

April 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

1. GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE.

Please have a look at the website: www.granthamcanalheritageinitiative.com to find out what happening.

What we do need, is your help in completing the online survey as this will form part of the HLF Application. Please take a few minutes to tick all the boxes NOW before you forget!

The survey for society members can also be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/gcsmemberssurvey and for the general public at www.surveymonkey.com/s/granthampeople

Polite reminder. If you have not already filled in the survey, please do it now and if you have already done it, many thanks.



Several of our workparty team noticed some engineering activity around lock 15 recently and Lucie Hoelmer (CRT) supplied the answer to the mystery of what was going on. It seems that core samples were taken to investigate exactly what the structure is behind the lock walls.

Tony Jackson, resuming his cycle trips up and down the canal after his boating holiday, spotted new plates in the ground. (his photo left) They could have been where the samples were taken or maybe have some other purpose. Anyone any ideas? Suggestions to the editor please.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

**2. Ralph Poore – Hon Treasurer (GCS)**

Ralph took over the reigns as Treasurer from Jim Barker 3 years ago and has done a great job bringing The Society's financial affairs up to date, using computer technology. He also runs the trip boat and organises training sessions for the crews as well as assisting in the running of the workparties. Retirement is supposed to relaxing and this workload has begun to taken over Ralph's life, so he has reluctantly decided to resign as Treasurer. Thank you Ralph for all your unseen hard work. It has been much appreciated.

If anyone feels they have the necessary skills to take on the position of Treasurers, please contact the Chairman.

3. Day School 18th May

David Martin from Sustrans kindly sent me the the following link to something that may be of interest.

http://rangersderby.blogspot.co.uk/2013/04/the-river-trent_12.html?m=1

Transport and Trade on the Trent 1850–1970

A University of Nottingham Day School
arranged in association with the
Friends of Newark Heritage Barge
and the Railway & Canal Historical Society



The Newark Academy
London Road, Newark
Saturday, 18 May 2013

Transport and Trade on the Trent, 1850–1970

A University of Nottingham Day School
arranged in association with the
Friends of Newark Heritage Barge
and the Railway & Canal Historical Society

Saturday 18 May 2013

The event will be held at the Newark Academy, Lilley & Stone Site, London Road, Newark NG24 1TT. There is ample parking at the school and the meeting is being held in an accessible ground-floor hall. The buffet lunch will include vegetarian options.

The day will start with tea and coffee on arrival from 10.30, but the hall will be available for participants to set up displays from 9.30. We are very keen that as many organisations as possible who are attending the event bring material to display (including publications to sell).

There is no charge for the day school but we would like those planning to attend to let us know in advance, so that we can provide adequate catering without waste, and make sure that there are enough tables for displays.

To enrol, please email or write, advising (in the case of societies) how many people will be coming, whether you would like a table for a display, and whether you would like to speak about work you (or your group) have done (or are doing) on the history of the river, to:

Philip Riden
Department of History
University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD

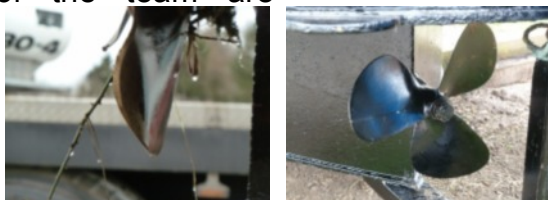
email: philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk

Telephone enquiries: 0115 951 5885
or 01246 554026 (evenings)

4. Workparties.

The lady and the lads have been hard at work tidying up the Depot after all the activity painting boats etc. We now have shelving in the store room, thanks to Ralph and John (now we need a training course on how not to put stuff on the floor!) Mary has made a splendid job of painting the inside walls, Dave has cut the lawn and several of the group have been up to lock 17 to spruce up the paintwork.

As announced in last month's issue, The Three Shires went back in the water after bottom blacking, touching up of the paintwork, interior cleaning, engine servicing and a few security modifications to hopefully prevent someone getting in, using the toilet and relaxing with their muddy shoes on the seats. (It could be worse I suppose!) The reshaped propeller works well and the boat was back in revenue earning service within days. Everybody did a splendid job especially considering that a lot of the team are (were) not familiar with narrowboat maintenance.



(left) Before and after views of the propeller repair expertly carried out by Dave Cross.

5. DAY TRIPS WITH 3 SHIRES FROM HARLAXTON WHARF.

When The Three Shires was purchased it was decided that we could only run trips that were pre-booked as there were only a few members who had the qualifications or experience to handle a narrowboat, especially one that carried passengers. Although we have now quite a few trained crews, most of us are involved in other activities within GCS and simply don't have the spare time. However on on Easter Monday we ran 1 hour trips from Harlaxton Wharf throughout the day. Thanks to Ralph Poore for organising the event, the crews and support team on the bank with Rosemary and Tony and our 'Canine Officer' Dave Cross who 'impounded' any dogs who tried to sneak aboard. It could have been warmer but for a Bank Holiday, at least it didn't rain. A similar event took place on Monday 6th and another is planned for the next May Bank Holiday. Our guests seemed to enjoy their trip judging by the many positive comments that were received.



Grantham Canal
THE ROMANTIC CANAL

Boat trips from Harlaxton wharf

Bank holiday Mondays 6th and 27th May, 11.00 am to 4.00pm



Can you think of a better way to spend your bank holiday Monday?

Drinks and snacks available onboard

Ring (07973) 287183
www.granthamcanal.org

Harlaxton wharf event gave 72-members of the public the chance to experience a short cruise on the canal. This raised £139 and an extra £17.50 through the sale of hot drinks.

It was a very cold day, albeit dry with some sun towards the end. Thanks to the GCS members who braved the cold and made this event possible.

I was asked if we were going to do this again. May 27th is another Bank Holiday Monday and so we could try this again if there is sufficient interest.

Text and photo (below left): Ralph Poore



Another trip with a boat full of passengers

Sketch (right) drawn on the day by a new member - Mr N Porter



Dave Cross is good with swans as well as dogs!

6. WHAT IS IT?



Ideas still coming in for this one: Angie. In the February issue you asked what the agricultural tool found was. It is a root puller, almost certainly locally made by a blacksmith to pull tree roots from the canal. My source of information is an agricultural antique dealer in Norfolk called Simon Davis. He has an agricultural museum and shop in Foulsham near Holt. I saw a smaller version of the tool that he has on display. It probably had a rounded support on the back of it that broke off making it useless. Rowan

7. IWA NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH.



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, May 17th 2013

A visit to the Newark Heritage Barge Project. An illustrated talk and Tour with Les Reid on board the barge "Leicester Trader" on the riverside in Newark. The project aims to create a River Heritage Centre which is open to the public and can be used by schools, research students and other interested parties. Meet on board at 7.30 pm

Friday, June 21st 2013

A guided tour around the new Staythorpe Power Station by the R. Trent near Newark.
Meet at Power Station 7.30 pm

8. Still no news of Bertie

STILL MISSING

weimaraner male missing since
27th March 2013 from Grantham
Lincolnshire NG32

he is neutered and has a docked tail
was wearing black/silver collar and tag

any sightings or information please contact owner

REWARD FOR RETURN OR INFORMATION
LEADING TO RETURN

HAVE
YOU
SEEN
THIS
DOG



HAVE
YOU
SEEN
THIS
DOG

OWNER CAN BE CONTACTED ON
01949845408 -07594548501



BERTIE

Large silver-grey Weimaraner
Seven year old neutered male.
Docked tail.
Small lump on right side of chest
and another on left buttock.
Slightly lame on left rear leg,
after knee injury.
Left eye does not drain properly.

[facebook.com/FindMissingBertie](https://www.facebook.com/FindMissingBertie)



MISSING
since Wednesday 27 March



If you see him please phone
01949845408 or
07594548501 or
07951942669

Reward
for return or information
leading to return

ADVERTISEMENT.

Trent Lock Fun Day

... FREE family fun by the waterside!

Sunday 19 May 2013

12 noon to 4pm

Lock Lane, Long Eaton

Boats



Face Painting



Bouncy Castle



Guided Walks



**Spend a day getting out on the water,
experiencing a beautiful relaxing
location on your doorstep and
enjoying some great local food**

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk
e: enquiries.eastmidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk



Canal & River Trust
Charity number 1146792

For anyone not familiar with the area, the postcode **NG10 2FY** will get you there.
Keep going until you reach the car parks!

9. CHAIRMAN'S CHAT .

I have had comments recently that the 'canal society doesn't do much'! Clearly our error is in not communicating with those who make the comments.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS SINCE THE 1960'S

- Grantham Civic Trust Group objects to proposal to fill in the canal by using it as a linear rubbish tip
- 1969 Canal Society formed
- Towpaths impassable. Vegetation cleared by Society members
- 1972 Stathern Boat Rally
- 1973 Boat rally at Lock 1 (Trent)
- 1990 Construction of slipway at Denton Wharf
- 1992 Railway embankment removed at Woolsthorpe
- 1992/4 Restoration of Woolsthorpe Locks 16, 17 & 18
- 1994 Limited navigation possible between Lock 18 and Denton Wharf
- 1st Woolsthorpe Trailboat Rally
- Casthorpe Bridge rebuilt to navigable height – funded by Lincolnshire CC
- Cruises operating from Woolsthorpe – by commercial operator.
- Canal restored from Hickling basin to Leicestershire County boundary
- Erection of three swing-bridges east of Hickling
- 2002 Restoration of canal near Cotgrave – as part of Nottinghamshire CC country park; funded by a Coalfield Regeneration grant?
- Locks 6 and 7 restored – funded by a Coalfield Regeneration grant
- 2007 Restoration of canal from Denton to A1 - £360k
- 2008 IWA 'Grantham on Water' trail-boat festival - £30k – largely met by sponsorship and grants.
- 2008 Collapse of wall at Lock 18. Danger of being filled in.
- 2008/12 Clearance of trees and vegetation between Fosse Locks and Lock 8 - £2.4k – largely for accommodation for WRG groups
- 2008/9 Restoration of maintenance boat 'Centauri' - £5k – most undertaken by HMP Whatton
- 2009/10 Construction of new wall at Lock 18 - £250k
- 2009 Landing stages constructed above Lock 18 and at A1 - £50k
- 2009 Harlaxton Wharf restored as public space and boat wharf – c.£25k
- 2009 Society orders new trip-boat - £40k
- 2009 Rebuilding of Bridge 43 at Harby - £250k – paid by Leicestershire CC
- 2010 'Centauri' arrives on canal; on-going maintenance of top length commences - £2k
- 2010 'The Three Shires' trip-boat arrives - £2k
- 2010 Society commences regular public cruises from Woolsthorpe
- 2010 Harby Bridge replaced with facility to lift for boat passage
- 2011 Application to Heritage lottery Fund to restore Locks 15 & 14 – GCP funded
- 2011 New bridge constructed for A46 dual carriageway - £2,500k – paid by Highways Agency as part of construction of A46
- 2011 Restoration of Woolsthorpe Depot - £1k
- 2012 Top gates replaced at Lock 18 - £30k
- 2012 Clearance of vegetation at locks 15 to 12 - £0.5k – largely for accommodation for WRG group
- 2012 Restoration of Knipton reservoir feeder - £0k
- 2012 New bridge erected in Cotgrave Country Park and old colliery crossing removed – c.£500k – paid by Notts CC grant
- 2012 Purchase of non-operational dredger *Mudlark* and work flat *Earwig* from B. W. – c.£10k
- 2013 Restoration of *Mudlark* & *Earwig* - £1k
- 2013 *The Three Shires* removed from water, hull blacked, and returned to canal - £2.5k
- 2013 (Planned) replacement of bottom gates at Lock 18 – Appeal still open – total required £35k

Throughout the life of the Society there have been many volunteer groups helping on the Grantham Canal including: school and scout groups, prisoners and young offenders, Trainline, frequent canal camps from Waterways Recovery Group (WRG), a group of foreign students, Loughborough University Students, Community Payback Scheme, Experian Employees and Inland Waterways Association, to name just a few.

Since the Society took responsibility for the maintenance of the navigation between Lock 18 and the A1 this has required continuous work to remove fallen trees, branches, etc. In addition *The Three Shires* trip-boat has successfully operated between March and October annually since its arrival.

Throughout the Society's existence energy has been devoted to raising money from many sources to fund the works listed above. To date over £7.6 million has been input into the waterway.

The Society is most appreciative of the support we have received from many organisations and individuals which has enabled the achievements listed above. However, without the generous input of time by volunteers little would have been done and the canal would have turned into a stinking ditch. Now would that have made walking or cycling along the towpath an enjoyment? I suspect not!

Please continue to enjoy the facility provided by Canal & River Trust and continue to support the Society as it pushes ahead with its work.

Mike Stone GCS Chairman)

(with thanks to Fred Marsh for checking dates etc.)

10. We are not alone.....

In the canal movement we are unfortunately seeing more instances of commercial organisations seeking renege on their stated intentions to be supportive of canal regeneration. The latest is J Sainsbury's and Land Securities (joint project development under Harvest name). Their proposal to create a superstore on the former Selly Oak Junction and the land surrounding it does not include the reinstatement, or provision of adequate suitable space there for, of the Dudley No 2 Canal.

Left unchallenged, this section the Worcester and Birmingham Canal will become a dead end scar on what is perhaps the most attractive canal leading into Birmingham.

As we fight for the Grantham we should always spare a thought for those whose years of work already spent trying to restore Dudley No 2 could be wasted by those whose persistent lack of co-operation or who unthinkingly renege on previously stated intentions make the lives of those seeking to preserve our canal heritage so unnecessarily difficult.

https://www.waterways.org.uk/news_campaigns/campaigns/the_proposed_redevelopment_of_selly_oak_junction__worcester_birmingham_and_dudley_no_2_canals

To help prevent the permanent blockage of the route that the Lapal Canal Trust has been working on to secure its restoration a letter of support from any of us in the GCS would be much appreciated.

David Lyneham-Brown

11. LOCK 18 LOWER GATES

The Grantham Canal Society has purchased the timber for new bottom gates at Lock 18. Our next task is to raise funds to have them constructed. If you are able to offer financial help, it would greatly appreciated as we still have to fund the fitting of the gates too. Please have a look at the site: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/> (note there is no ' www '). This will take you to the home page where half way down on the right is 'Donate to Charity'. Enter GCS or Grantham Canal Society in the box which will take you to the next page with five other entries, each relating to the word 'Canal'. Ours is the first entry and you can read why we really do need your financial help. If you click on the DONATE box all will be self explanatory. At this point you don't have to make a donation but we sincerely hope you will consider doing so. Every little helps! Sincere thanks from GCS to all who have donated to date.

Apologies for the short notice of some of the events in this month's issue. Ed

For great film clips of some GCS activities please enter Grantham Canal in your search engine.

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