

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

August is a busy month on the English canal network and the Grantham Canal is not left out despite its isolation from the main system! Throughout this month our teams are joined by volunteers of the Waterway Recovery Group at Lock 15.



The WRG guys (lads & lasses) have given a week of their time – and some hard earned cash – to spend their days on a number of tasks including rebuilding the lock, profiling the canal bed (it needs to have years of silt removed and we need to calculate just how much) up to the Dirty Duck and planning the

access route to Lock 14. Their nights are spent camping in Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall. The society is very appreciative of WRG commitment to our restoration project. Look at the photographs below, and then compare with the ones in next month's Bridge, with photos taken early September. I know there will be a difference! Those of you keeping an eye on the bookings of *The Three Shires* will have noticed how busy it has been lately. That increase in bookings is being maintained for August and we appreciate the dedication of the boat crews. I understand they are still recruiting so you have a chance to cruise for free – if you are prepared to help them! Spare a thought for our Honorary Editor! He works hard to produce this publication but gets little help as he relies on articles and news sent in by others – and when they are busy he gets nothing! If you

fancy being a budding journalist why not send him something relevant to the canal? I am sure he will print it! Be a devil and have a go!
 I notice from Twitter that some supporters have been tidying up the canal towpath during their walks. Thank you very much as it makes the non-navigable stretches of canal more enjoyable for others. I do wish dog owners would also take their rubbish home!
 This month we hope to welcome the first of many volunteers from a large commercial organisation in Nottingham. The plans are for one day to give them some experience of canal restoration; we hope that this attracts them to follow Oliver Twist and come back for more!
 I mentioned Lock 14 earlier in this article; with the support of the team at Belvoir Castle, Canal & River Trust and GCS are planning an access route to the lock that will make restoration as easy as it has been at Lock 15. However, we will finish one lock before starting on the other. Enjoy the sunshine and please don't complain about the rain – canals need the water!

Mike Stone.



Photo taken by Bob Taylor

The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



The offside approach wall is rebuilt



The offside letterbox nearing completion



Stop board channels in place together with oak base timber.

Our grateful thanks to John Clark for this months photos & captions.



A new lower dam under construction

Talks and Events Diary

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

2017 Bookings

- | | |
|--|--|
| Thurs 24th Aug
12.00 – 6.00 | Skylarks Festival,
Holme Pierrepont |
| Sun & Mon 27th & 28th Aug | Bank Holiday Boat Trips – volunteers needed for crew, refreshments, trip sales, etc. |
| 26-28th Aug | Stapleford Steam Weekend at Melton |
| Tues 5th Sept 7.30 | Talk: Waltham WI |
| Sat & Sun 9th & 10th Sept | Harby Country Show |
| Sun 10th Sept | Grantham Fire Station |
| Tues 12th Sept 7.30 | Talk: Manthorpe WI |
| Wed 20th Sept 2.00 | Talk: Burton Lazars Village Hall |
| Sun 24th Sept 10.30 – 4.00 | Short Boat Trip Sunday |
| Thurs 5th Oct | Talk: Nubourne WI |
| Sun 8th October | Discovery Day |
| Thurs 12th Oct 2.30 | Talk: Bottesford Friendship Group |
| Tues 17th Oct 7.30 | Talk: Hough on the Hill History Society |
| Tues 14th Nov 2.00 | Talk: Ascension Ladies Fellowship |
| Wed 15th Nov 2.00 | Talk: East Leake Local History Society |
| Wed 22nd Nov | Talk: Springwells Heritage Group, Horbling |

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

Steve Parkes, Tony Osbond, Nigel Lee, P.Mustoe, D.Fisher, J Jansen, Mrs Jefferson, Mr R.Crew, D.Parkhouse, H.Crawford, W H Lockey, Mrs J Sharpe, Judy Berry, Alan Hickley and Edwin Pettifer



Follow us on Facebook



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

bridge@granthamcanal.org



THE WAY IT WAS

Another unusual job came our way after the canal museum was completed. John Cockcroft contacted me to say a quarry near Breaston had unearthed some old timbers which could be from an early wooden boat and would he like to send a team to identify or remove the remains. So about ten of us were able to access the site during the weekend work break.

Luckily the area around the timbers was reasonably dry and was typical Trent gravel and sand. We were pre-warned by John to be careful with the dig so not to damage any more timber so he could examine the remains to bring back to the museum if historically important. It took several hours to remove enough material to expose the keelson, knees, bottom and gunwale, etc, it was then up to John to visit the site to try to identify the exposed remains. It turned out that the boat was a normal wooden butty narrowboat, probably less than 100 years old. The conclusion being that several had been sunk to stabilise the bank where a leak had occurred because the Trent river was very close at this point.

So the project was abandoned and the remains destroyed as quarrying continued.

It was a very interesting and educational job, a far cry from the norm and a pity not to have had a better conclusion.

Mike Atherley

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

Our Second Info-Social at the Depot

Our headquarters at Woolsthorpe Depot will be hosting an informal Info-Social on August 22nd. Besides our GCS volunteers we will be welcoming the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG), that weeks team of volunteers from across the country (and abroad), who will be working along side our people on Lock 15.

Starting at 3.30 Ruth Garratt, regional heritage adviser for Canal and River Trusts North East and East Midlands Navigations, will give us an insight into curating historic waterways, archaeological investigation of canal complexes and findings from the recent excavations at Lock 15 on the Grantham Canal.

After that, a bar-b-que - where GCS and WRG volunteers can eat and mingle and then retire to the Dirty Duck if they so wish.

All our volunteer are welcome. Suggest an arrival time of 3pm at the Depot. Talk and questions will be from 3.30 to 5.00'ish, followed by the BBQ and the social part. Dave Cross is going to give a demonstration of how to climb into our boat Restorer 2 and then seamlessly tip himself and the boat into the water. We managed to stop the boat sinking, and I think we rescued Dave as well.

If you wish to attend please RSVP to Rosemary Gibson on

RhuMaere@aol.com. This is important so we have a clear idea of our catering requirements. We will be asking for a small contribution of £3 to cover food costs. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

DL-B

EDITOR'S NOTE

In Mike's article last month I added a note that the FMC Pub had closed.



Whilst this is correct, the whole building was originally owned by FMC, as the above photo shows, but the canal frontage was taken over by Canalhouse, who offer real ales, international beers and unfussy food.

The FMC Pub only occupied the offices to the right of the building.



The Inland
Waterways
Association

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

Public meetings. Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

Meetings 7.45 pm at the [Rushcliffe Arena](#)
Rugby Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7HY

**Don't forget the
Festival of Water 26-28th August
in Ilkestone**

On **3rd September**, we will be holding our annual assault on the bicycles and supermarket trollies of the Nottingham Canal.

This year we will be starting at Meadow Lane Lock and working towards the city centre. We will as usual have the use of the workboat 'Bollin' and it's crew from CRT, who will also provide the necessary safety gear.



Volunteers with the rewards from last year's cleanup

All you need to bring is yourself, in suitable clothing and stout footwear (steel toecap boots if you have them, and are comfortable in them). Bring some lunch if you are staying all day, you are welcome to just do part of the day if you wish. Tea and coffee is usually available from Bollin.

Not all jobs are hard physical work, there will be things to do for people of all abilities, so don't be put off, but come and help keep this part of the canal tidy both above and below the water.

We will gather at Meadow Lane Lock, for 9.30am, and be finished by 4pm. It would be helpful if you could email the Branch to let us know you are coming.

Just time to mention our autumn programme, for which we are returning to our old venue, the Rushcliffe Arena (now reopened after major renovation) and our previous evening, the third Friday of the month, starting on **October 20th**. Details of the programme next time.

For further information & email address for Branch: nottsandderbys@waterways.org.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
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

Grantham Canal Society Announce Launch of New Fundraising Initiative

Many members of the public and the volunteers of the Grantham Canal Society share a common frustration – the amount of weed and the extent of the shallows on significant parts of the Grantham Canal. The unrestored sections are obviously the worse but this summer parts of the restored section have become depressingly repopulated by rafts of weed, reeds and bits of floating timber.

Our workboat “Centurai” and its crew strive valiantly to keep the situation under control but as with so many aspects of the canal we need more resources; volunteers and money. Our weedboat “Osberton” is back in commission and our dredger is scheduled for more work but much more needs to be done. Our potential problem is that the more canal we restore the more that we have to maintain so the sooner we get a grip on this the better.

In the next issue of “Bridge” we will detail this New Fundraising Initiative but let it be noted that it was one of our members who stimulated it. Sharing his frustration at the state of the canal in parts he made a £200 donation, which since we talked to him about the new fund he has increased to £300.

Thanks Terry – we always welcome constructive input from our members.

So watch out for the next “Bridge” – and help us to stop picture one below becoming photo two.



D L-B

Sunday & Monday 27th and 28th August 2017

If you can give Mary a couple of hours of your time if would be much appreciated.

There are refreshments to serve, boat bookings to take, a couple of stalls to man and meet and greet people.

Cakes, tombola prizes and second hand books are required.

Please call Mary on 01476 566578 or email thermalist@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Mary N.

Tombola prizes required for the August Bank Holiday Open Days.

Please deliver to the Depot,
Woolsthorpe By Belvoir, (behind
the Dirty Duck Pub) on any
Saturday between 8.30am and
12 noon.

If you have a tombola drum, or
can make me one, I would
appreciate it.

Mary N 01476 566578

EVENTS TEAM REPORT

The GCS Information stand was at the following events during July.

Knipton Country Fayre and Duck Race, Hickling Church Fete and Morrisons Store, West Bridgford.

Over these three events the 6 volunteers in attendance have spoken to nearly 150 people, many who showed a great interest in the renovation of the canal.

Once again a BIG thank you to the six who have helped at these events.

We are attending two events during August -

Thurs 24th Skylarks Festival at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

Sat 26th/Sun 27th/ Mon 28th Stapleford Steam Weekend at Melton Mowbray.

If you can spare an hour or two (or all day) to help man the stand contact either me on

07926 414652

or Mary Noble or Christina Wallace.

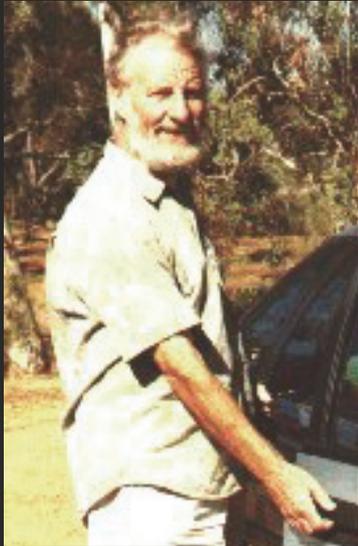
**We are in urgent need of
good quality books and
jigsaw puzzles for sale at
events.**

**If you can help please
contact me on
07926 414652**

Chris Cobb

MEL CROSBY

Chairman of the GCRS from March 1986 to mid 1990, passed away peacefully in hospital near his home at Narrogin, Western Australia, Tues 17th July 2017. He was 83. He died from a serious lung infection.



Discovery Day 2017 Sunday October 8th



Discovery day 2015
Cllr Jackie Smith, Mayor of Grantham, flanked by GCS Vice Chairman John Brydon and Event Organiser, Rosemary Gibson.

The team organisers for Discovery Day 2017 are appealing for items suitable for our TOMBOLA stand.

So if you have anything then please contact Ian Simmons (iansimmons@icloud.com) or through our Bridge contact detailed below.

Donations In Kind

For a long time one of the Grantham Canal Societies biggest supporters has been John A Stephens, Builders Merchants of Nottingham. Their latest efforts have sourced us a large quantity of scaffolding planks which are being delivered to the Lock 15 site at no charge to the society.

The planks will be sorted and inspected. Those of the required standard will be reused as intended and we have a dozen or more other uses for the rest, including construction of bunds to retain dredgings when we start on the Lock 17 to 15 section this coming winter.

D L-B



BOAT TRIP
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
WEEKEND 27th & 28th
10-00 - 4.00pm
Adults £3, Children £2
NG32 1NY

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

NEW Friday Workparty

to keep the canal clear of reed and rubbish.

Meet at 9am at the Depot behind the Dirty Duck Pub Woolsthorpe by Belvoir NG32 1NY

Contact Ian Wakefield

07789 383266

or Mary N

01476 566578

Gurkha Square



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 Society
CHARITY No: 507337