



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

What a versatile team of volunteers there is in the GCS! The last month has demonstrated that members can turn their hands to almost any activity and deliver quality results.

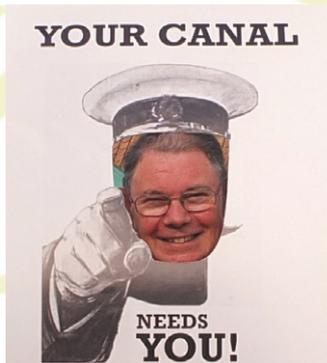
Late in September our teams knocked down the fractured walls of Lock 15 and then spent the next week finishing the new by-wash followed by cleaning any bricks from the walls that could be re-used.

Discovery Day was a success, not only due to the number of visitors attending – about 500 – but to the level of preparation by Tony J and an army of GCS members. The result was that the support from a wide range of stall-holders delivered a quality event – they all said could they come again? – and also put £1,800 into GCS coffers. Some days previously three volunteers had successfully completed a nine day training course permitting them to drive excavators and articulated dumper trucks. The trip-boat is still been chartered and delivering happy customers despite the crews wrestling with excessive growth of weed this summer. Away from the canal negotiations have continued with potential sponsors of materials; meetings have been held with CRT management to redraw the plans for rebuilding Lock 15 (and 14); discussions have taken place with landowners regarding access to locks and, new faces have appeared offering their services as active volunteers.

If you thought life was busy last year it certainly is hectic now! To all who offer their services as volunteers in whatever role I say a big **'Thank You'**! You are contributing to tomorrow's history today.

We enjoy (did I really say that?) a canal that was built over 200 years ago and I believe the work you are doing today will be enjoyed by people during the next 200 years. Best wishes

*Mike Stone.*



The Inland  
Waterways  
Association

### NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

The Notts and Derby branch of the IWA is organising a series of public meetings. We are hoping to attract lots of new faces to the meetings and have arranged a very interesting and varied group of speakers. Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month throughout most of the year.  
(Friday in October)

**Meetings are held at 7.45 pm at the  
Poppy & Pint, Pierrepont Road,  
Lady Bay, West Bridgford,  
Nottingham,  
NG2-5DX**

about 5 minutes from the A6011/A52  
(ring road) junction at Gamston.

### Friday, October 16th 2015

"Canal and River Trust" - an illustrated talk by Richard Parry, Chief Executive, Canal and River Trust

### Thursday, November 12th 2015

(provisional topic, final details to be confirmed)

"The Great Central Railway, Past, Present and Future" - an illustrated talk by Mike Riley (Great Central Railway).

### Thursday, December 10th 2015

Christmas Social with buffet including an illustrated talk – topic to be confirmed but likely to be "The Montgomery Canal" by Mick Golds

### Thursday, January 14th 2016

(provisional topic, final details to be confirmed)

"Stanton – Gone but not Forgotten" an illustrated talk by Stephen Flinders about the history of the Stanton iron works that used to be beside the Erewash canal.

Further information about meetings can be obtained by email, address :-  
[nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk](mailto:nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk)

The Inland Waterways Association  
Non-profit Distributing Company

# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



The current 'state of play' is that before the by-wash can be used the concrete has to cure. It will then have the final brickwork completed before the canal can be dammed.

The lock walls are down and the area cleared ready for the foundations for the new walls to be dug. A huge amount of bricks are expected to be recovered but the task is slow thanks to the strong lime mortar used in the original construction.

Designs are presently being drawn up for the construction of the new walls. During the last few weeks 3 of our volunteers, John T, Bob T and Geoff G have been fully trained as 360 excavator drivers and, together with John R, have also passed their training on articulated dumpers.

The archaeologists had a bit of excitement when a 2ft 10in long cast iron 'bar' was found near the bottom of one wall. It was thought to be a section of 'Fish Belly Rail' dating from 1810. This type of rail was designed by William Jessop in 1789 for the mineral railway which passes close to this lock and subsequently built in 1883. However, after further examination, it was later decided that it could also be a section of 'fire step' dating from a similar period.

Our thanks to John Clark for these details & photo.



The by-wash, which is stepped to reduce the force of flow, when nearly completed.



A lock with no walls! The next stage will be to excavate the footings for the new walls.



GCS volunteers brick cleaning! The Tuesday gang have so far set 200 per day to beat! Our thanks to Dave Cross for these photos

## Talks and Events Diary

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

### 2015 bookings

**Monday 2nd November 7.00**

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

**Tues 3rd November 7.30**

GCS AGM Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall

**Saturday 14 November 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 – details [www.slha.org.uk](http://www.slha.org.uk)

**Wed 2nd December**

Talk: Triumph Owners' Club, The Gate Hangs Well, Syston, Leics

**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.

**Our grateful thanks to the following who have recently made a donation to the Society:**  
Janet Smith, K.Laing, T.Shaw, Mr & Mrs Altham



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)



We are grateful to The Village Link Magazine for offering Tony Jackson a full page of this A5 publication - to talk about the Grantham Canal! Read on:

### Warning: May contain spiders...

The true identity of 'Ay Up Me Duck' remains a mystery. His calling card simply announces: Duck Race Aficionado, c/o The Duck House. When we approached him about organising a duck race on the canal to raise much needed funds – he simply quacked up! 'You must be quackers! There's no flow! You need flow for a duck race to work, me duck!' he repeated relentlessly! His duck fit abated; we suggested using the by-wash around one of the locks – he offered to come over and have a gander (literary licence). We met at the quack of dawn and waddled the course a number of times – it was a while afterwards before I managed to correct my somewhat uneven gait.

Following an agonizing period of his ducking and diving, and a particularly anxious moment when he threatened to turn ugly, he eventually conceded it had possibilities; he would quack it! It wasn't a lame duck after all! The rather short course wouldn't be a problem either – fiendishly, he'd make it more challenging!

Taking to the task like a duck to water; he would devise a really scary tunnel for the ducks to negotiate, a ducking stool, lover's leap, an aqueduck - it wasn't until he suggested a monster duck eating spider that we began to wonder whether we'd engaged the right man for the job - he seemed intent on preventing any ducks reaching the finish! We all looked at each other – he's probably been sampling the Mandrake again...

Taking his expert advice, we purchased the ducks – some it seems, are racier than others.

Water flow down the by-wash is variable; anything from a raging torrent to none at all - this aspect of the race could well be an entertainment in itself!

The Duck race was only part of the fun ...



### Events Round Up:

September 12th & 13th found us in our home from home green gazebo at the Harby Country Show - this fabulous traditional show is always a joy to attend and is organised annually by the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group - supporters of the work we do, with members always on hand to offer advice on things mechanical...

We gained some new members at the show too - a very warm welcome to you! September 16th took us to Laxton, where Rosemary gave her 'Clothes of the Cut' talk to their History Group - and thank you to them for their friendly welcome and generous donation to funds!

Thursday 24th saw our return to Kinoulton Primary School - this looks like being an annual event. We organised it a bit different this year - we did the canal dipping the day before. The children love scooping the creatures out of the trays to view them under the magnifiers - and of course, there's an educational aspect to it - identifying each one and allocating it a score on the Biotic Index - this index is one of the indicators of water quality. The school is keen to promote the environment, and have their own pond. Thanks to Canal Ranger Anne Earl for her valued support and in playing her part in setting this up for us.

Tuesday 29th took us to the Gravity FM studio, where we took up a large part of presenter, Andy Brookes's Drive Time Show - and was repeated again on October 11...that date rings a bell?

October 3rd and it was back in the jolly green gazebo - this time at the Grantham Town Football Club Open Day. This was where I looked a gift horse in the mouth - declining a free ticket to watch the match which was to follow. Football just doesn't float my boat - it would have been purgatory - hell even...I wish them every success of course!

During this period, Rosemary did an event at Grantham College - which she'll probably tell you about - and Steve, I think, will let you know about Discovery Day - because all I saw of it was yellow ducks, me duck!

*Ayup Meduck, the Oilrag and occasionally Tony Jackson*

The picture is of the cheque presentation from the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group. Presentation was at the Harby Show on Sunday 13th July, by Marcus Hardy, Chairman of VOBMG - proceeds from their annual Vintage Tractor Road Run held on 16th May 2015. The sum of the cheque: £112.



### Volunteer Information

I would like to thank everybody who has welcomed me into the role of volunteer co-ordinator for GCS. I will try hard to live up to all those expectations!

It was great to be encouraged to be so involved straight away with the Discovery Day, meeting longstanding members and more recent members all determined to support GCS by giving so much time and energy. My volunteer stars of the weekend were Tony Jackson and Rosemary Gibson for not being 'precious' that I actively landed myself into the middle of their preparations and activity and on

Sunday, Andrew, Richard and Jim plus several others who ran around completing my task list first thing and then manned the compound gate all day, meeting, greeting and thanking people for coming.

*Julie Henderson*



## MEMBERSHIP CARD PRIVILEGES

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



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20% discount from Sunday to Thursday inclusive

10% discount on Fridays & Saturdays

There will be no discount during December

<http://gurkhasquarerestaurant.co.uk>

## GREEN LIVING

SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF ARTIFICIAL GRASS

10% Discount to GCS Members who purchase one of their Artificial Grass products & have it installed by them.

Phone 0115 8450340  
or 07463 890665

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY?

We really need all the support we can gain in order to carry out the restoration of this beautiful canal.

Visit [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)  
FOR DETAILS

## DISCOVERY DAY

Good weather, good displays, good music, good food, good organisation ... this all contributed to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grantham Canal Society's annual Discovery Day's success. This was no mean task for Tony Jackson and Rosemary Gibson to organise and their hard work has paid off handsomely. Tribute also goes to all the numerous volunteers who worked hard putting up the marquee, gazebos, displays and arranging everything from notices to car parking.

The event was opened at 10 am by Cllr Jackie Smith, Mayor of Grantham, who acknowledged all the hard work that everyone had put in and visited all the stands on the site. We had a whistle stop visit from Amanda, BBC Radio Lincolnshire, hotfoot on the quest for Pirate Gold ... we had the first clue!

The numerous stalls included locally made farm produce, wildlife of all sorts, boat building and beautifully painted canal ware. The live entertainment was provided by the Trent Navigation Company Shanty Crew and folk singer Gary Cadwallader. Sound by Tony Mealing enhanced their performances. A superb display was given by the Maids of Clifton who danced their Lancashire clog dances with great flourish. On the canal there were boat trips in the GCS trip narrowboat 'The Three Shires' and there was an opportunity to try your hand at canoeing with the Lincoln Canoe Club. The whole event was ably announced by our Master of Ceremonies, Graham Wright, who did a splendid job.

There were two guided walks carried out by members of the Canal & River Trust to Woolsthorpe Middle Lock with details about the project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

There were cakes & teas a plenty, a sumptuous barbecue and the lip smacking soup produced from the WW1 field kitchen ... little chance of going hungry! But before the day was out there was the Duck Race, and what a Duck Race it was! With over 250 ambitious ducklings trying to outdo their neighbour and all being avidly cheered on by a huge crowd ... it was a veritable spectacle to behold! A huge achievement of our notable Duck Man, Ayup Meduck.

The whole day was a tribute to the organisers, volunteers and participants who entertained over 500 visitors from around the region.

## Volunteering Requests

**AGM refreshments** - Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at Cropwell Memorial Hall.

A couple of people needed to arrive early and arrange for tea & coffee to be available, and ensure everything is left tidy afterwards. Tea & coffee ready for 7 pm (meeting 7.30pm).

### Three Shires - Boat Bookings Administrator

Fiona Barton would like to hand this role over to a new person having undertaken the role for 'many years'. You will need to be able to use spreadsheets, word processing, email, on line (web based) diary system and be comfortable speaking to strangers on the phone. There are obviously busier times of the year for this role which can be done from home. Experience in advertising, selling and customer service would be useful to see this role develop to increase the number of bookings for Three Shires. You will need to coordinate bookings with boat team volunteer availability. A vital role for the society not only as our 'shop window experience' increasing understanding of the canal but also as an income source for all our work.

If you need volunteer(s) to get a task completed please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If someone approaches you to undertake a task with you, please just drop me an email in order the volunteering hours can be recorded.

Recording all volunteer's activities along the length of the canal and at home, is important to meet the funding requirements for HLF partnership.

Contact me on [volunteer@granthamcanal.org](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org) or phone/text me on **07762 647874**.

Julie Henderson



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 updates on lock progress and items of general interest.

Ed



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)

The **Grantham Canal** Society  
CHARITY No: 507337