

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

The GCS is very fortunate that it has a loyal and experienced pool of canal volunteers. They put in over **5,500 hours** of work in 2015 and the value of their commitment was calculated to be in excess of **£68,600**. Great result I hear you comment! Well it is and that only represents the hours that are recorded. Time spent thinking, planning and organising rarely gets included. Everyone who participated in any way at all deserves a very large **THANK YOU!**



That however is only part of the picture if you ask "Is this volunteer force sustainable?" Well, no it isn't in the longer term. The Society needs to attract younger volunteers to understand the techniques required in restoration and to continue the project long after the current generation of volunteers has retired – for the second time! There are many people in the community who have the opportunity to spend some hours volunteering on the Grantham Canal. They may have recently left formal education; be between jobs; at a loose end once the family has 'flown the nest'; wanting to improve their fitness or

just running miles when volunteering could help shed the pounds and offers the chance to put something back into the community whilst doing so. If you or someone you know has a few hours to spare and would benefit from training in volunteering skills why not tell them about the Grantham Canal Society. We would love to hear from them if we are to link the canal to the River Trent once again.

One of our busy times of year is upon us again. Preparations for Discovery Day are in hand and we thank several organisations that are once again supporting the Society. Which ones? To find out come along on to Woolsthorpe Depot on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The bird-nesting season has almost ended so we can get the weed-boat working to clear the canal again. The trip-boat crews have manfully cruised through the weeds and have provided enjoyment to dozens of passengers. The walls at Lock 15 continue their upward movement thanks to the daily volunteer teams and the site will begin to look like a lock very soon. Then, of course, trees and branches continue to fall and require removal from the waterway. We have to plan our work through the winter period to be ready for next spring; as the days get shorter still the work goes on!

Have you shopped at Sainsbury's Grantham store lately? Sainsbury's made the Society their 'Charity of the Year 2016/7' and have supported us with several events over recent weeks. Their customers have been most generous and their continuing support for the 'Buy a Brick' campaign is much appreciated.

**Thanks are also due to those who came to Woolsthorpe over the August Bank holiday weekend** during which we raised over £1,100 through serving teas and operating short 'taster' boat trips. By the way where do you think those mouth-watering cakes come from? From ladies some of whom we never see on the canal ... but they are still GCS volunteers. What could you do?

*Enjoy the mists and mellow fruitfulness of autumn.*

*Mike Stone.*



## 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**

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October

A visit from River Canal Rescue, who perform a similar service for boaters, to that provided by the AA, RAC, etc., do for motorists.

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

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Castle Lock to Meadow Lane Lock, Nottingham Canal clean up from 10.00 - 16.00

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



# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



A fabulous overhead photo of Woolsthorpe Middle Lock showing the lock totally reduced down to the invert with only the 4 quoins standing.

Many thanks to Mark H



**30th August saw another pour completed**



Many thanks to Dave Cross & John Clark for the photos & updates

**You can now see who our GCS volunteers are!**

**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**

## SEPTEMBER

- Sat 10th** Sainsbury's Charity Bike Ride – further details from Terry Davies [terence.d@ntlworld.com](mailto:terence.d@ntlworld.com)
- Sun 11th** Sainsbury's Family Amble from The Farrier to the Dirty Duck – [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org) for details  
tin shakers welcome along the route
- Sat 10th/Sun 11th** Harby Country Show Help welcome – names in advance
- Tues 13th** Talk: Foston WI
- Thurs 22nd** Flintham Ploughing Match, Hawton
- Sat/Sun 24-25th** John Deere Celebration at Langar
- Sun 25th** Northern Canals Meeting at Carpenter's Shop – catering help needed

## OCTOBER

- Fri 7th** Talk: Railway and Canal Historical Society East Midlands Branch

**Sat 8th** **Discovery Day preparation including Canal dipping Volunteers and cakes needed**

**Sun 9th** **DISCOVERY DAY**

- Mon 10th** Talk: Ashby Canal Association
- Wed 12th** 2.15pm Talk: NFOP Grantham Branch, St John's Church, Grantham
- Thurs 13th** 7.00pm Talk: IWA Leicestershire Branch, Gate Hangs Well, Syston, Leics

## DECEMBER

- Sat/Sun 17th & 18th** Sainsburys fund raising event – details to follow

## 2017

- Fri 27th Jan** 8.00 Talk: Faraday Ladies, Grantham
- Mon 13th Feb** 10.00 Talk: Bracebridge Heath U3A
- Tues 14th Feb** 7.30 Talk: Radcliffe on Trent Methodist Ladies Tuesday Group
- Tues 21st Feb** 12.00 Talk: Radcliffe on Trent Probus
- Tues 28th Mar** 2.00 Talk: Keyworth U3A
- Sun/Mon 16th/17th Apr** Bank holiday short boat trips
- Wed 19th Apr** 2.00 Talk: Sage Cross Ladies Club
- Tues 14th Nov** 2.00 Talk: Ascension Ladies Fellowship



**Don't forget to follow us on Twitter & Facebook**



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





## Community and Education Update

What a brilliant turnout for the August Bank Holiday Boat Trips. Many thanks to all who contributed cakes, time and effort to raise our biggest bank holiday haul of over £1100. What wonders our volunteers are!

Meanwhile we are still very busy with events and talks. This weekend we are gearing up to Heritage Open Day on Friday and Harby Show on Saturday and Sunday, while Sainsburys Grantham's fundraising for the Canal is stepping and pedalling up a gear at the same time.

See our website

[www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org) for details.

So far there has been a brilliant turnout of GCS helpers at Sainsburys, all looking splendid in their new Hi Viz gear.

### Important Notice from Tony

**This is the last edition of Bridge before Discovery Day. The Discovery Day Raffle is legendary for its great prizes – and it's all down to you; our members, our volunteers - our readers, who go out of their way to make it so! Let's keep the legend alive – let's go for it!**

**Thank you so much to our cake baking stalwarts who bake cakes for us throughout the year when we have events – Discovery Day is the one time when they need some help due to increased visitor numbers – if you could offer support by baking a cake?**

**We're a couple of Gazebos short at the mo – both to provide cover for food preparation – WW1 Field kitchen and BBQ. Got an old gazebo?**

**We don't have a sponsor for the main prizes in the Duck Race. Any business/s wish to support us here?**

**Last, but certainly not least, please come along and visit us on the day!**

**If you can help with any of these things: email:**

**[anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com](mailto:anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com) or tel: 01476 567477**

We still have lots of tasks with no names next to them on our planning sheet.

**Please can you help with any of the following?**

**Saturday**

**Clearers, erectors of marquee and gazebos**

**Sunday**

**Official Photographer  
Boat trip sales and runners  
Duck Race constructors  
Marshalls and greeters  
Family Activities  
Raffle ticket sellers  
Tombola**

Tony keeps the website up to date daily. [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)  
If you can't catch him as above try Rosemary at [communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org)

**01476 978896 or  
07971173069**



**Discovery Day 2015  
The Mayor of Grantham, Cllr Jackie Smith,  
preparing to board 'The Three Shires'**

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

### **Hedgerow Abundance**

The habitats provided by the Grantham Canal are not restricted to its aquatic depths and lush marginal vegetation, but also includes the hedgerows and trees which line its towpath and provide a green corridor which snakes through the arable landscape.

One of the highlights of September has to be the abundance of sloes, blackberries, rose hips and haws which can be freely gathered to create jams, spirits and pies. But even the most diligent foragers along paths as well walked as the Grantham Canal will be unable to reach many of these berries – luckily the native inhabitants of the countryside are more than happy to take advantage!

The sweeter blackberries are often the first to disappear from the branches as a range of species will feast upon these. Blackbirds and other thrushes are notorious for their love of fruit, but alongside these garden familiars are a range of small mammals as well as insects such as butterflies and wasps. Badgers too have a taste for blackberries!

Blackthorn is a member of the cherry family – it's spring flowers are vital for a range of early-flying pollinators but the September fruits are favoured by larger birds such as the thrushes in the autumn.

Haws – the fruits of the hawthorn – are particularly favoured by small birds such as tits but will also be enjoyed by thrushes, especially as the autumn moves further towards winter and other food sources become scarcer. Rosehips too are a good later resource once times get harder.



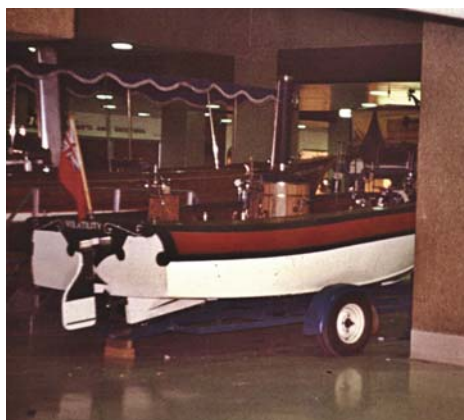
Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome  
To contact us please send your email to:

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

## THE WAY IT WAS

After the big event in the Victoria Centre the local T.V. and radio stations were very interested in covering more of the canal society events together with the John Player Steam Launch, "Hero".



A venue was chosen at Hickling Basin where the launch could be placed on the water and used as a backdrop for a TV. interview. The day came when all the people involved congregated at Hickling, the film crew did some TV and sound checks, and all we were waiting for was the crane that would drop the launch onto the water. Time passed and many phone calls were made to the crane company but the crane could not be located, someone commented that it had been sent to Hickling in Norfolk. The film crew were running out of time and the whole event looked like being a failure but good news came through that a crane had been located at Woolsthorpe and if we could get the boat and all the crews over to there, sharpish, something could be saved. The boat was launched from the pub car park between lock 16 and 17 and we were able to tow it into lock 17, Willis's. Many of us hauled on ropes from under the road bridge, so we couldn't be seen by the camera's, and it looked like the boat was cruising into the lock under its own power. There wasn't time to light the boiler and raise

steam. Many shots were taken of the boat from all angles in the lock and it was pulled in and out of the lock many times. Luckily all went well and the finished article looked good on local T.V.

On another occasion Waterways Recovery Group asked us if we could help out with an article they were organising with Go With Noakes at Droitwich. About 10 of us made the journey and with many other volunteers we were split into several groups so that John Noakes could feature in various bits of the canal restoration. One location was a new pedestrian swing footbridge in Vines Park. The camera's focused on John but the hands in shot were mine. Not all you see on tv or film is what you think. At the end of the day we cleaned up and made our way to the Mess Hall. I saw an empty chair in the middle of the room and made a move to it and couldn't understand why powerful lights were shining at me and then noticed John was sitting in the next chair. More camera work so I ended up on TV eating a well earned meal. The sheepdog "Shep" was under the table and John fed him with most of his meal. The other Grantham lads featured in other parts of the program and all had their stories to tell.

Over the years TV and radio has helped us with news features and

campaign rallies. Especially Casthorpe Road Bridge where Ron Martin provided his Wilderness trailboat to carry local councillors along the Grantham up to the flat concrete deck which was adorned with banners and crowds of people. The removal of the railway



embankment at Woolsthorpe featured in hours of coverage because of the many groups involved, we had including ourselves, WRG 'wergies' and a group of foreign students not forgetting John Moulcher and Dave Smith from British Waterways. Fred Marsh and myself managed a trip in an inflatable boat from Vincent's bridge to Hickling with a video camera that took several weeks during a wet and sunny summer.

Mike Atherley.

### 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 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!!!



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

To contact us please send your email to:

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

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



## ROUND & ABOUT *with Louise*

An interesting aspect of our back garden is that, from it, we can see the skydivers that take off from Langar Airfield floating back down, from thousands of feet up, under their colourful parachutes. It must be a fantastic experience, and the views they get across the Vale and beyond must be awesome. It's a shame I haven't got the nerve to try it!

If you haven't given it a go, and (unlike me) are tempted, Skydive Langar operates every day except Christmas Day and caters for everyone from the complete novice jumper to the experienced free fall diver. Prices start at £230 for a tandem skydive from 13,500 feet. This includes a pre-jump briefing covering what to expect and, more importantly, what to do. Interesting fact: in the first 50 seconds, before your parachute opens, you will fall 8,000 feet at a speed of around 120mph - but don't let that put you off! And at the end of it all, you'll be rewarded with a certificate to commemorate your experience. For more information, visit [www.skydivelangar.co.uk](http://www.skydivelangar.co.uk) or phone **01949 860878**.

A more sedate way of getting a bird's eye view of the area is to take a ride in a hot air balloon with Ladybird Balloons – provided, of course, you have a good head for heights! One of their launch sites is at Langar Hall and a place on a flight costs from £129. Trips last 60-90 minutes, giving you plenty of time to appreciate the magnificent views you're bound to get from 5,000 feet above the ground. You will only go up if the weather is fine, though, so be prepared to wait

some time for the right conditions if your flight is postponed.



**The Ladybird hot air balloon**

At the end of your journey, and once the balloon has been packed away, you'll receive a certificate and a glass of bubbly. For more information, visit [www.ladybirdballoons.co.uk](http://www.ladybirdballoons.co.uk) or call 01949 877566.

### ***Back on terra firma ...***

Here's a chance to get out and enjoy some unspoilt (and perhaps unfamiliar) countryside on the southern edge of the Vale, and help a couple of local charities while you're at it. **Eaton Community Park and Dove Cottage Day Hospice (Stathern)** are joining forces to organise the 6th Eaton Stampede, a 10km cross country run and 5km fun run/walk on **Saturday 1st October**. It starts at 11am from Eaton Community Park (NG32 1SP) and will follow a scenic route, mainly off road. Entry costs £10 (£15 on the day) and all funds raised will be donated to the Eaton Community Park and Dove Cottage Day Hospice.

For more information and to register, visit [www.dovecottage.org](http://www.dovecottage.org).



### **Dove Cottage Day Hospice, near Stathern**

The hospice has the annual task of raising much of the **£370,000** needed to fund the range of palliative care services it offers to people with advanced progressive life limiting illness.

Louise Lambert  
[www.the-write-words.co.uk](http://www.the-write-words.co.uk)

## **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](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org)  
or  
[lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org](mailto:lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org)



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



The **Grantham Canal Society**

# DISCOVERY DAY

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

10 am until 4 pm

FURTHER DETAILS [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

**ROVIN RON**  
Favourites from the  
50s, 60s & 70s

**NARROWBOAT TRIPS**  
On The Three Shires

**REFRESHMENTS**  
Tea/Coffee/Cakes  
Barbecue

**CANOE RIDES**  
With Lincoln Canoe Club

**MAIDS OF CLIFTON**

**SIDE STALLS**  
Hedgehog Welfare  
Barn Owls

**ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

**SUZIE SPARKLES**  
Radio Presenter  
MC for the day

Featuring The **DIRTY DUCK RACE**

**AMPLE PARKING - FREE ADMISSION**

**Carpenter's Shop Depot - Woolsthorpe by Belvoir**  
**Adjacent to the Dirty Duck Pub NG32 1NY**

All proceeds towards the restoration & maintenance of the Grantham Canal



A boating friend suggested my boat would be more stable if I moored up with 'springs' ... can't say I've noticed any improvement!

**THANK YOU**  
To all the cake bakers and volunteers for your contribution to the August Bank Holiday event.  
Mary



Something we didn't know?

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

J. Bannister, V. Hughes, P. Jackson, R. Timms, Rex Gash, M. Scorrer, T. Shaw, R.C. Church, Mr & Mrs Altham

**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY?**

**We really need your support**

[www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)  
FOR DETAILS

### MEMBERSHIP CARD PRIVILEGES

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



**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>



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