

EDITION:51

AUGUST 2014

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

There was an important meeting at Woolsthorpe in August which was the first meeting of the HLF WHI Project Steering Group. Those present included two CRT Directors, three members of the Regional Trust Board, representatives of the CRT Enterprise and Project teams, WRG and the GCS. The Application was submitted to the HLF on Friday 22nd August and we await a decision which is anticipated by December. The Project is actively supported by CRT and others so we will await the result keeping our fingers 'crossed'.

In the meantime there is work to be done! Importantly we need to prepare the Society to undertake a significant volume of work in addition to our normal tasks. These will the recruitment of more volunteers and team leaders to support the major restorations that will result from a successful outcome to the application. You may have already seen that we are advertising for a Volunteers Organiser whose role will include the reception of new recruits and the planning of work programmes. I cannot stress too much that we need many more volunteers to support our work. It matters little whether they can work one day or thirty days a month. There will always be interesting jobs for all those who enjoy doing something that is a bit different.

My thanks all those of you who have completed the Volunteers Survey – if you haven't returned yours yet please do so quickly. We wish to analyse the input and then make decisions regarding the structure and role of the Society volunteers going forward. I hope we can publish the key results in the September edition of Bridge.

Before that, work must continue and now that September is here we need to actively work on tasks that are not easily undertaken during the bird-nesting season. As I mentioned last month CRT has asked if the GCS volunteers can further improve the look of the canal by removing all the bushes and saplings growing on the bank between the towpath & the water. We need to start this work now and try to complete it before the end of the year. In addition CRT asked for assistance in removing vegetation from brickwork, particularly bridges. This has to be undertaken carefully so as not to weaken the structure or dislodge bricks. I suggest starting from the A1 and working towards Woolsthorpe.





I am very concerned that nothing has happened in the drained pound below Lock 18. I have asked that we could start the process of discovering the source of the leaks but am still awaiting a response. Whilst it is dry (weather) we could also remove some vegetation from the off-side bank.



By the way I was lucky and saw NB Spey motoring up the River Trent recently. For those who don't know, she is an original

Thomas Clayton tanker that used to carry tar residue from gas works (remember them?) to a chemical plant at Oldbury. Never on the river in her carrying days, which ended in 1966, it was a welcomed surprise to hear the pop, pop, pop of her Bolinder echoing across the water long before she reached my location. I went and got my camera and found her again near the Ferry boat Inn at Stoke Bardolph.

Thank you for your continuing help and support for the Society,

ITEM	GUIDE PRICE	CONTACT
Epson Perfection 4490 Photo Scanner, Unused & complete with	£40	david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.org
Grey adjustable swivel Computer Chair (Radcliffe on Trent area)	£5	df.spooner@btinternet.com

HOW "Sell & Donate" Works: Selling:

If you have an electrical or domestic item you no longer require then place it in our "SELL S & DONATE" feature along with a guide price. Please note that the proceeds of all items will form 100% donation to the Society. Buying:

If the item is of interest to you then contact the seller and agree a price. You must then collect the item at a mutually agreed time and hand over a cheque made out to "*The Grantham Canal Society*".

To proceed:

Please send details of your items to *bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk* for entry into the next edition & don't forget to include your contact phone no or email address. You must advise bridge when your item has been sold. Items will be displayed for a maximum of 2 months.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH MAKES!



A well loved Lock 18 after WRG's splendid efforts in July

A decidedly "unloved" appearance in August!

WE NOW HAVE A DRAINED POUND BETWEEN LOCKS 18 & 17 ... SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

As Mike has written in this month's update ... "nothing has happened". This is frustrating to say the least & hasn't projected a good image of the canal to our August Bank Holiday boat trip visitors!

However prior to it being drained, Ralph Bellamy was there with his camera, and we are grateful for some excellent photos of CRT's contractors "catching" the fish.

Interestingly there are still many smaller fish in the pound just below lock 18 bottom gate ... what will happen to these?







SCOUTS AND ANGLING COME TOGETHER

Committee Members of the **Bottesford & District Angling Association** (B&DAA) hosted three very successful fishing coaching sessions with lads from the 1st Bottesford Scouts and from the Waltham On The Wold Beavers, on Thursday 26th, Monday 30th June and 3rd July.

Following a request from the Scout Group the B&DAA voted unanimously to hold these coaching sessions, on the Grantham Canal at Woolsthorpe using short 4 meter whips, designed for catching small fish, quickly. Matt Buck the Fisheries Officer from the Environment Agency said the EA are keen to support any initiatives that help get juniors interested in fishing and he kindly offered to support the event by providing whips, line, floats, hooks etc.





For the initial event on the 26^{th} 5 members of the B&DAA arrived at 17.30 to

prepare the fishing tackle, arrange the pegs ensuring that everything was ready for the envisaged 12 Scouts arrival at 18.30. However 21 boys arrived which amazed the Scout Master who said only half this number usually turn up each week. The boys were given a short H&S brief, after which they were split into groups of 5, so each person could have at least half an hours fishing.

Most of the Troop had not fished before and even the inevitable hooks in fingers and tangles did not dampen their enthusiasm to learn and catch fish. Soon they were pulling out small Rudd, Roach, Bream and Perch and as the session wore on bigger fish were tempted, with some up to a pound. Then a few Tench were hooked and although 3 suffered with broken line, 3 were actually landed, all of which were in excess of 2lb, which was a tribute to the Scouts newfound skills. Although fish were unhooked and returned to the water immediately the coaches kept a tally and a fantastic 273 fish were landed. Many parents arrived before the session closed at 21.30, some taking advantage of the hostelry on the opposite bank, although they were all keen to see how their sons were doing. The coaches voiced their appreciation of the boys who they said were very keen to learn, attentive, enthusiastic and a pleasure to teach. This first appetiser session was thoroughly enjoyed by both the B&DAA and the





Scouts alike and all were looking forward to the 2nd course, the

following week.

The second session was with the Waltham Beavers on 30th June. This time these very young children were greeted with a gin clear canal which proved extremely difficult to tempt any fish to feed. Being so young their attention span was short and so they fished until they caught one then swapped over. In total only about 50 fish were

caught during this short session. The final event on 3rd July was a return to the Bottesford Scouts, who arrived full of enthusiasm and with only 1 less in their number, as he was on holiday. Again the canal was very clear and so we decided upon a 2 fish and change strategy, which enabled us to retain their attention throughout. Although early on the fish were slow to respond, by the close each cast was met with an almost instantaneous bite and a fish being landed. At the end of the session the Scouts and Scout Leader gave a sound vote of thanks to the B&DAA Coaches and asked that they attend the next Scout meeting on the 24th July, for presentations.

On the 24th July 3 members of the B & DAA Committee; Dave Foster, Bryan Baines (Match Secretary) and Brian Cross (President) attended the Bottesford Scout meeting, where they gave an informative lecture on fishing, tackle, the environment and answered numerous guestions from

the boys and their parents. At the end of the evening, the whips and other equipment were presented to those Scouts who were interested in going fishing again.

A vote of thanks is made to the Environment Agency, in particular Matt Buck, whose kind donation of tackle made the event such a success and demonstrated that different organisations can work together for the benefit of the local community.



Your comments & photos are always welcome. To contact us please email *bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk*



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A 'Who Done It' in three or more parts...

It started with a kiss – if only it did, and I could embark on a tale of romance and steamy passion. To be truthful, it actually began with being prodded in the chest whilst we were with the information stand at a show.

I can't accurately recall every word, despite the occasion regularly revisiting me in my sleep. Our irate assailant said, in no uncertain terms, we should be ashamed of ourselves for allowing the towpath get in such a state, and that he was fed up with playing Hopscotch.

Now this hairy, overgrown, and out of control male of the species, looked a little too big for playing children's games, but I didn't like to say – I was already on the back foot, and this southpaw was seven feet tall if he was an inch – and besides, if I'm going to confront anyone face to face – I'd rather do it anonymously by email...

This particular incident, and the cause of my reoccurring nightmare happened about three years ago. My grizzly assailant was complaining about the amount of dog mess on the towpath where he'd like to take his children for walks – 'it was like playing Hopscotch' he said.

I have to say, this episode did galvanise me into action. I visited the area near Muston to have a look for myself – and counted over seventy 'deposits' – yes seven zero – in the first 100 strides!

Clearly this gentleman has a point, and we need to get to the bottom of it. Add to this, 21 discarded 'doggy bags' in a heap at Vincent's Bridge in the Harlaxton Cutting, 98 deposits in the first 250 mts of towpath from its juncture with Harlaxton Road, opposite the Farrier pub on the outskirts of Grantham - where incidentally, there is a bin which accepts dog waste – and of course, many, many examples of dog excreta, either bagged or un-bagged along the way.

The bagged variety is fascinating. This is often to be spied floating by in the water, or sometimes, the perpetrators play that childish game of partially hiding them behind posts and seats, because, as we know, a huge part of the fun in hiding – is being discovered! The less playful and unimaginative, brazenly leave theirs in full view, whilst those with an artistic flair, hang theirs, bauble fashion, on the bushes!



Walk through Harlaxton Cutting on a hot day, when the air is still, and the acrid aroma of dog mess hangs in the air.

When our editor suggested I write about the dog fouling issue – I happened to mention that I have plenty of photographic evidence to accompany my article. Sadly he said he didn't think they'd be room in this edition for any more pictures. So I hope I've done enough to paint my picture in words.

This is a Grantham Canal Ranger issue, of which I am one. The question is – what's to be done?

I've written enough on this subject for now – I'll make into a serial I think – a 'who done it' - tune in next month for the next thrilling instalment of the 'Mystery Doings along the Linear Litter Tray!' I'll try to think up a better title in the meantime, but I'm doubtful I'll succeed – so ideas for a title (and a solution) most welcome!

The Oilrag

PS. I know what you're all shouting 'Dog waste bins!'....there's a catch...and it's not the one on the lid!

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE GCS VOLUNTEER?

If so then you should have received a survey form? If not then please read on ... We are conducting a survey of all GCS volunteers to assist in the development of policies which will be invaluable to the Society's future.

Over the next few years there will be a substantial increase in workload and we wish to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to express their desires or concerns. All answers are in confidence, there is nowhere on the form for a signature so it is an anonymous survey. If you wish to receive a copy then email bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk and a copy will be sent to you.

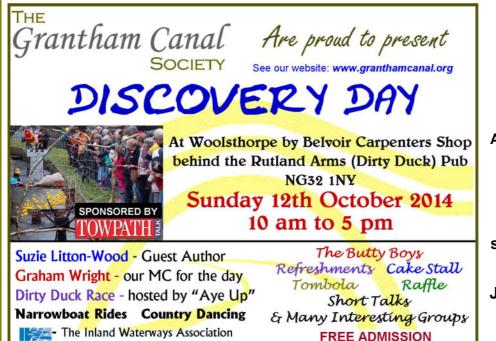
(If you have received a survey form & not completed it then please do so now!)





BRIDGE Continued





This is one of the adverts that will be appearing in several local magazines and newspapers along the length of the canal.

Artwork is also available for

A4 posters and DL leaflets

so if you have a printer and a few minutes to spare why not print some out and distribute them locally. Just email me at Bridge & I will email them to you.

Steve

Help Still Needed to make Discovery Day a Success!

Before the day: help with cleaning and clearing, and setting up banners and bunting, book stall, furniture and structures, especially on the Saturday.

On the day: help with the following: Greeters, Boat Fare collectors, Car Park Stewards, Raffle ticket sellers, Site Stewards, Stall Holders, Children's Activities, Duck Race constructors and catchers.

Contributions welcome: raffle & tombola prizes, cakes, books, Charity Stall items (not clothing), crafts.

For the sake of the organisers, it is important most people know what they are doing before the day, since we only have 2 hours that day before public arrive. Please come along on Sept 10th (see diary).

or contact Rosemary 07971173069 communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

JUDITH'S HAND MADE STALL

This is a new stall for *Discovery* day so would you please start collecting items for it now!

We need Jams, Pickles, Paintings, Cards, Needlecraft,



Jewellery & Woodwork items to name a few ... in other words ANYTHING that is hand made. So start being crafty & make something for October 12th ... PLEASE!

HELP OUR FUNDRAISING BY DONATING.......THINGS!

We have the contacts to raise money for the society from certain donated items Do you have any of the following which you would like to donate?

- Stamp collection
- **Cigarette Cards**
- Model railways 00 and N gauge
- Beer mats
- Beer pump clips

- Good quality pottery and porcelain
- 12" vinyl LPs, singles and CDs
- DVDs
- **Rocks and Minerals** •

If so email David on david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.org or ring on 07970 858458 WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT WE CAN TAKE AND SELL FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS ... EVERY LITTLE HELPS!

BRIDGE Continued





Community and Education Update August 2014

Events August was a relatively quiet month until the Bank Holiday Boat Trips, but there is plenty on in September. As well as putting the dates below in your diary, keep an eye on the website and Twitter. **Coming Up:**

Event & Venue	
by Country Fair, Canal Farm Harby	
Harby Country Fair, Canal Farm Harby	
Discovery Day Planning Meeting Carpenter's Shop NG32 1NY – includes ideas for Duck Race Obstacles.	
Talk: Burton Joyce WI, Village Hall, Burton Joyce	
Hickling Scarecrow Festival – once again grateful thanks to the Booth Family for permission to set up the Information Stand in the old canal warehouse in Hickling Basin.	
Intham Canal Rangers Meeting at The Plough, Stathern – new rangers come	
tham Ploughing Match Hall Farm, East Stoke, Nottinghamshire, 23 5QL http://www.flinthamploughingmatch.co.uk/	
k: South Witham Gardening Club	
er's Shop NG32 1NY	
Clean up the Carpenter's Shop	
Display day – contributions of saleable items &c. can be brought in.	
access by arrangement 07971173069	
putting up marquee and gazebos – as many able bodies as possible please.	
covery Day at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir t Informed! Get Inspired! Get Involved!	
Hedge-Laying Event, Hough on the Hill	
Grantham Remembers WW1 Commemorative Concert and Exhibition –	
k: Grantham U3A History Group	



A comment has been made that we don't have a Facebook page for the Grantham Canal. There used to be one some time ago but it seems to have fallen by the wayside! All these extra add on's do take time & dedication to update so possibly that's why we, (*Tony Jackson actually*), works hard to keep the Society's website, up to date. So to www.granthamcanal.org

We do have a Facebook page for "The Three Shires" which is kept up to date and is there to promote boat trips and keep everyone well informed on Bank Holiday events. Have you visited it yet?

DONATIONS

We are very grateful to the following who have made donations to the Society's funds over the past few months:

At talks given by Rosemary Gibson and Tony Pitman

C & J Whiteman Mrs M Pettman Terry Davies Mr & Mrs Altham Mrs Snowden

Your support is greatly appreciated



NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

Next meeting 17th October - Rushcliffe Arena

IWA National Chairman, Les Etheridge, will give a talk entitled 'Taking IWA Forward'.

BRIDGE Continued Your To conta



A USEFUL CHART DETAILING RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE SOCIETY.					
GCS Management Structure					
Position/Activity	Names	Responsible for	Comments		
Chairman	Mike Stone		Member of GCP. Laison with CRT		
Vice-Chairman	John Brydon		HLF Project laison		
Treasurer	Stan Harbidge	Finance	Supported by Somersby Consulting Ltd		
Reports	Mary Noble	Membership			
	Angie Howard	Communications			
Company Secretary	Gordon Wallis	Secretariat	Acting		
		Legal			
		Property			
Canal Operations	lan Wakefield	Maintenance	A1 to Woolsthorpe depot. Laison with CRT		
Reports	Ralph Bellamy	Woolsthorpe Depot	Coordination of all depot activity		
		Maintenance craft			
	Dave Booth	Engineering	Service of all craft & plant		
Passenger Operations	Ralph Poore	Boat Master	Licensing & BSC of craft; Training & certification of skippers		
Reports	John Trigg	Passenger Craft			
-	Fi Barton	Passenger Bookings			
Education & Community	Rosemary Gibson	Events' attendance	Community Awaremess		
		Schools liaison			
		Speakers			
Environment	Tony Pitman	Flora & Fauna	Liaison with Wildlife Trust		
Canal Rangers	Paul Dadford	Towpath presence	Local community liaison		
Reports	Tony Jackson				
Volunteer Coordinator	Vacant	Volunteers	Reception & Organisation of volunteers		
Safety Officer	Vacant	Safety throughout the society	To approve Method Statements and Risk Assessments		
Commercial & Sponsorship	David Lyneham-Brown	Corporate relationships	Negotiations		
Press & Publicity	Steve Swann	Marketing & Advertising			
		Press Releases			
Reports	Mark Hubbard	Web master			
Position on Executive	Vacant post	s	Committee members		



This was a pilot event organised by Bob Stanley and ably assisted by members of his family & colleagues. Puds & cakes were also provided by Mary & Rosemary Plenty of good food ... barbequed to perfection ... enjoyable company

to chat with over a pleasant drink. The photo was taken early on and unfortunately doesn't show the

line photo was taken early on and unfortunately doesn't show the larger number that finally partook in this excellent event.

We just missed the heavy rain as well!

Gurkha Square

Nepalese and Indian Restaurant, Grantham Numerous award-winning, family-run business

A Special Offer for Grantham Canal Supporters

Print off and take this voucher to qualify for the following discounts on Meals: Sunday to Thursday 20% Discount - Friday and Saturday 10% Discount Want a Takeaway? Discount and Free delivery within three mile radius of the restaurant. See the menu - <u>www.gurkhasquarerestaurant.co.uk</u> 1 Wharf Rd, Grantham NG31 6BA

(Corner of Wharf Road and London Road) Telephone: 01476 574433 Offer ends November 30th 2014

BRIDGE Continued

Your comments & photos are always welcome. To contact us please email *bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk*



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Ah, this is the life!

Sitting outside the green gazebo in the August sunshine, at (to steal a phrase the Canal & River Trust use for Foxton Locks) one of the Grantham Canal's 'Honeypot Sites' at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir – life couldn't be rosier!

In truth, we don't have much time for sitting, and we always arrive home considerably more than just pleasantly tired...yes, there is a word used in common parlance to describe this state of extreme exhaustion, but I'm sure our editor would have something to say about it being used in this context...



I can just hear him now: 'we have to consider the sensibilities of our more delicate readership'...

We were at Woolsthorpe with the Information Stand to support the boat trips on August Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday.

Sunday was very busy, and we met some nice folk who were interested in the work of the society. Would you believe some people still ask if the canal will ever open – honestly! We met some members too – it's always nice to meet the people who support us in our endeavours, and to know there are people out there who appreciate the value of this wonderful waterway, and are happy to chip in a little to help secure its future.

We were acutely aware of the weather forecast for Monday – we approached the day with trepidation - in the event, it wasn't as bad as they said it was going to be – most of the trips were completed before the more persistent rain came – even this wasn't as heavy as they predicted...weather warning indeed! They seem to issue these as soon as it comes over cloudy these days!

Needless to say, our numbers were down, but we still had a steady flow of visitors throughout the day. Actually, those who decided to stay at home probably missed a treat – there's something really cosy about travelling serenely along the canal in the rain, warm and dry in a centrally heated boat, whilst sipping a hot drink – even a little surreal, as I discovered when I managed to steal myself away on the last trip of the day.

All in all – a successful weekend, I don't know the final numbers, but a back of an envelope calculation would suggest well over £400 raised – of which every last penny will benefit the canal.

Of course – I've told this from the perspective of the Information Stand – the boat crews do, I'm sure, have a hard task cruising up and down the canal all day long.

Envy and sarcasm aside – they do work extremely hard. They're on duty early in the morning preparing the boat, stocking it with drinks and snacks, checking over mechanical things, then they're kept busy making sure our visitors are catered for throughout their cruise. Then it all has to be sorted out at the end of the day. I'm sure they arrive home in the knowledge, that they too have done a day's work!

So if you want to do something worthwhile and feel 'pleasantly tired' - visit the Volunteer section on our homepage for contact details – we look forward to welcoming you!

The next 'Turn up & Ride' trips will be on Discovery Day – we hope to see vou there!

Of course, you can charter 'The Three Shires' at almost any time between April and the end of October for your own private cruise – see our homepage for details of this.

The Oilrag



BRIDGF Continued

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