

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

### At last we start building!

You will be pleased to know that last Thursday (07/04/'16) was a VERY SIGNIFICANT day on the GCHI Project as the first course of concrete blocks was laid by volunteers at Lock 15. Reconstruction has begun – at last !- I hear some mutter! Only three locks left to get onto the 19 mile pound to Cropwell Bishop!

Work by Society volunteers never stops and seven members have recently successfully completed a training course as operators of the weed-boat. Our thanks to financial help from CRT and to the teaching skills of Rick from Reedman Services Ltd. Other volunteers have been removing a large tree from the canal in Harlaxton cutting together with smaller timber elsewhere. For reasons that are not understood this provoked foul language from an angler! Does he not understand that disused lengths of canal grow weeds and have no fish?

We appreciate the efforts of a team from WRG London area who came for a weekend to help clear Lock 14 area of vegetation.

All crew members of The Three Shires have received refresher courses lead by John Trigg. All that we need now is for you to book a cruise!

Lest you think we have no more work I could list: - finding and stopping the leak at Lock 17; repairing the paddle chamber at Lock 18 (a big job!); helping to run the event-stall at the many shows the society attends (see the Community and Events Diary); recruiting some new members and/or volunteers; rebuilding Lock 15; raising funds for further restoration; selling Guide Books; Need I go on? **There is much to achieve this year and with your help we can do it.**



**Now you know what Woolsthorpe Middle Lock (lock 15) looked like over 220 years ago**

Last Friday at Hickling Warehouse (thanks to Cherry Bishop) we looked back over the past decades and recognised that the society had not formally acknowledged the support received from 'external' bodies or individuals. Ten copies of a pictorial recognition were presented by Sir David White and a full report will be found further on in Bridge

A further presentation was made to Bob Taylor the licensee of the Rutland Arms for over 40 years. Afterwards everyone repaired to the Plough Inn for refreshments. **How lucky the Society is to have such good friends!**

*Mike Stone*

**We are looking for a person with some financial experience to take over the position a Treasurer of the society. Stan feels that time has come to hand over the responsibility to a younger person so will be retiring at the next AGM. If you are interested please contact the Chairman on [chairman@granthamcanal.org](mailto:chairman@granthamcanal.org).**

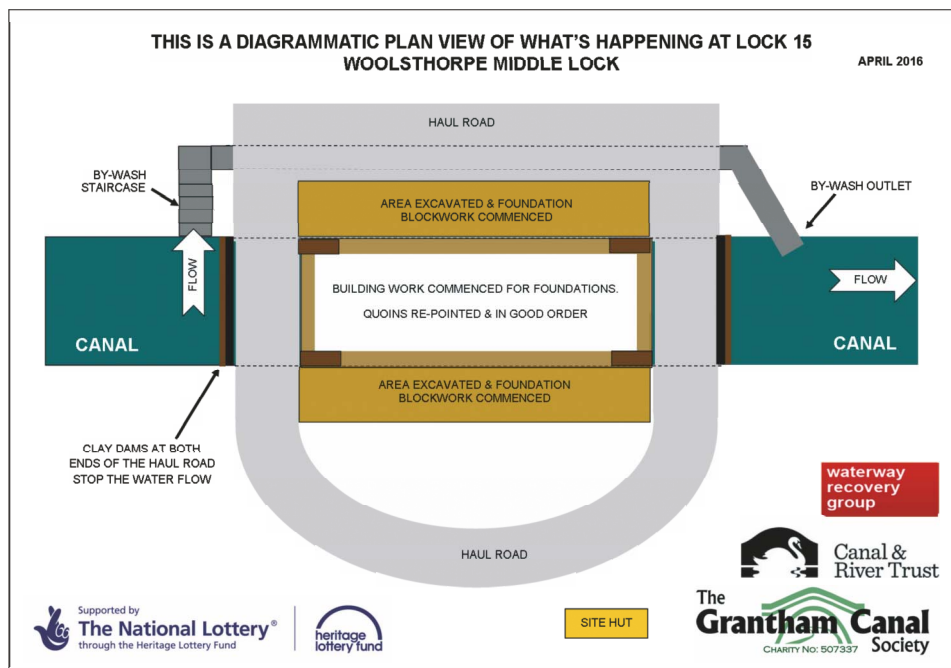
 The Inland  
Waterways  
Association

**NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH  
Thursday, April 14th 2016**

Be educated and entertained by John Lower, a regular visitor to the branch. John will describe the recent great strides made by the Chesterfield Canal Trust in advancing the restoration past the new(ish) basin at Staveley

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

# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



## REBUILDING HAS COMMENCED!

But not until after scaffolding had been erected to enable the quoins at both ends to be cleaned up.



Many years of debris & plant growth had to be removed first.



Before & after - a lot of hard work!



## SOME OF THE VOLUNTEERS IN THIS EPIC JOURNEY



Some of the demolishers



And these volunteers are all brother-in-laws!

Left to right, Roger McCoy, wife Barbara, John Robinson, wife Elaine, Danny Smith, wife Dee, Bob Stanley, wife Mel

If your photo isn't in Bridge it's because you haven't sent it to me! Ed

## Community and Events Diary

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

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

or phone **07971 173069**

**Wed. 6th Apr** 7.30 Tony Pitman talking to Nottingham Society of Engineers.

**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**

**Tues 17th May** 10.00 Education Explorers Meeting at Woolsthorpe

**Wed 18th May** 2.00 Bingham U3A, Parish Church

**Sat 21st May** 10.00 Harlaxton Wharf Community Group at wharf

**Tues 24th May** 10.00 GCHI Oral History/Research Group at Woolsthorpe

**Tues 24th May** 8.00 Talk: Derby and Sandiacre Canal Soc.

**Fri 27th May** Carpenter's Shop preparation: clean up, displays and canal dipping

**Volunteers and Cakes needed**

**Sun 29th & Mon 30th May** Late May Bank Holiday Boat Trips - **volunteers needed**

**Sat 28th & Sun 29th May** Chesterfield Canal Festival and IWA Trailboat Festival.

Can anyone represent the society with the gazebo?

**Sat 4th June** 11.00 - 12.30 & 2.30 - 3.30

Grantham Museum: Family Canal Needlecraft Workshop Talk: Clothes of the Cut

**Sun 5th June** information stand at Harlaxton Village Barbecue and short boat trips 11.00-4.00

**Wed 8th June** 7.30 Talk: Orston & Thoroton WI

**Sat 11th June** Bingham Town Fair Help welcome

**Sat & Sun 18th & 19th June** Grantham Carnival Help welcome

**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?

After the canal society was up and running in the early 1970's, it was obvious membership fees alone wouldn't fund the workparty and other sundry expenses. The membership were asked for ideas so Jim and Whalley Leafé suggested waste paper collection. The committee were not totally impressed but Jim and Whalley convinced them that they had previous experience with collections for other charities. We were lucky that BW had allowed us the use of Cropwell Wharf, next to Lock 11 for an engineering site so there was plenty of space to allow the erection of three donated wooden sheds. The brothers had all the contacts for both collection and disposal and were very meticulous in the way the project was run.

Paper had to be grouped in bundles, i.e. newspaper, magazines, cardboard, computer print out paper and no mixed bundles were allowed. We managed to acquire binding string from local farms which helped to keep running costs down. We used one shed for mags and paper, the other for cardboard and a small shed for making up. A good source of magazines came from travel agents, large shops etc., we even had house to house collections on a road in Aspley.



I was lucky to have a LWB Landrover so large collections from city and town centres was easy. Much loose and small deposits were brought to the wharf by members. A farmer from Cotgrave, Mr. Gadd, used to save his paper animal food sacks, these were very large and had to be carried on the roof of the van quite a sight travelling back to Cropwell. Unfortunately the wooden sheds succumbed to vandalism and were eventually destroyed by fire but luckily the engineering section had acquired loads of concrete garage panels, slightly damaged, from a company in Grantham which made two strong sheds, the roofs

were fibreglass moulds, we had acquired from the John Player Horizon factory site. At the peak of the project over £1000 per year was earned, all thanks to Jim & Whalley. All good things end and the market collapsed, the contractors wouldn't collect so we closed down the venture. We also tried jumble sales and of course the usual gift items, all had some success.

*Mike Atherley.*

## Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge

### April – Frogs, toads and newts

April is the time of year when pools come alive with amphibians and the Grantham Canal, with its still water and weedy edges, is no different. All of our amphibians spend the summer and autumn on land foraging for food which makes them excellent pest-control if you're lucky enough to find them in your garden. Many also spend the winter on land, hibernating beneath the shelter of rocks or logs, or in disused burrows. In the spring all of our amphibians return to water to meet, mate and lay their eggs.

Four species of amphibian are recorded in the Grantham Canal, of which frogs and toads are probably the most recognisable. Frogs lay the clumps of frogspawn which most people will be familiar with, whilst toads lay their eggs in long strings, wrapped in amongst water weed. Two species of newt are recorded along the canal too - smooth newts are common throughout whereas the larger great crested newt is found in a few locations, especially towards the disused end where the basin is more like individual pools than a continuous waterbody. In contrast to frogs and toads, newts lay their eggs singly, carefully placing each onto the leaf of a water-plant and folding over the tip to protect the egg from predators.

The eggs will hatch into tadpoles which will grow in the canal and develop into their adult form whereupon they will leave the water to spend the remainder of the year on land.



## Education and Community

### Update March 2016

#### Oral History and Research

A couple of our newly trained volunteers have gone out into the community to collect stories from local residents and I have been collating some of the stories I have been collecting over the last 6 years. You forget how fascinating some of these are. We collecting more, particularly from Fred Marsh at our Reminiscence Day at Grantham Museum. We hope to hold another of these in Cotgrave Library. We are also planning a meeting to review progress and next steps for Tuesday 24th May at 10.00 at Woolsthorpe.

#### Education Explorers

CRT have appointed Claire Cavendish to set up training and accreditation to work with schools and community groups. She is coming to Woolsthorpe on Tuesday 17th May at 10.00 to initiate this. If you are interested, but can't make that meeting, let Rosemary know [communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org)

#### Easter Bank Holiday Short Boat Trips

A lot of work for a small team, but well worth it financially; we shall be banking over £600. Thanks for all those who mucked in, especially the lively bunch of new members. Healthy donations and book sales also came from the teams manning Lock 15 for tours. And as always, **cakes** magically appeared to swell the coffers.

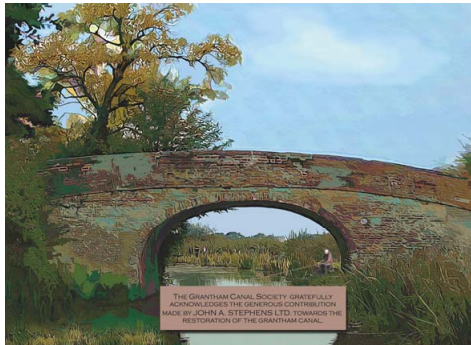
#### Being In 2 places at once

We have had extra teams step forward to man extra events on the same day and are putting together an extra kit to make this work. More are welcome to step up and find out what we get up to when we are out and about interacting with the public. Volunteers are priceless!

To join in the fun, contact Julie: [volunteer@granthamcanal.org](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org) or Rosemary: [communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org)

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at the Hickling Warehouse there was a gathering to acknowledge the support given to the restoration of the Grantham Canal by a number of individuals and organisations over the years.



The presentation took the form of original computer enhanced artwork created by the artist, Barry Farmer, and shows Longmoor Bridge, No. 62. The presentations were made by Sir David White and included the following:

**Cherry Bishop** – Who owns and is currently restoring the warehouse for use as a cycle hire centre with refreshments.

**Paul Sheardown** – A neighbouring farmer who has supported GCS permitting access to the exterior of Woolsthorpe depot and to parts of the canal.

**Bev Richardson** – Farmer at A1 end of the canal who has been supportive of all restoration and provided access for construction plant.

**Lincolnshire Branch of the IWA** – who's members have been supportive in many ways ever since GCS founded.

**Nigel Lymn-Rose** – Nottingham undertakers who substantially sponsored production of the GCS video.

**Notts & Derby Branch of the IWA** – who have been supportive of the Grantham Canal restoration for many years and financially supported the purchase of The Three Shires trip-boat.

**Peter Stone** – was secretary of the Grantham Canal Partnership for many years, liaised with the six adjacent Local Authorities & worked in restoring navigation from Woolsthorpe to the A1.

**John Baylis** – who was instrumental in the GCS receiving a legacy of £100k towards the rebuilding of Lock 18.

**John A Stephens Ltd** – this company have supported the GCS by sponsoring the supply of building materials over several years.

**John Moulcher** – who farms at Woolsthorpe and has been unwavering in both his support for the restoration and in giving freely of his practical knowledge and advice. He is one of the society's most valued stakeholders.



Peter Stephens receives the award on behalf of John A Stephens Ltd



The Late 18<sup>th</sup> C warehouse at Hickling

**If you live in or around  
West Bridgford  
please come and hear about  
The Grantham Canal  
Past, Present and Future**

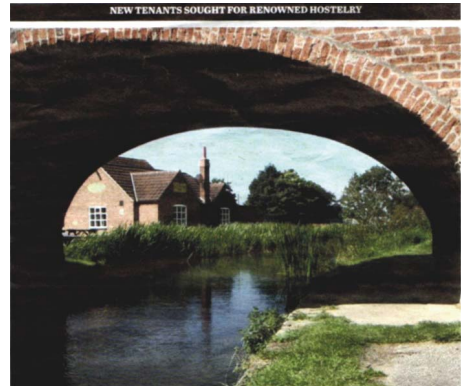
**April 21<sup>st</sup> 2016  
Starting at 7:30pm**

**West Bridgford Methodist  
Church Hall,  
Musters Road,  
West Bridgford**

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## THE RUTLAND ARMS

Progress through the years ... what next?



**Lease for canalside pub is on the market**

The leasehold for a popular waterside hostelry in the Vale of Belvoir is on the market. The opportunity to lease the newly refurbished Rutland Arms public house, which was formerly known as the Dirty Duck, comes almost a year after it closed. The premises, which are nestled next to the picturesque

canal in Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir, are currently being refurbished by the Duchess of Rutland. A spokeswoman for owners Belvoir Estates, said: "We are looking for the right tenants to take this business forward as a family food destination taking advantage of the increasing tourist activity in the area."

The annual rent for the pub has been set at £45,000. The site includes a newly refurbished public house with bar and restaurant with about 100 covers, just landscaped outside dining areas with canal views, three-bedroom living accommodation and a large function room. For details contact Grace Milham on 07824 567736.

Many thanks to Ken at Redmile Archive



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

## MEMBERSHIP CARD PRIVILEGES

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



**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>

## MAINTENANCE ON THE CUT

Sally from Bagforce Aggregates has kindly donated pallets to us for use in storing bricks at lock 15.



Osberton training has been completed with 5 members fully trained and 2 more volunteers needing a little more time to

practice. Our thanks to Andy Green of Reedman Services for providing our very patient trainer, Rick, for 6 days of

very enjoyable training. Also, many thanks to CRT's Sean McGinley for funding the first weeks training.



Tony, Rick & Ian



Osberton had a few problems that developed with such intense use and these needed sorting but it's all good experience for the maintenance team! Hopefully we can get on with something useful now.

Many thanks to Ian Wakefield, John Clark, Dave Cross & Robert Taylor for the photo updates.  
Ed

## MAINTENANCE Continued...

Lock 17 paperwork is with CRT and with luck we can soon begin the *official* investigation to find the source of the leak in the bank.



A monster tree requires significant ingenuity to both manoeuvre and remove



Centauri can now pass, clearing the way for the tri-p boat

**Volunteer Call.** The May Bank Holiday Open Days and Boat Trips urgently need a confirmed group of volunteers, otherwise they will not run. Please contact me to discuss how you can help out to ensure GCS maintains its reputation. The days are becoming more widely known and popular which is great. email [volunteer@granthamcanal.org](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org).

**Lock 15 - We're laying bricks and rebuilding walls....well YOU would be if you come along and help!** Lots of budding brick layers required for the foreseeable future, come along and learn this vital life skill and be part of something magnificent. 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

**Coming months Work Parties:** (weather dependent of course), activities may change, check GCS website, Facebook & Twitter for updates.

Dates	Navigation Maintenance	Meet at	Time
16 Apr		Depot	9 -4 pm
23 Apr		Depot	9 -4 pm
30 Apr		Depot	9 -4 pm
7 May		Depot	9 -4 pm

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

**Details & to tell us you are coming please contact Ian on 07789 383266 or [ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org](mailto:ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org) or send a text to Julie on 07762647874 or Ian on 07789 383266**

## New Volunteers

I would like to welcome Jacob Strikeland, Christine Wallace, Roger New and John Ferguson as new volunteers having completed the Volunteers induction session. John joins us to bring his particular passion for CAD drawing to support the GCHI project team at Locks 15-12. That's 'computer aided design' to most of us. He will be supporting the CRT engineering team in transferring their onsite drawings to full construction plans. Jacob, Christine and Roger have already become actively involved across a range of activities, including the recent Bank Holiday open days and boat trips. Their help ensured the days ran smoothly and they agree, GCS has great cake!. Thank you, and to Bob Hudson and Chris Cobb too. All new volunteers, whether members or not, are required to attend the GCS Volunteer Induction session, ensuring GCS meets its obligations for health and safety of volunteers and that new volunteers understand the importance of cake within GCS! Sessions throughout the summer months.

**Time sheet reminder** - its time to send to Karen Rice at CRT. See form for contact details. Recording ALL the hours you volunteer supports our funding of the HLF bid, please remember to do this. Forms in depot or email Julie. Thanks.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome  
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