



### This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

I guess several of you have now walked the towpath between Woolsthorpe and lock 15 to see what is happening. For those who have not had the opportunity there has been considerable activity! Members of the GCS and visitors attending the Waterway Recovery Group camps have delivered significant change to the lock site. Haul-roads have been built to facilitate access; dams have been constructed above and below the lock; a new by-wash has been constructed to pass water around the lock; earth has been removed from behind the lock walls to enable a detailed assessment of the lock structure.

It is now clear that both the lock walls cannot be restored in their present condition and will therefore have to be taken down and rebuilt. Consequently over the next weeks there will be much for GCS volunteers to accomplish. If you can spare time to assist in this development please say so; we need as much resource as you can make available.

In addition there is repair work to be done at Lock 17 and normal maintenance on the length of canal which is navigable. Now that the nesting season is over the canal bank needs a tidy, tree branches need cutting back, the weed-cutter can become operational and we need to increase the depth of water. If you don't fancy working out of doors please help with preparations for Discovery Day in Woolsthorpe Depot. Bring your artistic, administrative, electrical and catering skills as these would really assist our preparations.

If these opportunities don't 'float your boat' please consider making a donation to the society. The society has to raise £20,000 in each of the next five years to match the HLF Grant for the restoration of locks 15 to 12. Any amount large or small that you can spare will be used to purchase the materials required to rebuild the lock structures. Your contribution will help to deliver a monument that should last for at least the next 200 years. That means it will be seen and used by members of the next eight generations – something to be proud of!

I would like to thank everyone that has helped the society during 2015 as we enter a new era for the Grantham Canal.

*Mike Stone.*

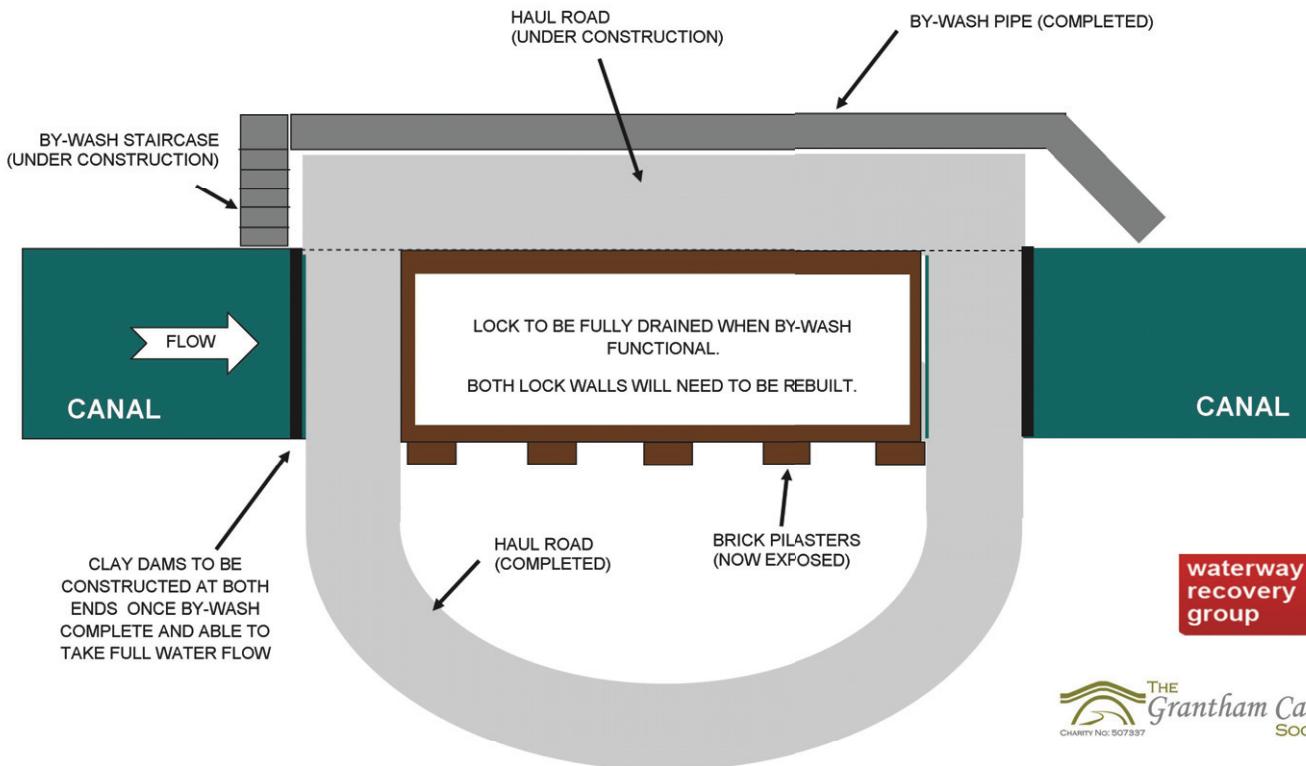


WRG and GCS volunteers at the commencement of major work at Woolsthorpe Middle Lock

# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

## THIS IS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LOCK 15 - WOOLSTHORPE MIDDLE LOCK

SEPT. 2015



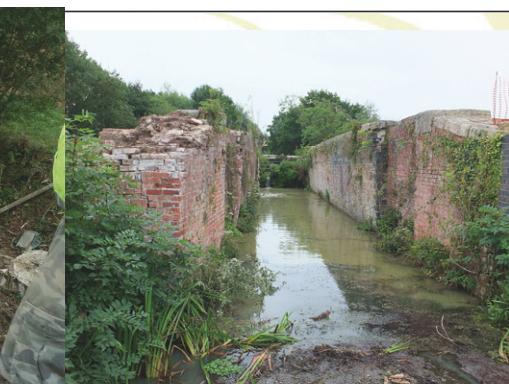
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**The National Lottery®**  
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SITE HUT



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Constructing the by-wash.

Looking inside the lock. The lean on both sides can clearly be seen.

This shows the site prior to excavating the brick pilasters.



Demolition in progress!



Some movement here!



The same area excavated.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

To contact us please send your email to:

[bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk](mailto:bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk)

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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:

## Frills & Furbelows!

Who were these people who toiled along the canals fuelling the industrial revolution?

Often treated with suspicion by those who 'lived on the bank', they went about their daily lives in general isolation of the wider community.

With their clothing largely mirroring that of working people of the time, there were one or two notable exceptions.

The women in their laced boots, long skirts, aprons, shawls and, fellers – employing a little decorum; garments of the mysterious zone, safest left to imagination and conjecture I think. All this is topped with the culmination of a bonnet.

Probably with its origins in those worn by land workers of the era, or even earlier, the boatwoman's bonnet takes this basic design a huge stride farther.

This finale is a wonderful explosion of extravagance; an abundance of frills, furbelows, cording and lace; of needlework gone unchecked - a pure confection!

I'm purposely being shy of mentioning dates. Think Victorian/Edwardian, with some boatwomen carrying on the wearing of bonnets to almost with living memory.

What of the boatmen? Pale by comparison - let's leave the men for another time – let us immerse ourselves in this picture of a boating family, gathered together to celebrate a christening. Let us take time out and think of simpler times. These rather mournful black bonnets would indicate deference to the passing of Queen Victoria.



## The Barn Owl An Illustrated talk in Bottesford Village Hall Tuesday 10th November 2015 7-45 p.m. to 8-45 p.m.

All about barn owls with interesting detail that you may have not have heard before with slides containing photographs, sound and video. Presented by the Vale of Belvoir Barn Owl Conservation Group. The talk will include information on the local barn owl population and the local conservation scheme.

To book a place phone 01949 844319 or email [valebarnowls@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:valebarnowls@hotmail.co.uk)

There is no charge. Voluntary donations in aid of Dove Cottage Hospice can be given on the evening.

**WE REALLY NEED SOME MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE WORK AT LOCK 15. If you can spare some time please email me at [bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk](mailto:bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk) & I will forward your details on. Ed**

# 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://gurkhasquarerestaurant.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



The Inland Waterways Association

## NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

Next Meeting Friday, October 16th 2015 7.45pm  
“Canal and River Trust” - an illustrated talk by Richard Parry, Chief Executive, Canal and River Trust

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk)

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## Events Round Up Aug/Sept

Wyndham Park in Grantham was the venue for The Green & Country Fair on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. We had quite a lot of interest and did some useful networking. It's always nice when the Mayor shows an interest in what we're doing, and indeed it was a pleasure to welcome Cllr. Jacky Smith, holder this office, to our stand – knowledgeable she was too! She has since agreed to conduct the official opening of Discovery Day!

The next event was the Bank Holiday Boat Trips at Woolsthorpe. This event will be remembered for its weather more than anything else I feel. Sunday was sort of alright – but Monday...

We ignored the pleading eyes of the boat crew; 'no, we can't call it off! It's advertised – we've got to see it through to the bitter end!' It rained and it rained, I guess they're still stuffing newspaper in their boots to dry them out!

Certainly the Carpenter's Shop crew drew the longer straw on the Monday – where we served refreshments to a few hardy souls who braved the weather. We had a steady flow of visitors on the previous day – a warm welcome to our new members!

These events are a real team effort – we rely heavily on the goodwill of all involved – those who do a magnificent job doing the home baking, refreshment servers, boat crews, people who put the signs out, take the boat ticket sales, setting up and taking down, organising tables and chairs...

I believe we raised around £310 over the weekend, and of course – all those public spirited people donated their time and ingredients – so every penny will benefit the canal!

September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> found us at Barrowby Scarecrow Festival. Several shatteringly long days led up to the event building scarecrows – followed by a couple of equally long days setting them up/taking down, including two gazebos – one for the Information Stand, one for our book and bric-a-brac stall. It left us exhausted and wondering if it was all worth the effort for the few visitors we had. At the time of writing – a 12 hour volunteering day would seem like a day off!

On top of this, Rosemary represented us at Grantham College's Freshers' Event on the day before the scarecrow festival and also the day after.

Sometimes well meaning folk say to us 'you should do this' or 'why haven't you done that' – and they wonder why we don't grasp their suggestion with unrivalled enthusiasm...

Don't be shy in coming forward if you've never helped at an event before – the next is Discovery Day – when we really do need all the help we can get – and more besides!

Discovery Day is the public face of the society – it's our main fundraising event – if you haven't helped before – drop me an email:

[anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com](mailto:anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com) or

telephone: 01476 567477. Jobs vary from baking cakes, organising tables and chairs, putting gazebos up, selling raffle tickets, marshalling, helping with children's activities – anything and everything – just being there really!

Check Discovery Day out on our homepage

[www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

If you can distribute fliers and/or posters – I can email them to you to print out. Your help is very much appreciated.

**Tell your friends, neighbours and social groups!**

**We also require prizes for the Discovery Day raffle...**



Our scarecrow entry, 'The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe' viewed through the wardrobe!

*Tony Jackson*



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

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## Rangers Report

July and August have been fairly busy for our Rangers. The weather has been kind to us by and large and has also produced an active growing season! The canal has been carpeted in Azola in a number of places, particularly around the Harlaxton area and towards the A1.

Our friends at CRT have been busy with their grass cutting operations and have done a great job in keeping the towpath trimmed.

Littering and dog fouling continue to be our biggest challenges, but having a full complement of Rangers who get out and about regularly, does help to keep things under control.



Ranger Hilary Taylor has spotted a large patch of Himalayan Balsam in the Cotgrave area which has been reported to CRT. Hopefully they can eliminate this invasive species over the coming months. There was also a fire at the Cotgrave Industrial Estate which seems to have allowed some chemicals into the water. The good news is that there does not seem to be any lasting environmental damage.

Assistant Head Ranger, Tony Jackson, is continuing his efforts to

get more dog poo bins installed at the Grantham end, and I hope we can report some good news on this shortly. Tony is also liaising with South Kesteven District Council to gain permission for our Rangers to carry out litter picking on the section owned by them to the east of the A1.

Our bench survey is nearing completion and I hope to be able to share the results with readers in a later issue of Bridge.

Paul Dadford

### SOME PICTURES FROM AROUND

Left - A wasps nest within Lock 15 compound - there to keep everyone on their toes!

Below & Right - Volunteers create a diversionary towpath complete with steps and a bridge so that walkers can circumnavigate the site.

Below Left - A clean up at Harlaxton Wharf.

Our thanks to John Clark & Ian Wakefield for these photos.



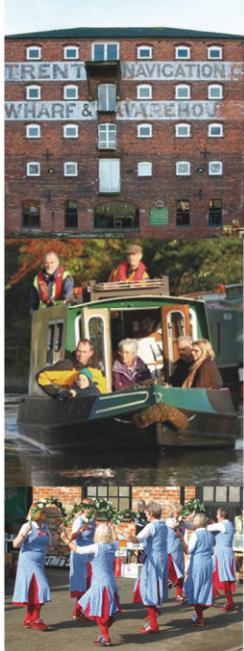
COME  
AND JOIN US  
FOR A FUN DAY ON THE  
**GRANTHAM CANAL**  
**DISCOVERY DAY**



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SPONSORED  
By



Featuring the un-missable Dirty Duck Race



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Navigation  
Co.

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Narrowboat  
Rides

Country  
Dancing

Refreshments Barbecue Tombola  
Lock Restoration Talks & Visit  
Learn about Owls, Bats & Hedgehogs

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

At Woolsthorpe by Belvoir Carpenters Shop behind  
the Rutland Arms (Dirty Duck) Pub NG32 1NY

FREE ADMISSION

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CHARITY NO: 507337

# Talks and Events Diary 2015

If you can help out with any events, please contact Rosemary on [communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org) or 07971173069

## Date & Time

### 2015 bookings

Sat & Sun 12th & 13th Sept

Wednesday 16th September 7.30

Thursday 24th September

Saturday 10th October

**Wednesday 7th October**

**Saturday 10th October**

Saturday 10th October

**Sunday 11th October**

Monday 2nd November 7.00

Saturday 14 November 9.00-4.45

Monday 7th December

Monday 14th December

### 2016 bookings

Tues 12th January

Wed 17th February

Mon 14th March

Wed 18th May 2.00

Tues 14th- Sun 17th July

## Event & Venue

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.

Talk: Laxton History Group

Canal dipping at Kinoulton School

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

**Depot clean up for Discovery Day inside and out**

**Erection of Marquees, etc and general preparation**

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

**Discovery Day 2015 10am - 4 pm Carpenter's Shop**

**Please commit to helping in some way**

Talk: Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray (moved from August)

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, Fossdyke, Caistor Canal, Stamford Canal and Louth Canal. The day includes lunch – details [www.slha.org.uk](http://www.slha.org.uk)

Talk: Collingham Memorial Hall

Talk: Ashby Canal Association

Talk: Hougham and Marston Local History Society

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.

Talk: Melton Mowbray branch Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Talk: Bingham U3A

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 pages "The Three Shires" and "Grantham Canal Society" 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](http://www.granthamcanal.org)



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

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