

Welcome to this new format of Bridge. We will attempt to produce a monthly edition but would ask for your indulgence when things are a bit hectic and we have to compile a bi monthly edition.

We hope you like the new format and look forward to seeing your comments and, of course, your contributions. Photo's are always welcome but please be aware that they must be sent copyright free as we will not be able to credit them. Your contact for comments and news items is bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

Rosemary Gibson, worthy 2013 recipient of IWA's Champion Webster Cup

The Champion Webster cup is owned by the local IWA branch (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire branch) and can be awarded to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to waterways in the local area. At their recent AGM the Champion Webster Cup was presented to Rosemary Gibson for her outstanding contribution to the Grantham Canal restoration and waterways in general in 2013.

Rosemary is the lynch pin for the Grantham Canal Society (GCS) in promoting the canal to local communities and schools. Many will know that the GCS have a display stand which is used at local Shows and Fairs to promote the canal and recruit new members but few will realise the extent of its use. Nor the dedication, time and effort that requires. At the award ceremony IWA listed some of the venues Rosemary and display stand attended in 2013 to illustrate her contribution to waterways - Grantham, Harlaxton, Barrowby, Bottesford, Hickling, Harby, Hose, Langar, Kinoulton, Cotgrave, West Bridgford, East Bridgford, Radcliffe on Trent, Bingham, South Kyme, Denton, Newark, even as far afield as Rempstone and Lowdham.

Not only is time and effort required to attend these Shows but there is also the huge commitment that goes into all the pre event organising, preparation, planning, setting up and then all the dismantling and stowing away for next time, which Rosemary (assisted by Tony Jackson) carries out with quiet determination.

At the same time Rosemary not only spent countless days promoting the Grantham canal at Shows but also gave many a presentation to Women's Institute's and U3A groups, etc. across the area. Again with all the associated preparation, planning and organising seemingly going unseen.

Mike Snaith (Chairman [Notts & Derby Branch] IWA)



Rosemary & Tony

Holiday Boat Trips

Easter Day & Monday April 20th & 21st

May Day May 5th

Spring Bank Holiday May 26th

You can also do it yourself!



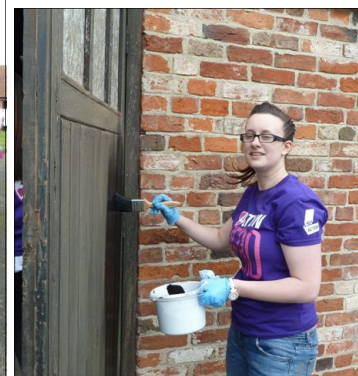
Loughborough University Volunteers

An enthusiastic team of volunteers arrived at Woolsthorpe on Thursday May 22nd from Loughborough University Human Resources Department.

Their mission was ... to paint!

So they painted the hull of *Corvus*. and made a splendid job as can be seen.

They also painted the doors on the Carpenter's Shop, and two 'five bar gates'. As if that wasn't enough they then weeded & tidied around the Mike Mitchell memorial seat near Lock 18.



Community and Education Update

Some problems with email communications and other commitments have meant I have not been sending out Events Updates this year. This does not mean the Events and Learning Teams of Grantham Canal Society have been totally idle.

Talks started in January for me with Newark Chantry Group and Grantham Local History Society. Tony Jackson and I also visited the Lincolnshire Archives in connection with a project linked with Isaac Newton and Grantham's Gravity Fields Festival. We were pointed to an early map showing the Canal Basin and plan of the warehouse which seems longer than it looks in the old photos. I'd like another visit some time.

In February we talked to Hougham and Marston WI and Nottingham Industrial Heritage Association and David Lyneham-Brown talked to Notts and Derbys IWA AGM where something occurred that made me go beetroot!

In March we talked to the Grantham National Trust Supporters and they had to keep bringing in extra chairs. There looked to be about 70 people there.

Easter Sunday saw the Information Supporting boat trips at Harlaxton Wharf with repeat showings on the May Bank Holidays. Early May was frantic, with lots of very happy customers and jingling donations boxes, but a few unhappy people because *The Three Shires* wasn't big enough to accommodate all who had come along: some from some distance. Because of the boat trips, we didn't attend Denton Street Market this year, but we did have a display and leaflets in Denton Church and I know it attracted some customers. Many others came along because they had learned about us from the internet. We took just over £400. Late May Bank Holiday Sunday weather was beautiful and we were able to talk to a few new members about volunteering opportunities while *The Three Shires* was taken over by a rollicking load of lady pirates. The least said about the weather on the late May Bank Holiday Monday, the better.



Continued ...

Community and Education Update continued ... We weren't able to set up the usually fun and fund-raising activities, but over 70 passengers brought in over £200. I hope they made lots on hot drinks on the boat.

Also in May, we talked to Trent Valley Ladies Probus.

We didn't manage Newark and Nottinghamshire Show this year and unfortunately some of the shows we frequently attend clash this year, so we have fewer bookings, but our poor old feet will appreciate a less intensive timetable.

Coming Up:

Date & Time	Event & Venue
Tuesday 3rd June 2.00pm	Talk: Tuesday Club at Finkin Street Chapel, Grantham
Sunday 8th June 10.00pm	Hickling Country Fair http://www.hicklingvillage.org.uk/country-fair-2012/
Monday 9th June 7.30	Talk: Lowdham WI, WI Hall, Main St. Lowdham
Saturday and Sunday 14th & 15th June Noon to 6.00pm	Grantham Carnival, Windham Park, Grantham
Monday 16th June	Tony Pitman is talking to Grantham Livewires Club at the Electricity Social Club, Commercial Road, Grantham
Monday 23rd June 6.15 pm	Talk to Grantham Civic Society, Belton Park Golf Club, Grantham
Thursday 26th June 2.00pm	Planning Meeting for Discovery Day 2014 at Carpenters Shop, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir – ideas and offers of help needed to make this event even more informative, inspiring and involving than ever.
Saturday & Sunday 12 & 13th July	Rempstone Steam Fair, Turnpost Farm, Wymeswold
Monday 14th July	Talk: Lambley WI
Tuesday 15th July 6.30	Walk and Talk with Grantham DIY WI at Woolsthorpe
Saturday 19th July 1.00pm approx	The Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group Vintage Tractor Run will pause for lunch at Hickling Basin
Wednesday 6th August	Tony Pitman is talking to Trent Valley Gentlemen's Probus
Saturday and Sunday 6th & 7th September	Harby Country Fair, Canal Farm Harby
Thursday 11th September 7.30	Talk: Burton Joyce WI, Village Hall, Burton Joyce
Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th September	Hickling Scarecrow Festival – once again grateful thanks to the Booth Family for permission to set up the Information Stand in the old canal warehouse in Hickling Basin.
Thursday 25th September	Flintham Ploughing Match
Sunday 12th October 10.00 – 5.00	Discovery Day at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Get Involved! Get Informed! Get Inspired!

Help at events is always appreciated. Some involve early starts loading and setting up and late finishes loading and unloading and then the paperwork, but they are opportunities to inform people about the canal's heritage and environment and what volunteers are doing towards its maintenance and restoration. **We also try to encourage people to join us in our efforts. If you can offer an hour or two to support the Events Team, we would be most grateful.**

Keep an eye on the website www.granthamcanal.org for updates &/or follow us on Twitter

Grantham Canal Society Learning Team

A number of stalwarts of the Canal Society are or were teachers or involved in schools and community groups. A few of us who are also Grantham Canal Rangers got our heads together and formed a learning team to promote positive attitudes to the canal and our work in its maintenance and restoration. In addition to the talks to adult community groups, we have run sessions with the Salvation Army Adventure Corps and Barrowby Scouts and have arranged sessions with Kinoulton and Harlaxton Primary Schools in the Summer Term. Anne Earl and Tony Pitman have successfully gained funding for this work from Rushcliffe Borough Council so as a former Primary Science Leader, I am having fun sourcing this equipment ready for the sessions in school. We already carry some educational activities to events. On my wish list are wooden blocks for making a bridge and a model lock – if you don't have a dream, they say ...

Rosemary Gibson,
communityandevents@granthamcanal.org



Tony Jackson explains how a lock works to members of the Salvation Army Adventure Corps & together with Sue Carr show how to make a shape that floats.

Canals on the Web

While you are on the net reading this newsletter you might like to explore the rich vein of canal related material on YouTube. There are numerous clips covering history, development and current activity, both on UK canals, Ireland and across the globe. Click on <http://www.youtube.com/> and enter one of the following into the search field

Canals : Canal restoration : Canals UK : Canal documentary : Canal accidents

To give you a starter :

Take to the Boats - Britain's inland waterways in 1962

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvJxlbXB5bA> Duration – 22.42

This BTF documentary depicts the uses made of the inland waterways in the early 1960s. The boats and fashions have changed and the commercial traffic using narrow boats has all but gone, but much else is unchanged. The Zoo Water Bus still navigates the Regents Canal. Hire boats for partying, although bankers these days will want more spectacular venues than the Bank of Bangkok staff of 1962 experienced. There is still a trip boat at Newark, though it does not offer a five day trip from Nottingham to Lincoln as featured in this film. There are some changes with the passage of time. Upton on Severn Water Festival has down graded from an ox roast to a pig roast and Coventry Cathedral is not new any more.




Droitwich Canal Restoration

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyGoNZ50T9Q> Duration – 3.35

Max Sinclair, a founder of the Droitwich Canals Trust, has won the English Heritage Angel Award for the Best Rescue of a Historic Industrial Building or Site. The award celebrates his drive, commitment and vision that made the restoration of the Droitwich Canals possible.

If you find a particularly good one send it to the editor (bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk) and we will run a listing in "Bridge". Happy surfing !

'The Three Shires' on Facebook

Please have a look at our Facebook page entitled 'The Three Shires'. You will find some useful snippets of information, it's being kept up to date and you can post a comment ... even better ... you could  it!

facebook

A FEW WORDS FROM MIKE (GCS Chairman)

Summer is here and there is plenty of water in the Grantham Canal! Just the right time to book a trip on *The Three Shires*! Why? *The Three Shires* is the major source of income for the Society and we need to prepare for significant future expenditure on key projects associated with the Canal & River Trust's WHI Heritage Lottery Application. Jointly CRT and the GCS have developed the application based on a volunteer lead project supported by technical input when that is required. Currently the final detail is being worked on to ensure that the application is ready for submission in July.

To ensure that the GCS has suitably trained volunteers the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) of the IWA is planning to run a training course in the operation of mechanical plant – excavators, dumpers, etc. We will need volunteers who think they can operate such machines and who have time to work on the project. If you wish to be considered just tell Ian Wakefield you are interested.

I know that the silting issue at the Grantham end is causing a lot of heartache and we are endeavouring to get permission to move the mud so *The Three Shires* can wind (turn round). The neighbouring farmer has most helpfully agreed that we can access the location across his land so keep your fingers crossed that we can proceed with this minor project.

If you haven't heard we now have a member, Steve Swann, who is handling all our communications. If you have any canal news or photographs please send them to him. His contact email is bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support for the Society. It is of great value and encouragement to those priceless volunteers!



The Inland
Waterways
Association

Campaigning for the use,
maintenance and restoration of
Britain's Inland Waterways

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

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, October 17th 2014

"Taking IWA Forward" - an illustrated talk by Les Etheridge (IWA National Chairman) concerning the future role of the Inland Waterways Association.

Friday, November 21st 2014

"The Berth of a Marina" - an illustrated talk by Robert Neff (General Manager, Mercia Marina). Planning and construction of a large marina plus the continuing growth and conservation over the last six years.

Friday, December 17th 2014

Christmas Social and sharing buffet.

Friday, January 16th 2015

"Mikron Theatre" - an illustrated talk by Peter Toon (Mikron Theatre company) covering the background to a travelling theatre company and the plans for the coming season.

Friday, February 17th 2015

Annual General Meeting. Followed by an illustrated talk. Details to be confirmed

Further information about meetings can be obtained by email, address :- nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

DONATIONS

We are very grateful to the following who have made donations to the Society's funds over the past few months: At a talk given to Grantham National Trust

Clifton Maids

Mrs Scott

Mike Wiggins

Grantham Pub Quiz

Trent Valley Ladies Probus

Joe Cutler Training Donation

Mr & Mrs Altham

D Booth Training Donation

Mike Stone

Grantham Probus

Mrs Godfrey

Your support is greatly appreciated.

A 'Thank You' from the Bottesford and District Angling Club

May I please, on behalf of the Bottesford & District Angling Club, thank both the C&RT and GCS for the sterling hard graft your Volunteers put in on Saturday 22nd March '14. By concentrating your efforts on the early pegs on the ½ Mile, allowed B&DAA volunteers to clear further pegs along the ½ Mile, Twin Bridges and the following 2 pounds.

I was extremely impressed with the energy, stoicism and enthusiasm your chaps approached and undertook the task in hand. Getting those reed roots out was a major undertaking and although you could never get them all, you have succeeded in turning the reed bed outside the workshop into a navigable and fishable area. All this was done without the use of machinery (alas) but with a mixture of heavy rakes, grappling irons, ropes, sweat and a steely determination.



Bryan Baines (Match Secretary)