

September 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**Please note new venue:****Barrowby Reading Room, Church Street, Barrowby, Lincolnshire. NG32 1BB****2. Loughbrough Students**

On 29th Sept we had 109 Students from Loughbrough University come to work on the Canal for an afternoon. More details next month.

3. Working in the background

Some time ago Rowan Bird, one of the workparty team asked me if he could bid for a grant to get 10 people properly trained in the use of chainsaws. With my approval he went away and applied. Nobody asked Rowan to do this but it goes to show how dedicated our working members are. Not a Committee man, just an ordinary working member who goes the extra mile for the good of the canal. We have a great team and they all come up with different ideas and suggestions. Brilliant! Thanks Rowan *Ed. (with his Workparty Organisers hat on.)*

"We didn't get the bid for chainsaw training - the reason was too many people applied for money - but I don't understand why we didn't get any. They don't give reasons why - typical government organisation! Anyway will try other places but time is running out this year as the training starts in September. Perhaps next year! Rowan"

4. August's 'Bridge'

"My guess: the crane is on the wharf by the canal where coal etc was unloaded and put onto trucks which then went by rail (by horse drawn power) up to Belvoir Castle. Am I right? Marcus of Pettman"

Thanks for the email Marcus. You may well be correct, in which case the view is from Bridge 57 at Muston Gorse. Ed.

I got the cameraman's location wrong The colour picture is taken from the towpath at Muston Gorse, near milepost 25^{1/2} with Bridge 57 centre left. Behind the crane were some short spurs for storing wagons. At the time of writing, late September 2012, the wharf area has been ploughed, with stones and ballast showing only in the soil around that site. Thanks to Yvonne Parker who supplied details of the website, which gave me an exact location for the crane. Have a look for yourself. It's excellent and not just for the canal. Ed.
<http://www.old-maps.co.uk>



5. Discovery Day



GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY



invite you to a

DISCOVERY DAY

to inform, inspire and involve



**at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Depot/Carpenter's Shop
behind the Rutland Arms (Dirty Duck) Public House
NG32 1NY**

Sunday 7th October 2012, 10.00 – 5.00

Activities for all the family
Boat Trips starting at 10:00
Heritage Displays
Fun and Fundraising

& 2nd Annual Dirty Duck Race

Sunday Lunches at the Dirty Duck

01476 870111

Light Refreshments Available in the Depot

Donations of saleable items welcome.

All proceeds towards the maintenance and restoration of the Grantham Canal.

More information from:

Rosemary Gibson, RhuMaere@aol.com 01476 978896/07971173069

6. Event Reports

Hello All

Just a quick update on the events scene.

I don't think we've done a show since the Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day – it's been a blur really, with furiously pulling Discovery Day together, if we have done a show, then it's been erased from my memory. We have done a couple of talks to WI's. There was Denton, followed a few days later by Gunthorpe. Times they are a changing, I wonder what the fabric of society will look like in a few year's time? Both these WI's seem to have very few members, and they, largely of mature years. This mirrors many clubs and societies today – even our own!

However, very welcoming and appreciative audiences they were. Each WI, donated twenty something pounds to the kitty – a big thank you ladies!

We also recently, acted as guides for a group from the Chiltern Inland Waterways Association, when they came to have a look around the Woolsthorpe – Grantham section of the canal. As usual, Rosemary did the clever bit, and acted as the guide on the coach and canalside, whilst I, as you'd expect, oiled the wheels, and hopped from place to place in the campervan – largely, so that Rosemary didn't have to walk home afterwards.

We found them a very friendly – and knowledgeable group, as you would expect with a name like that. They were taken to see the Floating Pontoon, Harlaxton Wharf, Casthorpe Bridge, restored locks, our tripboat, and workboat, and the rest of our fleet! – they visited unrestored locks too – we wouldn't want them going away thinking it was all plain sailing! They also visited, after lunching at the Dirty Duck, The Carpenter's Shop, and, as luck would have it – was a hive of activity! Our workparty were there, in there continuing quest of getting the place ship shape!

So appreciative of their visit (despite the rain), they made a generous donation of one hundred pounds to our society! They bought some Grantham Canal Guide Books too! So a big thank you to Chiltern IWA!

I don't have the precise figures from these events, but it will be something to the tune of £180 in the kitty.

A couple of easy questions for you:

How long was The Hundred Years War?

Where is Flintham Ploughing Match held?

Sorry – wrong on both counts (alright, I know, you know, really)

Flintham Ploughing Match, which is our next show, is at Hawton this year and will have come and gone on by the time you read this newsletter. Rosemary did her level best to get us out of going – by sending our application in late – but they were having none of it!

DISCOVERY DAY

No apologies for my boldness!

This is our big one – we need the money – we need the exposure - we need the fun! It's also the event which brings almost every aspect of our society together!

Last year, after a successful Discovery Day, Phil, I think, suggested we have a BBQ – to be honest, we were all so 'extremely tired' – usually spelled with a 'K', that this suggestion wasn't taken up.

This year, we are having a pre Discovery Day meeting, a kind of open house, or open Carpenter's Shop, on Sunday 30th September. The purpose is to have a dry run, to make sure everything fits – or, in our usual way of doing things - nearly fits. Someone's bringing a BBQ, and we can't remember who – is it you Ralph? Bring your own food. Everyone's welcome – whether or not you're helping on Discovery Day (I know this is a thinly veiled ploy to get you there, and get you a D-Day job, serving teas/fishing ducks out of the bywash, or somfink – did you cringe then too?) Times: 10.00 – 5.00. BBQ is optional of course.

Just to recap on Rosemary's plea for cakes, baking etc. for the refreshments – it would help if you could let her know (or let Sue Carr know), so we know how many cakes we'll have - we don't want to have to resort to Mr. Kiplings!

Following last years plea for mugs – we now have plenty – we now need tea plates.....so, this is a plea for tea plates (ideally gifts of, so that we can keep them at The Carpenter's Shop).

On Heritage Day, due to lack of helpers, Rosemary put all the 'white elephant stuff on tables, in the centre of the room – stuck a notice on it 'Charity Shop – put donations in the box' – or words to that effect – and it worked brilliantly! It was the phrase 'Charity Shop' I think, that did it. Discovery Day will be different – we'll do the same, but it will need supervision.

This is another important income stream, and also re-enforces the fact that we are a charity – we need stuff to sell – so it's another plea! Anything you feel would sell – bring it along, and we'll turn it into cash for the good of the society!

.....a word in you ear, I've been trying to think of a subtle way of saying this, but can't – please don't bring us your absolute tat – we only have to get rid of it!

.....finally, and very importantly.....keep handing out those flyers and spreading the word in every way you can think of! In case you've lost your flyers – I've attached some more! The Oilrag

7. Donations for Mudlark

Just a reminder that we have set up an account with “Virgin Money Giving” which allows anyone with computer access, who wishes to help us, to make a donation to GCS at any time and for any amount. At present we are trying to pay for ‘Mudlark’ and would be grateful to received donations.

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.

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

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

<i>CHETWODE FOUNDATION</i>	<i>F. NEEDHAM</i>	<i>E. PETTIPHER</i>
<i>SUE DAY & FAMILY</i>	<i>C. STAPLEFORD</i>	<i>R. POORE</i>
<i>J. LILLEY</i>	<i>R. GIBSON</i>	<i>O. RUSHBY</i>
<i>MR & MRS R SHARMAN</i>	<i>CASTLE INTEGRATION LTD</i>	<i>M. STONE</i>
<i>MRS P. PICKETT</i>	<i>S.& E. THOMSON</i>	<i>R.TERRY</i>
<i>J & S KEAYS</i>	<i>A. EARL</i>	<i>D. MEAR</i>
<i>JOHN KITCHIN</i>	<i>D. RHODES</i>	<i>MRS F. BENTLY</i>
<i>MRS F NOBLE</i>	<i>R. RUSHBY</i>	<i>MR T. SMELT</i>
<i>MR K SHARPE</i>	<i>E. FOXLEY</i>	<i>A WOOLSTHORPE RESIDENT WHO WISHES TO BE ANONYMOUS</i>
<i>FELICITY CROFT</i>	<i>DICK HARRISON</i>	
<i>MRS C. BISHOP</i>	<i>M. MOLLOY</i>	
<i>J. BRYDON</i>	<i>G. OWEN</i>	

8. 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 is to donate half the proceeds of the sale to GCS and the other half to Friends of the Cromford Canal. We are extremely grateful to Peter for his very kind gesture. More details next month.

9. Earwig

Earwig arrived from Wales to join our growing fleet of ex BW craft. It was offered at a price that we simply couldn’t refuse and refurbishment will commence shortly. It is not self propelled so there are no mechanical parts to worry about. Using one lorry with it’s own lifting equipment will save the Society a lot of money in the future when boats need to be taken out of the water for maintenance. Photos L & R - Ralph Poore



10. Experian

No adverts, just many thanks to the 60 or so staff from Experian who left their keyboards to come to clear lock 11 and its approaches during the 26th 27th & 28th September. In all there were 200 staff involved in their Community Working Day so there were other groups elsewhere on the Grantham Canal. This event was not GCS led, although several of our workparty members joined in the fun. We offered to support Simon and Amanda from CaRT in return for the tremendous amount of help we have received from them both.



.....and when everyone had gone home



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