

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

What an excellent event Discovery Day 2017 was had last Sunday. It continued the standard reached by its predecessors thanks to a large number of people helping. It may be embarrassing to put them in any specific order but here goes!



The organising committee; the teams of volunteers that not only prepared the site but also cleared it afterwards; the volunteers on the day who did everything from erecting signs to cleaning toilets and directing traffic; the army of cake bakers, cooks and barbecue stokers; the boat crews and their booking staff; the volunteers from other societies and groups who brought the event to life with stalls, birds, bats, music, dancing and song; our very attractive announcer; Belvoir Castle for the use of parts of their site; finally the public who came and gave their support through their purchases. Everyone made it happen!

The Day was officially opened by 'our landlord' Richard Parry, Chief Executive of the Canal & River

Trust and the Society was able to surprise him by presenting him with a cheque for £20,000.



I bet he wishes he could open a show every day if this represents his earnings! Well it is not quite his as the Society is committed to raise £100k over five years towards matched funding of the Heritage Lottery Grant.

Sainsbury's

We were delighted that, as a result of being Sainsbury's 'Charity of the Year', the customers of Sainsbury's Grantham store raised a very significant sum and Carol from the store was able to present the Society with a cheque of £9,410 towards the restoration costs of Locks 15 & 14.



After the accounting had been completed the event raised a superb £2360.50 which will help to maintain and restore the canal. The whole event demonstrated the high level of team-work that extends throughout the Society. Well done and a big **"Thank You"** to all involved!



*Mike Stone.*

Our thanks to Janet Richardson of Towpath Talk for letting us use these photos.



**"The workers enjoyed their sponsored transport"**  
28th May 2007

See Peter Stone's article on pages 6 & 7

**The Inland Waterways Association**

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

**John Rawlinson, A1 Steam Trust.**

We haven't been told what John will talk about, it might be Tornado's recent 100mph run, it might be about the half built P2 class 'Prince of Wales'. It will probably be about both these things and more!



# The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



The GCS volunteer work party have just installed coping stones on the upper nearside approach wall.



The completed lower mooring wall. Just some back filling needed then all that's required are the mooring bollards and the towpath reinstated.

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

## 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

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2.30 | Talk: Bottesford Friendship Group          |
| Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30  | Talk: Hough on the Hill History Society    |
| Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2.00  | Talk: Ascension Ladies Fellowship          |
| Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2.00   | Talk: East Leake Local History Society     |
| Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov        | Talk: Springwells Heritage Group, Horbling |

Some of you will better know Jean-Francois Pozzetto as J-F, landlord at the "Dirty Duck" at Woolsthorpe and a great supporter of the GCS and its efforts. He would like to put up a display of photographs of the pub and its environs (including the canal) and has asked if anyone in the society has old photographs, line drawings or paintings that he could make use of in that display.

If you have please let me know - if digitised please send to me; if you have un-digitised images also let me know at [david.lyneham-brown@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.lyneham-brown@ntlworld.com) so we can collect, or take them to the Dirty Duck yourself and hand them to JF. Ring 01476 870111 to check that J-F will be there before you go - he will be pleased to see you.

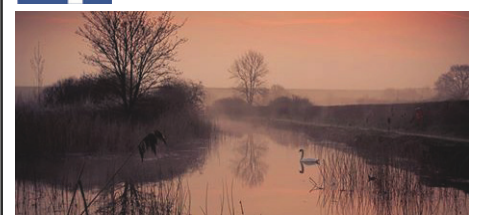
DL-B



Courtesy Ann Moulcher



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

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



# DISCOVERY DAY 2017





## THE WAY IT WAS

Sometime around 1990 British Waterway's had a complete change of management, out went the area engineers and in came regional and local managers. I have said many times previously that we were not allowed to do any engineering work but this change of structure altered the ball game. Within a short time they offered us the chance to clear lock 18 so that a full inspection could be made with regard to its restoration. Of course we were over the moon after nearly twenty years of waiting. However, I realised the size of the job and that assistance would be required, taking into account my health problems. So up came Ian Wakefield and Colin Bryan to share the roll of work party leader.

Lock 18 being the last in the flight is at Woolsthorpe and like most of the Grantham's derelict locks had no gates and a concrete weir to keep the pound above up to level. The wooden quoins were missing, the letterbox water slots were bricked up and several coping stones were missing. There was also some structural damage and the off side chamber wall had been rebuilt by the GNR who once owned it, but this was still leaning inwards, but more on this later. Our first job was to try to empty the chamber of water so that all other debris could be removed then BW would inspect the site to give an audit to what rebuilding would be required.

Our first attempt was to bypass the lock with large plastic pipes, these would run from level boards in slots on the concrete weir, through the lock chamber and following pound, to a board across the culvert pipes running through the railway embankment, the

same had then not been removed and the builders had put stop plank slots in the entrance. Because of the relatively short pound we thought this would be the easiest option.

We purchased many 4m x 150mm lengths of pipe some with collars and others plain, these simply pushed together with a neoprene ring inside the collar to seal it, several elbows, bends and blank plugs. Two boards were cut to fit the top weir slots and two 150mm holes drilled through them and a suitable length of timber to span the stop plank grooves in the embankment, this to stop water flowing back from the pound below. Well the idea looked good in theory. We also had difficulty pushing one pipe into the next until liquid soap was tried.

The first section of pipes went well, following the angle of the weir and top sill, then straight sections along the bottom of the lock right up to the embankment. But working from the chamber and bank side, the assembly of pipes became very heavy and although supported with ropes tended to keep breaking apart. Eventually we succeeded with one complete run and packed up for the day with the intention of completing the second the next day. Unfortunately on arrival the following day we found the pipes had split part way down the run so these had to be rejoined best way we could. This procedure happened many times until Francis Bailey came up with joining straps locked together either side of the collar, this solved the problem for a while until new ideas came to mind.

*to be continued .....*

Mike Atherley

## To All Society Members

Earlier this year we asked you to complete an online survey that would provide us with some baseline information to help the Heritage Lottery Fund assess the effectiveness of the volunteer programme involved with our Lock 14/15 project.

The key information that we have collected so far includes:

- 53 members responded who had a combined involvement of 329 years with the Grantham Canal Society
- 13 members (25% responses) heard about the Grantham Canal Society through word of mouth or talking to a friend, highlighting the importance of the existing membership in recruitment of new members
- The other key activities that were responsible for the recruitment of members included finding out about the Society through online sources (10 responses), discovering activity on the canal (7 responses) and stalls at shows/local supermarket (7 responses)
- A desire to learn about and help look after heritage is the main motivation for becoming involved with the Grantham Canal Society along with a wish to become more involved in the local community. Social interaction is a secondary motivation
- When asked about suggested improvements, there were many nice comments about the work of the Society along with some suggestions to improve co-ordination and communication with volunteers that we are looking to address
- Other improvements included suggestions to think about activity at the western end of the canal to cut down on travel for those members living nearer Nottingham

Many thanks to those of you who took time to respond. As part of the final evaluation of the Lock Restoration Project we will be conducting a similar questionnaire in 2020 when the full survey results will be made available.

David Lyneham-Brown



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)



## YOUR HELP PLEASE

We have established a programme of development work for the Woolsthorpe Depot and its facilities. Besides building a landing stage between locks 17 and 18 for the "Three Shires" and creating a disabled toilet facility in the depot we have added two more items which you "Bridge" readers may be able to help us progress.

Firstly, we want to install a wood-burning stove in the depot so that we can use it year round without racking up large electricity bills.

We are not short of fuel, what we need is a stove and chimney. If anyone knows of a good condition stove/ chimney going cheap (ideally free) or anywhere we can buy good secondhand kit please let me know.



The same applies to a fuel storage facility. With "Three Shires" getting busier and our workboats, dredger and weed boat working hard we need to install a fuel storage facility at the depot.



Any of you know the fuel distribution and storage industry?

Know anyone with a

redundant oil storage tank? Any ideas?

Again, contact David on 07970 858458 or email [david.lyneham-brown@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.lyneham-brown@ntlworld.com)

## HEDGEHOG WELFARE

We are getting really busy with hedgehogs at the moment. We have so many really small ones still coming in and a lot of really cold hedgehogs who are between 250g-300g.



Both small and large ones are coming in dehydrated. You can help by putting out a plant pot saucer of water at ground level and making sure that it has water in it before you go to bed. Plus if possible some dried chicken based kitten biscuits scattered on the ground. Please remember not to feed dried meal worms to hedgehogs.

Janet Peto  
Hedgehog Welfare



These stunning photographs of a Heron and Hawk, both in action on the Ashby Canal. They were taken by Orest Mulka of "Spout", the Ashby Canal publication.

## Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal

by James Faulconbridge

### October - Fungi

Autumn sees the peak season for an often unnoticed and under-appreciated group – the fungi. October 8<sup>th</sup> was National Fungi Day celebrating these organisms which stand in a kingdom of their own, alongside plants and animals.

The canal offers great opportunities to spot these. Puffballs balloon amongst the grass in the pasture fields beside the canal as it wends its way through the Vale, whilst the damp willow woodland at the edges, especially where the fallen wood is left to stand, can be excellent habitat for saprophytes. There are three key ecological approaches of different fungi species.

Mycorrhizal fungi tap into the root system of plants where they have a symbiotic relationship. The fungi provides a system of hyphae far beyond the reach of the roots, and gain vital nutrients from the plant in return. The 'mushrooms' are just the tip of the iceberg – the fruiting bodies of these extensive organisms. Puffball is an example of this group, along with other common species such as fly agaric.

Saprophytic fungi grow on dead and decaying matter, taking nutrients from the materials and breaking the source down in the process. Look for these on dead fallen wood – the dead moll's fingers shown below are an example of this group on a fallen willow near Denton.

A third category is the parasitic group of which honey fungus might be the most familiar example of this species





## **'Grantham under Water',**

**By Peter Stone**

**May 2007**

Friends have been striving for the restoration of the Grantham Canal for over 50 years and it's important to recognise their efforts and achievements during that time. This year, a large and healthy GCS – with the help of the HLF, CRT, WRG and many others – is achieving spectacular things, especially on the Woolsthorpe Flight – but it's rarely been this good. In most years, it's seemed a case of a very small team of dedicated volunteers almost literally 'pushing water uphill'!

In April's 'Bridge', I featured a successful Winter 'scrub bashing' weekend, held in Harlaxton Cutting in February 2006 and featuring volunteers from the GCS and the 'Bit in the Middle' team from the WRG. This showed something of the challenge facing 'the restorers' – even on one of the best stretches of the Canal.

In May's 'Bridge', I showed the situation a year later when, thanks especially to a Derelict Land Grant secured from EMDA – the then East Midlands Development Agency – the section between the A1 and Denton Winding Hole was buzzing with the tugs and pans of Land & Water, professionally dredging the Cutting.

**In 2006, banking on a successful EMDA bid and other improvements, the Grantham Canal Partnership and Society were bold enough to apply to host the Inland Waterways Association's National Trailboat Festival over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend 2007 – and were successful.**

It had been ten years since the Grantham had last hosted the event and, in many respects, the tiny GCS team was 'out of practice' but, on the other hand, the Canal needed the publicity and added momentum that a Festival should bring. The ever-resourceful John Brydon chaired the Festival committee and one of

the first decisions it made was to re-name the event. We were wanting to attract a wider and younger audience than the average trailboat owner and we opted for the punchier title of '**Grantham on Water**'. However, for reasons that will become apparent, its final, unofficial title was '**Grantham under Water**'!

Our resources were small, stretched and made worse by the fact that we were forbidden to charge admission – because we were deemed to be 'blocking' a public Right of Way! We therefore faced all the expense of the event with only minimal income. Nonetheless, we achieved great things, including:

- Attracting some two dozen Trailboats – short narrowboats suitable for towing by a 4x4 – from all over the country. Some of these were moored above Lock 18 but others stretched all the way to Lock 15 and made a very colourful sight.



- Receiving and despatching them all through a smartened-up Denton slipway.



- Erecting temporary landing stages at the A1 end and above Lock 18.

- Schools' visits – to learn about canals and how locks work –



- - and for introductions to angling from local fishermen.



- A field-full of marquees containing craft and trade stands, excellent local food and displays by fellow charities.



- A miniature railway ... and demonstrations by the Grantham-based Royal Logistics Corps.
- A 'Park & Ride' bus service of ex-London Transport 'Routemasters', from a car park below Belvoir Castle.



- Boat trips between Lock 18 and Denton - and occasionally the A1



- Morris Dancers at the 'Dirty Duck'



- And much, much more -

The Committee was particularly keen to raise awareness of the Grantham Canal within the East Midlands and to 'let the local population see what it was missing' by not having a restored waterway and 'boats for all'.



This was much the same objective as has since been adopted by the present day GCS – but we had no 'Three Shires' in 2007. We therefore had to look elsewhere for people who could lend or hire us a trip boat capability – not easy at a Spring Bank Holiday. The end result and our means of encouraging as many visitors as possible to sample the Vale of Belvoir by boat, was in 3 parts:

- members of the Bridge 19-40 Union Canal Society towed their small craft 'Roseann' all the way from Central Scotland and it buzzed around like a dragon-fly!



- the bulk of our carrying capacity was achieved by hiring a trip-boat from Blisworth Tunnel Boats



- a contrasting experience was achieved with a modern electrically-powered GRP trip-boat, more used to life as a Spalding Water Taxi, carrying visitors to the bulb fields.

And what was the result of all this effort? In short and helped by some excellent media coverage, a very respectable Trailboat Festival package, that successfully raised the profile of the Canal, nationally, regionally and locally. Saturday's activities went well and [as I recall, a decade later] we had in excess of 3,000 visitors.



Unfortunately, by Saturday night, the rain began to fall and this was no ordinary rain but a veritable MONSOON – which didn't abate for the rest of the weekend! Visitor numbers fell on the Sunday and, by Monday, the only silver lining that could be seen came from the handful of visitors who arrived at Woolsthorpe from other local events which had been called-off! Nevertheless, my recollection is that we ended up with c.4,000 visitors across the weekend and, very importantly, had tempted some 800 visitors (including school-children) to experience a boat trip on the Grantham Canal.





## RANGERS REPORT

The Rangers team cover 16 sections of canal between the River Trent and Grantham including Denton Reservoir.

We currently have 20 Rangers including 5 new recruits in September : Norma Varley, Charmian Bullen, Anne McMeekin, Jeff Lowe and Tony Saward. Welcome to you all.

Between January 1st and September 30th this year the Rangers have made approx 120 visits and spent approx 400 hours on the towpath.

Sections range in length from 0.5 miles (A1 to Bridge 69, Earlsfield Bridge) to 3.5 miles ( Bridge 30 to Bridge 39, Hickling Bridge to Hose Bridge) with the A1 to Earlsfield Bridge section the only one without a Ranger.

We are still looking to recruit more Rangers to help spread the word about what goes on within the Society and keep the towpath litter free.

If you are interested contact me [c.j.cobb@msn.com](mailto:c.j.cobb@msn.com) for more information.

Chris Cobb  
Head Ranger



## 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!**

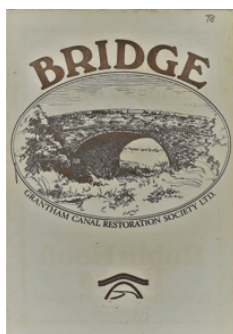
## Early editions of Bridge

We have been given some copies of early editions of Bridge by Ken Brockway of Redmile Archive.

They range from 1978 to 1987 and

edited by Mel Crosby and Tim McDermott.

I will be scanning some copies and publishing sections in future editions.



Ed

## 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)

## 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

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

Sainsburys of Grantham,  
Judith Poore, TM Shaw,  
Mr Pownall, R.Gibson,  
Natalie Green, Nigel Lee.

Mr/Mrs Warrington,  
Mrs Snowden, Mr/Mrs  
Smart,  
Mr/Mrs Humby Jones.



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