



### **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](mailto: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](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

## **1. GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE.**

On 21<sup>st</sup> March a group of GCS members, local farmers and representatives from the two local fishing clubs attended an interesting evening Workshop "to shape, resource and develop the project, and give us an opportunity to 'have our say.' "

Please have a look at the website: [www.granthamcanalheritageinitiative.com](http://www.granthamcanalheritageinitiative.com) to find out what happened at the Workshop. Left click on *ABOUT* then on the word *Blog*, further down the page.

**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](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gcsmemberssurvey) and for the general public at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/granthampeople](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/granthampeople)

It would be helpful if you can forward the details to family and friends and ask them to fill in the survey too. The more replies we receive the better!

For those of you familiar with Twitter and Facebook (where do all those 'friends' come from?), you will be able to keep up to date with what is happening there.

Our thanks to Terry Kemp, Eliza Botham and Alison Lee and Lucie Hoelmer, who are using their combined expertise to help make this project succeed.

## **2. WATERWAYS WORLD ARTICLE.**



The March issue of Waterways World contains a delightful four page article on the Grantham Canal by Jonathan Mosse. Those of you familiar with the famous Nicholson Waterway Guides will have quietly thanked Jonathan many times for his detailed maps and observations, as he is the author and researcher of the series of publications.

Jonathan has done us proud, not only by his beautiful photographs and very accurate description of the canal both past and present but using his persuasive talents with his publishers which has resulted in the Grantham Canal being included in Book 6 - Nottingham, York & the North East, publication date - March 2014. How's that for a remainder canal?

Jonathan states in his article that until he 'discovered' the Grantham Canal, he didn't have a favourite waterway but now he can't wait to move his boat here! Wonderful. What a recommendation. However, I'm afraid there is a queue! Do try to get hold of a copy of Waterways World. It costs £3.75 and is well worth the money for this article alone. Many thanks to Jonathan from all at GCS.

### 3. Dredgers on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.



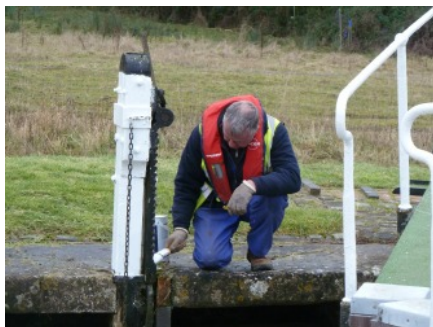
Pictures (left) show workmen dredging the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, circa possibly 1930's. I've included these photographs as they give a very clear indication of how labour intensive this operation was, requiring a crew of four to operate the machinery. The construction seems to be similar to the smaller 'Grantham Boat' (below) but has the added extension at the bow for the chain that pulled the 'spoon' through the silt, which must have made the job much easier. My thanks to Mike Clarke for sending the photos. If you are interested in the mechanics of the spoon dredger do have a look at The Leeds and Liverpool Spoon Dredger article in their Society's Newsletter number 10 published in the Autumn of 2002. [www.mikeclarke.myzen.co.uk/C&G/C&G10.pdf](http://www.mikeclarke.myzen.co.uk/C&G/C&G10.pdf)

Mike is a professional industrial and canal historian and restoration engineer. Do have a look at his own website below. It is very interesting. [www.mikeclarke.myzen.co.uk/](http://www.mikeclarke.myzen.co.uk/)



Picture above from an article in Bridge - Nov/Dec 2011.

### 4. Workparties.



Tony and Ralph doing their best to paint the white bits white and black bits black. It is more complicated than it looks!



Workparty members had been allowed some free time whilst the weather has not at its best but will have started again by the time you read this. We were out on the odd sunny day to complete the painting at lock 18 which was started by the Loughbrough students and on the 1<sup>st</sup> March Mudlark was moved onto the water



Waiting for the lorry. It's warmer in here!

at Denton, Centauri was lifted out so that we could examine her rudder which had been displaced and 3 Shires was lifted and transported to Woolsthorpe Depot for hull blacking, engine servicing and some remedial work. The day didn't start too well with the lorry going to Mansfield instead of Woolsthorpe, so eventually arrived one and a half hours late! However, Darren and Paul the excellent crane crew, wasted no time and within a few minutes 'Mudlark' was sitting comfortably on the trailer. Once the boat securely strapped down we all headed to Denton where Mary and Bert were on guard to make sure nobody tried to park near the Slipway. Three Shires and Centauri had left Woolsthorpe for Denton earlier and within a very short time 'Mudlark' was in the water and Centauri was out, sitting on the trailer whilst we checked the rudder.



During a previous adventure where we removed part of a fallen tree, we had to leave Centauri at Harlaxton Wharf for a few days and during that time, someone kindly untied the mooring ropes, which somehow resulted in the rudder being lifted and its lower bearing pin becoming detached from its socket. It had taken some mechanical help to relocate as the socket is quite small and whole assemble is not vertical . All seemed ok with the rudder and it gave us a good chance to make sure the prop was free of debris as Centauri doesn't have a weed hatch!

Once Centauri was back in the water it was Three Shires turn and she was soon on her way to Woolsthorpe by road. Once in the Depot she was soon unloaded and the lorry and crane were gone! Centauri had towed Mudlark to Denton Winding Hole for temporary mooring and returned to Woolsthorpe.

By 15.30 we had secured the site and were on our way home. After the first hiccough everything went according to plan. Thanks to everybody who came along to help or watch.



Mudlark gets loaded



Must be the Grantham Canal supporters club



Out comes Centauri



No wonder we couldn't get the rudder back in its socket. *Thanks to John for supporting the boat with his hard hat!*



Not bad condition after 3 years in the water



Mudlark under tow

During the past month we have been busy blacking, painting, repairing and servicing 3 Shires ready for the 2013 season. Unfortunately the weather has not been too kind to us and progress has been a little slow. However, except for the external painting, everything has been done and we are ready to go. Launch date should be 28<sup>th</sup> March and we are ready for the first trips on Easter Monday



Pho

3 Shires propeller (right) having had an argument with something solid. Thanks to Dave Cross it's now back in shape again. 'The day the sun shone' (far right). Some he 'Gang' having lunch in the fresh air after a hard morning's work!



## 5. LOCK 18 DONATIONS.

The new bottom gates have been ordered from our friends at Hargreaves, so now we really **DO** need your help to pay for them.

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.

Thank you from all at GCS.

## 6. FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP.

**We wish to offer our sincere thanks for the kind donations that have been received.**

### DONORS

Dr John Bannister	Derek Mear	Jonathan Mosse	Robert Prowse	Mrs A M Scott
J & G Pownall	Sue and David Simms	T M Shaw	Ann Earl	Mrs D Brown
Beth Skelton.				

### MEMBERSHIP

In a recent change of roles Mary Noble has taken over as Membership Secretary and all correspondence and payments relating to new members and renewals should be sent to her in the first instance at; 80 High Meadow, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 7LX.

Angie Howard has become Assistant Membership Secretary and has retained control over the Gift Aid administration and the electronic distribution of our newsletter "Bridge." Angie has done a valuable job as Membership Secretary for many years and the GCS Executive wish to express their appreciation to her for a difficult job well done.

Membership administration has developed to a point whereby it has been considered to be too much for one person. With Mary and Angie working together, and with members providing email addresses and change of circumstances details, then this department can only go from strength to strength.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A renewals exercise has been conducted in January, February and March of this year. It has been successful to the point of regaining 70 former members back to current membership, with the result that the Society now has more than 300 members and new members are regularly being recruited.

Not everyone can be an 'active' member, but the numerical and financial support of the Society's membership is necessary to ensure its success. Public awareness, concern and desire for the return of the Grantham Canal to a fully operating canal is vital, and cannot be stressed enough. The Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways), local and county councils and your MP's need to know that the Grantham Canal Society has your support, and that the public support seeing the Grantham Canal being fully restored back to the river Trent. Please write to these bodies and let them know how you feel.

### OBITUARY

The GCS Executive has recently learnt of the passing of four former members and wishes to express their condolences to the families and friends of former members Mr R Burbage; Roger Kerridge; Dr D Spooner; Captain Peter Kemp Bsc.

**Ralph Poore – Hon Treasurer (GCS)**



## 7. IWA NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH.

# NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH MEETINGS

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, April 19th 2013

"St. Pancras" an illustrated talk by Nigel Lowey. A talk for everyone with an interest in history, world class architecture, clever engineering and a great story.

### Extra Off site Events:

### Friday, May 19th 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

Further information about meetings can be obtained from Social Secretary :- Mavis White 01636 671726

The Inland Waterways Association  
Non-profit Distributing Company Limited by Guarantee No 612245  
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Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, HP5 1WA  
website: [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk)

## 8. WHAT IS IT?



Ian, Thanks for the latest edition of 'Bridge'. I run, cycle and walk along the Grantham Canal. The mystery object might have been a hay bale spike. It could have fitted on a steel pole at the back of a vehicle and the two blades might have been pushed into hay bales. The holes could have been for pins to secure the tool on the pole. But its a wild guess. **Guy Roberts. West Bridgford.**

Angie. With regard to the rusty bifurcated tool in February Bridge it is probably the end of an old boat shaft; the shaft which has rotted away was probably about 2 inches in diameter and 15 feet long. There is

a similar iron piece in the Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association lock cottage at Sandiacre. An eel fork is different and there is also one of those at Sandiacre for comparison. **John Baylis.**

*Thanks to Guy and John for their suggestions. Perhaps John would be kind enough to send me a photograph or two of the example at Sandiacre for us all to compare. Ed.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.



### 40 years of B&B by the canal.

The paddock of peacock farm Redmile situated half way between Grantham and Nottingham. Nicky would like to offer a special deal to all canal users, combine an over night stay with walking/cycling along the canal. Individual or group bookings. A lovely alternate venue for a birthday/anniversary/treat or just a get together with friends.

Sunday to Friday £30pp (twin or double rooms) of which £5 will be donated to the Grantham Canal Society. To include complimentary afternoon tea on arrival and a fully cooked English breakfast to set you on your way, use of hot tub to ease your aching limbs also massage treatments available, see our website for full details.

[www.peacock-farm.co.uk](http://www.peacock-farm.co.uk)



## 9. TALKS & SHOWS.

Hello all

Our feet have barely touched the ground during the last week. We started on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, with an afternoon talk to Bottesford U3A. Rosemary gave her 'Like going into another world', Grantham Canal talk, assisted by her unglamorous assistant, who sometimes operated the laptop with the expected efficiency – and sometimes leaving a little to be desired...make mental note – more training required

We found them a friendly group, readily offering tea and biscuits, they gave generously, and our membership has increased a little as a result.

I have mixed emotions about our next port of call. They were, without doubt, a friendly, appreciative and generous group, in the upstairs room at the Gleaners Inn at Calverton. It was when news filtered through, that Catweasel had been seen walking through the bar downstairs, that I began to view Calverton in a slightly different light. Whilst it's probably complimentary to be mistaken for someone famous, I'd rather it be Brad Pitt, than some old eccentric medieval wizard – I could get on the tellingbone and complain, but that's not the way of wizards, oh no, we wizards have our own means of retribution, not for us, the harnessing of electrickery to carry out our deeds..... 'eye of newt, and toe of frog.....'

The Country Link group were very knowledgeable about the canal, and as far as I know, had no connection with the 'observant one' propping up the downstairs bar. Some are already members, and some have had boat trips on The Three Shires. And again, were generous with their donations.

.....where were we next.....oh yes, how could I forget an evening with the Radcliffe on Trent Progressive Wives! Do you know – I'd be more than happy to do this job for nothing...hmmm... It's so good to be able, at these talks, to tell people of all the work we have going on, and of the progress over the last 40 some years, long before us 'upstarts' came onto the scene....only yesterday really. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those who have 'done their time' in years gone by – some 'lifers' are still doing it!

No, I'm not avoiding Radcliffe Progressive Wives – heaven help me if I tried! I'm running out of my rather limited box of adjectives, let me delve into the bottom – for some I may not have used in a while – convivial, informed and liberal in their donations – that'll do nicely. I have to mention the buffet, and in particular, the fruit salad – and the chatter, my, my, the chatter! Can you ask them if they want one of your other talks Rosemary? She's not just a one talk woman you know!

We were a little fatigued for the Radcliffe talk – I hope it didn't show too much, as we'd set up, and been at the Grantham Museum all day – the first day of our three day event there....and who ordered the snow? Naturally, we could have done without it, the snow that is. It did have an adverse affect on our visitor numbers, but we did make some very worthwhile contacts. We had quite a lot of interest, and what we lacked in quantity, we more than made up in quality.

The museum are keen to have us back, it's almost home from home for us now! Don't forget to call in to see our semi-permanent display in the cabinets.

On Saturday, Tony Kirkland brought along some absolutely stunning examples of his canal art, and demonstrated to the public how it's done. Tony is currently working on some decorative door panels for The Three Shires, she'll look a treat chugging along the cut when these are fitted, as she's lacking a bit of decoration I feel.

Sue Carr assisted Rosemary with the needlework workshops on Friday, and Tony Pitman braved Grantham's bizarre traffic and parking arrangements, to help us on Thursday. Thank you one and all – and to Mary who popped in for a while too!

Whilst I haven't got the precise figures yet – a back of an envelope calculation would suggest we raised in the region of £250. during the week, but, as has been said before, very importantly, we have also raised awareness. One simple remark, made to me by one of the visitors to the museum, and referring to the canal, 'I didn't know all this was going on' sums it up – and that's what we, in the events team are all about.

It's 'snitch' time again – this is where, when I come across some volunteering work which has been done – I like to bring it to the attention of a 'slightly' wider audience. Remember the original bridge plate for Casthorpe road bridge, that Bernard Jessop presented to the society – well, Ralph Bellamy has used it as a pattern to make some new plates – i.e. taken the dimensions, and copied the style of numerals for other bridge plates. I spotted some on bridge 66 (the Drift Harlaxton), I'm impressed Ralph!...only another seventy some to go, x2 of course! And what about Harlaxton Wharf then! The Princes Trust have worked so hard at the wharf, and it looks a real treat!



We were in the Carpenters Shop recently – one of the long walls....a very, very long wall, has been painted – your work Mary? Wonderful! And the trip boat's had her bottom blacked – is it just me, or does that sound ever so slightly erotic?

I can see the way this report is going – so I'd better stop now...

Your 'umble wizard

The Oilrag (or Tony Jackson, as he is sometimes called! Ed)

*Rosemary Gibson and Tony Jackson do so much for the public face of GCS. They throw themselves into the job and they really appreciate members support. Just like so many of our devoted team of volunteers, not only do they freely give many hours of their time but also materials, transport, fuel and use of their own personal equipment. It's called dedication! Ed.*

## 10. THE PRINCE'S TRUST AT HARLAXTON WHARF.



Harlaxton Wharf has just undergone a 2 week restoration by the Grantham Branch of The Prince's Trust Youth Volunteers in association with Harlaxton Parish Council and The Grantham Canal Society. The youngsters have really worked long and hard and the transformation is nothing short of a miracle.

(photos)  
Tony  
Jackson



Whilst they were digging the site the Volunteers uncovered the remains of a timber 'slide' which ran from the top path down towards the canal. Someone who lives near the Wharf has passed on some information which requires following up and hopefully will appear in next month's issue of 'Bridge'.

Didn't they do well!

## 11. STOP PRESS.

The Three Shires went back in the water on Thursday "28<sup>th</sup> March without a hitch. Err. Well, almost. This time the crane had a puncture so was 2 hours late!



(Left) The hull blacked, the engine services and a small amount of paintwork to be restored when the weather is a little kinder!

(Right) Almost ready for 'take off'.



Well, just like buses you don't see 'Bridge' for a while, then two come along in quick succession. It's all the editors fault, trying to catch up. Sorry!

**For great film clips of some GCS activities please click on** <http://youtu.be/J911AcqK-eY>

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](mailto:ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.com)