

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

The winter weather has so far been kind to us and lack of frost has enabled the work-boats to operate on the canal.

Everybody is preparing for the start of the spring cruising season which begins at Easter. Rubbish, well generally logs, has been removed from the water; the trip-boat prepared for visitors; Woolsthorpe Depot spruced up for refreshments; I could go on. Are you going to have a cruise this year? Will that be your family, your special person, the team of colleagues from your work or club? Go on, be decisive and book a cruise! You may bring your own choice of food and drink and enjoy the company whilst the boat is professionally skippered by one of our volunteers.

Booking arrangements have changed slightly as Fi Barton has retired after 5 years valued service for which we thank her. The new contact number for booking with Mary Noble is: 07486 955775. Talking of retirements Steve Swann has retired from the society committee but he will continue with his work as editor of *Bridge* and several other marketing and PR tasks.

We welcome all the new volunteers that have joined the society in recent months and thank them for their support. I hope you enjoy the opportunities we offer and participate in at least one of the many different roles available.

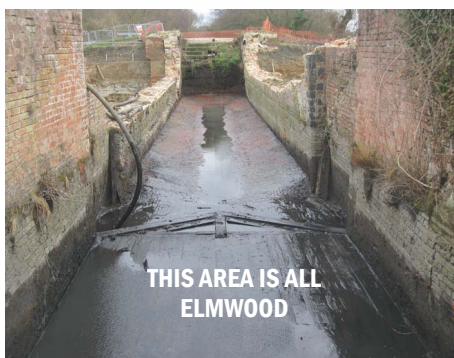
*Mike Stone*



**A job well done - especially when you see the pile of debris & logs they have pulled out of the canal.**



### & LOOK AT LOCK 15 NOW!



If you haven't been to Lock 15 recently look at the photo above and see what progress the dedicated teams are making. A clear invert showing the cills for the bottom gates. Now we only have to build new .....  
**and with your help we will!**

**Our thanks to the Cranwell RAF Cadets who worked hard at the Cropwell Bishop dry section. They cleared scrub right through to the Kinoulton Road bridge**



**A "gentle" limbering up exercise!**

**The canal's there - somewhere!**



**The finished result - brilliant!**

**IWA** The Inland Waterways Association

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

**Public meetings.** Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

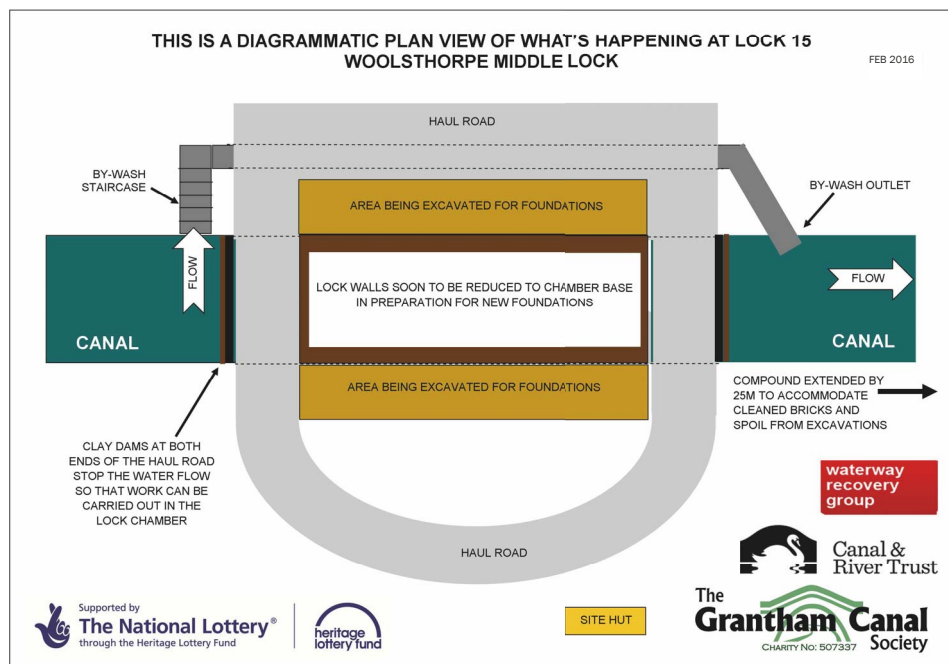
**Meetings 7.45 pm at the Poppy & Pint, Pierrepont Road, West Bridgford, NG2-5DX**

AGM first followed by one of John Wilkinson's lavishly illustrated talks, "Parisian Boating".

Further information from:  
[nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk](mailto:nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk)



# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



**Substantial progress** has been made at the lock by our volunteers. They have toiled relentlessly and cleared the base of the lock chamber from sludge which had built up over the years to over 3ft in depth. The invert has now been fully exposed and looks in good shape having been protected by the sludge from the ravages of bad weather. In their "spare" time our workforce have also built a lean-to in order to protect the brick cleaners from the wind & rain whilst carrying out this monotonous task. Next job - further demolition! Which no doubt will result in a pile more bricks to be cleaned!



Our grateful thanks to John Clark, Dave Cross & Bob Taylor for all the details & numerous photos



## Community and Events Diary

For further details, offers of help and dates of events near you, please contact Rosemary

[communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org)

or phone **07971 173069**

**Wed 10th Feb** 7.30 Talk: Lenton Local History Society, Dunkirk Community Centre, University Blvd

**Wed 17th Feb** Iron Age talk for Harlaxton WI. Open meeting

**Sat 20th Feb** Training for oral and video recording of Canal Reminiscences at Grantham Museum.

**Sat 27th Feb** 10.00 Harlaxton Wharf Community Group review at the Wharf

**Wed 2nd Mar** 7.00 Launch of Canal and Railway Exhibition - Grantham Museum

**Thurs 3rd Mar** 10.00 - 4.00 Canal and Railway Exhibition Opens - Grantham Museum, Thurs, Frid's and Sat's until Sept

**Mon 7th March** 8.00 Talk: Trent Valley Preservation Society, Collingham Mem' Hall

**Sat 12th Mar** 11.00 - 3.30 Public Reminiscence Day, Grantham Museum

**Mon 14th Mar** 7.30 Talk: Melton Mowbray branch Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust

**Wed 16th Mar** 10.00 Canal Dipping Workshop at Woolsthorpe. **Volunteers needed.**

**Sat 19th Mar** 10.00 Harlaxton Wharf Community Group at Wharf

**Thur 24th Mar** 12.15 Talk: Stamford Burghley Probus Club

**Sat 26th Mar** Carpenter's Shop preparation: clean up, displays and canal dipping

**Volunteers needed**

**Sun/Mon 27/28th Mar** 10.30-4.00 Easter Bank Holiday Boat Trips - **volunteers needed**

**Tues 29th March** Talk: National Women's Register, Balderton

**Sat 16th Apr** 10.00 Harlaxton Wharf Community Group at Wharf

**Sat 30th Apr** Carpenter's Shop preparation: clean up, displays and canal dipping **Volunteers needed**

**Sun/Mon 1st/2nd May** 10.00-4.00 May Bank Holiday Boat Trips - **volunteers needed**

**Mon 2nd May** Denton Street Market **Volunteers needed to take and man prepared display**

**Sat 7th May** 11.00 - 12.30 Grantham Museum: Family Canal Craft Activities 2.30 - 3.30 Talk: Grantham Canal - another world

**Tues 10th May** 7.30 Talk: Stubton & District WI, Dry Doddington Village Hall

**Wed 11th May** Waltham WI visit including boat trip.

**Sat 14th & Sun 15th May** Nottinghamshire County Show, Newark Showground.

**Volunteer names to Rosemary asap to book wristbands**

**Fri 9th Sep** 10.30 - 4.00 Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day - Short boat trips

**Sun 9th October - DISCOVERY DAY**



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)





## Did you know?

**William Jessop** was attributed with the construction of the Grantham canal but it was another forward thinking man who set the ball rolling. It's well known that the business men of Grantham wanted a canal to maintain prosperity and a competitive edge for their town. They needed support from the Belvoir Estate but in 1787 the 4th Duke died and the heir was a minor. Fortunately his agent was William King and without King's support it is doubtful if the Grantham canal would have been built. King had the power and authority as an agreement of 1791 shows when William King for the guardians of the Duke of Rutland purchased from John Chittle for Brabazon Hallows the Muston and Barrowby estate for 4,000 guineas. Having completed the canal King filled his time with other projects. He had been a Commissioner of the Redmile Enclosure process which carved up the common open fields allocating them to private ownership for 'improved' agricultural production. The Enclosure Map was prepared just before the canal was planned so it's not shown. In 1806 he published a detailed map of the country surrounding Belvoir Castle; including extensive Districts of the Counties of Leicester, Lincoln & Nottingham; and the whole of the County of Rutland. There is a dedication to the Duke of Rutland, and it is signed W. King Kington. A copy can be inspected at the Leicestershire Records Office. King had also carried out a survey of the Belvoir Estate in 1799 and a map from this survey is held in the Estates Archive. We know much about the professional work of William King but little of his personal life except for a memorial tablet high on the wall in the chancel of Redmile church which reads "In memory of Anne wife of William King who died on the 13th May 1795 aged 32 years. The Redmile parish register confirms this and also records William King of Belvoir when he remarried Martha Stark, both of Belvoir Castle, on 4th January 1813.

Ken Brockway Redmile Archive  
<http://www.redmilearchive.freeuk.com/bishop.html>



## Community and Events Update

This seems to be the time of year for everyone to be doing their diary planning and I seem to be chained to the computer and phone trying to fit dates in. There are still gaps where we could get the information stand out to local events, groups we haven't talked to lately and schools we haven't yet visited or encouraged to visit us. Please get in touch with Rosemary with dates and contacts and we will continue to do our best to encourage more people to get involved.

**Grantham Museum** 'Do Something New' event provided opportunities for networking and Mary signed up a number of new members.

### Harlaxton Wharf Community Group

The death of Peter Hawkins early last year was a blow to this group and a number of people have commented on the condition of the wharf. A meeting was held in January to which all of Harlaxton's residents were invited and was also attended by representatives of the Canal Society. Ownership of and responsibility for the wharf has caused some confusion. It is the responsibility of the Harlaxton Wharf Community Group and has welcomed the support of the Canal Society. A new committee was elected including joint members of the village and GCS. I agreed to act as coordinator between both groups with a foot in both camps and feel positive that with the right advice, we can tweak the management plan and move forward in a constructive way. See the diary for dates.

### Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative – Community and Interpretation Activities

Oral History Training has had such a good response that there have been enough people for the first training session, but additional enquiries mean we will need to make more dates available. Skills will be practised at the Museum Reminiscence Day.

**'Explorers'** – volunteers willing to undergo training and receive certification for working with schools and community groups are nearer to getting a date for this. Please get in touch if you are interested and I will contact you as soon as I have news.

**Canal Dipping** – there is more to this than you might expect and when we run sessions at Woolsthorpe and elsewhere, we could do with more help in obtaining and releasing some of the canal's interesting fauna and flora, which generally indicate that we have a very clean waterway. Date for a training session on the diary. Please get in touch if you are interested.

*For further details, offers of help and dates of events near you, please contact Rosemary*  
[communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org)

Or **07971173069**

## Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal

by James Faulconbridge

### February – Hazel and Alder

It's been a strange winter so far and the mild temperatures have meant that there are many more flowers out than would be expected for the time of year. The BSBI run a New Year Plant Hunt between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of January and this year, they found an incredible 612 species in flower! Around 75% of the species were regarded as 'late', 20% were 'early' and the 5% were just on time. Up and down the towpath, you will see last season's Red Campion and Hogweed still in flower, as well as the early Lesser Celandines and Primroses of spring.

One species which is flowering just on time is a tree rather than a herbaceous plant. Hazel shrubs are found in a number of the hedgerows which line the canal towpath and they are particularly conspicuous at this time of year when the catkins appear.



The Hazel has both male and female flowers on each shrub, and the two flowers are quite different. The male flowers are gathered within the long, breeze-blown catkins and these are by far the most prominent. Each catkin is made up of many individual flowers – these are the small green/yellow male flowers which produce the pollen. You might never spot the female flowers unless you look very carefully – they are tiny individual flowers, visible only as red styles protruding from a green bud-like structure on the same branches as the male flowers.

## 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 then please 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!!!



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

## SELL - & DONATE

The following new HP Inks are available

- 2 no. HP 940XL yellow
- 2 no. HP 940XL magenta
- 1 no. HP 940XL Cyan [Blue]
- 1 no. 4907 suitable for 940XL Blue
- 2 no. Replacement series suitable for office jet pro 8000/ 8500 blue. replaces 940CXL
- 1 no. Replacement "Think" cartridge TR-C 4907 [940XL] Cyan [Blue]

Any reasonable offer considered. If you are interested please email Bridge with your offer & it will be forwarded on.

All payment must be made out to "The Grantham Canal Society"

## What's happened here?



Some of you will have seen that the trip-boat is aground and listing - the water level in the pound has been lowered! It appears that CRT is responsible for this but have not discussed anything with GCS. We are trying to find out why this has happened. We hope that the contents of *The Three Shires* including glass & china are intact!

### 2016 Living Waterways Awards

CRT are calling for waterway organisations and groups across the UK to put forward their engaging, innovative and inspirational projects.

*Is there a GCS volunteer willing to co-ordinate a GCS application?*

[https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/2016-living-waterwaysawards?utm\\_source=socialmedia&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_content=5feb2016&utm\\_campaign=living\\_waterway\\_awards](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/2016-living-waterwaysawards?utm_source=socialmedia&utm_medium=twitter&utm_content=5feb2016&utm_campaign=living_waterway_awards)

### Coming months Work Parties:

(weather dependent of course), activities may change, check GCS website, Facebook & Twitter for updates.

#### WINTER MAINTENANCE

Dates for Lock 16 to A1 (boat & towpath) From 9am -4pm meet at Depot

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 27<sup>th</sup>  
March 5<sup>th</sup> March 12<sup>th</sup>

Any questions and to tell us you are coming please.

Contact Details:

[volunteer@granthamcanal.org](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org) or [ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org](mailto:ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org) or send a text to Julie on 07762647874 or Ian on 07789 383266

## An update, with thanks to our great volunteers:

A huge 'well done' to all who have been volunteering at the weekends to clear the navigation and towpath of fallen trees and debris and getting ready for the cruising season. Your efforts have been positively commented on.

### Volunteer Training

I am working with CRT to develop a comprehensive GCS training program for volunteers to ensure we receive 'approval' for the widest range of year round volunteer activity along the length of the Grantham. GCS is responsible for ensuring *all our volunteers* have received a core health & safety induction, meeting an agreed minimum standard when operating machinery, including the DIY type! Some sessions will be open to all and others by invitation.

Starting with: ALL NEW & potential volunteers will participate in a GCS induction day (Wednesday/Saturday), before they join any workparty. Contact Julie, details below, for coming dates and to book. Passenger Fleet refresher training for existing crew and new crew volunteers, contact John Trigg if interested via 07486 955 775.

### Volunteer Call

The GCHI project is poised to commence work at Lock 14 with scrub bashing to clear the compound area. Volunteers needed, come and have a good workout cutting the low scrub ready for WRG forestry team to fell trees. Expected timescale, last 2 weeks in February, waiting for 'last piece of paper'. Email me for updates or keep an eye on Twitter, Facebook and the website for the specific dates.

Our Community & Events team is already busy delivering a full year of events, talks and information open days on bank holidays. Rosemary and Tony need a team of people for 2016 to work with them! Could you spare a few hours, a full day or help to set up stands. Your help will make it happen.

Please contact me for a discussion of the commitment involved or you could recommend someone to support this vital work of GCS, call 07762 647874



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