



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

What a busy month August was and, for both the volunteers and me, September doesn't look much quieter. Your committee spent a fine sunny day inspecting the top length and were not pleased with some things they saw. These included: our inability to cruise to the landing stage next to the A1; the considerable growth of reeds some of which floated in substantial rafts; the growth of weed below water level; the inability of towpath users to see the water in some places due to bank weeds! However some things we did appreciate included the work done by the Harlaxton Group to maintain the Wharf area; the weed removal by the *Mudlark* team to improve the visual appearance in places; the lack of floating timber beyond Denton Wharf shows that some volunteers have been busy; and the family of swans who have made Denton Wharf their home. A great deal has been done to maintain the length but much still remains to be achieved. GCS are responsible for maintaining navigation on this length so if you, like us, think improvements are needed please volunteer and enjoy making a difference!

A team from Grantham Sainsbury's also enjoyed a cruise on *The Three Shires* as a small 'Thank you' from the GCS for their nomination of us as their charity of the year. Their support has raised about £7,500 towards the Buy a Brick appeal and we are most grateful. A cheque will be presented on Discovery Day so why not come along and join the fun.

The Environmental sub-committee of the Grantham Canal Partnership also cruised the canal and a report on their visit is awaited. Extra volunteer help has arrived during the month. Three camps organised by the Waterway Recovery Group supported the reconstruction at Lock 15. Nearly 50 WRG volunteers arrived from all parts of the UK and the Vale of Belvoir must be attractive as some were returning from earlier visits. On another occasion 10 employees from Experian in Nottingham removed vegetation from the Denton reservoir canal feeder. We thank all who gave their time to helping the Society. Experian now tell us that they will encourage more of their staff to participate with GCS work so we hope to see further groups in the future. We were also fortunate in being offered loads of scaffolding boards by Wastecycle and these will be used when we undertake works to raise the canal banks below Lock 16. Looking forward Lock 15 should be almost complete by the end of the month and awaiting lock gates. Help is required to prepare Woolsthorpe Depot for Discovery Day and donations for the raffle and tombola would be appreciated. Oh yes did you know that a major concert is being held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at the Dirty Duck? If you are a music fan this could be right up your street! Have a great month!

waterway recovery group

*Mike Stone*

### The GCS Committee August meeting To inspect the navigable section of the canal



The GCS Committee, L-R: Tony Pitman, Stan Harbidge, John Trigg, Rosemary Gibson, Mary Noble, David Lyneham-Brown, Mike Stone, John Brydon (Absent were Gordon Wallis & Mark Hubbard)



The crew for the day



Returning back to Woolsthorpe



**Friday 20th October 7:45pm  
The Rushcliffe Arena**

**John Rawlinson, A1 Steam Trust.**  
If you love steam locos, come and hear the latest from the Trust who are becoming masters of the craft of building new ones.



# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



Footings for the upper near-side approach



Lower off-side wing wall.



Upper near-side wing wall taking shape



Upper off-side approach wall



Lower near-side wing wall under repair



Coping stones being prepared on the off-side wall



The foundations for the lock landing awaiting for the stonework to be laid.



Corner stone in place on the upper near-side gate quadrant

## Talks and Events Diary

If you can help out with any events, please contact Rosemary on [communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org) or 07971173069

2017 Bookings

<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Talk: Manthorpe WI</b>
7.30	
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Talk: Burton Lazars Village Hall</b>
2.00	
<b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Short Boat Trip</b>
10.00 – 4.00	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>World Rivers Day event at Wyndham Park, Grantham</b>
	<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 6.00 pm</b>
	<b>Discovery Day Planning at Depot</b>
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 11.00 – 3.00</b>	<b>Explorers Training Day Part II</b>
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Talk: Nubourne WI</b>
<b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30</b>	<b>Depot Cleaning Day</b>
<b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30</b>	<b>Discovery Day Preparation</b>
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Discovery Day</b>
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Talk: Bottesford Friendship Group</b>
2.30	
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30</b>	<b>Talk: Hough on the Hill History Society</b>
	<b>Talk: Ascension Ladies Fellowship</b>
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.00</b>	<b>Talk: East Leake Local History Society</b>
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.00</b>	<b>Talk: Springwells Heritage Group, Horbling</b>
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	

**I would like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped over the Bank Holiday weekend on Three Shires, Lock 15 and at the Carpenters Shop and all the Bakers for their lovely cakes. We raised a total of £1421.00. Not forgetting the Saturday Volunteers who helped with gazebo and clearing the depot for the event. I very much appreciated it. Mary N.**

As ever our grateful thanks to John Clark for this months photos & captions.



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)



## Local Corporate Volunteers Start Work on the Grantham Canal

Experian PLC, the global information services group with operations in 40 countries and operational headquarters in Nottingham, have put forward their community staff volunteers to work on the Grantham Canal and their first group joined us on August 14<sup>th</sup>. We met the group at the Woolsthorpe Depot and over a cup of tea briefed them on the society, our aims and objectives and progress to date.

We then identified the task they would be undertaking, clearing the feeder connecting the Denton Reservoir to the canal, of litter, tree branches and other blockages. We took them to site and after a morning's work they retired to the Dirty Duck for a well-earned lunch break. Before returning to site we showed them the work being done on Lock 15.

The group worked hard and effectively, the feeder stream being cleared of all superfluous material by the late afternoon.

Aron Burghart, Experian team leader reported – "Everyone enjoyed the day. It was great to get out of the office. We all found your informative chat, prior to the morning session, very interesting. Thanks for the tea and biscuits."

We are now set on building the relationship with Experian – less than 24 hours after the first team returned to the company they asked if we could place another 82!!

Experian have over 2000 staff in the Nottingham Area so we could be kept busy.

DL-B

## Community, Events and Education

Grateful thanks to Chris Cobb, Mary Noble and Christina Wallace and the teams they have put together to get to so many events this year and to Ian Simmons for heading up the Discovery Day Planning Team.

**Discovery Day Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October** is less than a month away now, so here is our list of requests:

- **Prizes for raffle and tombola**
- **Saleable items for the charity stall (not clothes or electrical)**
- **We need someone to take photographs on Discovery Day**
- **Limited space available for uncovered table tops – contact Chris 07926414652 (2.00-5.00pm)**
- **Cakes – please deliver to depot 9.00 am to 12.00 noon Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct**
- **Depot cleaners Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 am**
- **Marquee, gazebo, etc. erectors Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 9.00 am**
- **Printed and electronic Leaflets and Posters are now available for distribution.**

Christina and Mary will be ringing round for volunteers for specific jobs on the day, but willing folks are more than welcome to be pro-active and get in touch with them with offers of help. Commitment before the day is always very welcome.

**Contacts:**

**Volunteers:**

**Chris Wallace:** [kryisia1951@hotmail.com](mailto:kryisia1951@hotmail.com)

**Cakes:** Mary Noble 01476 566578

**Table tops:** Chris Cobb 07926414652 (2.00-5.00pm)

**General:**

**Ian Simmons** [iansimmons@icloud.com](mailto:iansimmons@icloud.com)

**Education Explorers** as part of our partnership with the Canal and River Trust through the Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative Project, a small team are receiving training and resources to enable our own Grantham Canal Learning Team to have greater involvement in schools. If we get them early, we might be able to encourage the younger generation to join our volunteers when they are old enough. They could also encourage their parents. Part II of training is at Woolsthorpe Depot on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hope to see lots of readers and supporters at Discovery Day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Rosemary

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

07971 173069

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

### September - Ivy

September sees the last big flowering event of the year and all the pollinators are there for the party! Many people consider ivy to be something of a nuisance as it snakes its way up tree trunks, climbs over stonework and smothers the sides of houses. But if you follow the sound of buzzing one autumn day in the sunshine, it will probably bring you to a stand of ivy thronged with pollinators.

Ivy grows well in hedges and up trees, especially in some of the shadier patches along the canal towpath, and is a vital source of nectar in the autumn. You will see a multitude of butterflies such as red admiral, peacock and small tortoiseshell stocking up on energy before they prepare to hibernate through the winter to re-appear in spring. Honeybees are using the flowers to make the season's last batches, feeding alongside bumblebees and other solitary bees. People often forget that flies are important pollinators too, but hoverflies are among the best and an ivy plant is a great opportunity to appreciate the variety of these charming garden visitors in one place.

There is also a species of solitary bee which is so strongly associated with ivy that it is called the ivy bee in both English and latin – *Colletes hederæ* takes its species name from the latin for ivy – *Hedera helix*. This bee is common in the south and is spreading north so keep your eyes peeled this autumn!



Red Admiral

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
CRT have notified us that a total of 1,362 GCS volunteer days (7hours/day taken from the submitted timesheets) have been worked between the start of April 2016 and end of March 2017. This gives a figure of £124,900 in match funding towards the HLF grant. It is a huge amount of work by GCS volunteers.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

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

## THE WAY IT WAS

Apart from boats made up for the event or borrowed from private sources the first trip boat we purchased for use on the Grantham was a small scale narrowboat which I think came from the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. It was about 18ft long by about 4ft beam and had a small rear cabin and covered seating area. Passenger capacity was under 12 people, the layout being similar to a working boat. The engine was an inboard petrol Morris Vedette side valve and traditional swan neck rudder. After little refurbishment and service we launched at Hickling and named the boat Reclaim 33.

The idea of Hickling was for many reasons. It was well patronised by visitors, the Plough pub, a reasonable stretch of water and Chris Tizzard lived close by and volunteered to keep a watching brief. A gas main had been buried under the canal and the concrete and steel bank repairs made a good level mooring place. The engine was always difficult to start so a new battery was purchased and new spark plugs etc fitted. Many problems arose, mainly finding regular crew, the narrow beam made the boat tilt and roll a lot, upsetting some nervous passengers but the worst was the blanket weed and duck weed clogging the prop and blocking the

water cooling filters. Also because of irregular use the battery would be flat with no local charging source. We tried dredging and other idea's but decided to sell the boat on to another canal society after two or three years. Next came Tom Wallis along with his own craft called 'Soliloquy' which he had specially built as a passenger narrowboat, similar in size and design to The Three Shires. He launched at Woolsthorpe between locks 16 and 17 and was very successful with the local visitors who had lunch at the nearby Dirty Duck pub. In 1993 he moved the boat to Denton Wharf to give a much longer ride for passengers and kept it there until the lock flight and Casthorpe bridges had been rebuilt. I was on board and officially opened Casthorpe road bridge and cruised through the restored three locks. For reasons only known to Tom, he decided to move his boat to Melton Mowbray on the Wreak navigation. Nothing then was available until the society decided to purchase their own boat and call it 'The Three Shires', purpose built for passenger carrying and again launched and used between lock 18 and Grantham. This boat is still operating see adverts in Bridge.

*Mike Atherley*



Reclaim 33

## Our Second Info-Social at the Depot

Our headquarters at Woolsthorpe Depot hosted an informal Info-Social on August 22<sup>nd</sup> where, besides our GCS volunteers, we welcomed the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG), that weeks team of 14 volunteers from across the country (and abroad), who were working along side our people on Lock 15.

Starting at 3.45 Ruth Garratt, regional heritage adviser for Canal and River Trusts North East and East Midlands Navigations gave us an insight into curating historic waterways and archaeological investigation of canal complexes. In part two of her presentation later in the year findings from the recent excavations at Lock 15 on the Grantham Canal, still being added to in these final stages of rebuilding, will be revealed.

After the presentation we had a bar-b-que at the depot - where GCS and WRG volunteers ate and mingled, and some then retired to the Dirty Duck.

I am pleased to say that nearly 50 people attended. Bob Stanley deserves our thanks for being master chef, Rosemary Gibson assembled our catering requirements. Thanks to them both, and other volunteers who made tea and coffee and made the event happen.

We asked for a small contribution of £3 from GCS members to cover food costs and raised £74-50 that way.

Such is the fundraising enthusiasm among our members that one even tried to get money out of the Waterways Recovery Group volunteers who were there even though they brought their own food with them! Good try - I applaud the initiative. One member did give us a £50 donation on the night and our thanks to him.

Thank you to all those who attended for making it and enjoyable and profitable night all round.

David Lyneham-Brown

**Chief Executive/ General Manager  
Grantham Canal Society**



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)





### CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

The two beautiful watercolour paintings above are supposedly of the Grantham Canal. But that appears to be all the information available.

Do you know who painted them, when or where?

If so then please email [bridge@granthamcanal.org](mailto:bridge@granthamcanal.org)

Thank you

## EVENTS TEAM REPORT

The GCS Information stand attended 2 events during August.

The Notts Wildlife Trust Skylarks Festival at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham on the 24th. Although not a large event, Brian Rogers and myself spoke to many interested people, mainly asking about plans to connect with the River Trent.

For the 3 days of the August Bank Holiday, myself, David Lane, Ian Simmons, Alan Geeson and Rodger Smith attended the Stapleford Steam Weekend, Melton Mowbray.

Again, much interest shown in the restoration of the canal.

We have a busy time over the weekend of 9th/10th September.

We are attending events at Harlaxton, Denton, Grantham Fire Station and Harby Country Show.

On **Sunday 24th** we will be at World Rivers Day, Wyndham Park, Grantham.

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

*Chris Cobb*

## DREDGE

### Grantham Canal Society Launch New Fundraising Initiative

Its official, the GCS DREDGE Fund is up and running!

This is a long term funding appeal as the need for dredging and surface clearance will be with us well into the future.

If you have been up near Casthorpe Bridge recently you will see that our dredger "Mudlark" is making a difference removing weed and rushes, improving access for our tripboat "The Three Shires" by generally widening the navigable channel.

New leaflets have been printed and will be distributed widely, including by the GCS Rangers who will hand them out to canal towpath users. The donation process is explained in the leaflet but you can also use Virgin Giving that can be accessed through our website [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

Thanks for your support



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**NEWS FROM THE CUT**



**Big boys toys!**



**Osberton has had successful 'sea trials' outside the Dirty Duck with weed and some reeds removed. I plan to move up to the pound between Locks 17 and 18 this week before venturing above lock 18 for some major clearance**



**Lock 18 may still have a problem with leakage near the offside ground paddle. CRT have been informed**



**WRG camp - week 1. Wednesday evening boat trip enjoyed by all**



**Thanks to Steve and Mark for keeping the Depot looking great. More big boys toys with Mark on the mower**



**With no weed hatch on Centauri, someone (Ian!) has to get in the water to try to remove the rope that the boat's propeller has picked up, somewhere along the canal.**

**Many thanks to Ian for photos & captions**

**Our grateful thanks to the following who have recently made a donation to the Society:**  
Nigel Lee, Ray Harper and A.Binch

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

**Redmile – Harby SSSI Dredging Project Phase 2**

Lucie Hoelmer, of Canal & River Trust, in collaboration with the Grantham Canal Partnership Environmental Group have been able to obtain funds to commence Phase 2 early in October this year.

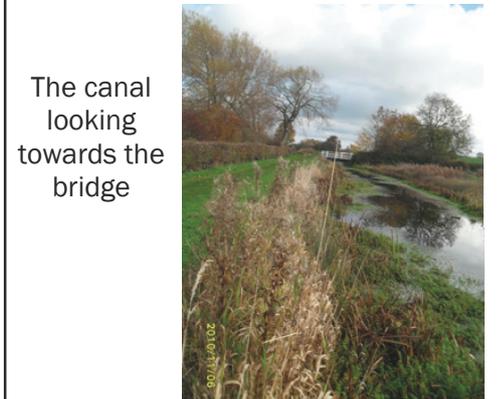
Thanks to 'Vital Nature' and 'Peoples Post Code Lottery Fund' there will be sufficient finance to carry out two weeks work, which should achieve approximately 600 metres of cleared canal.

As with the first phase in 2015, the silt meets agricultural criteria and will be deposited in fields on the off-side by Land & Water, the contractors, using one of their amphibious excavators.



**Photo courtesy of Valerie Holt**

The section is upstream of Bridge 44, Harby Rectory Swing Bridge. Phase 1 was from Redmile to Barkstone Jericho Bridge



The canal looking towards the bridge

*Tony Pitman*



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome  
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# Discovery Day

Sunday October 8th 10am—4pm

## A Great Family Day Out

**Free Admission!**

Refreshments

Barbecue—Homemade Cake—Beverages



The Maids of Clifton  
Clog Dancing



Mistress of Ceremonies  
Suzie Sparkles

**Dirty Duck Race**

The silliest duck race ever



Wobbly Bodge



Wildlife Stands

Canal & River Trust  
Chief Executive



Richard Parry  
to open the event



Family Activities

**Canoeing**

**Live Music**

[Find us at](#)

The Carpenter's Shop Canal Depot, Duck Lane, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, Nr. Grantham.  
NG32 1NY

With grateful thanks to the Belvoir Estate and licencees Jean-Francois & Lynne of the  
Dirty Duck for permission to use their car park and facilities

More information visit - [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

## 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)



**BOAT TRIP**  
**SUNDAY SEPT 24th**

10-00 - 4.00pm  
Adults £3, Children £2

NG32 1NY



**We look forward to welcoming many of you on Discovery Day!**  
**This is a great opportunity to show your appreciation to our volunteers who work throughout the year, in restoring this important part of our heritage.**

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>