

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

Things are moving forward much more quickly at Lock 15. By the time you read this edition vehicles should have delivered ready-mixed concrete for the foundation supports for the new lock walls. The society greatly appreciates the assistance received from the team at Tarmac's Barnstone Works who have organised the delivery and pumping of the concrete and financially supported the GCHI Project.



CRT has planned to undertake the works at Lock 17, to repair the leaks, and Lock 18, to reconstruct the drop-chamber, in the next few months using their own staff. Some of the work could not reasonably be undertaken by GCS volunteers as it will fall within the construction industry's CDM regulations. Another couple of tasks removed from the list of outstanding jobs!

Have you been to see the renovation work being undertaken by Cherrie Bishop at Hickling Warehouse?



I suggest that you do ... and you might find a cup of tea or a bicycle waiting for you!

Another place that is being transformed is the Dirty Duck (aka The Rutland Arms) at Woolsthorpe. New tenants Lynne and J-F Pozzetto hope to reopen by July. The building is much different internally and outside you can see trees set in what was the car park. The camp site is already in operation so we hope that once again Woolsthorpe will attract more visitors who can enjoy the canal and the opportunities offered by the Society. Last Bank Holiday the society had a very successful weekend and raised over £1,000 with 'taster' cruises on The Three Shires, teas and cakes at the Depot and guided walks to view Lock 15.



All this is down to the efforts of a few loyal volunteers! Perhaps you could spare a few hours to help them next time we have an event? Julie Henderson has resigned from the position of Volunteer Coordinator. Until such time as a new volunteer steps forward for the task Mary Noble will be responding to all enquiries from new faces. In July we are once again to be joined by Waterway Recovery Group members. They are holding four weekly camps at Lock 15 and we are most appreciative of their support and commitment. If everything goes according to plan Lock 15 should look very different by the beginning of August!

There are a couple of spare places in the later camps in July so if you know of someone who would like to join the work please contact through the WRG website:

www.waterways.org.uk/wrg

As a last point may I remind you to use granthamcanal.org suffix and not .com

Enjoy the Grantham Canal this Summer!



GCHI:

Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative
(Name given to the lock restoration project)

CDM:

Construction Design & Management
(Construction Regulations)

Ed



**NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH
SPONSORED BOAT PULL**

In order to raise funds for waterways restoration we are putting together a small team to participate in the Boat Pull along the Chesterfield Canal. We have volunteered to manually pull narrowboat Dawn Rose (a recreation of historical working boat) along the 4 mile and 2 lock stretch from West Stockwith Basin to Shaw Lock on the morning of **Saturday 11th June**.

To sponsor the event please go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/nottsderbyboatpull



The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Not only has rebuilding work commenced but the foundations are now being laid. This reinforced concrete will create the base onto which stepped levels will be added until reaching full height. The inner walls will be built up correspondingly.



The offside ready for reinforcing steels



The reinforcement



Pouring concrete - heavy work!



The finished foundations - a brilliant job well done by a stalwart group of volunteers.

Grateful thanks to John Clark, Dave Cross & Mike Stone for the photos.

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**

- Sat 11th June** Harlaxton Village Gala
- Sat & Sun 18th/19th June** Grantham Carnival Help welcome
- Sat 18th June** Cotgrave Festival Help welcome
- Sat 18th June 10.00** Harlaxton Wharf Community Group at wharf
- Mon 27th June** Talk: Melton Belvoir Rotary Club
- Fri 1st July** Canal dipping for museum event
- Sat 2nd July** Oral History/Research group meeting at Grantham library
- 11.00-12.30/2.30-3.30** Grantham Museum: Canal Environment Family Activities
- Sun 3rd July** Help welcome Talk: Why restore? – ecological impact of restoration
- Tue 5th July** Dysart Park Family Fun Day Help welcome
- Wed 6th July 10.00** Discovery Day & Heritage Open Day planning– Carpenters Shop
- Sat 9th July** Radcliffe on Trent Carnival Help welcome
- Sat 9th & Sun 10th July** Rempstone Steam Fair Help welcome – names needed in advance
- Tues 14th- Sun 17th July** USA summer school at Harlaxton Manor – 8 teaching sessions on Grantham Canal history, restoration projects, ecology and environment, canal crafts, etc. to include visits and boat rides. Help welcome at Carpenter's Shop on Friday 15th.
- Thurs- Sat 4th -6th Aug 10.30 - 12.00** Grantham Museum: Canal Themed Family Summer Holiday Activities Help welcome
- Wed 10th Aug 10.00** Discovery Day and Heritage Open Day Planning at Carpenter's Shop
- Mon 15th Aug 7.30** Talk: Trefoil Guild West Bridgford
- Tues 16th Aug 7.45** Talk Radcliffe on Trent WI
- Sat/Sun 20th & 21st Aug** Great War Event Wyndham Park, Grantham Help welcome
- Thurs 25th Aug 2 -8pm** Skylark Festival Holme Pierrepont Help welcome
- Sat 27th Aug** Carpenter's Shop preparation: clean up, displays and canal dipping Volunteers and Cake needed
- Sun 28th & Mon 29th August 10.30-4.00** August Bank Holiday Boat Trips – volunteers needed for crews, trip management, refreshments and manning Carpenter's Shop displays and sales.
- Sat 3rd Sep 10.00-4.00** Grantham Museum –Final exhibition round up family activities.
- Tues 6th Sep 2.00** Tuesday Club, Grantham
- Wed 7th Sep** Heritage Open Day Preparation at Carpenters Shop
- Thurs 8th Sep 10.00** Canal dipping
- Thurs 8th Sep 7.30** Talk: St Anne's Thursday Club, Grantham
- Fri 9th Sep 10.30-4.00** Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day – Natural Heritage
- Sat 10th/Sun 11th Sep** Short boat trips at Woolsthorpe. Volunteers and CAKES needed
- Tues 13th Sep** Harby Country Show Help welcome – names in advance
- Thurs 22nd Sep** Talk: Foston WI
- Sat/Sun 24-25th Sep** Flintham Ploughing Match, Hawton
- Sun 25th Sep** John Deere Celebration at Langar
- Fri 7th Oct** Northern Canals Meeting at Carpenter's Shop –catering help needed .
- Sat 8th Oct** Talk: Railway and Canal Historical Society East Midlands Branch
- Sat 8th Oct** Discovery Day preparation including Canal dipping
- Sun 9th October DISCOVERY DAY** Volunteers and cakes needed
- Mon Oct 10th** Talk: Ashby Canal Association
- Wed 12th Oct 2.15** Talk: NFOP Grantham Branch, St John's Church, Grantham

Community and Education Update

Busy! Busy! Busy! Very well done to the late May Bank Holiday Boat Trip Teams – skippers and crews, trip managers and runners, activity and exhibition interpreters and refreshment servers and bakers, who collectively raised over £1000 for much needed funds.

Please check up on the full programme of events on the diary (Page 2) and if you can offer any help it would be appreciated. We are gradually getting more people interested in joining the events team and we certainly need more with major home grown events like Bank Holiday Open Days, the Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day on 9th September and of course **Discovery Day on 9th October**. Please come along and help us with planning these last 2 events on Wednesday 6th July at the Carpenter's Shop or get in touch with Rosemary or Tony with offers and ideas.

Education Explorers Following a meeting with CRTs new Education Coordinator, Claire Cavendish, and some follow up efforts by Jayne Robb to allow us to sign up for work on Grantham Canal, we now have the following link for anyone interested in joining our own team. Can you also let Rosemary know if you sign up so we can keep tabs on things.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer/opportunities/OPP0004266-explorers-education-volunteer-grantham-canal>

Oral History/Research Group After oral history training a select group met on 24th May. In light of the quantity of images and audio material being collected, concern was expressed about laptop storage space and use of cloud technology will be explored. A further meeting of this group will take place at Grantham Library on Tuesday July 5th. Let me know if you are interested.

Communication – we meet people who say they don't hear what is going on. We ask if they read 'Bridge'. With the breadth of our

membership, it isn't possible for those of us working flat out to ring round when we need help. We really do rely on people being proactive and getting in touch with us if they can offer help and appreciate the efforts of those people who do get in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you
Rosemary
communityandevents@granthamcanal.org and Tony for events
anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com

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://gurkhasquararestaurant.co.uk>

One for the mushrooms

Bridge is an excellent publication, (thank you! Ed.) but some still complain they don't know what's going on!

I can thoroughly recommend looking at our Twitter feed! You don't have to join anything (unless you want to interact).

Go to our website – to the right of the changing pictures at the top of the homepage, you'll see a square box with the Twitter feeds – click on 'View on Twitter' – welcome to our world! You've joined the 2,300 people who look at our noticeboard each day – over 65,000 a month! It's updated most days, often a number of times.



Tony Jackson



Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal

by James Faulconbridge

Bats

June is the beginning of the maternity season in the bat calendar and marks a real increase in the activity levels of our UK species. The Grantham Canal is an excellent resource for local bat populations for a number of reasons. Firstly it is a linear landscape feature – most of our bats use landscape corridors such as hedgerows, woodland edges, rivers and canals to find their way between roosting sites and different foraging sites, and so the Canal is an excellent long distance route where bats can hop on or off to get where they need to be each night.

Secondly, it is an excellent foraging resource with the summer air filled with insects. This is down to a combination of the habitats present – the standing water supports mosquitos and midges whilst the grassy banks and hedgerows along the towpath provide further habitat types. In some places, such as the Harlaxton cutting, trees add a wooded character to the canal.

There are at least six species which are known to use the canal – these are common and soprano pipistrelles; the surface-skimming Daubenton's bat; the larger, higher flying noctule; the quiet elegantly fluttering brown long-eared bat; and the rarer barbastelle; and there are likely to be more besides.

Early evening, around 30 minutes after sunset, is a great time to watch bats hunting as the sky is still light enough to see them skimming insects above the canal.



Soprano Pipistrelle bat

CAN YOU HELP ... PLEASE

We have two events in the pipeline for which we need a preliminary meeting about:

The theme for this year's **Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day** is Natural Heritage. So this is something we can be part of! The event is on **Friday 9th September 10.30am – 4pm**. There will be short boat trips and also refreshments in the Carpenter's Shop – sounds like an excuse to go canal dipping for mini-beasts again!

Discovery Day is on Sunday 9th October. Tony Mealing who has rather spoiled us in previous years, by providing and seeing to 'the technicals' for the performers/PA system, cannot oblige this year – so if anyone can help? It does need someone with a big heart – we have a budget of zero...

We have a meeting on July 6th 10am at the Carpenter's Shop Canal Depot, where we'll throw a few ideas around for both these events. This is **your** invitation – we can't contact people individually at this stage. If you're waiting in the wings thinking about helping – this is your cue – see you there!

Tony Jackson

Our grateful thanks to the following who have recently made a donation to the Society:

Mr Mrs Altham Dave Booth
Mr Gash Mr Crew Mr Skerrat
Mrs Matthews Mr Crowther

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
FOR DETAILS

Round & About

I recently spent an afternoon in the gardens of **Belvoir Castle** and was blown away by how much there was to see there.



The Belvoir Castle gardens are a must see for garden lovers

Following a three-year restoration programme, there are now lots of new areas of the castle's grounds to explore, with six well-signposted walks to help you find your way around. The longest of the walks takes you on a 3-mile circuit of the entire gardens and rewards you with some fantastic views over the surrounding countryside along the way. The £8 admission charge is well worth it, but go early to make the most of your time there. Dogs must be kept on leads. For more information and opening times, visit www.belvoircastle.com. On a somewhat smaller scale, four **Kinoulton Village Gardens** will be open to the public on **Friday 24 June** (4-8pm) and **Sunday 26 June** (1-5pm) under the National Garden Scheme. Information about the individual gardens is available from www.ngs.org.uk. Admission to all four gardens is £5 (children free).

While on the subject of gardens, **Naturescape Wild Flower Farm** on Coach Gap Lane, just south of Langar, is well worth a visit at this time of year. Believed to be the first of its kind in the UK, it's the place to go for plants, seeds and tons of advice if you're looking to bring wild flowers into your garden. Allow plenty of time for your visit and enjoy wandering through the meadows of wild flowers, sitting by the 'dragonfly' pond and wetland meadow with a picnic, or having a bite to eat in the visitor centre tea room. There's even a play area for the kids so you won't have to worry about them being

bored. The visitor centre is open from 11am to 5.30pm every day until 30 September. For more information, go to www.naturescape.co.uk.

The festival season is now in full swing and there's a couple you might like to know about. The **Langar and Barnstone Festival** has lots of entertainment in store from **18 to 26 June**. The programme covers a huge range of activities and events, including a ceilidh, have-a-go archery, quiz night, bowls competition, art exhibition and prom & picnic.



The Belvoir Archers will be letting you have a go at the Langar & Barnstone Festival

For the full details go to www.langarbarnstone.com and click on 'news'.

The ever popular **HoseFest** takes place on **Friday 1 and Saturday 2 July**. It all kicks off on the Friday night with The Dolly Show, a Dolly Parton tribute act, to be held on the Hose Village Hall field (inside if wet). The first event on the Saturday is a gymkhana - from 11am on the field - followed by a fete on the Village Green from 12 to 3pm. As the fete finishes, the main event gets underway (on the field) – a programme of live music acts on an open-air stage with real ales and ciders available in the marquee. For more information, go to www.hosefest.org.uk

Don't forget to let me know (via the Editor bridge@granthamcanal.org) of any events taking place on or around the canal in June/July, and I'll give them a mention next month.

Louise Lambert

www.the-write-words.co.uk

THE WAY IT WAS

One other way of raising funds and public awareness was sponsored walks. The GCRS held many events mainly using the canal towpath but some would be circular walks incorporating sections of towpath, tracks and green lanes. The distances varied, average about 20 miles. Refreshment stops were placed at regular intervals along the route, usually close to a public road, where competitor's could rest a while, take a drink etc, or stop and be transported back to their starting point. They all had numbers and would be checked on there progress for safety reasons. On one walk we set off from both ends of the canal to cover all 33 miles with walkers meeting about halfway near to Hickling. Some would run with others taking a gentle stroll, we had a sweeper to make sure all entrants got around safely. I remember on one occasion I was within two or three miles from the finish and had stopped for a rest and drink. I must have sat too long and found my legs were too stiff to proceed and had to be lifted into the car for the journey back to the start. A special membership event we organised was set up in the Nottingham Victoria Shopping Centre, main entry hall.



This comprised of steam boats and others, unfortunately on trailers, but dressed in sheets to mimic water lines. We were fortunate to have the John Player tobacco co. "Hero" a fully working steam launch about 27ft x 7ft, a steam launch from a Mr. Gregory of Gregory's roses again fully working and our own "Baby Grumplin" a very small copy of a working narrowboat built by Chris and Jill Tizzard. We weren't allowed to steam the boats inside the centre because of their fire alarms. Getting the boats inside the centre was a major problem, the only entrance

being at the junction of Milton St. and Lower Parliament St. This meant driving into the entrance of Clumber St. and then reversing into the centre which blocked all roads until the manoeuvre was completed. There was just sufficient height to avoid the fire detectors and nowhere to turn in the main hall. We had asked the police to help but none came. All this had to be done on a Sunday when the Centre was closed, I bet you couldn't do it nowadays. The donations, membership fees etc made it an incredibly successful event, we were limited to what we could sell, the comments by the public were tremendous.

Mike Atherley.



The rally in Lock 1 arranged in 1973 & mentioned in Mike's article last month



Collecting newspapers - mentioned in Mikes article in April. Many thanks to Ken Brockway for photos.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



WEEKDAYS AT LOCK 15

or



SATURDAYS WITH ONE OF OUR WORKPARTIES

If you can spare some time to join one of our teams then please email

volunteer@granthamcanal.org

Or

ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org

ARE YOU READY TO BUY A BRICK & HAVE YOUR NAME REMEMBERED

(FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT 200 YEARS)

IF SO THEN WATCH THIS SPACE!