

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

What a busy month this has been! Without doubt the highlight was Discovery Day and huge thanks are due to Rosemary, Tony J and their teams for putting on such an interesting event. The support we received from other societies and clubs was greatly appreciated and all who attended were both satisfied and generous. The day raised over £1,600 for GCS funds.



Posing for the "official" photographer prior to the opening of Discovery Day. Mike Stone (Chairman GCS) & the Mayor & Mayoress of Grantham, Cllr Ian and Mrs Anita Selby



Have you seen the work done by CRT staff on Lock 11? You should as it is an excellent example of heritage restoration and has already been viewed by high profile visitors including their Chief Executive, Richard Parry, and other Board members and Trustees.



Hickling lengthmen's hut has also enjoyed some senior management visits.

The work being undertaken by Ian Wakefield and his team to eradicate the leaks in the head-walls of Lock 17 continues; old mortar has been removed and re-pointing with lime mortar completed on the off-side. Work on the towpath side continues as I write. We then need to grout the voids behind the walls to complete the task and re-water the pound.

Volunteer teams from the Prince's Trust are again working on the canal supervised by the CRT volunteer organiser, Wayne Ball, and our own teams have been removing saplings and vegetation on the navigable length.

Behind the scenes we are in the advanced stages of preparation for our new guide to the Grantham Canal with very positive support from Harper Collins, the printers of the well established Nicholson's Canal Guides. We hope to have it available next spring.

The Rangers Team has been reactivated under the leadership of Paul Dadford and he has already attracted new recruits. If *Bridge* readers enjoy regular walks along sections of the canal why don't you sign up with Paul pdadford@yahoo.co.uk and become the Ranger for your section?

You should have received notice of the society's AGM at Cropwell Butler on Tuesday 4th November. I hope you are coming to support us and input your thoughts to the meeting as we continue with the restoration of the canal.

Mike Stone

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

Next Meeting Friday 21st November 2014; 7-45pm

For our second meeting we will be joined by Robert Neff, who is the General Manager of Mercia Marina at Willington

HELP OUR FUNDRAISING BY DONATING.....THINGS!

We have the contacts to raise money for the society from certain donated items

Do you have any of the following which you would like to donate?

- Stamp collection
- Cigarette Cards
- Model railways - 00 and N gauge
- Beer mats
- Beer pump clips
- Good quality pottery and porcelain
- 12" vinyl LPs, singles and CDs
- DVDs
- Rocks and Minerals

If so email David on david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.org or ring on 07970 858458

WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT WE CAN TAKE AND SELL FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS ... EVERY LITTLE HELPS!

Some excellent photo's taken by Judith Poore of *Earwig* being towed back to Denton winding hole by *Mudlark*



Spark up Your Sunday Evenings with a Meal and a Pub Quiz

Why not enjoy a Pub Quiz at the Tollemache in Grantham

November 2nd, 16th & 30th, starting at 19.30

Why not start with a meal at Gurkha Square, on the opposite corner to the Tollemache (ample car parking behind the Tolly). Take the voucher from this copy of "Bridge" with you for a 20% discount at this award winning Nepalese/Indian restaurant, open from 17.00 onwards and for the first 15 attendees a book of 70+ discount vouchers for Wetherspoons meals and drinks at the Tollemache.

Really, it is a bargain – how could you miss it? And you're supporting GCS fundraising (£2 quiz entry fee)

Gurkha Square

Nepalese and Indian Restaurant, Grantham
Numerous award-winning, family-run business

A Special Offer for Grantham Canal Supporters

Print off and take this voucher to qualify for the following discounts on Meals:

Sunday to Thursday 20% Discount - Friday and Saturday 10% Discount

Want a Takeaway? Discount and Free delivery within three mile radius of the restaurant.

See the menu - www.gurkhasquarerestaurant.co.uk 1 Wharf Rd, Grantham NG31 6BA
(Corner of Wharf Road and London Road) Telephone: 01476 574433 Offer ends November 30th 2014

Discovery Day

It was a joy to behold, on this, the penultimate day before Discovery Day, at such a fine body of men assembled - with some women too, but mentioning their bodies gets me into hot water - or, given the proximity of the canal...

Muscle rippled, blood pumped, sinew stretched and ingenuity was challenged, as we set about transforming our barren, windswept patch into the makings of an event.

On the day itself, and not fully recovered from our exertions the previous day - with still much to do - this time under a broad blue colour washed sky, and the ol' current bun rising o'er Bill's Mothers - the day looked promising. It wasn't long before our faithful band of exhibitors started to arrive.

We eased and we teased them into their rightful or wrongful places, and in the blink of an eye the Mayor and Mayoress of Grantham arrived, and, ready or not, duly pronounced us open! All events, I suppose, are unique - but I think you'd struggle to find an event with an identity quite like Discovery Day!

We were treated to some captivating story telling by Julia Damassa of Storyshapes. We were sung to by Suzi Litton-Wood, with her self penned, and ever so evocative waterway's songs!

You could find out about barges, tramways, trains and cycling.

You could have a boat ride or buy a basket.

There was local honey, jewellery and handmade things.

There was garden design and Roses & Castles.



We were drawn, like moths to a flame, by the wonderful aroma of vegetable soup from a WWI Field Kitchen - I must say, it'd kept well!

The Inland Waterway's Association were represented - this year, by the Lincolnshire Branch, who also flew the flag for the Waterway's Recovery Group - both organisations have helped us enormously over the years.



We peered in at rescue bats, learned about hedgehog welfare, fossils and birds...



... which leads me nicely on to the Dirty Duck Race – where we had enough water by the skin of our beaks. The duck race always seems to present a challenge lately – this year’s was a drained pound immediately before the course!



Our visitors enjoyed narrowboat rides, homemade cake and browsing a plethora of fascinating stalls.

The Maids of Clifton delighted us with their clog dancing and local radio presenter Graham Wright did an excellent job of pulling it all together with his professionalism at the mike – I wish he wouldn’t hand it to me at times – my brain goes into freewheeling mode as soon as I’m within feet of a microphone!

Discovery Day 2014 – it was pronounced good!

A huge amount work goes into Discovery Day. Thank you so much to all who played a part – whether big or small – noticed or un-noticed – we couldn’t do it without YOU!



Our ranks were swelled on the day by volunteers from the Grantham Branch of Lloyd’s Bank, who did an excellent job with activities in the marquee, where their people skills were put to good use!

With your help and with the support and generosity of our visitors – we raised around £1600! With minimal expenses in putting on the event – the bulk of this sum will directly benefit the canal – now that’s important!

It’s not just about the money – we gained a lot of publicity too – Radio Lincolnshire, Gravity FM and numerous press releases.

Will we do it again next year? We’ll have to see – we’re in a vacuum at present, awaiting the news of our HLF grant in relation to the restoration of the Woolsthorpe Flight – the Carpenter’s Shop Depot may well be filled with all the associated paraphernalia. We may be too stretched to do Discovery Day, or, quite likely, there will be other, smaller events along the canal corridor, in connection with the community aspect of the grant...

Again, on behalf of the Event’s Team – THANK YOU!
Tony Jackson



Our thanks to Martyn Carr & others for their photographic contributions.

Some of my observations on Discovery Day



Some founder members

Here are 3 of our original society members who attended Discovery Day. Jim Barker, another founder, arrived after I had taken this photo, so my apologies to him.,

Reading from left to right they are, Ian Goodson, Fred Marsh and Les Reid. They were all founder members of the Grantham Civic Trust, which was the forerunner of the present day society.

Les Reid, pictured right, holding an oak wheel made by his grandfather Oliver Willis who lived in the lock cottage. Oliver Willis was one of the last carpenters to work in the carpenters shop in the 50's when, although the canal had long been closed to traffic, maintenance still had to be carried out to lock gates, etc.



Who's your friend Tony?



Martin Fagan provided first aid cover & has offered a first aid training course



Marilyn Campbell, who volunteers at Woolsthorpe Manor (Isaac Newton's place), Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth provided some lovely bugs



Your Caption Please! ... to bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

Our thanks to Clare for spotting the spelling error (Edition 52) of the Tollemache Pub in Grantham.