

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

The Society continues to make good progress and the opportunities for volunteers continue to grow! Our long standing offer to undertake some maintenance works has been accepted by CRT and we have been requested to investigate the source(s) of the leaks from the pound above Lock 17. This task will involve



vegetation clearance, removal of mud and mortar from the brick & stone work and then a search for the water entry points. Fortunately the fine weather is making life a little easier for those undertaking the task.

We now have firm dates from Waterways Recovery Group for the training of GCS volunteers to handle construction plant. Severn Trent has offered land at their Stoke Farm site in mid-November.

Further details will be available soon. CRT and GCS have agreed terms under which the GCS will lease Woolsthorpe Depot for the next fifteen years. This will



Mud on the walls - before & after cleaning

Right: Vegetation cleared from the opposite bank where there's an access track.

not only ensure the future of the historic Grantham Canal site but also provide a base for the Society in exchange for the maintenance and improvements to the property.

Some of you will have seen that we are not the only teams working on the canal. CRT staff have been renovating Lock 11 alongside the Fosse Way near Cropwell Bishop and a jolly good job the team are doing! All the damaged brickwork has been replaced and soon all that will be needed are two pairs of gates



oh, and some water! This should be one lock that is almost ready and awaits our efforts to develop the whole of the nineteen mile pound.

Other society activities are not always so visible and we have been very concerned that the Hollygate Lane crossing in Cotgrave will be a pedestrian hazard once the new houses on the old colliery site are inhabited. Towpath users, who currently have problems crossing the road, will be more exposed as traffic increases. We have again been in contact with the authorities requesting that the developer installs a navigable bridge which will separate towpath users from the traffic. I hope it doesn't take a serious accident to underline the requirement for the work.

Looking forward the **Society needs more active volunteers** and some young and fit ones! Our commitment to the HLF Application, assuming that it is awarded, will require regular working for the next five years. The task will be to install access roads and compounds, straighten the walls at Lock 15 (they are leaning inwards) and rebuild one wall at Lock 14 (non-existent), dredge the waterway, raise banks, install landing stages and replace the towpath. All of this using volunteers who are learning heritage skills as they work. Is that a target we can meet with current resources? I suspect not! Please talk to others who have time offer or who are keen to be trained on a construction project so they are better equipped to find work in the future. Confucius he says, "More hands make life easier for senior chaps"!

Mike Stone

Your Opinion Matters!

Our thanks to all the volunteers who responded to the Volunteers Survey questionnaire. However, we have more volunteers, both current and not active this year, than responses so why didn't you complete the survey?
Did you receive it? If not please, please email Steve Swann at bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk and ask for a copy.
Did you forget it? **Just ask again.**
Has Steve got your current email address? **If in doubt ask for a questionnaire.**
Happy with the way things are? **Please tell us using the questionnaire.**
Don't like to make comments? **Those are just what we need!**

All responses are treated in strict confidence – no names required.
To plan constructively we need to have feedback from our volunteers so please help us and reply quickly. *Thank you.*

BOAT FOR SALE

Several years ago GCRS as it was then, was given a 'Yorkshire Pebble' cabin boat (pictured right) for use on the canal. We called her 'The Grantham Restorer'- Workboat No 18. This was the only boat we possessed but we were not allowed on the canal so although we did take her on the River Trent once it became obvious that she was not a practical solution as a Workboat. So after a bit of TLC we have reluctantly decided to sell her and use the money raised elsewhere. She is of GRP construction with original fixed Cuddy Cabin top and comes complete with a road trailer. Please note that there is no outboard engine included. We are hoping to raise in the region of £800 ono. Details **07831 629 196**



Sell - & Donate

ITEM	GUIDE PRICE	CONTACT
Epson Perfection 4490 Photo Scanner, Unused & complete with all masks, software, cables, etc	£20	david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.org
Grey adjustable swivel Computer Chair (Radcliffe on Trent area)	£5	df.spooner@btinternet.com

Fundraising Efforts Yield Results ... We recently asked our members to *Help our Fundraising by Donating.....THINGS!!!* ... and we are getting results!!

GCS member Bob Jones has donated a model railway, vinyl records and a stamp collection to go to auction and last month a cheque for £150 raised from the sale of such items was paid into society funds. Many thanks to Bob and a couple of other members who have donated stamps and cigarette cards.

COME ON YOU OTHERS – DIG OUT AND DONATE.....

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!



Friends, colleagues, even Romans and countrymen – I stand before you well and truly bamboozled.

There are reams of legislation about dog fouling, loads of it! Some of it is open to interpretation - but I won't bore the pants off you with it – partly, because I don't understand it all myself...

Last month, I left you shouting DOG WASTE BINS!! I know I did, the reverberation of your combined voices is still ringing in my ears!

I asked the Canal & River Trust if we could have some bins please? I was taken aback by their answer:

'No problem they said'.....hang on, hang on! - before you throw your hat in the air! Provision of them isn't the problem – **emptying them is - this is the catch!**

I so wanted to tell this story from the dog's perspective – by telling you I go along the Grantham Canal towpath early each morning for a wee and a poo – discreetly of course! However, this is not the image I want of me in your mind's eye – but as I write this anonymously, maybe I've no need to worry on that score.

You may remember it was three years ago that I was accosted about the dog mess – so what have I been doing all this time? Why is it still a problem? Why isn't it sorted?

Some families have stopped using the towpath because of the dog fouling – they tell us so! This is a great shame. I have a friend who lost an eye due to catching Toxocariasis from coming into contact with dog faeces as a child - dog fouling is not just unpleasant - it can pose a serious health hazard.


Spare a thought also for canal maintenance staff, who come into contact with the stuff on a daily basis – think of the people who strim the grass – their overalls get plastered with it, they sit and eat their lunch with their overalls on – the same overalls have to be washed in their home washing machines.

Cyclist get it on their tyres – then have to handle them whilst repairing punctures - and we all know that sinking feeling when you find you've trodden dog mess into your car, or house – and the ensuing palaver of finding an old bowl, disinfectant, scrubbing brush, cloths and the best part of an hour cleaning everything – including the intricacies of the soles of footwear.

The canal runs through three boroughs. Two of these boroughs recognise the value of this wonderful amenity, which is provided, by and large, at little or no cost to them. Two of these authorities not only provide bins, but most importantly, empty them too – hoorah for them!

Sadly, one local authority, they say no – we will not empty your bins...

The Canal & River Trust offered to install extra signage along this stinking dog's toilet – which they did – thank you! And to the oiks who stole four out of the seven within hours of them being fitted – I can only hope their mothers love 'em...

Someone on Twitter, suggested that one of the now redundant signless posts  could be turned into a gibbet – I've had a look - but I really don't think it's quite high enough. The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign's shocking pink 'No such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy' stickers we're short lived - I'm on the look out for someone with pink behind their fingernails...

It was around this time, that I began to notice that someone had been paint spraying 'deposits' in red, not only red, but sometimes white and sometimes blue.

Canal & River Trust Employees and volunteers do this spraying from time to time – I managed to get hold of a can or two to give it a try. If nothing else, it pretties it up a bit – and I soon had the section near the A1 - the one with 98 'deposits' within 250mts – looking really patriotic!

But alas, these perpetrators are as persistent as they are discrete....I think I can drag this out for at least one more instalment – for one thing – even I don't know how it's going to end...

I should just say – this is not aimed at responsible dog owners – of which there are many, and they too are as exasperated as the rest of us! Some even pick up the mess that others have left behind!

The Oilrag



Paul & Jan Dadford walk The Grantham ... Part 1

When my husband Paul first suggested that we walk the length of the Grantham canal I was understandably daunted by the prospect - 33 miles over 3 days! Despite my misgivings, I agreed to go with him and he booked some places to stay en route. After telling the GCS committee we were planning on doing the walk, they asked if we could collect various pieces of data along the way, and so a canal survey was set up. Our survey included, amongst other things: noting how many people were using the footpaths, how much litter there was in and around the canal and whether there were any issues with dog fouling along the towpath.

The week of the walk arrived and the weather for the first day was looking good, but the forecast for day two was heavy rain showers! With everything booked we didn't really want to cancel, and so with fingers crossed that we wouldn't get too soaked we were ready to go. Our son dropped us off in Grantham on the Thursday morning and at 9:50am, with our backpacks on and clipboards in hand, we were off.

The sun was shining, the canal looked beautiful and all was well. We passed a few fishermen, and there were several walkers and cyclists along the way. We even saw two children canoeing in the canal. After walking for just over two hours we arrived at Woolsthorpe, and our lunch at the Dirty Duck. The pub was full and lively, and after a nice meal and a short rest we set off again.



This next section of canal was very peaceful, with hardly anyone else using the towpath. Due to unrestored locks, lowered bridges and several causeways it is not possible to get a canal boat along this part of the water. Because of this, sadly, the canal has become overgrown in places and is full of reeds and duckweed. However, the towpath itself was in excellent condition, being very well maintained by the Canal & Rivers Trust. After almost 2½ hours of walking we arrived at Redmile and made for the B&B, the Paddock at Peacock Farm, that we had booked. With aching feet and legs I was glad to have made it this far and was looking forward to a hot shower and a rest. That evening we had a lovely dinner at the Windmill Inn.



After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast cooked by Mandy, we were ready to begin again. We had 16 miles to get through and with the forecast of heavy rain for most of the day I was not looking forward to it.

To be Continued ...



Bottesford & District Angling Association

The Bottesford & District Angling Association (B&DAA) is probably been one of the oldest fishing clubs in the area, having been in existence since 1890, as confirmed by committee meeting minutes. We have had a fully functional club providing a terrific leisure pursuit to Bottesford and district residents for over 120 years and throughout this time have leased the fishing rights to almost 4 miles of the Grantham Canal.

The B&DAA offers:

- Over 4 miles of fishing on the Grantham Canal
- Prolific stretches of the Upper Witham
- Ability to participate 365 days of the year
- Friendly club atmosphere
- Coaching, support, advice and support
- Friendly 3 hour matches every Friday night through June and, July
- Matches usually every other Sunday throughout the year (many on different venues)
- The opportunity enter into the community spirit by joining the club, helping on canal clearance days, serving on the committee
- Opportunity for girls and women to compete equally with the boys and men
- An outdoor pursuit in a safe environment

Of course angling isn't free and we have to pay substantial rents for our waters, hence we have to charge for membership books: Full £20, Senior Citizens £10 and juniors £5. Now what other sports organisation can offer 365 days of participation for that sort of money? Currently we have around 70 members, of which about 25 regularly attend the organised matches and the Committee meets every month, with the AGM being held on the 3rd Wednesday in March each year.

We in the B&DAA dearly want to see the great sport of Angling thrive within our area and fervently believe the canal must be retained as a scenic resource, full of aquatic life, to be enjoyed by every local resident and by generations to come. We are faced with an uphill struggle however as The Canal is classified as a Remainder Waterway and as such receives minimal maintenance from Canal & Rivers Trust whose budget is mainly taken up on active waterways. Hence members of B&DAA can often be seen with rakes and drags attempting to clear the prolific weed and reed growth, as well as removing fallen trees from the canal. In recent years the club has formed a close working relationship with The Grantham Canal Society whose aims are similar to ours, in that they too want to see this beautiful local resource returned to its former glory.



Weed



If anyone fancies; having a go at fishing, want to take it up again or just want to be a social member helping with the canal environment, then give one of those listed below a call and have a chat:

Brian Cross (President) 01949 843164

Mick Calcraft (Chairman) 01949 842776

Bryan Baines (Match Secretary) 01400 318345

TRY THIS WHEN YOU HAVE A MINUTE! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKN86KM_jG4

Event's Team - Hickling

With The Grand Old Duke of York suitably stuffed, we set off with the rest of the paraphernalia to set up the society's Information Stand in ye old canal warehouse on Hickling Wharf.

Before you report us to the Royal Society for the Protection of the Aristocracy, I should point out that our duke was a scarecrow, and was our entry in the Hickling Scarecrow Festival – Nursery Rhymes being the theme.

What with a rocking horse on which to mount him, 10,000 men, and hill for them to march up and down – we had to make two journeys to get everything there!

The Hickling Warehouse is a fabulous building. The owners are members of the society and are supportive of the work we do - and allow us to use the warehouse at this event each year. Local people often visit us, simply for the opportunity to see inside!

When it's quiet, I like to reflect upon the days when this would have been a hive of activity – boats being loaded and unloaded, carts a carting, hoists a hoisting – what a busy place it must have been – the transport hub of its day!

We didn't have much time for reflective mood however – this was the busiest and most profitable show I think we've ever had!

Takings were just a shade under £200 – this included two new memberships – a warm welcome to you if you're reading this!



Cheque presentation at Hickling Scarecrow Festival.

L - R: The Grand Old Duke of York: Rosemary Gibson, GCS Education & Community: Marcus Hardy, Chairman, Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group: Ian Wakefield, GCS Workparty Organiser.

It's not just about the money – hopefully a lot more people will now have a more positive view of the canal's future, and of the work we are doing with regard to returning it to full navigation!

Mary, taking time out from her Membership Secretary and trip boat crewing duties, spent the day with us on Saturday. Tony Pitman supported us for a time too. With another busy day on Sunday, we were grateful for the support of Workparty Organiser, Ian Wakefield – with Fred 'encyclopaedia' Marsh calling in as we were packing up – what would we do without Fred's knowledge at times!

Thank you so much one and all for your help!

I'm going to point you now, not point at you, because, as we know, that's rude. But point you to our website, because if you want to help us in the work we do, and I know many do – but are not too sure how to get involved – go to 'Volunteer' on the homepage – it's all there – see you soon!

We were also presented with a cheque for £50.00 from the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group. They're keen

supporters of the canal – but as their headquarters are at Canal Farm, Harby – that's probably not surprising! If vintage tractors and farm machinery float your boat – then check out www.vobmg.co.uk They're a great bunch!

This is the second year in a row the group have presented us with a cheque – the proceeds of their annual Tractor Road Run – a big thank you to all the guys and gals who took part in this! I'm best kept out of the tractor driving seat, I only tried it once – and you know them there weights that stick out the front on some of 'em – well, there was a shed with an extra ventilation hole in the wall when I'd finished...

Nuffield tractors send Rosemary weak at the knees – she used to drive one when she was a mere slip of a girl whilst working on her grandfather's farm.

We proffered our profound apologies to the duke, in advance of us 'unceremoniously' easing him into the campervan – he'd served his purpose – and with fatigue having got the better of us – we were determined not to make two journeys getting everything home!

Continued

Team Events (Cont'd ...) The previous weekend, of September 6th & 7th, found us at Harby Country Fair in our green gazebo. This is, purely and simply, a quintessentially English show – picture Darling Buds of May – and you won't be far adrift! Steam traction engines, tractors, vintage motorcycles, and one of my favourites, a hand cranked Dobby Set – the forerunner of its larger cousin – Gallopers - don't call 'em carousels, it's the equivalent of calling a narrowboat a barge!

There were vintage cars too, including a 1950s Vauxhall Wyvern. Now, I'm not a car enthusiast, but this car reminded me of my youth – my granddad had a fleet of these cars in his Taxi business in Grantham – and when he took us home, I liked nothing better than to be shut in the boot of the car for the journey, and granddad was happy to oblige – neither of us seeing anything wrong with this arrangement. I delighted in seeing the brake lights come on from darkness of my cocoon, and in trying to plot where we were along the way.

Between these two shows, we gave a talk to a well attended meeting of the Burton Joyce WI – who made us feel very welcome, plied me with tea and biscuits, and gave us a generous donation towards our cause – and more particularly, which is always a relief to me, they didn't sing Jerusalem – I always seem to find myself near the front when this is sung at WIs – not only do I not know the words, but the phrase 'tone deaf' was coined just for me! – so a big thank you to them on a number of counts!

Our pre Discovery Day meeting during the same week was less well attended. Thank you to those who did attend, and thank you to those who have already pledged their support.

We need more helpers, both on the day and in preparing for the event. If you've never helped before - this is a great time to do your bit towards the canal – there are jobs for the ladies and the men, even gentlemen, although I know there aren't many of those around these days – show us you care...

The countdown diary to Discovery Day is in the Diary on the homepage.

Get in touch: Rosemary: Tel: 01476 978896, 07971173069 email: RhuMaere@aol.com Tony: 01476 567477 email: anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com

The Oilrag

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

**Look what CRT are doing
at Lock 11**

Cropwell Top Lock

Essential safety work ... and
making a proper job!

**We just need to add Lock
Gates & Water!**



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 - www.gurkhasquarerestaurant.co.uk

1 Wharf Rd, Grantham NG31 6BA

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

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

Next meeting 17th October - Rushcliffe Arena

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

THE Grantham Canal SOCIETY *Are proud to present*
See our website: www.granthamcanal.org

DISCOVERY DAY

At Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Carpenters Shop behind the Rutland Arms (Dirty Duck) Pub NG32 1NY
Sunday 12th October 2014
10 am to 5 pm

SPONSORED BY TOWPATH 2014

Suzie Litton-Wood - Guest Author
Graham Wright - our MC for the day
Dirty Duck Race - hosted by "Aye Up"
Narrowboat Rides Country Dancing
The Inland Waterways Association

The Butty Boys
Refreshments Cake Stall
Tombola Raffle
Short Talks
& Many Interesting Groups
FREE ADMISSION

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

A pdf is also available for

A4 posters and DL leaflets

If you have a printer and a few minutes to spare why not print some out and distribute them locally.

Email me at: bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk & I will send them to you. *Steve*

Spark up Your Sunday Evenings with a Meal and a Pub Quiz

After the summer break the pub quiz season starts up again at the Admiral Tollymarche in Grantham

Five Sunday evenings between now and Christmas –

October 5th & 19th and November 2nd, 16th & 30th, starting at 19.30

Why not start with a meal at Gurkha Square, on the opposite corner to the Admiral Tollymarche (ample car parking behind the Tolly). Take the voucher from this copy of "Bridge" with you for a 20% discount at this award winning Nepalese/ Indian restaurant, open from 17.00 onwards and for the first 15 attendees a book of 70+ discount vouchers for Wetherspoons meals and drinks at the Admiral Tollymarche

Really, it is a bargain – how could you miss it? And you're supporting GCS fundraising (£2 quiz entry fee)

Community and Education Update September 2014

Coming Up: Main focus is of course on Discovery Day!

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Countdown to Discovery Day at Carpenter's Shop NG32 1NY	
Wed 8th October 10.00 – 4.00	Clean up the Carpenter's Shop
Thurs 9th Oct 10.00 – 4.00	Display day – contributions of saleable items &c. can be brought in.
Friday 10th October	access by arrangement 07971173069
Saturday 11th October 10.00 – 4.00	putting up marquee and gazebos – as many able bodies as possible please.
Sunday 12th October 10.00 – 5.00	Discovery Day at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Get Informed! Get Inspired! Get Involved!
Saturday 25th October	Hedge-Laying Event, Hough on the Hill
8th – 15th November	Grantham Remembers WW1 Commemorative Concert and Exhibition details still to be finalised
Wed 12th November 2.00	Talk: Grantham U3A History Group
Thurs 20th November 7.30	Talk: Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club, Haven in the Vale