



This month's update from
Mike Stone (Chairman)

In case you have forgotten the Grantham Canal is over 30 miles in length! Whilst much of the recent society activity has been concentrated in Lincolnshire the communities elsewhere along the banks are feeling neglected.



In West Bridgford Lock 1 needs attention and we are awaiting a response from the Environment Agency, owners of that short length, regarding access. Through Lady Bay and Gamston occasional local groups have been active but require coordination. A small group of residents have removed weed at Hickling so the canal there presents a better image. Elsewhere the anglers have been pressing CRT to clear the very dense growth of weed to enable them to fish the waters for which they pay. All of this is an opportunity for the local communities to talk to the GCS Rangers – yes there is one for every mile of the canal – about their specific local issues. Then perhaps the GCS can, with the help of CRT, coordinate a response that meets their local need.



Looking forward to the rebuilding of Lock 15 next year we will now need a lot of new bricks. Is there someone out there who is willing to organise a 'Buy a Brick' fund-raising campaign so that we can make our money go further? You know the sort of thing – Donate (say) £2.00 per brick and GCS volunteers will build the lock! The GCS has committed to contribute value (in addition to voluntary labour) as part of the Matched Funding required by the Heritage Lottery Grant so if you can help us please contact the Editor.

I hope you are enjoying this unseasonal weather.

Mike Stone



The GCS now have fully trained and qualified Mini Excavator drivers capable of operating anywhere on the canal system



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.

**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.

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.

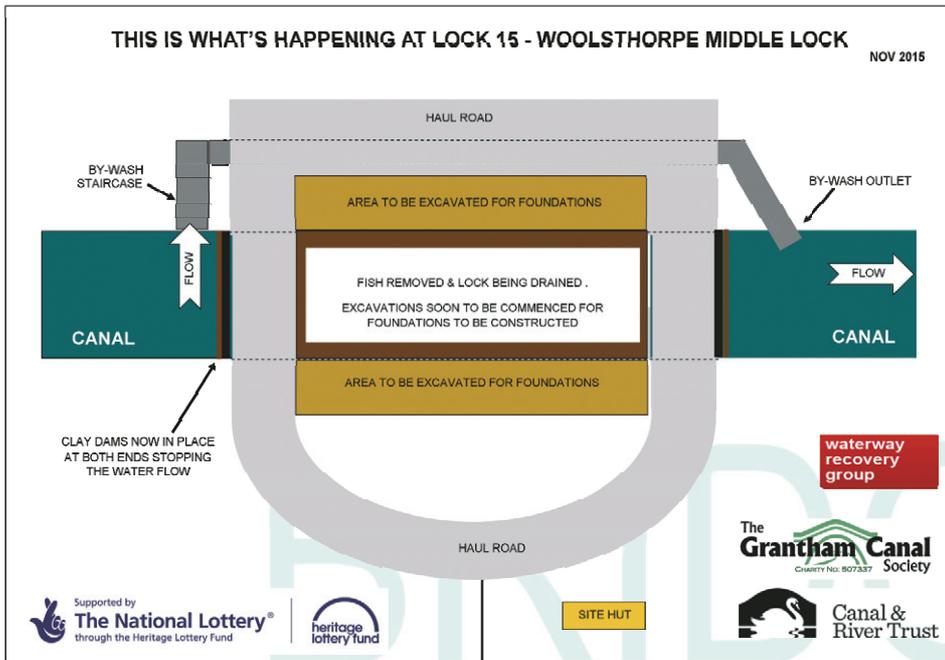
Further information about meetings can be obtained by email, address :-
nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

The Inland Waterways Association
Non-profit Distributing Company



Rosemary says; "Thank you for all the good wishes you've sent me"

The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



A GCS Volunteer has just completed the 'puddling' of clay on the upstream dam.



The new by-wash is now fully operational.



The lock ready to be fully drained

CEMENTING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY

Two members of staff of Barnstone Cement Works, part of Tarmac, are volunteering their time to support Grantham Canal Society. Josie Morrissey, Environmental Co-ordinator and John Moore from Barnstone's Commercial Team first got involved with canal clearing at Harlaxton Wharf, helping the team to cut up logs that were retrieved from the canal. With Josie and John knowing a far bit about cement, they are also advising the Society on grout and cement mixes. This includes being involved with the investigation work carried out on Lock 17 to help prevent its walls from leaking and they are also hoping to secure some cement that the company can donate for the refurbishment of Lock 15. Josie Morrissey from Tarmac' Barnstone Cement Works said: "We've really enjoyed the project so far. It's great to be involved in preserving a historic feature of the countryside which supports so much local wildlife and is somewhere where so many people spend their leisure time."

David L-B

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

2015 bookings

Wed 2nd December

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

Monday 7th December

Talk: Collingham Memorial Hall

Tuesday 8th December 6.00-9.00pm
Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative Christmas Social, Grantham Cricket Club, Gorse Lane, Grantham, NG32 7UE

Come along and share views about progress and future aims and how you can get involved in different aspects of the project. Bar available.

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

Thurs 24th March

Talk: Stamford Burghley Probus Club

Tues 29th March

Talk: National Women's Register, Balderton

Wed 11th May

Waltham WI visit including boat trip.

Tues 24th May

Talk: Derby and Sandiacre Canal Soc.

Sun 3rd July

Dysart Park Family Fun Day

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.

Tues 16th Aug

Talk Radcliffe on Trent WI

Rosemary G.



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

bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk



Rangers

September and October have been characterised by low water levels in some of the western sections of the canal and the prolific growth of weeds / reeds. Some of our Rangers have reported "idyllic" walking conditions in the late summer weather.



Sadly we continue to suffer from mindless acts of vandalism. Fencing near Bridge 66 on The Drift, between Barrowby and Harlaxton, has been uprooted and an attempt made to throw it into the canal. This fence was only recently installed to replace the previous one which was also vandalised!

Dog fouling signs, which were provided by South Kesteven District Council to help with the problem at the Grantham end, have also been stolen. Quite a bit of GCS voluntary labour went into preparing and fitting them. Our previous attempts of fitting the Keep Britain Tidy 'No Such Thing as the Dog Poo Fairy' stickers were also persistently removed.



On a brighter note, and after much hard work by Tony Jackson, the Canal and River Trust have agreed to fund the supply of 5 combined litter/dog waste bins along the 6 mile stretch between the A1 and the Lincolnshire border. South Kesteven District Council have given us a price to service these bins. As we are a charity, with a limited income, we are currently liaising with the relevant Parish Councils to ask if they can fund this cost for bins which fall within their area. Two out of the three have agreed. Negotiations continue with the third.

RANGER VACANCY
We are currently looking for a new Ranger in the Cotgrave / Cropwell Bishop areas to operate between Cotgrave and Fosse Bridge or Fosse Bridge and Spencer's Bridge. Please get in touch with Paul Dadford, Head Ranger, via email (pdadford@yahoo.co.uk) if you think you can help out in this area.

Paul D.

Abrasive Wheels Course October 2015

At 9o/c six GCS volunteers turned up at Lock 15 to complete a course on 'The composition and use of Abrasive Wheels'. Our instructor, Garth, had already arrived from his home in North Yorkshire and was waiting for us. He suggested a cup of tea to settle our nerves, after which we squashed into Mark's cabin to watch the obligatory video.

Full of facts, figures and useful information about cutting and grinding wheels, which we were expected to absorb (and remember, as there was to be an exam later!). Garth couldn't have been more helpful in answering the more technical questions thrown at him by my colleagues. (I was beginning to wonder if I was at the right gig!)

Lunch was then taken at which we were entertained hugely by Martin and his amusing cockney anecdotes. I was pleased for the diversion, knowing what was to follow - the exam and practical.

Sure enough we were soon assembled around the brick-cleaning bench enjoying the autumnal sunshine, awaiting the arrival of the test papers. Lots of nervous laughter betrayed our feelings, but Mark told us not to worry - it would be a doddle. Easy for him to say, he wasn't taking it! I worked out that I last took an exam well over 50 years ago, and the old brain has shrunk a lot since then. Garth dealt out the papers, explaining that the pass mark was 80%.

80%? That would get you into uni in my day.

Silence descended around the table as we wrestled with the multiple choice questions. Strangely I recalled some of the facts we had seen earlier in the video. That was not too bad after all. I blagged the rest of it and we handed them to Garth for checking.

More nervous laughter. More of Martin's witty observations. We compared answers. Oh s--t - I should have remembered that.

Finally Garth appeared from the cabin to inform us that --- we had all passed!! A huge sigh of relief all round. One of us who shall be nameless (Geordie - ex RAF) achieved 99%!

Then on to the main event - actually getting our hands on the equipment. We all took turns cutting bricks in half with both the electrical and petrol engine cutters under the watchful eye of Garth, who was quick to correct us if he spotted something out of order.

End of course, and the day had flown. We had learned a lot, passed the course and had a laugh at the same time. Handshakes all round. Thank you Garth and Mark.

Ralph B.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY

If I could be in two places at once I would be and hate the 'n-' word, but taking breakfast from the kitchen on Monday 2nd November, I had an altercation with the kitchen floor, breaking the plate as well as my leg. All the time I was sitting in casualty I thought I would still be able to make the talk that evening for the Rotary Club in Melton until they insisted I received the hospital's hospitality for 3 days. Tony managed to pass on apologies through the wonders of electronic communication. Thanks to David Lyneham-Brown, the Lincolnshire Waterways Day has been covered and David Lane arranged to take information board, leaflets and guidebooks to Barnstone Coffee Morning meaning November 14th sees us represented at 2

places at one. Ashby Canal Association have rebooked me for next October, but with the welcome help of my sister, Kate Darcey, I should be able to make the other talk bookings for December. I just won't be able to prance about as dramatically as usual.

Exciting connections are being made with Grantham College and Grantham Museum. The museum is having a Canal and Railway Exhibition between February and September next year, providing opportunities to work in partnership and collect information and stories. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved. We are looking for creating opportunities for involvement of students on a variety of courses to volunteer as part of their work experience requirements. *Rosemary G.*

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



GURKHA SQUARE NEPALESE & INDIAN RESTAURANT in Grantham

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

CROPWELL BISHOP MEMORIAL HALL APPEAL

An appeal has been launched to build a new village hall to replace the Memorial Hall.

Next year they are planning a concert, so watch this space for the details and a surprise. In the meantime, if you would like to donate towards a **new-build village hall savings fund**, please go to the crowdfunding website shown below as they are trying to raise £500 in 30 days.

You can donate through this website:
<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/elaine-robinson>

Volunteer Section

Getting better at Communicating.

Communications with, between and from volunteers is the prime area I've been tasked with by Mike, along with all the others of course! I would like to set up an internal GCS system, such as a forum and / or Facebook closed group (not seen by members of the public). I would like to hear from you whether there are any other formats you have used in other organisations for communicating with and between volunteers, that have worked. Relying on email distribution is not effective as mailing lists are prone to omissions for a variety of reasons.

Text me on 07762 647874, email me on volunteer@granthamcanal.org or ring on 07762647874, leave a message with your views and name & contact number if I do not answer.

I will also be setting up an email newsletter for volunteers, which I will aim to send out between Bridge editions. This will specifically be about volunteering going on, work parties coming up and all the other volunteering opportunities we have going on.

An example of the need for the systems above.... my apologies for any confusion and frustration caused by the email reminder for the CRT volunteers river cruise having an incorrect date and I know not reaching everyone.

Volunteer Call

Maintenance Fleet Team - Workboat, dredger and weed boat. A new team is now required to ensure maximum use and planned maintenance occurs. Training given, including 'Skipper (RYA) training, boat handling along with task specific training. Calling all those interested, whether experienced or novice, if you would like to be on the list for this team please let me, or Ian Wakefield know. If you have mentioned this to me in the past, please still send me an email, text message or call to make sure I do not leave you of the list. initially, people on this list will be undertaking the majority of maintenance of the watered sections on a regular basis. You can be on more than one GCS team list if you have the time, so don't be shy!

Coming months Saturday Work Parties: (weather dependent of course), activities may change.

Date	Activity	Meet at	Time
Sat 14 Nov	Lock 16 - A1 winter maintenance, boat & towpath	Woolsthorpe Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 21 Nov	Lock 16 - A1 winter maintenance, boat & towpath	Woolsthorpe Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 28 Nov	Lock 16 - A1 winter maintenance, boat & towpath	Woolsthorpe Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 5 Dec	Lock 16 - A1 winter maintenance, boat & towpath	Woolsthorpe Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 12 Dec	BITM (WRG) Shrub Bashing Cropwell Bishop	Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall	9 - 4 pm
Sat 19 Dec	Lock 16 - A1 winter maintenance, boat & towpath	Woolsthorpe Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 26 Dec	Eat, drink and merry - if you have any room left!	Usualy at the inlaws!	All Day!

Contact Julie / Ian Wakefield (Operations Lead Member) with questions and to tell us you are coming please. Free on the day, just turn up!

Bring your lunch and a flask; wear work gear and steel toecaps. Bring your lifejacket if you own one please.

Contact Details:

volunteer@granthamcanal.org /
ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org or
send a text to Julie on 07762647874 or
Ian on 07789 383266



FOLLOW US

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.



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

bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337