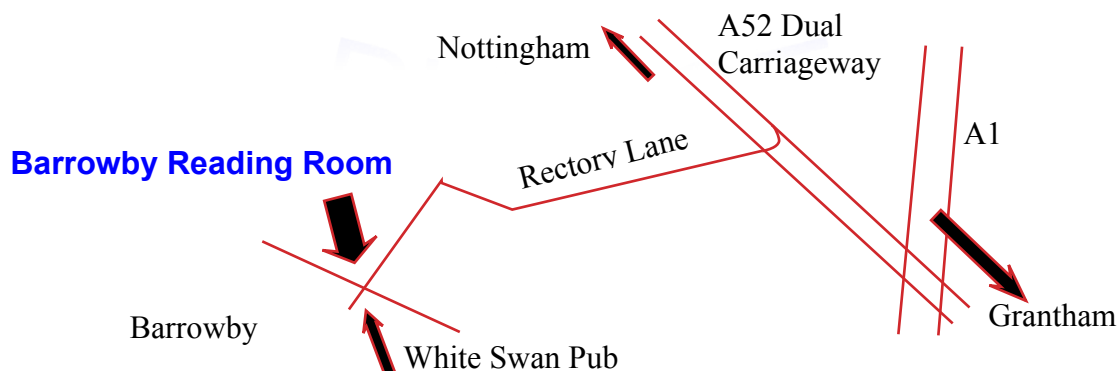


October 2012

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. AGM 14th November 2012 at 7.30pm**Please note new venue:****Barrowby Reading Room, Church Street, Barrowby, Lincolnshire. NG32 1BB****2. Wollaton Hall**

'Wollaton Hall' and 5999, the steam locomotive name and number plate owned by Peter Stone, Secretary to the Grantham Canal Partnership for the past 7 years, were sold on 8th September for a total of £13,500. Peter bought the plates from British Rail in the 1960's when the locomotive was withdrawn from service and decided they needed a new home now that he and his wife have moved to the South Coast. Peter has donated half the proceeds of the sale to GCS and the other half to Friends of the Cromford Canal. The value of his cheque is even more valuable than it seems as we can claim gift aid on the donation which makes it worth over £8000. We are extremely grateful to Peter for his very kind gesture. Thanks must also go to the auctioneers who waived their fees for the sale. This very generous donation and we wish Peter and Chris all the very best in their new home by the seaside.



Unfortunately, Peter could not be with us, so his brother, our Chairman Mike Stone is seen presenting the cheque on Peter's behalf to GCS Treasurer, Ralph Poore, .

3. Discovery Day



Left - Rosemary measuring the site without the tape measure.

Right - Erecting the marquee, then deciding it would be better the other way round!



Most of my day seemed to be taken up with talking, to new members, Councillors and anyone else who came or was sent my way. Hence the lack of photos, other than the duck race. As always we all had a good time. Below is a report sent by Tony Jackson (Chief Duck Master) which says it all. Ed

Discovery Day report by Tony Jackson

We had a superb and diverse selection of stands again at this year's Discovery Day -something for everyone! We try to choose exhibitors, who are either directly, or indirectly connected with the canal and its environment – with one or two of general interest for good measure. Or, to put it another way – we'll have anyone who we can cajole into coming along!

Visitors enjoyed the sunshine and the stalls, the tea and the homemade cake! We had talented 'Artist in Residence at Belvoir Castle', Laury Dizengremel, with a selection of her magnificent sculptures. Laury is a keen supporter of the Grantham Canal, and is always looking for opportunities for sculpture along the canalside. I hardly know how to begin to describe the heritage/memorabilia display by John & Family. Everything from Measham Ware to a vintage Bolinder engine, albeit in pieces – that's the engine, not the Measham Ware, I hope! What they brought along, and there was a lot of it, is only a fraction of the items he and his family have – this must surely be the largest collection in private ownership. He also brought along his restored Morris Minor – not being a 'car enthusiast', I'm unable to do justice to its description, other than to say it was a split screen model and in immaculate condition – reminded me of when I worked for Post Office Telephones, and used to drive their ubiquitous green Morris Minor van.

Bottesford Angling Association brought their stand. The association fish the waters alongside the Carpenter's Shop, so we were pleased they were able to be with us, particularly as they were holding a fishing match on the same day. On display, among many other items of interest, were fishing match record books, going back to the 19th Century! Flying the flag for British Mammals, was Hedgehog Welfare, and I'm pleased to report that, because of their presence on the day, at least one very poorly hedgehog is now in the expert care of Nurse Janet – let us hope it makes a full recovery, and is soon snuffling around the hedge bottoms again! I'm sorry, but being a fan of Mrs Tiggywinkle, I just have this picture in my mind's eye, of lots of little hedgehogs bustling about in Janet's house doing the starching and the ironing!

Tony Kirkland demonstrated his traditional 'Roses and Castles' painting, with his masterful brush strokes, and had on display, some pretty impressive examples of his work. Cranmer Creations tempted the ladies (and me too actually), with their hand made jewellery. Volunteers from Sustrans were on hand to advise people on safe, and enjoyable cycling routes in the area.

We had our own 'Charity Shop', canal dipping, splat the mink, land and water demonstration, make a plasticine boat, Locks and Bridges game – Buskers Dave and Mike entertained us brilliantly throughout, with their folk songs. Whilst we're talking music – what about this! A song written to celebrate the opening of the Grantham Canal in 1797! It was 'unearthed' recently, although I do now believe it has seen the light of day before – but when was it last sung in public I wonder? Alan Turner, one of our workparty – now there's a man with a voice! Sang it for us, and sung it well! It has a tricky penultimate line in each verse apparently. I know if I were to try to sing it, then every line would be tricky! Talks on the history of our canal were given by the redoubtable Tony Pitman, and narrowboat rides were again a popular feature of the day.

The Notts. & Derby Branch of the Inland Waterways Association, brought, not one, but two gazebos! They have supported us hugely over the years – immensely is probably more accurate!

Now, it's not every day someone gives us a cheque for £6750! This happened recently, so it was appropriate we had the cheque presentation at Discovery Day. Where it could receive public recognition, and also receive the applause it justly deserved! This magnificent sum, is a donation from hard working and long time supporter of the Grantham Canal, Peter Stone. Peter, who in 1962, bought the nameplate and cabside number plate from steam locomotive Wollaton Hall, number 5999. The loco was cut up shortly afterwards. He paid British Rail £15.00 for them. Oh, what a gift, to be blessed with foresight, rather than hindsight! For these plates, at auction, fetched £13,500! Peter divided the proceeds between our society and The Friends of the Cromford Canal. I can't get over this most generous act of philanthropy, and it simply highlights the passion people have for this wonderful canal of ours.

Peter couldn't be with us on the day, so the cheque was handed over to our Hon. Treasurer, Ralph Poore, by Mike Stone, who, as our Chairman, will need no introduction. Mike is Peter's brother, so the love of canals obviously runs in the family! I think we should, at least, offer Peter his fifteen quid back!

.....and, I nearly forgot - there was the wonderfully whacky Dirty Duck Race, where the ducks had to negotiate Lover's Leap, a mischievously placed Ducking Stool, The Really Scary Tunnel, an Aquaduck, and numerous other obstacles – I always wondered what lock bywashes were for, now I know – duck racing!

Discovery Day was held, as you probably know, at The Carpenter's Shop. Although much altered and rationalised over the years, it's still a wonderful building. It has a nice feel about the place, I love this building. In its heyday, it comprised of not only a carpenter's shop, but a blacksmiths too. There was a stable, a mess room (I wonder what they would have thought to our fitted kitchen), a saw pit, timber store, general equipment store, a crane and a slipway for hauling boats out.

Adjacent to the site was Woolsthorpe Wharf and the pub. There was also a brickworks, established to provide the bricks for the building of the locks and bridges along the canal. Add to this the passage and loading/unloading of boats, lock keeper, lengthsman etc, and you have a real hive of activity.

I often think of this, and the people engaged in their work. Was it an easy going atmosphere, or full on hard graft, with a tyrant of a manager? Somewhere between the two probably.

I'm having to pull myself up here, because I'm beginning to drift from my intention. Many people would like to volunteer to work towards the restoration of the canal, but are unsure what there is to do, thinking perhaps, it's all heavy work, involving getting sludged up – we can get you sludged up if you wish!

To prepare for this event, we started weeks and months beforehand.

The outside area needed tidying, grass had to be cut, brambles to cut back. The perimeter wall needed attention, rubbish had to be cleared, the bywash cleaned out and the kitchen finished. Cleaning inside the building, and on the day before the event, the marquee had to be erected. Tables, chairs, our Charity Shop and displays had to be set up. Refreshments organised - people busily baking days beforehand. We had to finally decide who was going where. On the day – still lots to do before the public arrived - bunting, banners and signs put up, the duck race course to set up, car parking to organise and all manner of last minute things to do, mostly involving string in one way or another!

In the months/weeks leading up to the event, there were exhibitors to invite, marketing to plan and carry out, many hours of discussion.....

So much to do – and the nearest anyone got to getting sludged up, were the duck race people – but even they went home relatively presentable – I think!

There is so much for volunteers to get involved in within our society – many wear more than one hat – many, through necessity or over exuberance, try to spin too many plates – broken crockery abounds!

If you've been thinking you'd like to do something, and never quite got around to it – or didn't really know how to, or unsure what there is to do – I've made it easy! Below are a couple of contacts – so, whether you're a Civil Engineer, or a wizard at hanging bunting (if you're not we'll train you, and if you still can't do it, we'll find you something else to do) – go for it, just do it! People who know their way around a teapot are especially welcome!

Tony Jackson: email sales@rockinghorsemaker.co.uk Tel: 01476 567477
Rosemary Gibson: email RhuMaere@aol.com Tel: 01476 978896

Tony Jackson

4. Donations

Having seen item 2 on page 1, you will realise that Peter Stones donation has allowed us to pay the balance for Mudlark and we have turned our attention to gaining sufficient funds to enable us to purchase a new set of bottom gates for lock 18. You will remember we recently replaced the upper gates only to discover that when we tried to fill the lock, the bottom gates began to leak more and more. The decision was made to replace these gates on safety grounds and so, the surplus of Peter's gift, plus any future donations will be held until we have the £40K+ required to complete the work.

If you feel that you would like to help, 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.

Apologies if you are tired of reading the above paragraph but it really does work. Ed

THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS DURING THE LAST MONTH.

THE NAMES ARE IN NO ANY SPECIFIC ORDER SO IF YOURS IS MISSING PLEASE LET THE TREASURER KNOW.

MR R G HACKFORD - LIVERPOOL (AEGRE)

MR D BROWN (AEGRE)

MR P KEMP

GRANTHAM ANGLING ASSOCIATION

MR & MRS D TARRENT

MR P H REESBY

MR J R ASHWORTH

MR R BULLOCK

MRS F J CARTRIGHT

MRS F H M NOBLE

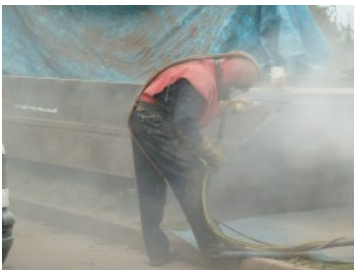
MR & MRS S BYFIELD

MR A KIRKLAND

In case you were wondering, Aegre is the East Midlands Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Magazine, which included, in the September issue, three excellent pages on the Grantham Canal and our appeal for donations. There was also a photograph on the back cover. Ed

http://issuu.com/waterwaysassoc/docs/east_midlands_aegre_12_09?mode=window&viewMode=doublePage

5. WORKPARTIES



Workparty members have been busy recently, removing logs and car plastic bodywork from the canal using Centauri. Then there was the run up to Discovery Day where we tidied up the site, erected the marquee generally got in Rosemary and Tony's way and then on the day itself, we and many other volunteers were there to help out. Then of course everything has to be dismantled and put away. The marquee came down a lot quicker than it went up!! Then there are the boats. The Three Shires will be coming out of the water over the winter to have its hull blacked, the propeller straightened and various bits of paintwork repaired. To make economical use of the transport and craneage Mudlark will go in the water and 3 Shires will move to the Carpenters Workshop sometime in

November. CRT have insisted that Mudlark must be repainted in different colours, so that is what the team have been doing. The hulls of both Mudlark and Earwig have been shot blasted and bitumen applied. The cabin sides have had any rust removed and primer applied. Mudlark has now been painted in Hollybush Green and once the excavator cab has been done too, she is ready to go in the water. The team have really enjoyed this work. They are always enthusiastic but each seem to have 'adopted' their own part of the boats and progress has been remarkable. Everybody seems to know exactly what to do. Brilliant!



Joe Cutler, one of our newer workparty members and certainly the youngest, demonstrating his painting skills on Earwig.



From left to right: Rowan Bird, Tony Kirkland, Dave Cross and Dave Booth, all hard at work.



Ralph Bellamy, with Mudlark in her new colours



More pictures of Earwig and Mudlark. Our thanks to Chris of CP Blasting and all the Guys and Girls who helped.

Mary (right) attacking the interior wall of the Carpenter's Workshop ready for painting.

Top row pictures by: Steve Hinds



6. WRG November Dig Weekend

Next weekend 10th & 11th November, Waterway Recovery Group (North West) are with us again, staying in the Memorial Hall at Cropwell Bishop and continuing the work they started last February around lock 10. There is still some work for our members in and around lock 11 i.e. clearing the remaining small area on the invert (brick bottom of the lock chamber) and burning the branches and bushes etc that were cut down when the Experian Group were with us in September. The remainder of the weekend work will be on the Stragglethorpe side of the A46. Access and parking is at the picnic site off the old A46.

- Heading South from Newark on the A46, leave at the Stragglethorpe interchange, signposted Cropwell Bishop. At the roundabout take the 1st exit signed Cropwell Butler. The car park is half a mile on the right hand side, just beyond the old canal bridge. Have included a map on the next page.

- Heading North on the A46, leave at the Stragglethorpe interchange and from the 1st roundabout, take the 3rd exit signposted Cropwell Bishop. Continue under the new bridge to the next roundabout and take the 1st exit signed Cropwell Butler. The car park is half a mile on the right hand side, just beyond the old canal bridge.

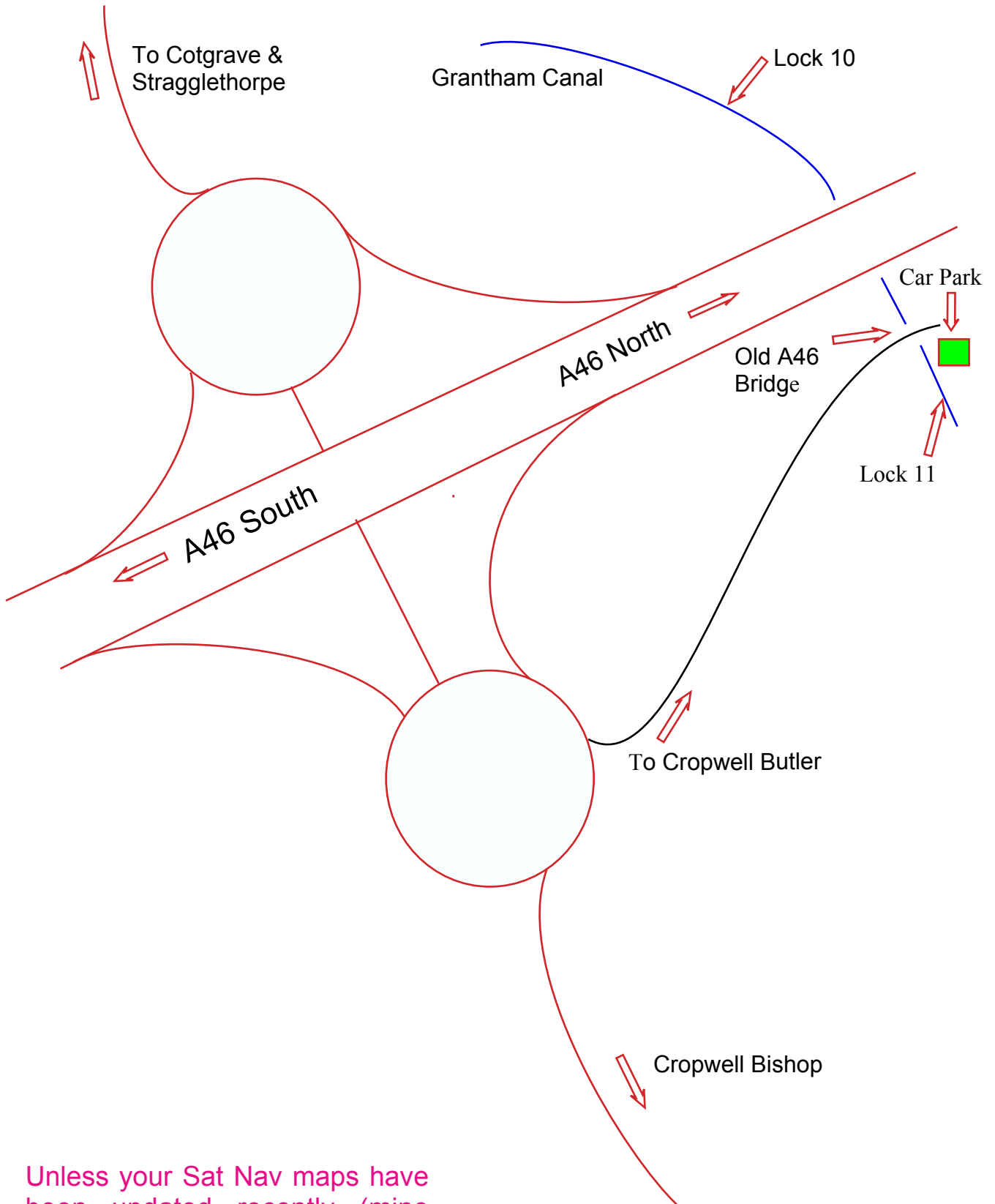
- From Cropwell Bishop, enter the 1st roundabout and take the 4th exit signposted Cropwell Butler. The car park is half a mile on the right hand side, just beyond the old canal bridge.

- From Cotgrave or Stragglethorpe, enter the 1st roundabout and take the 2nd exit signposted Cropwell Bishop. Continue under the new bridge to the next roundabout and take the 1st exit signed Cropwell Butler. The car park is half a mile on the right hand side, just beyond the old canal bridge.

Usual safety equipment required please.

GCS leader's will be Bob Terry on Saturday (07803017071) and Ralph Bellamy on Sunday (07964023533)

Stragglethorpe Interchange



Unless your Sat Nav maps have been updated recently (mine have!) you will need to rely on my directions unless you know the area. Sorry! Ed.

The Memorial Hall is on the left as you enter the Village from the A46 directly after the 30 MPH sign.

7. Road Signs at Cotgrave



It's very nice to see that Cotgrave recognises the fact that the Grantham Canal runs through the village. These new signs are at opposite ends of the former Colliery Village, where two locks have been restored, bridges have been removed or added for future navigation and the area turned into a delightful country park.

Cotgrave is just off the A46 at Stragglethorpe interchange.

8. Locks & Lock Gates

Our superb lock gates were made by Hargreaves of Halifax but if you have ever wondered why gates are so expensive, or would just like to see how they are made, have a look at the Canal & River Trust (CRT) time lapse film :-

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/our-work/major-works/building-lock-gates>

or

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=tD5wtd36NHc

If you would like the chance to know what it feels like to be in the bottom of a lock, have a trip to Redhill Lock (59) on the River Soar on Sat. 19th Jan 10.00 - 3.30 where CRT are having an open day during repair works. Access is off the A453 not far from junction 24 of the M1. Follow the signs to Redhill Marina, NG11 0EB. It is an interesting experience!

9. Duck Race Winners



Christina Jackson receiving her Duck Race prize

Winners of The Dirty Duck Race, held on Discovery Day, 7th October 2012:

1st Prize W H Smith Voucher £20.00 S Hunt
2nd Prize W H Smith Voucher £10.00: C Jackson
3rd Prize W H Smith Voucher £5.00: P Cupit

Various booby prizes on a duck theme were awarded to:

N Davis	J Pearson
B Edinborough	M Noble
R Bevan	S Dunning
C Cross	

The organisers wish to thank all those who took part in the fun! Prizes were donated by www.rockinghorsemaker.co.uk So all proceeds from the duck race will benefit the Grantham Canal.

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