

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

They descended upon the Grantham like locusts on the land; the welders, fitters, joiners a smiling, happy band" (with apologies to the writer of a poem about HMS Jervis Bay).

OK so not exactly like that but in their corporate red clothing the team from the Waterways Recovery Group certainly made an impact. Lead by Mike Palmer the WRG camp was arranged by Lucie Holmer of CRT. Several tasks were undertaken during the week's camp including ground-work for the intended work-site and access



The WRG workforce in action ... leaving Lock 18 top gates ready for action!

routes to Lock 15; replacement of the coping stones on Lock 18 by-wash; painting of the lock gates and furniture at the operational locks at Woolsthorpe and removing weed on the navigable section at the A1.

About half the group were experienced WRG Navvies and the remainder younger volunteers working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Woolsthorpe Village Hall was their accommodation and the leisure centre in Grantham the only opportunity to shower in the hot weather – what was wrong with a dip in the cut? It was OK when I was a kid? The camp was a precursor to WRG possibly undertaking significant involvement in the restoration of Locks 15 & 14 if the HLF application is successful.

waterway
recovery
group

Our thanks to WRG for their time and effort and we hope to see them again soon.



L/R Ian Wakefield, Mike Stone, David Lyneham-Brown, Tony Pitman, Sean McGinley & Rosemary Gibson

Your committee had an Inspection cruise on *The Three Shires* on 7th July which reached the A1 landing stage... but no further! There we were joined by Sean McGinley the waterway Manager which gave us chance to discuss our concerns with him and for him to suggest work that we could undertake once the bird-nesting season has ended. Broadly speaking Sean would like the GCS team to remove all shrubs between the towpath and the waterline. That should keep us busy all winter! Vegetation, mostly on bridges, also needs removing with care so as not to damage the brickwork. *Mudlark*, with suitably qualified operators could remove weed growth in many areas.

As luck would have it WRG had a volunteer qualified to operate *Mudlark* so a start was made on weed removal near the A1 landing stage. The opportunity was taken to train a couple of GCS volunteers whilst the work was undertaken.



Now whilst we volunteers are enjoying our time on the canal there is another important group that enable us to actually deliver the work. Without the support from our Sponsors, who provide tools, equipment and products, we would be unlikely to have sufficient funds to purchase the materials. The WRG camp was heavily supported by **John A Stephens** and we thank them for it. Perhaps when you need building products you will consider Stephens as a potential supplier.

Mike Stone

Here is a new idea to help raise funds for the society.

Selling:

If you have an electrical or domestic item you no longer require then place it in our "**SELL - & DONATE**" feature along with a guide price. Please note that the proceeds of all items will form 100% donation to the Society.

Buying:

If the item is of interest to you then contact the seller and agree a price. You must then collect the item at a mutually agreed time and hand over a cheque made out to "The Grantham Canal Society".

To proceed:

Please send details of your items to bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk for entry into the next edition & don't forget to include your contact phone no or email address. You must advise bridge when your item has been sold. Items will be displayed for a maximum of 2 months.

SELL - & DONATE

ITEM	GUIDE PRICE	CONTACT
Epson Perfection 4490 Photo Scanner, Unused & complete with all masks, software, cables, etc	£40	david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.org



A TEAM TRIBUTE



"Just a brief word about the commitment the society receives from our volunteers.



A poorly Three Shires being towed by Centurai
(No pun intended Ralph!)

On Saturday the trip-boat, with passengers, broke down with failed coupling bolts. The crew, Ralph P, Mary & John T ensured the passengers were in shade (it was a hot day) on the boat under a bridge; walked with a car owner to Woolsthorpe to retrieve a car which then collected the remaining passengers; they collected *Centauri*, recovered *The Three Shires* and towed it back to Woolsthorpe. Really good service to both our customers and to the society.

In the meantime as *The Three Shires* had commitments on the Monday (two trips), so our engineer, Dave Booth, arranged to investigate the problem early on Sunday morning; seek and collect the necessary parts and fit them on the Monday morning before the first cruise.



Big Dave
(Chief Mechanic)

Team-work at its best and for which the society is most grateful. Thank you!"

Mike Stone

MailOnline

WIRES

PRESS ASSOCIATION

£100K BOOSTS CANAL DREDGING SCHEME

By PRESS ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED: 14:45, 2 July 2014 | UPDATED: 14:45, 2 July 2014



Part of the Grantham Canal is to be dredged after an environmental project was awarded £100,000. The Canal & River Trust will carry out work on a 2.5km stretch of the water near Redmile, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Dredging the section of canal will reduce the amount of silt to increase the flow of water through the channel and release nutrients into the water. This in turn will provide a healthier habitat for fish and plants.

Lucie Hoelmer, enterprise manager at The Canal & River Trust, said: "The Grantham Canal is a beautiful canal with a rich diversity of plants and wildlife and this scheme will help it to thrive even more.

To read the rest of this article copy this link:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2678002/100K-BOOSTS-CANAL-DREDGING-SCHEME.html>



The Three Shires struggles with silt & weeds

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THE
Grantham Canal
SOCIETY

CHARITY No: 507337

Show Report

Rempstone Steam Rally, July 12th & 13th 2014

To drive into the Exhibitor's Entrance at an event - without your Vehicle Pass and tickets - would usually send officials into a frenzied dash for the thumbscrew cupboard! So it was with a degree - no it wasn't - it was with the full 360 degrees of trepidation, that we did just this at Rempstone Steam Rally. But as it turned out, it was another of those instances in life, where we worried about something which, in the event, never happened. Everyone was quite friendly and grown up about it, when we explained that Royal Mail had done their utmost to prevent our attendance this year.



With a plan of the site stuffed unceremoniously in our hands, we were soon pointed in the general direction of 'our' marquee. Now, give me an Ordinance Survey map, and I can immediately see a picture of the landscape, and orientate myself to get from A to B - these site plans are in a league of their own - no matter which show you go to - their producers all obviously attended the same 'Site plan drawing school' - or is it just me? Because I can never make head nor armholes of 'em! Fortunately, Rosemary can, so we soon found a table with our name on it, and started the all too familiar setting up, and it was nice not to have to wrestle with our usual green gazebo for a change.

Boy, it was hot on the Saturday, strength sapping, feet achingly boiling! We had quite a bit of interest on the stand, sold around thirty quid's worth of secondhand books, and a couple of canal guides. We extolled the benefits of a cruise on the Grantham Canal in The Three Shires, we told them about all the exciting things in the restoration pipeline and reassured many that the work we're doing, will ultimately improve 'their bit' of canal, which, as far as they can see, just gets weedier and weedier...

Sunday was more comfortable weather wise, and again we had a steady flow of visitors - some interest, some useful networking, more books sold - including 'Fifty Shades of Grey' . Now I wouldn't stoop so low as to read such filth - after all, who would want page after page of intrigue, arousal and titillation - I can't imagine? Come on E. L. James - that must be worth a contribution to the restoration fund! To be almost slightly honest, whilst I think this book may go down in history as a 'classic', much better story telling can be found in Lady Chatterley's romps with Mellors - which, of course, I wouldn't read either...

Rempstone is a really lovely rally, just the right size and mix, a friendly atmosphere, with lots to see - the nearest I got to a traction engine however, was when we followed one on the way out!

Thank you to Tony Pitman who supported us on the Saturday - it was also nice to meet a few members, friends and fellow volunteers who dropped by to say hello.

"The Oilrag"

The Grantham Canal Rangers

As current rangers will know – we have been 'rudderless' for a while now.

Jeff, our Head Ranger had to step down due to family commitments, and one or two rangers have either moved away, or work commitments have got in the way, etc.

Some of us have still been very active though, even without steerage! But we've had no back up or reporting system in place.

Paul Dadford joined the society recently, and soon picked up on the fact that the Rangers were in need of a shepherding hand....a little bird might have told him...

With his own procurement consultancy business, Paul is used to working on large projects – and they don't come much bigger than London 2012 and the FIFA 2022 World Cup!

Having grasped the metal, Paul has been getting to grips with the organisational and administration side of the rangers for a few weeks now, and has also planned to walk the length of the canal to familiarise himself with it.

When Paul feels ready – he'll call a meeting.

If being a volunteer Grantham Canal Ranger appeals to you, or wish to find out more, contact Paul: pdadford@yahoo.co.uk

Being a ranger is a great way to add purpose to your walks or cycle rides along the towpath. You'll pick up litter and we'll provide you with our full range of leaflets to give out to interested people, whilst engaging them in conversation about the canal. This can be done at times to suit yourself, there are no fixed hours – why not share with a friend?

Paul has an interesting family connection! Thomas Dadford, who initially worked with James Brindley, became a canal engineer in his own right. Together with his sons, Thomas, James, John and William, they built many a canal and tramway in the canal mania years of the late 18th century.

Tony Jackson

BRIDGE Continued



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Volunteer Survey

We are conducting a survey to gain answers and opinions as to how the role of the active volunteer could be improved. We see this as an important step towards creating a better working relationship for all and would therefore ask that everyone involved completes the survey and returns it by post to the address provided.

If you feel that you should have received a copy of the questionnaire then please contact me at bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk & I will send you a copy.



CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

Our Boatmasters dilemma!

5 miles in 4 hours ... or ...



Our Boatmasters delight!

1800 miles in 7 days!

Ralph in Arkansas with his rented Harley Softail Classic

Rescuing Britain's Lost Canals

If you thought that supporting the regeneration of the Grantham Canal was a lonely task then feel the isolation no more. The Canal and Rivers Trust have produced **"Explore Your Lost Waterways"**, an insight into 90 actual and potential canal restorations and new canal links in which our canal gets two mentions.

The current efforts on which the Grantham Canal Societies efforts are focussed is number 40 on the list but what you may not have come across before is number 80, the Sleaford Navigation – Grantham Canal Link.

There are hundreds of miles of abandoned waterways but proposed new links are few and far between, eleven being mentioned on the CRT site. The Sleaford Navigation – Grantham Canal Link is one of the most strategically significant, as it would complete a new cruising ring of national significance.

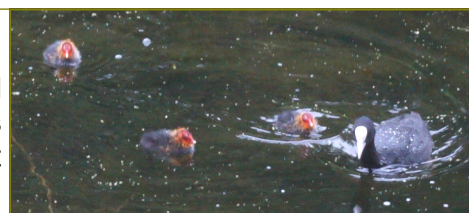
Imagine the day when future boaters can drop onto the Trent at Meadow Lane lock and cruise down through Newark and onto the tidal Trent at Cromwell. Lock up onto the Fossdyke at Torksey and through Lincoln onto the River Witham to Boston. After time in Boston return up the Witham a short distance and onto the Kyme Eau – Sleaford Canal. At Sleaford the new link will take the boat round to join the Grantham Canal and thus back to the Trent, probably at Holme Pierrepont.

Imagine that!!!!

If you want to read more on the link try <http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk/page45.html> and a map of the proposed link is at <http://www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk/complete%20map.pdf>

Canal and River Trust's "Explore Your Lost Waterways" can be found at <https://canalrivertrust.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=13ccb97bc18846c997c23884142ada64&webmap=1a375d67642e48d8ae3b516d202bcbe8>

If you thought that the canal and waterways rejuvenation process was in sight of completion.... think again!



Young explorers on the Grantham

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THERE'S STILL TIME TO TAKE A CRUISE ON "THE THREE SHIRES"!

With all this lovely weather we're having why not book a 2, 3 or 4 hour cruise and relax in the sunshine while the crew look after you.

Alternatively you may like to join our crew. Pictured here are Mary Noble, who is also our Membership Secretary, sitting resplendent in the bows, Ralph Poore, Boatmaster, knitting the ropes and John Trigg, Skipper for the day, at the tiller.

And don't forget:

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

Narrowboat Trips

Sunday 24th & Monday 25th August

10am – 4.30pm

These short cruises allow you sufficient time to take in the character of this beautiful canal

Adults £3.00 Children £2.00

Where to find us: Trips depart from Lock 18, Nr. The Rutland Arms (Dirty Duck), **Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, NG32 1NY**

Spaces are limited - visitors unable to be accommodated on their preferred trip will be offered seating on a later trip, subject to availability.



Did you read Mike's words on Page 1& if so did you notice these words?

The camp was a precursor to WRG possibly undertaking significant involvement in the restoration of Locks 15 & 14 if the HLF application is successful.



waterway recovery group



Above: WRG preparing the new compound at lock 15

Left: Tony Kirkland installing coping stones to the depot wall.



'Corvus' covered!
Our grateful thanks to

JOHN A. STEPHENS LTD.

BUILDERS MERCHANTS



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THE Grantham Canal SOCIETY

CHARITY No: 507337

Community and Education Update July 2014

Events

Tony Pitman and Tony Jackson and myself chatted to a wide variety of people at **Rempstone Steam Fair**. Ian Wakefield, Pete Skerratt, Alan and Sue Turner also put in appearances and several old friends turned up, including possible new members.

Information boards, guides, leaflets and donation buckets went to Hickling Warehouse on Saturday 19th July for the **Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group Vintage Tractor Run**. The weather wasn't brilliant. We took the opportunity to dip the canal at the basin. Looking at the 'creepy crawlies' provided an additional attraction for big and small people as well as the tractors and canal information.

Talks: **Lambley WI** seems a bit of a way from the canal corridor, but a number of our audience had walked large parts of the towpath.

Grantham DIY WI came along to Woolsthorpe for a walk and talk. We looked at the Carpenter's Shop and compared the Lock 16 and explained its workings with the unrestored Lock 15. A lovely evening meant plan A as described. Plan B was for dry air, but wet underfoot to use the surfaced towpath past the boats. Plan C was a standard talk in the Carpenter's Shop.

Canal Dipping with the Learning Team:

Tony Jackson and I met Year 5 of Harlaxton Primary School with our new equipment (thanks again to Tina Combellack's generous grant). Tony did most of the dipping as his arms are longer. It is not easy to access the water at Harlaxton Wharf to sample, although we could see it teeming with fish from tiny fry to quite big ones. We didn't try to catch those. The surface swarmed with pond skaters and a few other 'creepy crawlies' did find their way to our white trays for the children to identify. Tony cheated a bit and fetched another sample from Denton.

Field Study Council's *Freshwater Name Trail* is a brilliant resource for identifying invertebrates and includes a Biotic Index which indicates the 'health' of the water being sampled.

We compared samples from Harlaxton/Denton on the navigable stretch of the canal with samples taken and studied with all the classes at Kinoulton School from a stretch of canal at Kinoulton. Here again we had access difficulties due to overgrowth of vegetation. We also compared the canal with the school pond. Anne Earl had set up this link with Kinoulton School and it is to be hoped that Rangers on other stretches will be able to provide us with other school links.

Samples were small, but the results form an interesting basis for more work along the canal.



Kinoulton School children comparing samples taken from Harlaxton Wharf (left) with samples obtained from the canal at Kinoulton (right)

See Page 7 for the results ...

Pond dipping results: Where numbers are next to finds, they indicate the scores on the Biotic Index. An average score for each site indicates the 'health' of the water – 10 being high.

Harlaxton/Denton		Canal at Kinoulton		Kinoulton School Pond	
Leech	3	Leech	3	-	
Snail – pond and ramshorn	3	Snail – pond and ramshorn	3	Snail – pond and ramshorn	3
Swan mussel	6	-		-	
-		Water hoglouse	3	Water hoglouse	3
-		Freshwater shrimp	6	Freshwater shrimp	6
Water mites	4	Water mites	4	-	
Swimming mayfly nymph	6	-		Swimming mayfly nymph	6
-		-		Demoiselle nymph	8
-		-		Damselfly nymph	6
Dragonfly nymph	8	Dragonfly nymph	8	Dragonfly nymph	8
Pond skater	5	Pond skater	5	Pond skater	5
-		Water scorpion	5	-	
Water boatman	5	Water boatman	5	-	
Cased caddis larvae	7	Cased caddis larvae	7	-	
-		Water beetle	5	Water beetle	5
-		-		Non-biting midge larvae	2
-		worm	2		
Average score	5.2	Average score	4.7	Average score	5.2

In addition, some creatures which do not count on the Biotic Index included:

Biting midge larvae and springtails at Harlaxton and both canal and pond at Kinoulton were swimming with newt larvae.

One interesting find in the school pond at Kinoulton was the cast of a nymph which looked like a stonefly, but it was difficult to see how many tails it had. Stonefly nymphs score a 10!

Discovery Day Planning Meeting 21.7.14

Many thanks to those who came along and have already been working hard towards this event. Tony Jackson has been inviting an interesting variety of participants. Steve Swan has publicity in hand. Sue Carr and Carole Harris will co-ordinate the refreshment side and welcome contributions of goodies and assistance on the day. Judith Poore came up with a Kirsty Allsopp inspired idea for a Home-Made Stall and will welcome anything from preserves to needle and papercrafts. Ralph Poore and team will be setting up a boat crew rota. I proved you can make a bridge out of newspaper. Others have already committed to cover vital jobs but:

We still need more people to commit to jobs on the day e.g. helping greeters and stewards, manning Locks and Bridges Tombola, Lucky Dip, etc. helping with the Duck Race, and more. Please get in touch if you can offer any support or come along to the next planning meeting on:

Wednesday 10th September 10.30 at the Carpenter's Shop NG32 1NY to include designs for making the Duck Race more spectacular. (P.S. there will be cake as it is the eve of my birthday, but who needs an excuse?)

Countdown to D Day:

Wednesday 8th October 10.00 – 4.00 – Clean up the Carpenter's Shop.

Thursday 9th October 10.00 – 4.00 Display day – contributions of saleable items &c. can be brought in.

Friday 10th October access by arrangement

Saturday 11th October putting up marquee and gazebos – as many able bodies as possible please.

Thank you in anticipation!

JUDITH'S HAND MADE STALL

This is a new stall for **Discovery** day so would you please start collecting items for it now!

We need **Jams, Pickles, Paintings, Cards, Needlecraft, Jewellery & Woodwork** items to name a few ... in other words **ANYTHING** that is hand made.

So start being crafty & make something for October 12th ... PLEASE!



BRIDGE Continued



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COMING UP:

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Wednesday 6th August	Tony Pitman is talking to Trent Valley Gentlemen's Probus
Sunday & Monday 24th & 25th August 10.00 – 4.30	Boat Trips from Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, NG32 1NY
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
Tuesday 30th September 7.30	Talk: South Witham Gardening Club
Sunday 12th October 10.00 – 5.00	Discovery Day at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Get Involved! Get Informed! Get Inspired!
Saturday 25th October	Hedge-Laying Event, Hough on the Hill (details when available)
1st – 11th November	Grantham Remembers WW1 Commemorative Concert and Exhibition – Exhibition to include display on Grantham Canal involvement in work and leisure during the Great War plus inclusion in a commemorative booklet. I will be doing some research but will welcome any snippets anyone might come across.
2016!!!!	I already have 2 bookings for talks, but more about them later.
Help is needed at events. 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	

Rosemary Gibson, communityandevents@granthamcanal.org



Wildflowers at Harlaxton Wharf at the beginning of July as a result of managed seeding, natural seeding and a bit of guerrilla gardening by a few well meaning folks.



The Inland Waterways Association

Campaigning for the use, maintenance, and restoration of Britain's inland waterways

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH - Next meeting 17th October - Rushcliffe Arena

BRIDGE Continued



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