

BRIDGE

June - September 2013



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 Society" page on our website: www.granthamcanal.org

Apologies from the Editorial Desk. I don't know quite where the months have gone but all my good intentions have come to nothing and this is the first newsletter for months. So much has been going on, both on and off the canal that sometimes family comes first. Not that anybody seems to have noticed the missing issues. Complaints gratefully accepted as they might make me feel guilty enough to stagger into action. Ed

1. GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



A lot is going on behind the scenes and we are in constant touch but not much to report at present. However, we have an interesting quote from Lucie Hoelmer (CRT) regarding costs: *We know potential costs of training of 14 members of the GCS in the NVQ2 course at £500 per head and the online H&S course per person £30 to allow access to the construction site.*

2. Message from our Chairman, Mike Stone.

I received a telephone call from Dave Carnell on 6th June informing me that the Lincolnshire Branch of the IWA has made **a very substantial donation of £2,000** towards the cost of the new bottom gates of Lock 18.

This is a most generous gift by the Lincolnshire Branch and is a massive boost to our plans to install the new gates.

Dave and some of the Branch Committee would like a photo opportunity with some of the GCS Team to publicise their involvement in the restoration of one of Lincolnshire's, occasionally overlooked, waterways. (photo next issue, Ed)

I am pleased, as this gift recognises the commitment and dedication, particularly of the active members of the GCS, in pursuit of its objective to the continued extension of the navigable length of the Grantham Canal.

Dear Dave.

Will you please convey my thanks and those of the Grantham Canal Committee to the committee of the IWA Lincolnshire Branch for their most welcome and generous donation.

This has enabled us to take a significant step forward in restoring Lock 18 to operation and will open up the possibility (CRT approval required) of getting craft down to the 200 year old Carpenters Shop warehouse.

I am equally sure that your gift will encourage others to provide some tangible support for the installation of new bottom gates at the lock.

You are all welcome to see any activity and I will keep you informed of the installation timetable.

Regards Mike

At the time it left us with just **£8,000** still to raise for the final installation. (Update when I find out Ed)
If you feel you could offer any financial assistance or you know someone who might like to help us, please contact Mike Stone on 0115 9313375 or email: chairman@granthamcanal.com

3. LLOYDS BANK COMMUNITY FUND

GCS has applied for a Lloyds Bank Community Fund Grant of up to £3,000 and we need your help to vote for us.

Please go to... Lloyds Bank Community Fund...

Grantham Canal Society has been shortlisted for an award from the Lloyds Bank Community Fund and we need your votes!

You can vote in 3 ways:

- 1) By going into the branch that has been allocated the 4 causes including Grantham Canal Society. The branch is: Lloyds Bank, 76 Front Street, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 7EJ - Every time you go into this branch, you can collect a token from a member of staff and place it in the slot for the Grantham Canal Society.
- 2) You can vote online at "www.lloydsbank.com/communityfund" and type in Grantham Canal Society, submit your vote and follow all the instructions for your vote to be counted ... One online vote per email address...
- 3) Send an SMS - text: VOTEKDNC to 61119. One text vote per phone number.

[We need your votes, please support the Society!](#)

To vote online or by text may seem a simple thing which can be done later but please do it NOW, whilst it is still in your mind. It only takes a few seconds and you will be making a big contribution to GCS's ability to work towards getting the Grantham Canal open for the enjoyment of future generations.

If you vote online you will receive an email from Lloyds with a link which confirms your vote. Unless you click on this confirmation, your vote will not be counted. Thank you for your support.

4. LOUGHBROUGH STUDENTS RETURN



Saturday afternoon on the 5th October saw 31 students from Loughbrough University arrive to to trim back some of the grass which has encroached onto the towpath and also attack the summer growth in the canal bed between lock 11 and the old A46 bridge at Cropwell Bishop.

The weather was great and as usual it was quite warm in the bed of the canal but the Students, as part of their Fresher's Week activities, did a brilliant job in just a few hours. There were 5 members of the GCS workparty team there to help along with CRT's newly appointed Volunteer Coordinator Wayne Ball, on his first workparty with us and Amanda Morgan with her van loaded with tools and equipment.

5. IWA



NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH MEETINGS

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

The Notts and Derby branch of the IWA is organising a series of public meetings. We are hoping to attract lots of new faces to the meetings and have arranged a very interesting and varied group of speakers. Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

- We meet on the third Friday of the month throughout most of the year.
- Meetings are held at 7.45 pm at Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2-7HY, about 20 minutes from M1 Junction 24 up the A453.

Friday, October 18th 2013

“Canal and River Trust.....The first twelve months” an illustrated talk by C&RT’s East Midlands Region Waterways Manager, Sean McGinley.

Friday, November 15th 2013

Illustrated talk on the Manchester Ship Canal and some of the engineering issues that have arisen along the way, by Rod Pearson.

Friday, December 20th 2013

Mini Presentation by John Wilkinson, “The Panama Canal”. Followed by Christmas Refreshments.

Further information about meetings can be obtained by email, address :- nottsandderbys@waterways.org

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6. LOCK 18 BOTTOM



Hargreaves workmanship at its best.



What a beautiful sight. Lock 18 full again.

7. DISCOVERY DAY

The Canal Depot, The Dirty Duck, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir. NG32 1NY - **Sunday October 13th 10am - 5pm**

FREE ENTRY & CAR PARKING

A great family day out - Come and join in the fun - Whilst helping this good cause!

All Day Drinks and Homemade Cake!

Why not make a model boat out of junk! Bring it along on Discovery Day - and enter it in our competition - design flair and ingenuity are more important than buoyancy!

Entries to be judged by Gardening Guru - Alan Mason!

Your Master of Ceremonies - Local Radio Presenter - Graham Wright!

Narrowboat rides! First of these hour-long cruises departs 10am - arrive early to book your place!

Adults: £4 Children: £2

Canoe Rides! Both Pleasley Canoe Club and Sleas Paddlers will be supporting us on the day!

Traditional Roses and Castles Painting Demonstration - Items for sale too!

Towpath Talk - that great newspaper for everything to do with canals and boats! Get your FREE copy here!

Live Music by The Melstrum Ukulele Orchestra! They're foot tappin' good!

Roseanna Burton of the RSPB Futurescapes Project. Make mini bug hotels and Pine Cone bird feeders with Roseanna! Sounds Fun! Especially if you're a Bug!

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust!

Grantham Archaeology Group - find out what's under your very feet! We were grateful to the group during the restoration of Harlaxton Wharf, when they checked the wharf for archaeology before work commenced.

The Lincolnshire Bat Group - Bat carers are bringing along some of their rescue bats - I want one!

Sustrans will be with us again, with loads of advice about cycling in the area. Almost certainly the only exhibitors to arrive by bicycle - how green is that!

Handmade Costume Jewellery - by Cranmer Creations - think Christmas Presents!

Children! Have fun on our 'Discovery Trail' - bring mum and dad - see if they can do it!

Hedgehog Welfare - the Mrs.Tiggywinkles of this world need all the help we can give them!

Ever wondered what games children were playing over 200 years ago when the canal was being built?

Graham and Sarah of Reiver Trading will show you - Come and have a play!

The Sleaford Navigation Society will be with us - as passionate about their waterway, as we are about ours! Did you know - there was once an ambitious plan to link the two waterways - including a two mile long tunnel under the Belton Estate!

The Maids of Clifton Clog Dancers - Looking forward to seeing this!

You can't have an event without a Raffle - so we're having one! if the prizes are as good as last years' - it'll be well worth a ticket!

Thee one and only! Thee sensational! Butty Boys! (delivered in the style of old time music hall) - plucked from our very own canal workparty - The Butty Boys were talent spotted to sing two songs written specially about the Grantham Canal - don't worry boys - I'm sure we'll find the words in time for a practice session.....let's hear it for the Butty Boys! Remember - you heard them here first!...anyone found the words yet? Who had 'em last?

Volunteers from the Grantham Canal Society will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the canal - and to tell you of the exciting things planned for the future! Hopefully our chairman will be there - he has all the answers to the difficult questions!

Bag a Bargain - at The Grantham Canal Charity Stall!

Make a Model Boat out of Junk Competition! Start stockpiling your recyclables - and get creative! And remember - you're never too old to have a laugh!

The Inland Waterway's Association will be with us on the day - The IWA are a national campaign group - without which, many of our waterways would not now be with us - including our very own Grantham Canal!

Have I mentioned 'Hook a Duck'? I have now! Don't you just love ducks!

Buy your local honey here - pure nectar!

Talks by Tony Pitman, author of The Grantham Canal Guide, and Rosanna Burton of the RSPB 'Giving Nature a Home'. Roseanna's presentation will be particularly interesting for those wishing to give consideration to wildlife whilst gardening.

It wouldn't be Discovery Day, without the now legendary 'Dirty Duck Race'.

8. Here we go again



The silly season is back with us again! Despite our best efforts to keep the canal clean and tidy, there is always someone ready to mess it up again. These scenes were photographed in June at Denton Slipway by Tony Jackson.



It's not all bad, for Tony also came across this beautiful Orchid sitting quietly in the reeds.

We suffered further attempts to break into our storage containers recently but fortunately, apart from broken locks, nothing appears to have been taken. 'They' tried to walk off with a couple of plastic containers full of diesel but kindly left them for us to retrieve. Our Farmer friend, John Moulsher also suffered the same fate but found his diesel in the middle of his field. Thanks to John and David, his son, we now have added security to the store.



John (above) has always been a keen supporter of the Society and its aim to open the canal to navigation.

9. WORKPARTY REPORT



The Workparty Team have been busy tidying the Depot grounds and it looks very good but keeping the grass in check is an on-going problem.



Bob Terry refits a door after trimming the edge so that it opens and shuts without catching.



Whilst some of us were 'playing' boats the rest of the gang set to and tidied the inside of the Depot, ready for Rosemary and the next function.



Dave Booth and our youngest volunteer Joe Cutler attach Centauri's new CRT registration number plate, whilst Terry Davis supervises.



This branch took our combined effort + the boat to move it from the silt. The Workparty are never knowingly beaten!



Job done! Now it's time to catch up on the latest Beekeeping news. Not quite! It's Terry reading the Daily Mail! (He doesn't know I've taken this picture. I'll let you know what he says, if it's printable. Ed)



At least we won't let Mudlark sink! (Before you say anything - hard hats keep falling off!)



It's ok filling the boat but then we have to unload it before we can go home!

THE GRANTHAM CANAL VIDEOS.

<http://www.granthamcanal.org/videos/>

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

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