

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

What a difference those WRG camps can make to progress in routine tasks! Brickwork rose rapidly at Lock 15 during July thanks to four weeks commitment by WRG volunteers. The GCS is very appreciative of their support and endeavours and the time they spent with us. They were great teams!

As you can see Lock 15 is looking much more like a lock once again – well perhaps you can't see as all the space between the growing walls is taken by scaffolding. Please take my word for it that from the scaffolding planks you can see the bottom of the lock walls are now about 7 feet below!



We have launched a 'Buy a Brick' challenge to help us purchase the 30,000 + bricks needed to complete Locks 15 & 14. All funds donated will be used to buy bricks and, to make it easy, you can go to the Virgin Money Giving website (accessed from our website www.granthamcanal.org) and pay with a card. This challenge has also been launched at Sainsbury's Grantham Store where small cash donations can be made.



Sainsbury's Grantham have made the Grantham Canal Society their 'Local Charity of the Year' and are supporting us with special fund raising days and events. We are most

appreciative of their support. If you have an opportunity to assist at the store events please contact Mary Noble.

We had a visit last month from the Canal & River Trust board lead by the CEO Richard Parry. They were most impressed by the progress the Society is making and by the commitment of the GCS volunteers. The GCS is the most significant restoration project on one of four canals that CRT owns which restoration is happening so our project progress is a pilot scheme for future restoration projects.

However it is disappointing that the work on the canal at Locks 17 & 18 which CRT promised to undertake in July has not yet commenced. GCS volunteers have the skills to do the work so we are in discussions regarding a way forward as they need to be completed before the winter weather arrives.

The trip-boat still has cruising days available so if you have a spare day why not spend a few hours cruising the canal? Short trips are operating on Sunday & Monday over the August Bank Holiday weekend too! Our weekend volunteer team have removed further fallen timber from

the canal – there's been a lot of it this year and we hope that the weed-boat will be in operation again soon. Our engineers are aware of the need to get it into full working order.

You may have noticed that the Dirty Duck is open again with new tenants, Lynn and J-F, and we wish them well in their endeavours. At the time of writing the pub serves drinks and a limited food offering as they await some work on the kitchen. Why not pop in and meet them?

Looking ahead have you noted Friday September 9th and Sunday October 9th in your diary? On Lincolnshire Heritage Day in September GCS will be offering short boat-trips on the canal, the depot will be open for light refreshments and there will be tours to Lock 15. Discovery Day in October promises to be bigger than ever this year with several new attractions as well as your old favourites.

Enjoy this summer on or by the canal!




NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

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 junction at Gamston.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 13th 2016

"RCR" - an illustrated talk about the world of River and Canal Rescue

nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Work continues at Lock 15 - Woolsthorpe Middle Lock thanks to our hard working band of volunteers and 4 weeks of WRG volunteers



The latest pour being handled exclusively by GCS volunteers



CRT executives visit site - and marvel at the progress!

The offside ready for shuttering after an afternoon of great progress ably assisted by Dan, a new recruit to the GCS.



Grateful thanks to John Clark, Dave Cross & Ian Wakefield for the photos & updates used in this edition.

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 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 or crews, trip management, refreshments & manning Carpenter's Shop displays & sales.
- Fri, Sat & Sun 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sep** Sainsburys Event – Tombola Prizes and Volunteers needed for manning Tombola and bag packing. Names and further details from Terry Davies terence.d@ntlworld.com
- 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 Short boat trips at Woolsthorpe. Volunteers and CAKES needed
- Fri & Sat 9th & 10th Sept** Sainsbury's Charity Bike Ride – further details from Terry Davies terence.d@ntlworld.com
- Sat 10th/Sun 11th Sep** Harby Country Show Help welcome – names in advance
- Tues 13th Sep** Talk: Foston WI
- Thurs 22nd Sep** Flintham Ploughing Match, Hawton
- Sat/Sun 24-25th Sep** John Deere Celebration at Langar
- Sun 25th Sep** Northern Canals Meeting at Carpenter's Shop –catering help needed .
- Sat 1st Oct 10.00 – 4.30** Nottingham Canal Festival
- Fri 7th Oct** Talk: Railway and Canal Historical Society East Midlands Branch
- Sat 8th Oct** Discovery Day preparation including Canal dipping Volunteers and cakes needed
- Sun 9th October DISCOVERY DAY**
- Mon Oct 10th** Talk: Ashby Canal Association
- Wed 12th Oct 2.15** Talk: NFOP Grantham Branch, St John's Church, Grantham

BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN

Sainsbury's **GRANTHAM STORE**
Charity of the Year

Buy A Brick
Campaign

EVERY £1 DONATED WILL BUY A BRICK TO HELP RESTORE FOUR LOCKS IN THE WOOLSTHORPE FLIGHT ON THE GRANTHAM CANAL

To donate please visit our website:
www.granthamcanal.org
and click the tab "Buy a Brick"

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



The launch
Photo courtesy of The Grantham Journal

The **Buy a Brick** Campaign has made a good start with a successful Tombola which took place on Saturday 6th August.

Two more events are planned for over the next four weeks -

Fri, Sat & Sun 2nd, 3rd & 4th September
Tombola Prizes and Volunteers needed for manning Tombola and bag packing.

Fri & Sat 9th & 10th September
Charity Bike Ride

Names and further details from Terry Davies
terence.d@ntlworld.com



Community and Education
Update August 2016

Planning Meeting for Heritage Open Day Friday September 9th 2016 and Discovery Day Sunday 9th October 10.00 – 4.00. **Wednesday 10th August 10.00 a.m. at the Carpenter's Shop.**

To find out more about plans so far, look at the website www.granthamcanal.org

We still need people to commit to helping with planning and a variety of activities on the day.

If you can't make the meeting, please get in touch with Rosemary or Tony.

Two events Tony & I are not be able to cover are:

Thurs 22nd Sep Flintham Ploughing Match, Hawton

Sat & Sun 24th & 25th Sep John Deere Celebration at Langar

If anyone can help out with these, please let me know and I will apply. Please be proactive and get in touch if you can join in with any of the above.

Please contact Rosemary communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or Tony anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com

Community aspects of the Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative

As part of the Heritage Initiative, a series of family orientated walks are being devised along with the proposed installation of a set of information benches similar to ones on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.



PIRATES BEWARE!

Blue - the Macaw was happily passing lock 18 with his owner when he was set upon by this bunch of eager pirates.



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://gurkhasquarereastaurant.co.uk>

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



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



The long gestation...

As the government department of Refashioning Numbers is fully aware; numbers can be primed, permuted and polynomialised until you have a dish suitable to set before a king, let alone his subjects.

Being a great long thing; it makes good sense to measure our canal's restoration progress in linear measurement, doesn't it? So there we are then: a good navigable stretch at the Grantham end, a half decent bit in the middle at Hickling and a Sparrow's eye full at Cotgrave – all adds up to 23% restored – yay! Those with analytical brains, and them as been 'ad before - will have gone to put the kettle on while they think about this.

The statement is perfectly true – and is a credit to those who ran with the baton before us: Six locks and a number of bridges restored and, who would have thought we would now be seeing boats on parts of the canal again - a remarkable achievement for a relatively small volunteer organisation.

You should by now have heard the news that we're expecting again! In five years time, we will be the proud parents of – twins! I hope we're keeping tradition alive by

adopting family names for these locks, so they'll be known as Woolsthorpe Middle and Kingston's.

Measured in terms of the volume of work required overall – I'm not sure where we're at, but we've certainly made inroads (the engine driver will know, but it hasn't filtered down to the oilrag yet). It's no good hiding it from you – we're disconnected from the River Trent. This is due to the Lady Bay road junction being plonked smack bang on the canal in West Bridgford, along with other issues in this area. There is a plan in place to circumnavigate these – rest assured, it's perfectly doable. There's the A1 which cuts the canal off; preventing visiting boats bringing their economic benefits into Grantham. Fortunately the A1 is high enough to accommodate the canal beneath. This is routine civil engineering as soon as the opportunity presents itself.

A number of routes have been considered in rejoining us to the Trent, route 2 on the map being the favoured one. Oddly enough, this is where William Jessop originally planned the canal to join the river!

Tony Jackson

With thanks to Village Link for publishing Tony's articles about the Grantham Canal.

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge

Aerial Acrobats

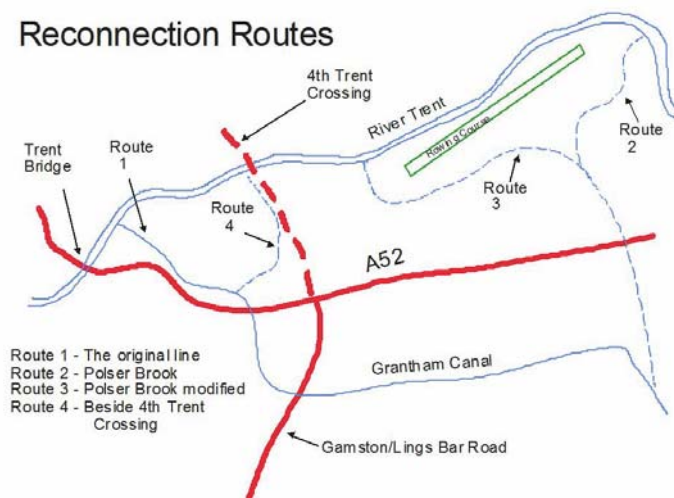
In high summer, the Grantham Canal is alive with aerial acrobats which feast upon the abundant insect life. Many invertebrates use water to lay their eggs and so the canal attracts them to breed. Coupled with the extensive native flora along the towpath and adjacent habitats, this makes the canal rich pickings for any species agile enough to exploit the bounty. Swallows and martins are some of the most impressive aerial predators in terms of their sheer speed as they skim the water's surface for a range of unlucky insects including some of the larger flies such as mayflies and stoneflies. These birds are migratory species which will return to their African wintering grounds in September, so August is a time for building up energy reserves and for this year's juveniles to build their skills.

As dusk falls, there is a changing of the shift as bats take over the role of the daytime hirundines. Species such as the common and soprano pipistrelle hawk insects such as midges and mosquitos from the edges of the hedgerows and trees, whilst the Daubenton's bat - an aquatic habitat specialist - skims low to take insects from close to the surface.

Finally, there are the dragonflies which patrol the reedy and vegetated margins of the canal, as well as haunting the hedgerows along the towpath. These impressive insects catch a range of insects on the wing, including prey as large as butterflies and damselflies.



Reconnection Routes



Round & About

Well, summer finally put in an appearance half way through July, allowing us to venture out for walks without woollies and waterproofs – for a while at least!

When it's sunny and warm, there's no better place to be than by water, and here in the Vale we are lucky to have miles of canal, surrounded by beautiful unspoilt countryside, to enjoy. A big plus of course is having somewhere to stop off along the way for a well-earned drink and a bite to eat. So I was pleased to see that the **Dirty Duck at Woolsthorpe** is now open again, giving us an alternative pit stop to the excellent Dove Cottage Tea Room and Plough at Hickling.



The recently re-opened Dirty Duck at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir

Being right beside Lock 16, the Dirty Duck (aka Rutland Arms) is in an idyllic spot. And following major refurbishment, its new look is very appealing, with its bright, modern interior and pleasant outdoor seating area. It's open seven days a week and will be serving food from mid-August. There's no website yet, so phone 01476 870111 for more information.

Upcoming events

Harby Country Show takes place at Canal Farm Harby (LE14 4BL) on **Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September**. Organised by the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group, it's an ideal day out for lovers of all things country, with agricultural demonstrations, tractor and trailer rides, vintage parades and a dog show. There will also be a horticultural and produce show, open to anyone living within five miles of Harby. So, if you grow your own vegetables, are good with

flowers or can cook a mean Victoria Sponge, why not enter? The schedule, classes and forms are available from Harby post office or the Vintage Centre at the farm itself. For more information, visit www.vobmg.org.uk. By the way, did you know that there is an agricultural museum at The Vintage Centre. It houses more than 30 vintage and classic tractors dating from the 1930s to the 1980s. If you can't make it to the show and are interested in having a look at them, you can arrange a private visit. For further details email secretary@vobmg.org.uk.

Stathern's family music festival, Party in the Park, will be held on **Saturday 10 September** (1pm to 10pm). Ten acts are lined up to provide the entertainment, including Stathern School Choir, Graham's Jazz Quartet, Belvoir Academy and other local favourites. There'll be a bar open all day and a barbecue in the afternoon. This event used to be held in June as part of the 10-day Stathern Festival (no longer running). It has been moved to September to avoid clashes with other music events and to increase the chance of it enjoying better weather, which it hasn't been blessed with in recent years!

Let's hope the sun is out in force over the Vale that weekend!

Louise Lambert

www.the-write-words.co.uk

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP

We need volunteers to help at the Carpenters' Shop on the following days:

**Sun & Mon August 28th & 29th
and Friday 9th September**

Serving refreshments, washing up, talking to visitors, helping with tombola stall and booking the boat trips - cake bakers too!

**We shall also need volunteers for the 'Bag Packing' at Sainsbury's Grantham Store, for the 2,3 & 4th September.
Please contact Mary
01476 566578**

RANGERS REPORT



It was at the end of April that I last provided an update on Ranger activities, and we are now at the beginning of August already. Work finds me in Turkmenistan helping with preparations for the Asian equivalent of the Commonwealth Games taking place next year. Given the 40-degree average daytime temperature, walking the Grantham Canal towpath seems very inviting right now!

Looking back over our Ranger's reports for May, June and July, our problems have been fairly light. Tony Jackson had a rather unpleasant encounter with some quad bikers using the towpath. CRT were quick to install fencing where they were gaining access but please let me know if you see any other incidents along the towpath.

Tony reports the litterbin saga is still progressing, with all three parish councils now agreeing to fund the emptying - thank you to them! SKDC, as contractors for emptying the bins, are in agreement with our proposals for positioning the bins at each location, but CRT require further discussion on this.

Many Rangers report the poor quality of the waterway due to reed / weed growth. This brings complaints from anglers and canoeists. Let's hope that GCS and CRT can find a way to keep more of the waterway open for leisure use.

I am pleased to report that we have a new Ranger, Charles Cook, who will be looking after the Trent Lock to Gamston section. As I have said before, our other Rangers could always use more support so please email me at pdadford@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested.

Paul Dadford (Head Ranger)

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

John Clarke, Mr M Scorrer,
Mr & Mrs Altham, J.E.Brown,
L.H.Griffiths, F.Cartwright,
Owen Rushby, John Bannister,
Vanessa Hughes.



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

bridge@granthamcanal.org

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

THE WAY IT WAS

Now and again we had the opportunity to try and re-water the dry section between Spencer's Bridge (Oddhouse farm) and Cropwell top lock No.11. One such occasion was when British Gypsum were pumping waste quantities of water from their deep mine to a point close to the turnover bridge. All of this water was wasted, leaking through the canal bed and probably back to the mine. Some years prior to this we borrowed a Smalley excavator from WRG and Chris Bates (Deucher) and I collected it from Marple on the Peak Forest canal, in my car, then brought it to our base at Cropwell top lock.



Chris set about digging test holes all the way between lock 11 and Blue Hill cutting road bridge, these were filled with water and tested to check leakage. Notes were made on an OS map to mark the sections which either leaked or held water.

Back to the pumping occasion. We found a lot of very large timber posts, probably stop planks, left behind at the old wharf at lock 11 and took these down, using old car axles, supplied by Jim Branston, to a point beyond the water pump feed and close to Cropwell town road bridge noting where the leaks started. There was plenty of new clay coming up with the water so a timber and clay dam was constructed. The old sluice on lock 11 was repaired and very soon water had filled the whole section between the dam and lock 11, surplus water then passed on down the flight towards Manns bridge.



Smalley excavators contacted us with news that they had built a portable crane and was there anywhere they could test it on the Grantham.

By sheer luck lock nine had retained its top gates and didn't have a concrete weir but vandals had cut the gate anchors and let the gates fall onto the top cill. Now this was a perfect situation for Smalley to test their new tool so a large group of us assisted with the recovery and refitting of the two gates, the Smalley did the job and we saw the first set of gates hung since the canal was closed.



The idea was to patch up these gates and hope the excess water coming through lock 11 would fill those further two pounds. Things didn't turn out quite as we s, British Gypsum stopped pumping ahoped, vandals burnt the two gatend a leak had occurred causing partial flooding in a field near lock 11. So gradually the water leaked away and left the canal as you see it today. But it looked good for those few months it remained in water, a good effort by all involved.

Mike Atherley.

VOLUNTEERING



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

lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org

CAPTION PLEASE!



I'm sure someone can come up with a really good caption for this photo sent in by lan. Please send your suggestion to:

bridge@granthamcanal.org

A winner will be announced next month.

Ed