress.com](http://mkplayday.wordpress.com) for event details.



Campbell Park. Park in the centre:mk car parks (John Lewis end) and use the footbridge which leads into the park.

#### 27) Fenny Stratford Canal Festival

**Sat 5 – Sun 6 Aug, 11am – 7pm**

Various activities along the length of the canal in Fenny Stratford, (MK2 2BL).

#### 28) Great Linford Community Fun Day

**Sunday 6 Aug, 10am – 5pm,**

Marsh Drive Sports Ground, Great Linford (MK14 5HH).

A full day of entertainment and a fun dog show, more information here: [great-linford.gov.uk/event-items/the-community-festival-formerly-eco-fest/](http://great-linford.gov.uk/event-items/the-community-festival-formerly-eco-fest/)

#### 29) Orienteering

**Sun 13 Aug, 10am – 12pm**

Park in the car park off Marsh Drive, Great Linford (MK14 5HH). £5/entry.

Learn how to use a map while having fun in the parks. Run by South Midlands Orienteering Club. Visit [smoc.info](http://smoc.info) for details.

#### 30) Wild About Water

**Wed 23 Aug, 11am – 3pm**

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, are holding a family event in Spiceball Park (OX16 5QE). The event is free, just come along and join in.



Take part in an electrofishing survey on the river, try your hand at fishing, find out more about some of the invertebrates which live in the canal, and there will be a model river for children to experiment with, amongst other activities. [bbowt.org.uk/wildbanbury](http://bbowt.org.uk/wildbanbury)

#### 31) Nature Explorers

**Wed 30 August, 10am – 12pm or 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

Stonepit Field, (MK14 5AT).

Come and explore the parks and the natural world with the education rangers. Booking is essential. Book online at [theparkstrust.com](http://theparkstrust.com)

### September

#### 32) MK Food Festival

**Sat 16 September, 11am – 4pm**

Run by MK Food Festival committee – see [mkfoodfest.org](http://mkfoodfest.org) for more information. Linford Manor Park (MK14 5AU).



Canal & River Trust



For more 'things to do' look out for the next issue in OCTOBER

## Events Coming Soon...

### October

#### IWA Milton Keynes Branch Autumn Canal Clean-up

**Fri 13 Oct**

To get involved with volunteering along the MK Canal, email [sonny.king@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:sonny.king@canalrivertrust.org.uk).

### December

#### MK Illuminated Boat Festival

**Sat 2 Dec – Campbell Park**

Enjoy a spectacular evening of light, music, entertainment, and cuisine along the Grand Union Canal for our first ever MK Illuminated Boat Festival.

## The Duke of Bridgewater and the 18th Century Fuel Crisis

### To the tune of 'Hardworking Boater'

On one Winter evening two humble bargees,  
Began their journey from near Salford Quays,  
The boat loaded up cargo to the knees,  
These lads were all set for working.

When approaching Barton number one came unstuck,  
The mist was thick in this part of the cut,  
The other boatman, him keen to make haste,  
Called out, confounded, "there's no time to waste."

The other bargee couldn't tell what he saw,  
The sight greeting him shook him right to his core,  
On a strong narrowboat with the Duke's emblem on,  
He wished the load to boats bottom.  
In the midst of this terror the boat, stemming up,  
The lengthman came out and asked all the fuss,  
For a boat travelling down this part of the cut,  
Should have no trouble in t'evening.

The master now mindful to his second mate's woes,  
Convinced the lengthman to leave them alone,  
And managed to hobble ahead to the lock,  
To get them away from this nosy Sherlock.

"And when did you find out?" The master he begged,  
And the second man stated "as soon as we left,"  
The master, defeated, took a deep breath,  
"We'll cover it and keep on floating."  
Approaching their target, the boat holding in,  
Their ganseys hitched right up past their chins,  
The nipper jumped on the cants from the path,  
Choking half to death he jumped right on back.

On the discovery of the coal-laden boat,  
Looking more like queaches that had gone afloat,  
The master admitted they'd both been foiled,  
And driven a boat here full of nightsoil.

What a fire it would make, that strong smelling dirt,  
Could power an engine or dye a new shirt,  
But its of no use to the public round here,  
So lads you're steering to Wales.

Boats bottom: empty hold  
Stemming up: running aground  
Lengthman: employee of a canal company in charge of a section of the canal  
Hobbling: running ahead to get locks ready  
Hold in: steer boats towards towing path  
Gansey: waterproof sweater  
Nipper: boys who orked for the navvies  
Cants: rails or strips that edge the counter and foredeck of a traditional narrowboat  
Queaches: wet muddy areas near the canal  
Nightsoil: human waste  
Carry on to Wales: Nightsoil was responsibly disposed of in Wales.



### 33) Gongoozler artist's residency

## Meet Jennifer our artist in residence along the canals of Milton Keynes

A gongoozler is a person who enjoys watching activity on the canal. Funded by the Arts Council, this summer we have created a unique opportunity for Jennifer to 'gongoozle from within'.

Jennifer Reid is a 25 year old performer of 19th Century Industrial Revolution broadside ballads and Lancashire dialect work songs like the 'The Duke of Bridgewater and the 18th Century Fuel Crisis'.

Jennifer will share her methods directly with boaters and towpath users on site, meet established artists from 'Arts on the Waterways' and MK Gallery, receive mentorship, and create new public artwork for a performance and exhibition on site.

Enabling the re-discovery of riparian life and contemporary art from new perspectives, Jennifer will bring new audiences to the arts and more people to this unique place to re-imagine the canal, and each other.

canals EDGE, caught up with Jennifer to discuss her aspirations for the project,

"I'm really keen to talk to as many people as possible who use the canal and collect their oral histories, stories and memories. Once I have gathered this intangible culture I will write a songbook of contemporary ballads and folk songs for anybody and everybody to sing, read and enjoy. I'm really looking forward to it!"

Jennifer will be out and about on the canal over the summer, her full programme will be available shortly.

### Subscribe to our newsletter

to read the stories of the people we meet along the waterways. Get the latest offers, learn about our work and keep up-to-date with news and events.

Find out more at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/newsletter](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/newsletter)



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[mk50.co.uk](http://mk50.co.uk)

Canal & River Trust T: 0303 040 4040  
First Floor North E: [enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk)  
Station House  
500 Elder Gate  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1BB  
C: CRTSouthEast  
F: [facebook.com/canalrivertrust](https://www.facebook.com/canalrivertrust)

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