

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

The nights are drawing in and this signifies that the Society volunteers who look after the canal between Woolsthorpe and Grantham will be planning their winter work schedules. There were jobs which couldn't be undertaken in summer for several reasons, some due to birds nesting; some as the volunteers were crew on the trip-boat, and weed cutting because the boat needed restoration after sinking. A lot to achieve this winter and not necessarily the best time of year to do it but life is like that! Of course the teams at Lock 15 will still be restoring the lock which is, once again, rising from the rubble thanks to their commitment.

Did you enjoy Discovery Day? I hope so! The Society was well supported by a range of voluntary organisations whose presence helped the organising team to put together a programme which appealed to all visitors.



We thank Nick Boles MP for finding time in his busy schedule to open the event. Tony Jackson planned the day and was supported by many other GCS members who made it happen. He did well to order sunshine! Our unique canal Dirty Duck Race saw the yellow perils try, some unsuccessfully, to avoid the hazards of the by-wash and helped the Society raise funds towards the payment to CRT

for our boat licenses. Oh yes even on the Grantham Canal where we do all the work our craft still have to be licensed! **Richard Parry, CEO of the Canal & River Trust made a surprised visit on the day** and was most impress with what he saw at both Woolsthorpe and at Lock 15. Over 700 visitors came of which 80 visited Lock 15 and about 120 enjoyed a cruise on the *Three Shires*.



Cheque being received by Stan Harbridge, (GCS Treasurer), from W. M. Mr Sunil Silva, of the Doric Lodge, Grantham. The group also includes, Mike Stone, (Chairman), Rosemary Gibson, (Community & Events), Tony Jackson, aka "Aye Up Me Duck", (Discovery Day Organiser).

We were delighted to receive a donation to our funds, which will be used to meet winter maintenance cost of our tripboat, from the Doric Lodge, Grantham for which we thank their Master and members. We were also grateful that The Castle permitted visitors to use local facilities and a field for car parking.

We have received many comments about the orange fencing at Locks 17 & 18. At both some repairs are necessary to prevent leakage and back in April the GCS were asked to undertake the task. We commenced in May and were then told to stop as CRT would undertake the repair in July. So far nothing has happened and nobody can tell us when it will! Regrettably the matter is out of our hands so it is likely the orange fence will still be there for weeks to come. I say in future CRT should leave matters

to volunteers who deliver results more promptly!

Oh I was in trouble in the September edition! I thanked the ladies for their excellent cakes not intending to be labelled sexist! However, some cakes were made by gentlemen who complained their contributions had been overlooked. Next time I enjoy a cake at the depot I will ask who made it so that I may direct my appreciation appropriately! The cakes which I saw, and a few I tasted today were super! Thanks to all the bakers of whichever sex!

Thank you all, young or old (ok those in the middle as well), female or male for reading Bridge and supporting the Society.

Mike Stone.

Discovery Day Update -
I have just been told that the overall event raised £2582 - a big "well done" to all.

 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

Thursday 17th October

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

Further information from:

nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

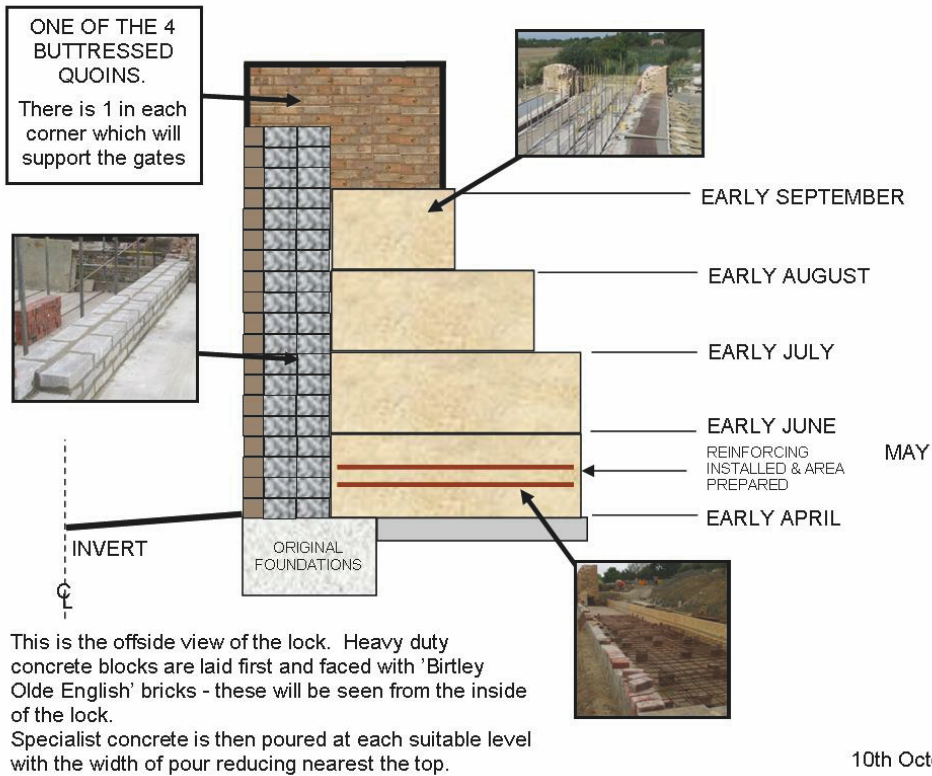
Sunday 23rd October

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

Further information from:

sarah.frayne@waterways.org.uk

SIDE VIEW ILLUSTRATION SHOWING THE STAGES OF REBUILDING LOCK 15 SO FAR



10th October 2016



The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

**waterway
recovery
group**



Canal &
River Trust



heritage
lottery fund

LOTTERY FUNDED

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**

OCTOBER

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

Mon 24th 7.30pm Rangers Meeting,
Stathern

NOVEMBER

Sat 12th 10.30 Talk: Melton & Oakham
Waterways Society

DECEMBER

Tues 13th 7.00 Friends of Cotgrave
Country Park, Cotgrave Futures
Building

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

2017

- Fri 27th Jan** 8.00 Talk: Faraday Ladies,
Grantham
- Wed 1st Feb** 2.00pm St Anne's, Radcliffe
on Trent
- 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
- Wed 15th Nov** 2.00 Talk: East Leake Local
History Soc'y

EVENTS ROUNDUP

Squeezing this abbreviated update
in with Discovery Day preparations.
A busy September was enhanced
with the help of David Lane, Chris
Wallace and Tony Pitman attending
John Deere Celebration Event while
Rosemary and Tony were doing
other things. Many thanks to them

and to ALL of those who have helped
out throughout the year.
We have Discovery Day at this end of
the year because the summer
months are so busy. We might
consider something different next
year. We won't be able to rest on our
laurels after D Day because we still
have plenty of talks to attend.
Offers to organise or help with
different events or venues to
Rosemary
communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

AGM

Please make a note in your
diaries of The Annual General
Meeting of the Society which will
be held on **Tuesday 29th**
November at the Memorial Hall,
Cropwell Bishop commencing at
7.30pm.
Further details will be provided
in due course.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
To contact us please send your email to:
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ROUND & ABOUT *with Louise*

Stilton shops on our doorstep

I had my first encounter with Stilton cheese at a young age and a long way from the Vale of Belvoir (I grew up in Cumbria, then Kent). It was one of my dad's favourite cheeses, so there would always be a big slab of it in our fridge at Christmas and on special occasions. I didn't like either the look or the smell of it back then, and steered clear until long after I'd flown the nest. In fact it's only relatively recently that I've become a complete convert to the King of Cheeses.

Now, here I am, living within a few miles of three of the six Blue Stilton dairies in the country, namely Cropwell Bishop, Colston Bassett and Long Clawson, all of which have their own shops. I feel so lucky to be able to buy these delicious and award winning cheeses from the actual sites where they are made! The Cheesemaker's Shop owned by the Cropwell Bishop Creamery is particularly well stocked, not only with the dairy's own cheeses, but also with chutneys, preserves, crackers and even cheese boards and knives. Plus it sells hampers at Christmas - a great gift idea for a cheese-loving friend or family member. If my dad was still alive, I'd certainly be ordering one for him!

Did you know?

- By law any cheese labelled 'Stilton' can only be made in the three counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.
- It takes 136 pints milk (78 litres) to make one 17 lb (8kg) Stilton cheese.
- Over one million Stilton cheeses are made each year.
- More than 10% of output is exported to some 40 countries world-wide.

For more information about Stilton cheese, visit www.stiltoncheese.co.uk. And to find out more about each of our local Stilton producers, go to their individual websites:

www.cropwellbishopstilton.com,
www.colstonbassettdairy.co.uk,
www.clawson.co.uk.

While I'm on the subject of the Vale's dairies, I thought I'd mention that all three sponsor an annual 10k and 24k road race called the **Stilton Stumble**, which raises money for two local charities. This year's race is on **Sunday 16 October** and will take runners along the country lanes between the dairies' villages. It's too late to register to take part, but I'm sure the runners would appreciate a bit of road-side support if you're in the area that day!

Congratulations to Harlaxton for coming second in Lincolnshire's 2016 'Best Kept Villages' competition (in the category 'class II medium sized villages, population 501-2000'). The village was also runner-up last year and has an excellent record for doing well in this competition, which has been held annually since 1962.

Harlaxton is home to Harlaxton Manor, which is now a college owned by the University of Evansville in Indiana USA. You might be interested to know that the college presents occasional lectures which are open to the general public and free to attend. For more information, visit

www.harlaxton.ac.uk/academics/lectures.cfm

Louise Lambert

www.the-write-words.co.uk



The Cheesemaker's Shop in Cropwell Bishop



Harlaxton (photo by David Dixon)



The society, or more correctly Woolsthorpe Depot, hosted the autumn meeting of the Northern Canals Association last month. This group consists of representatives of all the canal restoration societies in the Northern half of England.

Delegates were treated to presentations on the Grantham Canal developments (David Lyneham-Brown), volunteer training (Lucie Holmer), and HS2 and its impact on canals, particularly the Chesterfield Canal (Robin Stonebridge). An excellent ploughman's lunch was served by Mary Noble and her assistant and after receiving updates from the various societies present, the delegates walked to Lock 15 to see progress.

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>



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

bridge@granthamcanal.org

The
Grantham Canal
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CHARITY No: 507337

DISCOVERY DAY 2016



**FUN
FOR KIDS**

**ENTERTAINMENT
FOR THE FAMILY**



FABULOUS FOOD

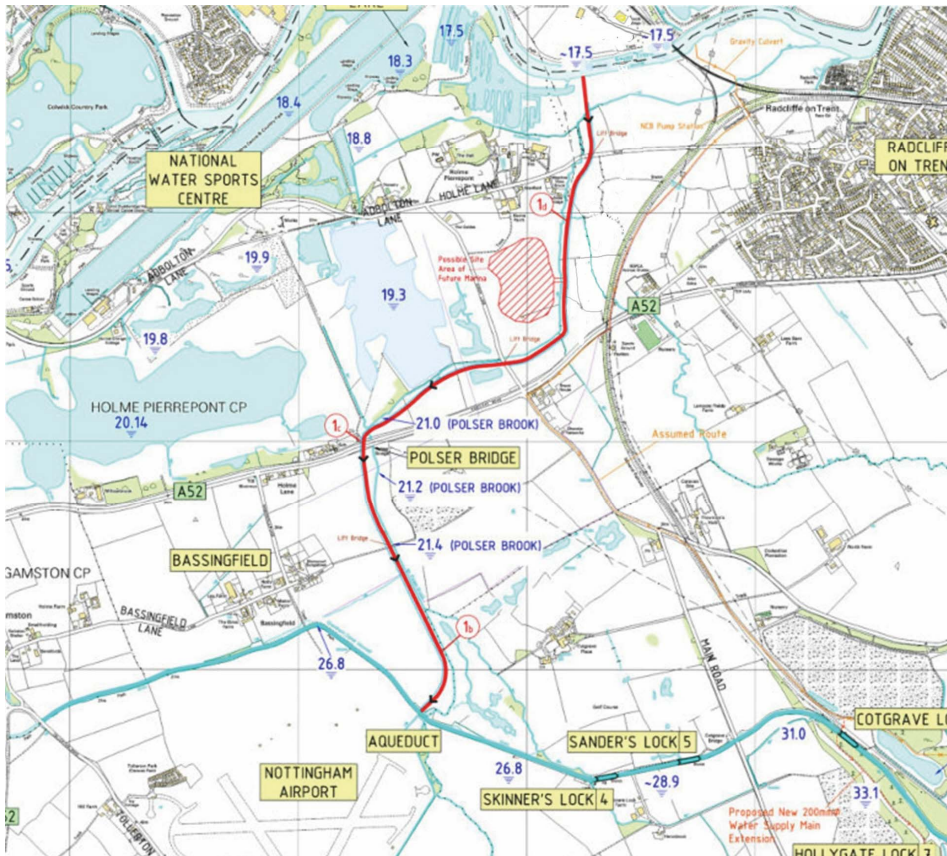


**VISITORS
FROM
CALIFORNIA**

**WELL DONE
TONY
aka
Aye Up Me
Duck**

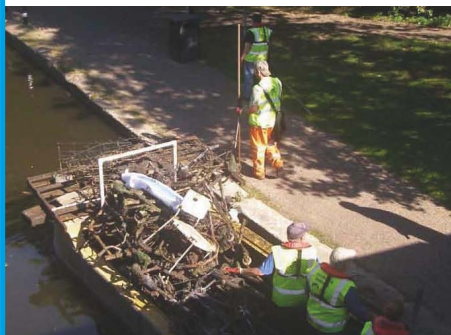


Correction to the Map included in our August Edition



The County Council does not currently have a protected route for a new river crossing in Nottingham. The route was formally abandoned in 2011.

Join Us on a Canal Clean Up



Nottingham Canal Cleanup Sunday 23rd October 10am to 4pm Help improve your local area

All welcome to come along for the day or just a few hours and support our team cleaning up the canal through Nottingham.

Meet at Sainsbury's, Castle Bridge Road, NG7 1GX

Further details from

sarah.frayne@waterways.org.uk



You may recall that our weed-boat 'Osberton' was a victim of the downpour in the summer. Thanks to dedicated work by a few volunteers we are pleased to report that the craft is once more operational.

We hope that it will start removing weed from the canal above Lock 18 in the near future.

This work will inevitably cause some floating weed on the canal until cutting is completed in the new year.

Sainsbury's

Look how much raised so far!

The strong support for the Grantham Canal Society by Sainsbury's customers has already raised over £3,000 for the 'Buy a Brick' scheme.

The Society thanks everyone at Sainsbury's who has contributed and helped to launch the scheme. Further opportunities to contribute will be happening in store later this month and throughout the year.

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge

October – Autumn leaves

October sees the familiar summer greens in the trees and hedgerows begin to phase into the reds, yellows and browns of autumn – a short-lived spectacle of colour before the onset of bare-branch winter.

It is easy to assume that the colour changes are simply down to the leaves dying and dropping but this doesn't explain why these colourful red-purple anthocyanin pigments are actively produced by the trees at this time. There are two main theories why the trees expend energy upon this autumn display of colour rather than simply dropping their leaves. One theory is that the anthocyanins are produced for their protective properties – the pigments shield the leaf from light damage at low temperatures and so help the tree to re-absorb vital nutrients such as nitrogen before the leaves are dropped and lost.

Another theory is that the pigmentation is a show of strength to would-be insect pests. The pigments are costly to make and are therefore an 'honest' signal – only a strong tree, capable of resisting insect pathogens, could afford to put its energy into producing these pigments. The insects therefore select to over-winter on a weaker tree which benefits both the insects and the stronger tree in an example of co-evolution between pathogen and host. Other theories are also proposed and the subject is still under investigation, but it is worth bearing in mind that the colours on an autumn walk along the towpath are not just the leaves dying, but the trees putting on a show!



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
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bridge@granthamcanal.org

The Grantham Canal Society
CHARITY No: 507337

THE WAY IT WAS

We had various requests and opportunities to visit other canal sites during the quiet years on the Grantham, this was to gain experience on mechanised plant and equipment, which at that time we didn't have, learn new skills like bricklaying and concrete mixing and also meeting new friends. The sites we covered were mostly in England but some in Wales, they were usually over a weekend so we would try to arrive Friday eve before the pubs closed. The first was Ashton near Manchester and followed by, in no particular order, The Rochdale Nine, Pocklington, Marple, Bugsworth Basin, Erewash, Droitwich, Wantage, Basingstoke, Montgomery, Stratford on Avon, apologies for any I've forgotten. The hosts usually provided a building to sleep in and main meals. Some sites we visited on more than one occasion and the accommodation could be very basic to super modern. One site at Droitwich was an old tin shack with holes in the roof, a pot belly stove and usually frozen toilets if you were there in winter. We would take along our workclothes and basic tools, depending on the planned work. I remember at Stratford, someone had backed a dumper into the canal and we volunteered to strip and repair it so we could drive it to collect stone chippings. There were some very memorable digs over the years, particular the Droitwich Broad Canal. One occasion WRG asked all groups to send as many volunteers to help clear Porters lock which was full of silt up to the coping stones. It is the same size as the Grantham locks. The problem being a dispute between the owners of the lock side cottage and the

canal restorers which stopped any mechanical access to the lock side. What WRG had planned was to hire a very large/tall crane for the two days which could park on the roadside and swing a 1 ton skip in an ark without crossing the private land. The problem being no visual sighting between the lock chamber and the crane driver so a person had to sit on the lock top gate and conduct the whole operation. The silt was semi solid enough to stand on using 8 x 4 ft sheets of timber and dig down to the invert filling a 1 ton circular skip which was whisked up co-ordinated by the observer and then emptied into a waiting dumper to be taken off site. The silt got more jelly like as you reached the bottom but was easier to dig into. As we reached the far end of the lock the walking distance between the skip and the crud caused us to become tired so the leaders formed us into two merry go round teams which speeded up the process and saved the day. The whole lock was emptied over the two days and no damage to private property.

Another event was in Manchester, the Rochdale 9 series of locks. These were in private ownership and stopped the Peak Forest cruising ring being formed. A tower block had been built over one lock but it was still there under the giant piling columns but no access with engine driven plant was allowed. The canal society had arranged for an electrically driven portable conveyer to be lowered under the tower block, Rodwell Tower, which would convey the rubbish to a point where a dumper could collect it. Unfortunately with all the volunteers onsite the electric generator failed and the weekend could have been wasted but quick thinking saved the job. The conveyer was removed and we formed a barrow run in its place. The towpath access is still the same today, through a door in a wall or through a hatch in the base of the tower. On lock No.1 we had to drive dumpers through Manchester centre to a special holding site. I still don't know if the police turned a blind eye.

Mike Atherley



Working on the Rochdale

RANGERS UPDATE



Autumn is now upon us and its time to trim back the vegetation. Steve Ball has been attacking the brambles with his pruners between Harby and Plungar, and CRT have been out mowing the towpaths and generally tidying up. Tony Jackson reported a tree across the towpath, which apparently injured a cyclist, but he has now made it safe with the aid of his trusty pruning saw.

It seems there have been a few pairs of swans nesting along various stretches of the canal again this year, but Elise Tiplady has recently reported a dead swan in the Kinoulton area. Sadly it seems to have become caught in the brambles.

Chris Cob reported the sighting of a mink near Cotgrave. He is now our chief leaflet dispenser, handing out over 100 in the last two months alone! Chris has also reported that someone has removed some of the coping stones at Bridge 15.

Finally, the substantial build-up of Duckweed between Harlaxton Wharf and Denton left an unsightly picture of empty cans and bottles floating on the surface.



Our water-borne Ranger Mark Whitney did a great job of fishing them out, and is pictured here with his son who also canoes on the canal. Remember, our Rangers could always use more support, so please email me at pdadford@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested in joining the team.

Paul Dadford (Head Ranger)

The Harby Country

Show always makes me think of The Darling Buds of May, it's just the right size to not be too exhausting to walk round and everyone has a friendly word. Vintage farm machinery abounds, in contrast with the latest monstrous combines which, apparently can drive on autopilot – I don't think they've quite got to the stage where they can let 'em loose on their own – but it won't be long!

The sun came out on the Sunday, and just when you're thinking life couldn't get any better – some whispers they've got a cheque for you! The Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group (VOBMG) hold an annual tractor road run. This follows a delightfully circuitous route along the byways of the vale from their base at Canal Farm Harby, to Hickling Basin – with lunch at the plough – naturally! They so magnanimously donate the proceeds to the society – this year, to the tune of £100 Thank you!

Tony Jackson



Cherry Bishop, VOBMG presents the cheque to Rosemary Gibson, Events Team Leader, GCS

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

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

lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org

A BIG THANK YOU to those Bakers & Helpers who did sterling work during the Heritage Open Day on the **9th September** at the Carpenter's Shop, Lock 15 & on The Three Shires - and also on the **25th September** when the Grantham Canal Society 'dined' the Northern Canal Association at the Carpenter's Shop.

Both were very successful events.

Mary Noble

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

Mr & Mrs Altham, Mrs R.Gibson
Mary Noble Mrs Snowden
L.Shoebridge T.Kaczmerak



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