

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

At times one hesitates to comment too soon on the work done by volunteers just in case problems reoccur. However I am delighted to inform readers that it appears that the leaks through the bank at Lock 17 have finally been eradicated. This has involved much painstaking work to remove the earth behind the piling and replace it with clay. We will continue to keep a close eye on this area of bank.

Many volunteers enjoyed a dinner at the Dirty Duck recently which was an excellent event served by the new host and hostess of the pub. There are opportunities to organise more social events for members and volunteers so if you feel able to do this please let us know. Several new faces have appeared as volunteers recently and I am delighted to welcome them and I hope they enjoy working with us.

A further group of volunteers have been trained in Plant driving and are now certificated to drive either an excavator or dumper.



This reminds me that if you are or know somebody that is not working but is having difficulty getting a job working as a volunteer and being trained gives you an opportunity when you go for an interview to say I have experience and I have been doing the following tasks.



Volunteering with us gives you both experience of working and an opportunity to get some qualifications. Why don't you drop us an email today?

volunteer@granthamcanal.org

Mike Stone

Sainsbury's

The Sainsbury's Buy a Brick campaign has raised £5252.64 so far.

Well done all concerned and especially Terry!

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



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 13th April 2017, 7:45pm

This meeting will conclude our indoor programme and will be a visit from Geoff Pursglove who will talk about the Ashby Canal, which has seen some restoration activity in recent years.

Further information from:

nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Reclaimed bricks and lime mortar are being used to restore the corner posts - this work is being done by one of the Canal & River Trust's Heritage trainees.



The Canal & River Trust's engineer required the chamber walls raising by three extra courses of facing bricks in order to raise the water level.

The offside wall after the additional bricks and blocks had been laid.

The finished offside wall - brilliant job!



Many thanks to John Clark for these photos & text



Talks and Events Diary

If you can help out with any events, please contact Rosemary on communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971173069

2017 Bookings

Mon 13 th Mar 7.30	Discovery Day Planning, Urban Hotel, Grantham
Mon 20 th Mar 12.45	Talk: Grantham Rotary, Urban Hotel, Grantham
Sat 25 th Mar Events Team Training Day 10.00	Carpenter's Shop, Depot, behind Dirty Duck, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir
Tues 28 th Mar 2.00	Talk: Keyworth U3A
Fri 31 st Mar 10.00	Research Group - Grantham Library - local studies room
Mon 10 th Apr 7.30	Rangers' Meeting, Plough at Stathern
Tues 11 th Apr 2.00	Talk: Barkston and Syston Cardiac Chat Group
Sun & Mon 16 th & 17 th Apr	Bank Holiday Boat Trips - volunteers needed for crew, refreshments, trip sales, etc.
Wed 19 th Apr 2.00	Talk: Sage Cross Ladies Club
Sun 23 rd Apr 11.00-3.00	Cotgrave Country Park Joint Meet and Greet Day
Wed 26 th Apr 10.00	Talk: Harrowby Lane, Methodist Church, Grantham
Sun & Mon 30 th Apr and 1 st May	Bank Holiday Boat Trips - volunteers needed for crew, refreshments, trip sales, etc.
Mon 1 st May	Denton Street Market, display in church
Sun & Mon 28 th & 29 th May	Bank Holiday Boat Trips - volunteers needed for crew, refreshments, trip sales, etc.
Sat & Sun 3 rd & 4 th June	Grantham Steam and County Show
Sat 17 th June 11.00 - 4.00	Cotgrave Festival
Sat 24 th June 11.00 - 5.00	East Bridgford Village Show
Sun 25 th June 10.30 - 4.00	Short Boat Trip Sunday
Sun 2 nd July	Dysart Park Family Fun Day, Grantham
Sun 9 th - Wed 12 th July	U3A Summer School at Harlaxton Manor
Sun 30 th July 10.30 - 4.00	Short Boat Trip Sunday
Thurs 24 th Aug 12.00 - 6.00	Skylarks Festival, Holme Pierrepont
Sun & Mon 27 th & 28 th Aug	Bank Holiday Boat Trips - volunteers needed for crew, refreshments, trip sales, etc.
Tues 5 th Sept 7.30	Talk: Waltham WI
Sat & Sun 9 th & 10 th Sept	Harby Country Show
Wed 20 th Sept 2.00	Talk: Burton Lazars VH
Sun 24 th Sept 10.30 - 4.00	Short Boat Trip Sunday



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



Community and Events Update

Grantham Museum 'Do Something New' event on Saturday 18th February, was a great success. 300 people attended, enabling us to network with other groups as well as the public.

Talks provide a trickle of income and are an easy way to network with groups from teens to around 100. We usually use slides to base the discussion around, but when the technology refused to play ball in Radcliffe on Trent recently, we carried on with questions and answers and the audience seemed very happy with that.

Chris Cobb has been booking events for the coming season, but is concerned that there will not be enough help to set up and take down the information stand and man it. It is a shame that we can't take greater advantage of more outreach opportunities. We get a lot of people saying 'You should do this that and the other' but we need people to come forward and say 'We will ...' We hope a good number of the latter type of people can come along to:

Events Team Training Day

Saturday 25th March 10.00

Carpenter's Shop, Woolsthorpe

To include:

- safe erection of gazebo, tables and information boards
- building knowledge of the canal's past, present and future
- promoting Trip Boat charters and other events
- recruiting members and volunteers for a wide variety of roles
- fund-raising ideas
- Bring Lunch or we can take advantage of the hospitality at the Dirty Duck. Tea, coffee and cake will be available throughout the day.

Let Rosemary know if you can attend:

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

For our big event, Discovery Day, Sunday 8th October, regular planning meetings have been led by Ian Simmons. The next meeting will be 7.30, Monday 13th March, Urban Hotel, Swingbridge Road, (next to the canal) Grantham. NG31 7XT. Contact Ian at iansimmons@icloud.com

Education Update: Rosemary was to shadow Claire Cavendish, Canal and River Trust Education Co-ordinator (East Midlands and North East) for school water safety sessions but this did not happen because Claire was ill. Hope she is better soon and we can move forward in this area.

Reminiscence and Research:

Those interested, please meet at Grantham Library on Friday 31st March at 10.00. **A Joint Meet and Greet Event with Friends of Cotgrave Country Park on Sunday 23rd April can be linked with a proposed Reminiscence Day at Cotgrave.**

Please don't think somebody else will do it. Come and get involved!

Chris's email is:

c_j_cobb@msn.com

Rosemary

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

**07971 173069
or 01476 978896**

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

Environment Notes

APPS for your SPRING WALKS



Swans at Muston Gorse.

Spring is round the corner so try these Apps on your SpringWatch walks;

OPAL BUGS COUNT

(APPLE OR ANDROID FREE)
Backed by Natural History Museum, the APP provides a range of questions to help identification of many insects by the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) DATABASE. Also you can participate in the OPAL survey – good for the kids.

PLANTNET

(APPLE OR ANDROID FREE)
A visual recognition data software system base, to identify Spring growth. Take a picture with phone camera of leaves, or flowers upload to the 6000+ species base and keep your fingers crossed for a match.

BIRD SONG ID

(APPLE £3.99, ANDROID £2.99)
Has a sonic audio database of birdsongs and produces a best match to the captured song then provides best match from a 36 song library of British Birds Has been given good reports. Source of information; Times Newspapers

Tony Pitman



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

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THE WAY IT WAS

After the campaign rallies and slipway completion the major obstacle in the way of progress was the railway embankment at Woolsthorpe. This was part of a mineral line starting from the main line near Bottesford to reach various iron ore quarries around the Belvoir area. The line had been closed for some years but British Rail kept it mothballed in case production began again. The line originally had a wooden trestle bridge over the canal but when this weakened British Rail filled it with old track ballast and earth. The canal had been closed many years earlier. Two 4ft diameter culvert pipes with reinforced concrete abutments allowed a flow of water to continue along the canal. Our Secretary John Marshall had been beavering away at BR for many years to allow us to remove the embankment but BR insisted we would have to fund the cost of a new bridge, should this be required. Anyway eventually a letter came allowing us to remove the embankment at our cost but no rebuild penalties. It didn't take long for us to start test digs to establish what material they had used. Ian and Colin, the other workparty leaders had purchased a Smalley excavator and soon found traces of the old trestle bridge and what the infill was. It became pretty obvious that the size of the job would be very large and long without extra help so a request to Waterways Recovery Group was established. They followed up with a site visit and an overall plan. A date was agreed and work commenced. Luckily BW agreed to loan us a 360' excavator with Dave Smith the driver at very competitive rates. Also because of a weather hiccup, several local farmers had tractors and trailers available and could reuse the infill material. When the spoil and timber had been removed the next problem

was the steel culvert pipes and concrete abutments.

**waterway
recovery
group**

WRG had set up camp in Woolsthorpe village hall for two weeks and with the hire of several air compressor's and breakers set about the mammoth job. With these removed all that was left was reprofiling the canal and two ends of the railtrackbed. Timber fences were erected at the tops of the embankment and generally around the site where required. The large oak timbers from the trestle were recovered by Gary Connelly and used for the construction of Casthorpe Bridle bridge.



Casthorpe Bridle Bridge (c/o D Davis)

Thanks also to John Moulcher for allowing access and land to store infill and other materials. The next job would be to start the lock rebuilds.

Mike Atherley



Woolsthorpe embankment before & after (Courtesy of Anne Moulcher)



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

March – Nesting Birds

The leaves are beginning to break from their buds, the birdsong is increasing and the nesting season will soon be underway. Many different species find nesting sites along the Grantham Canal and not just in the obvious places.

Species such as blackbird, robin and chaffinch will build their nests in the twigs and branches of hedgerows and trees. The bursting of the leaves provides the cover and concealment to maximise the chances of the eggs avoiding nest predation. Species such as blue tits and great tits seek out cavities in trees which provide shelter earlier in the season.

Heading down from the trees and shrubs into the emergent vegetation you can find species such as reed warblers which construct their nests between 2-3 reed stems. These warblers are summer visitors who arrive in the UK around mid-April. In the canal itself, are a range of waterbirds – from coots and moorhens through ducks, geese and swans. Whilst many species tuck their nests away, the swans almost flaunt their power, creating large platforms of vegetation with very little cover. Even the man-made structures such as the bridges can create nesting opportunities, and some even have specially built features incorporate into them!

There is still time to provide nest boxes for birds this spring - there are some very simple one-plank plans for bird boxes which are cheap and easy to make. Search "RSPB Nestbox" and you'll find designs tailored to a range of different species.



Facebook



We are in the process of closing our page "The Three Shires" so that all details relevant to the society can be accessed from our "Grantham Canal Society" page.

**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
or ring on 07970 858458**

**WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT
WE CAN TAKE AND SELL
FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS
EVERY LITTLE HELPS!**

Discovery Day 2017
Sunday October 8th



Some photos from our 2016 Discovery Day

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

Chris Cobb, D.McEntregnot,
S.R.L.Ball, Nigel Lee,
Mrs V.M.Smith, Grantham
Museum Talk, T.Shaw

**ENGRAVED BRICK
DONORS**

C.Fletcher

Mr.Owen

Mr. Mrs Inglis

Dr Bannister

John Brydon

Mrs Lockey



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