

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

There has been a very positive response to the various requests for volunteers to actively participate in the restoration of Locks 15 to 12. Thanks to all of you who have put yourselves forward to assist with this challenging but rewarding task.

The Project really gets underway on Monday when the towpath closure becomes effective and full access to the work-site is possible.

Coordination of GCS volunteers is an important matter and this is kindly being undertaken by Ralph Bellamy. Our target is to have a team leader for each day of the week and for each to be supported by a team of about five people. It may take a little time for this arrangement to settle down into a regular pattern. In charge of the work-site will be Mark Owen of CRT who has considerable expertise in this type of work though not with volunteers. Please be kind to him!

Elsewhere on the canal there is still much to be achieved and regular movement of *Centauri* is needed to maintain a path for *The Three Shires* cruises. If you haven't enjoyed a cruise why not book one in August? After some engineering activity the weed-boat, *Osberton*, is prepared for action once the bird nesting season has ended – in September. The re-building of the lengthman's hut at Hickling is due to get underway as soon as we collect some sleepers which have been generously donated by Network Rail. The Hickling group are keen for this to be completed before the winter weather comes.

So if you doubted that your offer of help would be received positively please reconsider; volunteer support is needed in a wide range of areas to suit your preferences. Just drop an email to the Editor who will forward it to the appropriate person in GCS.

You may well wonder what has happened to Mary Noble who has been missing from the boat crew & membership team for a number of weeks. Unfortunately she has broken her ankle! We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Thank you for your continued support for the Society.

Mike Stone.




Two photos of Woolsthorpe Middle Lock, lock 15, viewed from both sides.

We are grateful to *The Village Link Magazine*, with a distribution to over 16,000 homes around Grantham each month, for offering Tony Jackson a full page of this A5 publication - to talk about the Grantham Canal! This will continue until Tony either runs out of things to say, he ceases to be remotely interesting, or the Village Link want the space for a fee paying customer.

The following is Tony's article from the July edition:

I'm a little teapot short and stout...

Climb the North Face of the Eiger and you may find yourself highly esteemed among your neighbours- that is, until you happen to put your wrong coloured wheelie bin out one week - then you're back where you started from...

Today's mountaineers owe a huge debt of gratitude to those early pioneers, who, in their plus fours, tweed jackets and frozen beards, blazed trails up the world's highest peaks.

The Grantham Canal Society had its pioneers too. Enter the decade of the Fab Four, Go-Go dancers and equally questionable architecture.

Dressed up as the 1968 Transport Act, our canal's Death Warrant was given Royal Assent; a fancy way of saying HM was happy for it to be filled in - dead and buried!

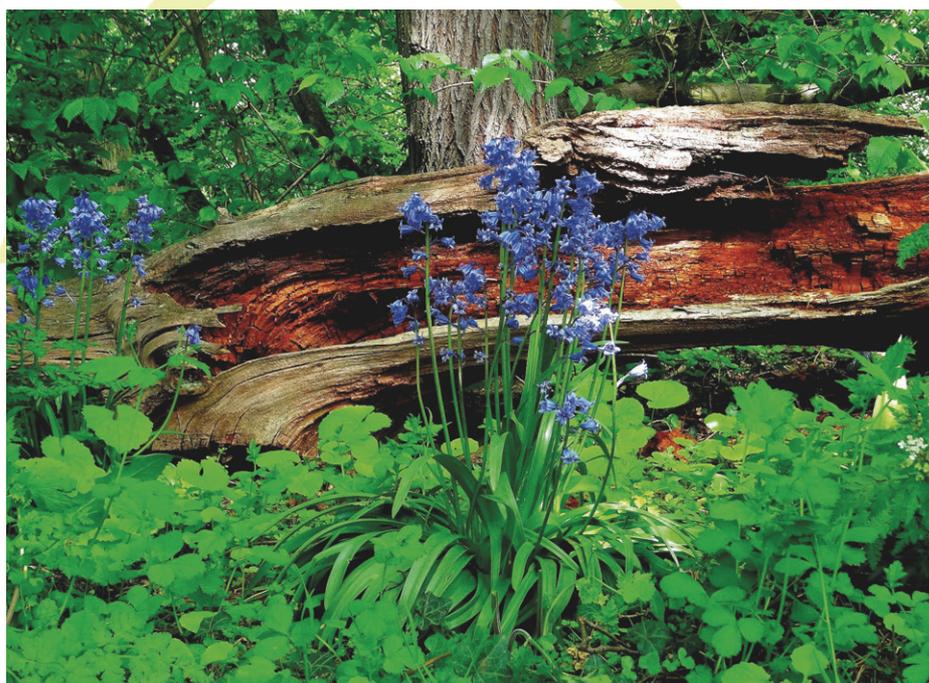
They hadn't bargained for this era of anti-establishment, of protests and social disobedience - we are grateful to those with their never say die attitudes of the time; men and women of vision and doggedness - out of which the Grantham Canal Society was born.

We're about a quarter of the way up the climb; ready for the next major push to restore more locks in the Woolsthorpe Flight, as well as all our usual work! The more astute will have seen where this is heading - yep, we need some help, a lot of help.

I'm talking to **you** now. It would be tedious to list all the diverse ways in which you can offer assistance - I'd be drummed out of these pages. There are indeed some specialised jobs, but most work utilises the skills many of us have gained in our day to day lives - from making tea and baking cakes to grass cutting and painting. There's helping at shows, admin, boating and working with schools - did I detect a distant drum roll?

If you can't spare time out from keeping a roof over your head, or really don't know your handle from your spout - simply by becoming a member helps us enormously. Not only will you be supporting our volunteers, but healthy membership numbers help us when applying for funding - it demonstrates we have the support of the community.

Play your part in one of Britain's biggest restoration jobs!



MEMBERSHIP CARD PRIVILEGES

Please note that a current membership card must be produced to qualify for a discount



MIDLAND CHANDLERS - Willington
DISCOUNT 5%
<http://midlandchandlers.co.uk>



GURKHA SQUARE NEPALESE & INDIAN RESTAURANT
20% discount will apply from Sunday to Thursday inclusive
10% discount will apply on Fridays & Saturdays
There will be no discount during December
<http://gurkhasquareresaurant.co.uk>



Green Living are offering a 10% Discount to GCS Members who purchase one of their Artificial Grass products & have it installed by them.
Phone 0115 8450340 or 07463 890665



waterway
recovery
group

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 & 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!!!



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
To contact us please send your email to:
bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

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Events in July

July 11th found us at Radcliffe on Trent Carnival in the green gazebo – thank you to Kate, Bob and Stan who helped on the day – if I've missed anyone out – kick my shins when you next see me...

Tuesday 15th was 'interesting' for us – with a presentation to Vale of Belvoir U3A in the afternoon and to Kinoulton WI in the evening.

Burton Joyce U3A followed a week later, and a week later still on the 28th, we were back in the village hall at Kinoulton for a presentation evening organised by Hickling History Group entitled 'The Grantham Canal'.

Not only did Rosemary give her 'Into Another World' canal talk at this superb event, but David also gave his in depth presentation of the 'big picture' to an appreciative audience.

Throw in a couple of HLF related events, which Rosemary will tell you about – and you have another busy month for the Events Team.

Keep an eye on the diary in Bridge and on the website – if you see we're going to be somewhere – call and see us!

...don't forget to follow us on Twitter. If you don't, you're missing out on a lot of interesting stuff. It's a very useful medium, not only for day to day activities – but important news too when it arrives – not to mention some stunning pictures!

For those who aren't familiar with Twitter, here goes:

Go to www.granthamcanal.org On the homepage to the right of the changing pictures at the top – you will see a little box containing the Twitter messages. Click on the word 'tweets' at the top of this box – it will open up to a full screen – read away!

There is no need to sign up to Twitter unless you wish to take part in discussions.

Tony Jackson

Some photo notes!



A snapshot of a group of walkers enjoying the canal whilst taking a break!
Photographed by Dave Cross



All raring to go ... Volunteers being briefed by John Brydon at Lock 15
Saturday 30th MAY 2015



John Trigg training boat crews on
The Three Shires

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE MADE A DONATION TO THE SOCIETY

Jeremy Pratt, Mr & Mrs Altham, Ian Wakefield, Mr & Mrs Robbins, R.Gibson (contribution from Talks)
Ken Laing, Railway & Canal Heritage Trust, Lafarge Tarmac = Sponsorship & Mike Stone

BOAT FOR SALE

Yorkshire Pebble

GRP construction with original fixed Cuddy Cabin top and comes complete with a road trailer. Please note that there is no outboard engine included. **Offers over £300.**

Details **07831 629 196**



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
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A 33 mile walk by 82 year old Edna & Jack Reaney

On June 1st, 2nd and 3rd this year we walked the Grantham Canal 33 miles. Starting near Nottingham Forest football ground. We used accommodation at the Premier Inn Nottingham and we hired the Green Man Cottage at Redmile.

The tow path is an easy walk and we were delighted to see many nesting swans and their signets. Also of special note - we observed the walk was litter free and other walkers and cyclists were very friendly. It is now our intention to walk it again next year in the reverse direction!

Last year we walked the Chesterfield Canal 46 miles and we are all members of the Chesterfield Canal trust.

Edna Reaney

Here are some of their photo's taken along the way.



Edna Reaney accompanied by her daughter



Jack & Edna Reaney

We would have liked to have been able to offer them a canal badge to acknowledge their achievement but unfortunately don't have any at present. We are looking into obtaining some.

New Supporter for the Grantham Canal Project

West Bridgfordians Cricket Club have offered to support the canal project by publicising our efforts in their clubhouse. Posters, pamphlets, membership forms, an advert for the new guidebook, Grantham Canal beer mats and a collection tin on the bar are all in place.

The cricket club is holding their Ashes Beer Festival at the clubhouse on Stamford Road, in West Bridgford from Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th August.

The bonus for us at this festival is that our supporters at Magpie Brewery have brewed a special beer called Grantham Canal Florale. This is a 4.1% pale ale and 10p from each pint sold will be donated to the canal society. We are hoping to establish an occasional tradition of Grantham Canal Brews at various times and places

All efforts to raise the profile of the GC Project at the Nottingham end are very welcome and we extend our thanks to the cricket club for their recognition and support.

The WBCC clubhouse is at 80 Stamford Rd, West Bridgford, NG2 6, served by the NCT bus route no. 6.

More details and festival opening times can be found at:

<http://www.westbridgfordianscc.co.uk/clubnews/club-news2/95-ashes-beer-list>



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Discovery Day - Sunday 11th October 2015

The more we put in, the more we get out, so here is a call to all members and supporters to help with our aims to: INFORM, INVOLVE AND INSPIRE.

Entertainments are booked in the form of a folk singer with a song about a pirate on the Grantham Canal, The Trent Navigation Navigation Shanty Crew and the lovely Maids of Clifton who always bring the sunshine.

Information about the progress of the Grantham Canal Waterways Heritage Initiative will come from Lucie Hoelmer, and guided visits to the site of Lock 15 will take place.

Boat trips are of course a compulsory part of the event. We need crews, ticket sellers and runners. We are negotiating for canoes and hope to have demonstrations of lock operations.

Family activities- we have some volunteers, but more are welcome.

Stall holders and information stands - we are negotiating with some, but have room for more. Our space is limited, so we try and go for waterways and environmentally themed groups, but member's individual interests and talents are welcome. If you have relevant ideas or contacts, please let us know.

Charity Shop and Books stalls need running.

Guide Book sales and membership stand need manning

Raffle and Locks and Bridges Tombola need prizes and volunteers

Refreshments are a major source of income and enjoyment and again baking contributions most gratefully received. Sue Carr (suecarr@talktalk.net) and Carole Harris are coordinating this. Please contact Sue with offers or queries. We now have a fridge thanks to Terry Davies. We are also planning a barbecue.

Greeters and Marshalls are needed on the day.

Preparing the site -inside and out needed before the event. Erecting Structures and organising tables and chairs needed on Saturday 10th.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

DIRTY DUCK RACE - help needed to construct a fantastically, fiendish course. Contact Ayup Meduck c/o anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com.

Organisation of this event hangs heavy on a couple of pairs of shoulders. We need people to say 'I can do this', rather than 'You should do that.'

Looking forward to hearing from you - Rosemary
communityandevents@granthamcanal.org 01476 978896 / 07971173069



Bank Holiday Boat Trips from Woolsthorpe Sunday and Monday 30th & 31st August

Bank holiday boat trips are proving an enjoyable and profitable way of raising money, awareness and recruits for the Society.

Refreshment: Apart from payments for boat trips, the most lucrative income stream has come from refreshments, especially the generously donated and delicious baking by some of the wonderful cooks among our members and supporters. I never like to impose on those people who already work hard and donate loads of time, money and energy to the society, but if anyone feels inspired to do a bit of baking for this weekend, it will be most gratefully received and I am sure thoroughly enjoyed. Sweet or savoury finger foods, e.g. tray bakes, welcomed, but sliceable cakes also go down very well. We will also need help with serving teas, coffees and squashes.

Boat 'ticket' sales: Volunteers are needed to take and record the money and act as runners to direct passengers and communicate with skippers.

Information displays, guide book sales and 'charity shop' books also need manning. This is an opportunity for people to find out more about different aspects of the society's work.

Boat Crews: John Trigg is sorting out crews, so anyone interested in helping out in that department, please contact him.

Help for even a small part of these two days will be much appreciated.

Grantham Canal Waterways Heritage Initiative Events

Launch Event and Volunteer Open Day: On July 4th we welcomed about 60 members of the Canal Society and the general public to Woolsthorpe to find out about the Lock Restoration Project. We signed up 4 very promising new members, some of whom have managed to get stuck in immediately to different aspects of the Society's work (and they weren't all retired which helps skew the demographic a bit from the norm). Boat trips were offered as a carrot and we were able to raise our profile a bit more.



Don't get into a flap, we are making progress - just keep trying!

Engaging Communities: On the evening of July 27th, about 40 people crammed into the Carpenter's Shop to hear about the community aspects of the project. A number of work party members also swelled the ranks and although the meeting was aimed at Education and Interpretation, some were anxious to know about practical progress on the lock restoration and reasons for delays in permissions to start. We did not go into depth on the requirements of the Action Plan to collect reminiscences and research. We do have volunteers to take part in this type of activity. We did recruit people to undertake accreditation with CRT 'Explorers' to work with schools and youth groups and valuable volunteers signed up for jobs for Discovery Day, which I count as progress.



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Talks and Events Diary 2015

*If you can help out with any events, please contact Rosemary on
communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971173069*

Date & Time

Event & Venue

2015 bookings

After a very busy July, the August diary has been shrunk by a non-confirmation and a deferral of a couple of talks, which means we can put more energy into the Green Fair and Bank Holiday Boat Trips

Sunday 16th August 10.30-5.00 Green Fair, Wyndham Park, Grantham

Sunday/Monday August 30th & 31st Bank Holiday Short Boat Trips at Woolsthorpe

Monday 7th Sept 7.30 Rangers' Meeting - Woolsthorpe

Sat & Sun 12th & 13th Sept Harby Country Show, Canal Farm, Harby

It has taken some research to find out that this clashes with Hickling Scarecrow Festival. With help, we could be in two places at once.

Wednesday 16th Sept 7.30 Talk: Laxton History Group

Saturday 10th October Information Stand at Nottingham Waterway Event – details to follow – help welcome in view of the date.

Sunday 11th October **Discovery Day 2015 Please see page 6.**

Monday 2nd November 7.00 Talk: Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray (moved from August)

Saturday 14 December 9.00-4.45 Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Day, The Source, Sleaford: 'Canals and Waterways of Lincolnshire Past Present and Future – Talks on Grantham Canal, Sleaford Navigation, Fosdyke, Caistor Canal, Stamford Canal and Louth Canal. The day includes lunch – further details on fees, etc. to follow

Monday 7th December Talk: Collingham Memorial Hall

Monday 14th December Talk: Ashby Canal Association

2016 bookings

Tues 12th January Talk: Hougham and Marston Local History Society

Wed 17th February Iron Age talk for Harlaxton WI. Open meeting – canal society members particularly welcome – proceeds for GCS Funds

• there are also several other talks on the Iron Age and Bess of Hardwick booked – let me know if you are interested.

Mon 14th March Talk: Melton Mowbray branch Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Wed 18th May 2.00 Talk: Bingham U3A

Tues 14th- Sun 17th July U3A summer school at Harlaxton Manor – Rosemary will be covering 8 teaching sessions on Grantham Canal history, restoration projects, ecology and environment, canal crafts, etc. to include visits and boat rides.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter for all the latest news

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" YET?

Why not check out our website for availability www.granthamcanal.org



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