

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

As work begins on the WHI Project the weather deteriorates! Typical! Does this stop the committed and highly skilled volunteers we have? No it does not. They turn out in all weathers to do any necessary work that will improve the canal for our community visitors. Don't worry, spring is just around the corner with all the fresh colours and sounds it brings to the canal.



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Have you seen the bank between the towpath and the water from Woolsthorpe to the A1? All the self-seeded saplings have gone and the aspect is much enhanced. CRT contractors can now cut grass without any impediment. CRT contractors have improved the canal image at the A1.

Our trip-boat, The Three Shires, has been serviced and is ready for the opening of our cruising season on 1st April. Our crews are undergoing refresher training during March so all should be ready for your custom. Have you booked a cruise yet?

Behind the scenes other volunteers are enhancing the facilities at Woolsthorpe Depot which will provide better accommodation for meetings and society displays. A training course is planned at which volunteers will learn to handle construction plant. Successful completion of this and similar courses will qualify them to drive machinery when required to facilitate canal improvements. For younger volunteers this could lead to subsequent employment opportunities in the construction industry.

There have been a few very welcome responses to our request for more volunteers but we need many more! If you can spare just a few hours a month your help and support would be most welcome. Please contact Tony whose address is in the advert.

A special "Thank You" from the committee to all who have renewed their membership of the Society. The Society needs your support and more people like you. In future as you renew your membership you will receive a membership card. This card has a value to you and we will be listing in Bridge those outlets where by showing the card you can enjoy better terms than those available to other people.

I look forward to a very busy and successful year for us all!

Mike Stone.

Events Team Round Up

January 21st found me in the South Kesteven Council Chamber, flying the flag for the canal at the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust's 'Wonderful Witham' presentation.

I know we're not a river – but this event was to do with the Witham Catchment. As the canal pilfers water from one, if not two of the upper Witham's tributaries – I thought I'd go along. Another reason for my attendance, was that Jack Perks, who specialises in underwater filming, was showing one of his films. Despite my interest in wildlife generally – I have to admit all fish look the same to me. I can't claim to be any the wiser now! Jack supported us last Discovery Day and has filmed for both Springwatch and Countryfile.

The trusts interests do actually encompass wetland habitats as well – so I think we qualify on that score.

We braved the snow and ice on 30th January to talk to Corby Glen Local History Society where there was a good turnout despite the weather! I think there were a few who were surprised at the progress we were making on the canal!

The Rutland Vintage Tractor & Engine Club made us welcome at Melton Conservative Club on February 9th. It's not every day you meet an ex working boatman! I missed out on this conversation – but nevertheless, I gleaned that he worked for Threefellows Carrying. This company operated in the 1980s – yes, there was still commercial traffic on our inland waterways in the '80s! I'm talking here of traditional motorboat and butty – rather than commercial river traffic which still operates today.

Threefellows worked 'The Lime Juice Run' Brentford to Boxmoor doing round trips of 116 miles and 144 locks each week! More locally they worked the 'gravel run' on the river Soar between Syston and Thurmaston – in contrast – about three miles and one lock!

We were also offered a Lister three cylinder air cooled engine – if it's of any use to us? Ian is checking if it's compatible with workboat Centauri's 2 cylinder.

Grantham Museum are supportive to us, so we went along to their Grand Opening on February 14th following their re-fit, which got the thumbs up from us! I'm sure we will continue to work with them in the future.

Another canal talk, this time with the Bingham Ladies Evening Guild – and as often is the case at these 'ladies events' – the welcoming chink of the china – which always assures a decent cup o' tea and a chocolate biscuit! The guild is visiting Woolthorpe in the summer for a guided walk along the canal.

As usual at these talks - Rosemary is the orator and I'm the unglamorous assistant.

Thank you to Corby Glen Local History Society, Rutland Vintage Tractor & Engine Club and Bingham Ladies Evening Guild for your generous donations towards our society funds.

Rosemary can deliver talks on a variety of subjects. Proceeds always go to the canal society. We do like to keep within 30 miles of Grantham, and tend to favour the canal corridor.

Subjects:

- Into Another World – this is our usual canal talk – we even dress up as early 20th century boatwoman and boatman – at no extra cost!
- Clothes of the cut – a shorter talk than the others – the 'cut' referring to the canal.
- Bess of Hardwick – a formidable woman – ended up rich an' all! Sorry, didn't mean to give the ending away...
- The Iron Age – not as primitive as you might think – this talk has a local flavour.
- Cooking in Prehistory – Gawd, never thought I'd be pleased to see a Big Mac!

Tony Jackson

waterway
recovery
group



The Inland
Waterways
Association

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH
Next Meeting Friday 20th March 7.45 pm

John Lower talks about exploring the River Trent from Nottingham to Keadby by narrowboat.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
To contact us please send your email to:

bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

THE
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SOCIETY



Clearing the canal ready for the new cruising season



An old mattress!
Someone mistook the Grantham canal for the BCN!



Clearing the ground around Lock 15

Many thanks to our GCS members for their photos

Redmile – Harby SSSI Dredging

In December 2014, the company Land & Water completed Phase 1 of the Project with funding kindly provided by Veolia Environment Trust (£100K), Melton BC, and CRT enabled approx. 2.4 Km to be cleared from Redmile Town Br(54) to Jericho Bri (51). The dredging profile has left 1.2 mts on both banks as wildlife refuge, when in the Spring it is hoped to re-introduce Grass Wrack Pondweed. The Project is also supported by Natural England and The Environmental Agency.

We still need matched funding to dredge the final 2.6km. This stretch is also important for the many species of dragon fly to be found and is an important consideration in the campaign to restore this section or the canal. CRT are anxious to obtain further funding and Lucie Hoelmer has offered support to complete the remaining length from Jericho Bridge (51) to Harby Town Bridge

ACP 2/2015



The CRT Notice



Section cleared upstream to Redmile



Under Jericho Bridge
Canal downstream to be dredged to Harby



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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING ?

YOUR QUESTION: "WHAT COULD I DO?"

OUR REPLY: "WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO YOU COULD WORK FROM HOME, OR BE OUT IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE IF YOU PREFER THAT?"

YOUR QUESTION: "HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD I OFFER IN A YEAR?"

OUR REPLY: "A FEW HOURS, A DAY, A FEW DAYS, A DAY A MONTH, A DAY A WEEK?"

WE ARE FLEXIBLE TO MEET YOUR AVAILABILITY.

WHY NOT TALK TO US ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES?

WE NEED RESOURCES OF THE HUMAN KIND:

- ONE KEY AREA IS ADMINISTRATION. THIS CAN BE UNDERTAKEN FROM HOME AS LONG AS THE VOLUNTEER HAS ELECTRONIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. *MAYBE YOU?*
- THE PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO UNDERTAKE GROUND CLEARANCE, WATER DIVERSION, SITE PREPARATION, DEMOLITION AND RE-BUILDING OF LOCKS. *OR IS THIS YOU?*
- DO YOU LIKE MEETING PEOPLE? WE NEED A RECEPTION PERSON TO WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS. *COULD YOU DO THIS?*

THESE ARE A FEW IDEAS WHERE INPUT FROM YOU COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO THE SOCIETY AND THE ENJOYMENT OF EVERYONE.

PLEASE CONTACT TONY JACKSON IF YOU WISH TO TALK ABOUT VOLUNTEERING.

TONY'S EMAIL:

ANTHONYKJACKSON@BTOPENWORLD.COM



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Grantham Canal Society

Partnership with Marks and Spencer

from Rosemary Gibson (GCS Community and Education Manager)

MARKS &
SPENCER

When the new Marks and Spencer's store opened in Grantham just before last Christmas, they announced that they intended to get involved with a few charities. Manager Dean Law had been in conversation with Mayor of Grantham, Councillor Ian Selby, who had opened Discovery Day for us last October. M&S adopted at least one of Ian's charities and wanted something connected with environmental sustainability. Ian recommended Grantham Canal Society and gave Dean my contact details. We communicated before the store opened and finally got round to meeting and discussing options in more detail yesterday (24th Feb). The indispensable oil rag tagged along and also made useful contributions.

Dean had been doing his homework and had also been in conversation with invaluable canal supporter and former manageress of Lloyds Bank, Grantham, Angela Philips. M & S members of staff are entitled to a charity volunteer day and Dean envisaged some team-building type sessions. In April or May, the M & S Company are involved in a Great British Beach Clean Up which also includes rivers, lakes and reservoirs and other waterways. Dates and agreed activities are yet to be finalised.

Dean also suggested ways they could help with fund raising, such as bag packing on particular weekends, when we could display information about our activities and aims. Canal Society volunteers would offer to pack bags with donations buckets handy. Groups such as Gravity FM community radio and scouts have raised in the region of £300 from Friday and Saturday shoppers.

Coffee mornings/afternoon teas/wine tasting events in the cafe are also possible means of raising awareness and funds. Such events could be of mutual benefit to the Canal Society and the store.

We thanked Dean for his time and look forward to exploring such mutual benefits further and then Tony and I enjoyed a very tasty toasty in the café and stocked up on a few groceries. It is a very pleasant store with friendly helpful staff.



Some splendid wildlife
photos taken by GCS
Ranger Chris Leach

Join Us on a Canal Clean Up



Erewash Canal Clean Up

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th March 2015

Join the Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association, Canal & River Trust and IWA Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Branch for a canal clean up.

Friday 27th March meet at 9.30am at the Gallows Inn pub car park (DE7 5BN). Work will progress towards Sandiacre Lock for approx. 3pm.

Saturday 28th March meet at 9.30am at Sandiacre Lock (Lock Lane, NG10 5LB). Work will be carried out down to Trent Lock for approx. 3pm.

Lifts to return to the start point will be arranged. Please wear stout shoes and old clothes and bring waterproofs and a packed lunch if staying all day.

Stefanie Preston | 01494 783 453 | stefanie.preston@waterways.org.uk

John Baylis | 07889 444 190



The Inland
Waterways
Association

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire
Branch



Canal &
River Trust



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Talks and Events for 2015

Monday 2nd March
 Wednesday 25th March
 Sat & Sun 28th & 29th March
 Sun & Mon 5th & 6th April
 Saturday 2nd May
 Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th May
 Friday 15th May evening

 Sun & Mon 25th May Bank Holiday

Talk: Retirement Group, Grantham
 Talk: Grantham 88 Probus
 Discover Lincolnshire Weekend (more details follow)
 May Bank Holiday Short Boat Trips at Woolsthorpe
 Railway and Canal History Scty AGM in Grantham
 Nottinghamshire County Show, Newark Showground
 Visit to Woolsthorpe Locks and Carpenter's Shop by
 Notts / Derbys Branch of IWA
 Short Boat Trips at Woolsthorpe

Saturday 13th June

Bingham Town Fair

HELP

Sat & Sun 20th & 21st June

Grantham Carn

NEEDED

Tuesday 7th July

Guided Walk: Bingham Ladies Evening Guild

Tuesday 14th July

Talk: Burton Joyce U3A

Tuesday 14th July 7.30

Talk: Kinoulton WI

Wednesday 12th August

Talk: Lenton Local History Society

Wednesday 16th September

Talk: Laxton History Group

Tony and Rosemary are away in June so if you can represent the society with the information stand at any of those events, please contact Rosemary on email: communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or phone: 07971 173069

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS



We have now introduced membership cards which will be issued to all new members and all others as they renew their membership.

We are currently working on offering a benefit to all card holders whereby they can obtain more favourable terms against certain purchases.

If your company is interested in participating in offering a discount on presentation of a valid card then please contact us at the address below.

All those organisations willing to participate in this scheme will be listed in future copies of Bridge together with their company's address, logo and details of the discount and terms being offered.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter for all the latest gossip!
Also please visit our Facebook page "The Three Shires" where you can find dates for short trips and items of general interest.



HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR 2, 3 or 4 HOUR CRUISE ON THE THREE SHIRES ?
 Why not check out our website for availability www.granthamcanal.org



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
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