



Grantham Canal News Sheet

This latest issue of the Electronic News Sheet is for **anyone** who would like to be updated on GCS activities and progress. If this is the first issue you have received and you would like future monthly issues, please send an email to: Membership@granthamcanal.com stating your name, confirming your e-mail address and indicating that you wish to receive the News Sheet. Future copies will not be sent without your permission. You do not have to be a member but please consider joining. Details on the "Contact Us" page on our website: www.granthamcanal.com

1. IWA Festival



I am not sure whether I have landed properly yet, but despite exhaustion, the Festival was good. We signed up two families and four individual new members all with varying skills and interests to offer the society. I will make sure team leaders get their contact details. We had lots of help, for which I am very grateful, but Tony Jackson's contribution was inestimable (for want of a better word). We were so tired each evening that we hadn't the strength to stay for the evening's entertainments and then cycle back to the southern end of the moorings where our boat was. We met a lot of other members and friends and it was good to see what other societies were up to.

Vaughan Welch came round on Sunday morning to tell us that we had been short-listed for best society stand because we had stuff outside of interest. It was evident that he had not looked inside when making his judgements because I had been so careful to meet the stated judging criteria by getting the information on the boards bang up to date and the calibre of the volunteers was pretty high too. Cromford canal got the award of £100 from Canal Boat Magazine.

BUT while we were loading up on Monday, grateful for the help of a WRG to transport stuff down the field to the boat, someone from Staffs and Worcs was talking to Tony and they seemed a bit disappointed with their takings of £170 over the three days. We took £285 and unlike them, apart from the cost of the guide books, all our 'stock' was donated. Grantham Canal Society's outlay was limited to electricity and extra personnel passes. We weren't sure about the effectiveness of the DVD. I had spent at least 3 days putting together a slide show that flickered so much that we couldn't bear it, especially in the heat, so we ran the Three Shires Launch, since moving pictures masked the flicker. (Something to do with the nature of current or something, Tony said.)

I would really have liked to reach £300 in takings, but we may surpass that as I took orders for several bits of needlework. Before we were set up, someone asked me to make a spiderwork belt, like the one I had made for Tony. Another couple walked past and noticed the cabin lace above the entrance to the gazebo and went away to measure up, although I haven't heard back from them and then in the ladies' I was asked to make a bonnet. I have heard from that lady and she is sending me the material next week. I shall cover the cost of materials and ask for a donation to the society for the labour.

I wasn't ever so happy with my presentation on Friday afternoon. It was hot and distractingly noisy in the tent, but Tony Pitman had come along for moral support and we had a protracted chat afterwards with a WRG man whose name I haven't remembered, but who was familiar with the Grantham and Martin Ludgate from Canal Boat Magazine. He said he hasn't done an item on the Grantham for some time and would like to do that. There was an article about the Lottery Grant in the Towpath Talk that was being handed out at the Festival.

Still shattered, but with a feeling that the effort was well worth it!



Pictures and report from
Rosemary Gibson.

*Our sincere thanks to
Rosemary and Tony Jackson
for the GCS presence at
Burton on Trent aided and
abetted by our loyal band of
helpers. Ed.*



2. Workparties



Simon Gent, our contact with BW, kindly accompanied us on a trip with the 3 Shires to see for himself the difficulty we have in passing through certain parts of the top section of the canal. Hopefully the weed boat will return in the not too distant future which will help but we really do need some dredging work done. The offending tree that blocked the canal at Harlaxton and the large underwater branch from a previous fallen tree have been removed by our expert tree removal team (*we are getting quite good at it now. Ed.*) and apart from the the obstructions below Bridge 62 things seemed to be improving. The water level had risen due to our previous work and for the first time was flowing constantly through the by wash at lock 18.

But, someone had other ideas and the timber that Adrian had fixed at the overflow weir at Denton (right) was removed, lowering the water level once more. The knock on effect was that the short pounds between locks 16 and 18 were left with very little water. Steve Scott from BW who usually looks after the water levels was away, so some frantic phone calls to Newark ensued. At the time of writing the levels are still low, as you can see below, but under control.



Unfortunately that's not all. The Carpenter's Workshop has had some unwanted attention too.



All these attacks have been reported to the police and the request from them is as follows:-

- ☐ If anyone observes vandalism (or any other anti-social activity) taking place DO NOT get directly involved.
- ☐ If it is safe to use the phone unobserved REPORT it using 999 and state that it is currently in progress
- ☐ If activity is discovered after the event REPORT it to 0300 111 0300
- ☐ In all cases report the date and time it was observed.

(Please let me know too, either by email, phone 0115 9892128 or Mobile 07787383266. Ed)



(Photos above: Tony Pitman, Tony Jackson & Rosemary Gibson)

The Rangers, some of whom are pictured (left) have been asked to keep a watchful eye when in the area, as have our friends from the Grantham Angling Association.

(Photo from Carole Harris)

Workparty dates have been put back a week to **Thurs 1st & Sat 3rd September** because of the Bank Holiday, 9.00am at Woolsthorpe. Later in the month, Thurs 22nd & Sat 24th will be our official September workparties.

3. Social Meetings

Wednesday. September 14th - An evening of **Archive Waterway Films** given by **Rob Foxon**. This is a rare opportunity to see some original footage of historic films on waterways.

The programme will include: A Cruise down the River Trent in 1930's, There go the Boats. A 1951 film on narrow canals from BTC Film Unit & Broad Waterways a 1959 film from the same unit.

Time:••• 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Place:• **Nottinghamshire Golf & Country Club, Nottingham Road, Cotgrave NG12 3HB (was Cotgrave Place)**

Tickets: On the door: price £5.00

GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY

invite you to a

DISCOVERY DAY **to inform, inspire and involve.**

at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Depot/Carpenter's Shop
behind the Rutland Arms (Dirty Duck) Public House
NG32 1NY

Sunday 9th October 2011
10.00 – 5.00

Activities for all the family
Boat Trips starting at 10:00
Celebration of volunteers

Sunday Lunches and Snacks Available at the Dirty Duck
Light Refreshments Available in the Depot

Displays of Heritage, Volunteers in Action/Who does what, What's happening now
Duck Race, Art, Craft and Photographic Displays,
Mini-beast identification, hands on science activities,
Fun and fundraising stalls, games, raffle, etc

Model boat making competition – design and made a boat from found materials

Some of the activities will be trialling examples from an Education Pack for Schools and Youth Groups.

Representatives of schools are invited to apply for one free ticket for a boat ride on the day, to explore the possibilities of using the canal and its scientific and historical environment as a curriculum resource.

Donations of prizes and saleable items most welcome.
All proceeds towards the maintenance and restoration of the Grantham Canal.

More information from:
Rosemary Gibson, RhuMaere@aol.com 01636 525526/07971173069

4. Meet The Committee

Next to reveal all is *Ralph Poore, GCS Treasurer. Ed*



My home town is Royal Leamington Spa and it is there that I developed a liking for canal holidays with my family, and our water-mad labrador. We travelled many rings and routes, including the Warwickshire Ring and the Four Counties Ring,

With sons in the local scout group I joined as a leader and gained my Wood Badge. Along the way I learnt that the Stratford-upon-Avon Marks and Spencers had donated a 62' 12-berth narrow boat to the youth of Warwickshire. On their weekend training course I qualified as a helmsman and proceeded to introduce narrow boat 'camps' to the Leamington scouts. Another boat that I qualified on was also a 62' 12-berth, and this was operated by the Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (WAYC). Taking

the scouts around the Warwickshire Ring was a learning curve for all of us, but they all got stuck in and qualified for their helmsman's badge, as well as having the nights under 'metal canvas' counted towards their yearly camping totals. One memorable event was having the scouts work as a team and enabling their boat to navigate the Hatton flight of 21-double locks in one-hour fifty-minutes, and we believe that record still stands!

I started my working life in engineering, and concluded it in retail. I live in Barrowby with my wife Judith. We are both retired and have the good fortune to have sufficient interests to occupy our time. I help ring the church bells in the village, and mainly in the winter I also help ring at Harlaxton and Denton. I have recently regained a seat on the Barrowby Parish Council, and now following in the revered footsteps of Jim Barker I have taken on the role of Hon Treasurer for the Grantham Canal Society. I have a small and very productive allotment plot and, along with caravanning and visiting friends in the States, I have to wonder how I ever found time to work in my previous life.

I really enjoy the work parties and the skippering/crewing on Three Shires. It will be good to see new gates installed at lock 18, thus enabling the two-boats to pass down to the Woolsthorpe depot, and on!!!!!!



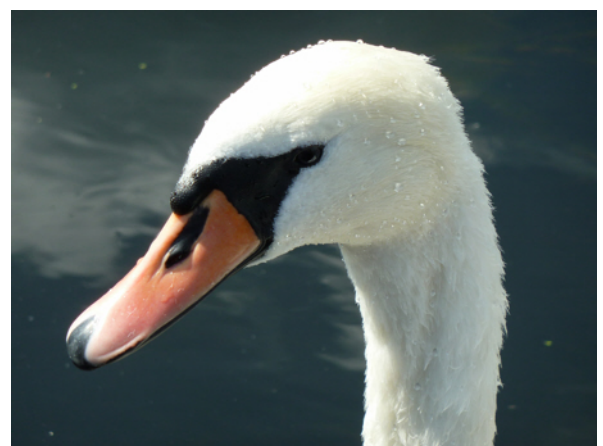
(left) Can we buy a weed boat then?



(right) The Grantham Canal from the Trent



(left & right) Swans on the Trent



Please let me know if you are happy with the balance of content in 'Bridge' and also if there is anything you wish me to include. Ed

The website is having a bit of a makeover. Please keep checking but be patient if information that you want is not there yet. Just email or phone any one of us and we will do our best to help.

Photos : Ian Wakefield unless credited otherwise

If you spot anything new or unusual on the Grantham, please contact the editor with photos if possible. Any questions and I will try to find answers.

The editor can be contacted at: ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.com