



May 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.

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.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



2. Message from our Chairman, Mike

So far the Appeal for new bottom gates has:

Raised in donations £14,990 thanks to your generosity.

All of this has been spent on buying the wood and building the gates.

More is still required to:

Complete the construction of the gates.

Meet GCS installation costs – crane, safety fencing, pumps, etc.

Meet CRT installation charges.

We are working to keep costs as low as possible but we still need a minimum of £14,010 to get Lock 18 working.

We must add that we are most appreciative of Hargreaves Lock Gates assistance in reducing their costs to help the GCS with this project.

Please can you help us meet this target? Every pound donated gets us closer to having a functioning lock once again!

We hope to install the gates this summer – if the weather is kind!

Please go to www.granthamcanal.org and click on the words 'Donate to the Grantham Canal Society' This will direct you to the Lock Appeal page where you may donate using your debit or credit card.

Alternatively please post your donation to: Ralph Poore, Rectory Lodge, Rectory Lane, Barrowby, Lincolnshire NG 32 1BT – Please do not send cash.

Thank you for your valuable help.

3. SPONSOR'S

Below is an example of a letter sent to Local Councils, Corporate Bodies and Companies, seeking financial commitment to support the required match funding for the HLFWHI Project.

Our Search for Sponsorship The Three Shires: Grantham Canal Regeneration Project

Dear Sirs,

I seek your attention for just a few minutes in the hope that you can help us transform one of the East Midlands great secrets into an even greater asset and attraction.

As you will see from the video <http://www.granthamcanal.org/regeneration/> (3.14 minutes duration) we are working to fully restore the Grantham Canal. Twenty-five years of work to the value of £7.6 has seen 23% of the canal restored; and now for the rest.

The Grantham Canal Society and Grantham Canal Partnership are in the process of applying for major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The project is to train volunteers to restore locks 14 and 15 and we have been requested by the HLF to consider adding locks 12 and 13 as this would deliver greater value.

The extra two locks are a tall order, but with the help of the HLF, our volunteers, supporters and rangers, it is achievable. We would then have 7 working locks, access to the 19 mile lock-free stretch of the canal and with the winding hole below lock 12 the attraction of a 13 mile return boat trip from the A1. A massive achievement – and we are going for it!

We need to raise a significant amount of match funding and I write to you to ask for your support in principle for what we are trying to achieve. When we get HLF approval of the next stage we will be seeking support of a material and financial nature but at this stage it is *your support in principle* that we seek.

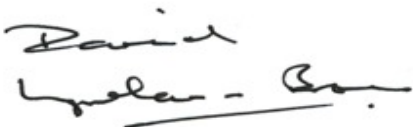
A brief letter or email from you would be seen as powerful support by the HLF and greatly appreciated by all those engaged in the project. If you could write such a letter/ email please send it to

David Lyneham-Brown
Sponsorship Executive
Grantham Canal Society
213 Melton Road
Edwalton
Nottinghamshire
NG12 4AF
or email to David at david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.org

We would be pleased to talk through this project in more detail should you so wish, present our wider proposals to staff associations or any other grouping with whom you are linked. You and they can read more about our efforts on www.granthamcanal.org We would also appreciate it if you could forward this email to any other individual or organisation who you think may be interested.

We will be very appreciative of your “in principle” support

Yours faithfully,



David Lyneham-Brown

***Executive Management Group, Grantham Canal Society
Executive Group Member, Head of Commerce Group, Grantham Canal Partnership***

Company number: 1351149

Registered Charity number: 507337

4. LETTER OF SUPPORT

To: John Brydon
Vice Chairman of Grantham Canal Society

6 May 2013

Dear John

Grantham Canal – Bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund

I have recently heard that a major funding bid is being made to the HLF towards volunteers restoring several of the locks on the Grantham Canal.

I write to record my support for the bid. From my experience in voluntary canal restoration elsewhere in the country I am confident that waterway restorations such as this bring great benefits to the community around.

Waterways bring sustainable opportunities for leisure pursuits, improve habitats for wildlife, and provide space for local people to enjoy – contributing to wellness and a sense of well-being.

The Grantham Canal is clearly a project where considerable progress has been made, and it is vital that the momentum is maintained so that the work invested so far, particularly in lock chamber restorations, brings the future benefit of a complete waterway connected to the national network.

I wish you success with your application, and if you wish to bring this letter of support to the attention of the HLF, please do so.

Yours sincerely
Luke Walker

Many thanks to Luke for taking the time to write this letter. It is much appreciated.

5. IWA

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, 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
Registered Charity No 212342
Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, HP5 1WA
website: www.waterways.org.uk

6. WHAT IS IT?



Ideas are still coming in. Thanks to Mike Snaith & Les Reid this time:

I did some head scratching and research into the mystery object. My conclusion is that the object you have found is part of a Stower. The business end you have found would originally have been attached to an 18 ft pole and would have been part of the barge pole kit carried on Trent river barges. Throughout the history of the Grantham canal, Trent barges regularly traded along the entire length up to Grantham basin. Such Trent barges used to carry a couple of boat hooks (of different standard

lengths) and a Stower as their barge pole kit. Only in later years were some of the barges motorised but the larger majority over history were dumb barges (pulled by horses, powered by sail or latterly pulled by tugs/motorised barges). The dumb barges required a great deal of man handling and manoeuvring and a Stower barge pole was essential kit.

Why the "V" shape? Unlike the soft clay lining of a canal bed the R. Trent bed is mostly gravel, especially where craft needed to be moored or turned. The "V" end allowed the boatman to get some purchase on the gravel bed at the end of the long pole, enabling both brute force and much skill to be brought to bear to manoeuvre the barges into position.

To check this answer is correct I contacted Les Reid, leader of the Newark Heritage Barge project and sent him a copy of the original photo. He confirmed my supposition was correct and that he has a Stower for your readers to check for themselves in the museum on board the heritage Trent barge, "Leicester Trader" moored in Newark.

In the March issue John Baylis mentioned the item on the wall in Sandiacre Lock Cottage on the Erewash Canal. The picture below is the item that John describes.



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.

7. Workparties



(Left) Thanks to John Trigg & Ralph Bellamy for their effort to keep us tidy!

(Below) Some of the team painting the lock furniture, a task that was postponed previously because of the bad weather.





During the Bank Holiday weekend ending 6th May we had a visit from NW & Essex WRG' Groups and with GCS support we managed to clear, from the bed of the canal, a large number of the willow tree stumps in the dry section that we had had previously cut down. We had use of a mini excavator which made moving the roots so much easier. During a break I counted the remaining trees - 183!!! Maybe after the bird nesting season is over we can have another attempt before the water gets too deep.

Pictures above (left) Tony Kirkland, used to working with his JCB, was pleasantly surprised with the performance of the little Bobcat excavator.

(Centre) Some of the 'crew', totally involved in their weekend task

(Right) Most of these roots have gone and within two weeks, Mother Nature had reclaimed the site and everything was green again!

**Sincere thanks to our visitors
for their unwavering support.**

8. ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

I'm writing this, bathed in glorious sunshine, sitting beside the Grantham Canal. This is one of 'my' heavenly hideaways, enshrouded, as it is, by tall Norfolk Reeds, waving gently too and fro in the light breeze whilst I enjoy my picnic lunch.

The air filled with the melody of Willow Warblers, the Maria Callas among songbirds, whilst the poor tuneless Chiff-Chaff, who is very much down there with the Corvids and Corncrake, tries its best! I do love Chiff-Chaffs though, these elusive 'little brown jobs', mark the beginning of springtime for me.

Springtime and early summer, is when Mother Nature communicates most with our senses. Cowslips, and other early flowers, are now giving way to Red Campion, Queen Anne's Lace, Jack-by-the-Hedge and Forget-me-nots. Already, the large leaves of Hogweed and Burdock are beginning to muscle in on the act.

This is Spring Bank Holiday, and I'm at work – gimme some o' that work, I hear you shout! Well, you're in luck, because there are some vacancies! I'm a Grantham Canal Ranger. It gets me out and about along the towpath, I meet some interesting people, and I tell them about the canal, and all that we, and others, are doing towards restoring it to navigation. I tell them about our narrowboat cruises, and encourage them to book a trip aboard 'The Three Shires'.

Today, I'm giving out fliers about our boat trips on Bank Holiday Monday, as well as my usual picking up litter etc.

On my way home, cycling along the towpath, I encountered a vintage narrowboat coming towards me on the canal – no, it's not something I'm taking – this is our Workparty, enjoying their well earned cruise in the sun, as they return from one of their regular maintenance trips along the canal. Trips on the workboat are absolutely free – provided, of course, you work your passage!

Bank Holiday Monday, found me spinning one of my other plates, as a member of our Events Team. We took the information stand to the newly restored Harlaxton Wharf, where we engaged with the public, whilst the boat trips were taking place. There are vacancies in the Events Team.

I even got to 'take the tiller', on one of the trips! I may be on first name terms with every twig along the towpath – but put me on the water, and I'm not sure where I am! The scene is so different viewed from the water. Boat crews, consist of a skipper, and galley slave, who will make sure our customers are suitably refreshed during their cruise. So if you prefer your cruise to be in a modern, heated boat, with full facilities, rather than the more – I've got to be diplomatic here, because I know how much the Workparty love their boat, let's just say, theirs is a little - characterful! There are jobs going on the trip boat too – and if you don't know the sharp end of a boat from the blunt end – they'll show you!

Some of our key workers, rarely get to see the canal, they oil the wheels and grease the cogs of the society – and they obviously work very hard – because the wheels haven't dropped off yet!

In short – have I ever been known to say anything in short – there is so much to do within the society, and I've only mentioned some of it!

We have a newly formed 'Learning Team'. This is ideal if you're, say, a retired/part time teacher, or a youth leader etc. The purpose of this team is to develop a working relationship with schools and youth groups, particularly those along the canal corridor. If this is something in which you have some experience, The Learning Team would love to hear from you. Or if you work in school, or organise a youth group, and would like us to work with you – speak to us.

If numbers float your boat, we have an urgent vacancy for a Treasurer. Now that's one plate I wouldn't try to spin, when I add two and two together, I get a different answer every time...

For details of this, and all other jobs, including the obscenely ungenerous remuneration package (just so as no one gets the wrong idea, there ain't no pay) contact, in the first instance: Rosemary: RhuMaere@aol.com or Tony: anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com Tel: 01476 567477

.....and we'll help you out...which way did you come in?

Tony Jackson

9. 'OUR BERT'



Just to show what a talented lot we are, here is Bert, one of the Workparty team, with the beautiful guitar he has been making over the past few months



10. STOP PRESS

THE GRANTHAM CANAL IS IN THE NEWS AGAIN, FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-22781247>

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