

BRIDGE



Hickling

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

A New Year with new challenges, new resolutions, new projects ... and a new *Bridge!* No! Not one over the canal but an innovation from our honorary editor! It is now in A5 format which I am told it makes it easier for you to print. I suspect like many advertising slogans stating "New formulation" the product may look the same as before but will it taste the same? I leave you to judge.

If you haven't seen it recently or viewed the video that was on Facebook you may not recognise the Lock 15 site. It appears to be very tidy and just awaiting the installation of two sets of gates. You may well think the task is done! No such luck! As I write there are still two dams to remove but the lower one should have gone by the time you read this, a lock landing to construct, the site to be landscaped and, I nearly forgot, the canal to be dredged so that craft can access the lock. So if you are able to spare a day per week to join one of the regular volunteer teams that would be appreciated.

We hope to gain access to Lock 14 worksite soon and then deliver the same quality of workmanship (workpersonship doesn't sound right) by clearing the site and reconstructing a lock just as we did at Lock 15. Now that everybody knows what to do and how to do it we hope to deliver a new lock in less time than we took at Lock 15.

Readers may not understand that much of our volunteer work has to take place during the winter months as many tasks cannot be undertaken during the bird nesting season (March to September). So please, if you can volunteer to help on the canal in the fresh air, don't wait until Easter before contacting

us; do it now and revel in the satisfaction that you will get from helping to keep the canal navigable!

The Society has benefitted from media attention since Christmas. Tony Kirkland and David L-B have appeared on BBC East Midlands today at Lock 15; I could be heard on BBC Radio Lincolnshire talking about the GCS and the enjoyment of boating holidays. I also provided some details of the Society's work to Lincs FM. Tracey at the Grantham Journal is planning a number of articles – and hopes to get onto one of our work-boats. These initiatives by their various editors show that the work of the Society is considered to be of interest to their viewers and readers. We thank them for their support and interest in our projects.

I know the trip-boat team would like more help, particularly in advertising our 2018 charter cruises. If you are able to distribute leaflets, etc. please contact John Trigg via our website www.granthamcanal.org.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable 2018.

Mike Stone.



**INLAND
WATERWAYS
ASSOCIATION**

**Meetings are held at 7.45 pm at Rushcliffe
Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2-7HY, about 15 minutes from
M1 Junction 24 up the A453**

Friday, January 19th 2018

"The Bennerley Viaduct – Iron Giant of the Erewash Valley" – an illustrated talk by Kieran Lee of Friends of Bennerley Viaduct.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date & Time	Event & Venue
Mon 8 th Jan 7.30	Rangers Meeting, The Plough, Stathern
Mon 15 th Jan 7.00	Events Team planning meeting, Urban Hotel,
Thurs 16 th Jan 2.00	Talk: Grantham U3A Guildhall,
Thurs 25 th Jan 8.00	Talk: Leicester Taverners Motor Cycle Club, Ratby SC
Fri 26 th Jan 1.20	Education Explorers School visit
Sat 17 th Feb 10.00 – 4.00	Grantham Museum 'Do Something New'
Thurs 1 st Mar 2.30	GCS Info Social – details to follow(
Mon 12 th Mar 7.30	Rangers Meeting, The Plough, Stathern
Mon 12 th Mar 8.00	Talk: Belvoir Vale & Soc Club, Radcliffe on Trent Br. Legion
Wed 14 th Mar 7.30	Talk: Ruddington Contact Group
Sun & Mon 1 – 2 nd Apr	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help needed
Mon 30 th Apr 7.30	Talk: Corby Glen Horticultural Soc, Ron Dawson Memorial Hall
Wed 2 nd May 8.00	Talk: Keyworth 8 o'clock Group, Parochial Ch Hall, Selby Lane
Sun & Mon 6 – 7 th May	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help needed
Wed 9 th May	Tollerton Parish Meeting – details to follow
Mon 14 th May 7.30	Rangers Meeting, Depot
Sun & Mon 27 th – 28 th May	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help needed
Sat & Sun 16 th – 17 th June	Grantham Carnival
Sat & Sun 30 th June & 1 st July	Lady Bay Open Gardens Weekend – details to follow
Sun 1 st July	Dysart Park Family Fun Day, Grantham
Mon 9 th July 7.30	Rangers Meeting, Depot
Fri 17 th – Sun 19 th Aug	WRG Family Weekend at Woolsthorpe

Community and Education Update

January 2018

Happy New Year. My resolution ought to be to try and be more organised. I keep trying. The diary is filling up, but dates for a lot of events have not filtered through yet. If you know of anything going on in the canal corridor where we can set up the information stand, please pass contact details on.

Events: If you would like to help, we will be having regular planning meetings leading up to Discovery Day on October 14th and holding another training day before the summer season gets underway, covering setting up, talking to the public, risk assessments, etc. In 2017 by expanding the team, we managed to be in 3 places at once one weekend in September. Come along to one of the meetings or events listed on the diary, such as the 'Do Something New' event at Grantham Museum on Saturday 17th February.

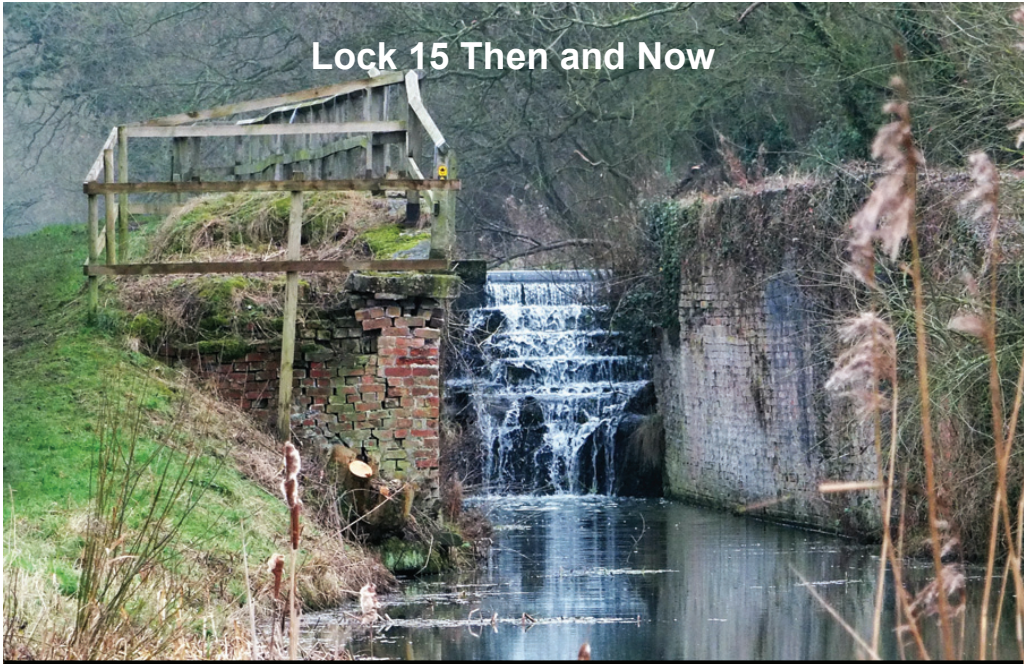
Education: Grantham Canal Learning Team are working in partnership with the Canal and River Trust Education Explorers on the Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative Project, which isn't just about the lock restorations. CRT have advertised water safety activities in schools in the Grantham area. This month, two of us will have a chance to shadow CRT Education Coordinator delivering these activities. We have a new candidate for training; more are welcome. We need to find opportunities to spread the word in schools and community groups, such as cubs, brownies, etc. along the canal corridor. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please get in touch with contact details. I am working on a revised leaflet to go into schools and community groups, but personal contact always works better than block mailings.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Rosemary
communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or
 07971173069

THE GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Lock 15 Then and Now



Many thanks to John Clark for the photos

FURTHER PROGRESS AT LOCK 15

**BREAKING
NEWS!**



Stop planks in place + one of the volunteer teams



The lower dam is being removed and the water is back to the entrance of the lock chamber. The stop boards we put in on 8th January as pictured above. They had ... errr....a bit of a leak, but it appears to be under control. *John*

SPREAD THE WORD

Join Us, in the **Grantham Canal Society**, to restore one of Britain's most beautiful canals to its full use and beauty, to take its place as a gem of Britain's waterways heritage. By the end of the decade £10 million worth of restoration and maintainance work will have been completed, virtually all by volunteers – ***why don't you join us?***

Look at our website www.granthamcanal.org to learn all about us. Read about lock rebuilding, dredging and reed clearance, how we work with the wider community and a raft of other things.

Our newsletter is emailed monthly and all can receive it. Email bridge@granthamcanal.org and enter Request Bridge in the subject line. Why not become a member? **Contact our Membership Secretary for details, email: membership@granthamcanal.org**

The canal bridges the three counties of Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Hence the Thee Shires Project. **Join us**, create a legacy for our region, restore the canal from Grantham Basin to the River Trent. **Come on, we can do it!**

THE WAY IT WAS

It quickly became obvious that with four projects running, our own team could not complete all the works in the allotted time frame. So it was decided to ask Waterways Recovery Group, several other Canal Societies, an international group from different countries, Trainline of Grantham and British Waterways for physical help and use of plant and equipment. Trainline were to take on the rebuild of locks 17 and 16, under the supervision of B.W. When B.W. realised we had been awarded the Derelict Land Grant they insisted that we employ their Project Officer, John Nuthall to oversee and coordinate all of the works. John was already working on the Chesterfield Narrow Canal up to Norwood Tunnel so he up to speed on canal restoration projects.

We have covered the removal of the railway embankment and rebuild of Casthorpe Bridle Bridge in past stories, the locks 17 and 16 we will deal with in a future edition so back to lock 18 to its completion. All the teams mentioned above were at sometime or other involved on lock 18 and BW had some surplus foremen skilled in lock rebuilds so one team started to demolish the offbank bottom gate corner that was badly cracked, this was taken down to footings depth and it revealed a tree was growing through and luckily had split it away from the chamber wall. The bricks were cleaned and reused where possible, also the gate recess was found to be hollow behind the GNR blue bricks so this was dismantled and rebuilt. The towpath side chamber wall just needed patching to replace several failed or missing bricks. We used the large bullnose bricks from the offbank wall to top off the approach wing walls after they were rebuilt. Martin Day was in his highlights demolishing the large concrete weir, John Baylis had loaned us an Hydrovane compressor, we acquired breakers, pipe and tools so after a few repairs that was ready to go. The old ground paddles were still in place behind the concrete. BW gave us some steel gate quoins which were found after fitting at the top end, to be distorted and useless, this is why they were unused so replacements were to be refitted. BW also insisted that the stop plank grooves at both ends had to be increased in

size and a steel U section built into the wing walls.

John Nuthall found us some old lock gates from the Chesterfield wide canal and the Grand Union at Kilby so after an inspection these were collected by Fred Marsh on his flatbed lorry and delivered to the old carpenters shop worksite at Woolsthorpe . This was the first time for many decades that this site would be reused for its original purpose. B.W. loaned us Barry, a skilled carpenter to take apart and rebuild the gates for 18 but unfortunately Barry succumbed a terminal illness after the two top gates had been remade so we will never know whether there was enough usable timber to complete a bottom set. Fortunately B.W. stumped up for a new set to get the job finished on time. Gary Connerly did a sterling job finding used paddle gear, balance beams and safety rails, he also cut to size the stop plank grooves after they were fitted.

I mentioned before that the coping stones on the offbank wall were many different types so new were required. Garry C made a steel mould about 3ft x 18ins x 1ft tall that could be placed over the top coarse of bricks and Fred M, font of all knowledge, knew Barnstone Cement Works could provide a coloured cement to match the old limestone originals. This mix was used on the front, part sides and top with the centre normal concrete. We had to protect it overnight until it was dry and could be dismantled for the next stone. B.W. provided lock ladders, bollards and flagstones so we could rebuild the balance beam walkways, they also fitted the gates. They had also decided to install side bywashes, more on those later.

The site was landscaped, clay dams removed and tested for leaks etc. just in time for the 1994 Trailboat Rally with people from the above teams all taking part at sometime or other. I forgot to mention John Mulsher who had allowed us to construct a large store and work area in his field behind the lock. Towards the end of the job, vandals set alight our trail able horse box and many items bought and given to us over the years were destroyed, fortunately our insurance co. replaced the loss.

Mike Atherley.



#Trending



We haven't exactly gone viral with any of our Facebook posts or tweets yet.

Facebook posts usually receive between 200 and 1,000 views – but now and again, something really catches the imagination. This happened to our 'most evocative inland waterways picture ever' post, with almost 6,000 people viewing it!

Our Twitter followers have been a little more reserved since our last copy of Bridge, but they did enjoy the picture of Muston Bridge being rebuilt in 1988, which had almost 2,000 viewers. This is a fascinating picture and an example of the appliance of science in bridge building – not a precast concrete beam in sight! The picture shows the 'business' element of the bridge still intact and being allowed another lease of life.

Picture: Bottesford Living History website.

I wonder if this restoration were to be carried out today, with more emphasis on retaining as much of the original as possible, whether this bridge would have been dismantled to such an extent?

A reminder to our canal rangers, workparties, event teams, boat crews and managers – our social media is only as good as its content – people are so interested in what we're doing – so please send in your snippets of news and activity: anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com

Tony



Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



January – long-tailed tits

A walk down the towpath in January is likely to be accompanied by the flutter of wings and warning calls as birds forage in the path-side hedgerows. One of the smallest species in the UK is likely to be among them, but far from being discreet they make their presence disproportionately known as they forage.

Long tailed tits, weighing just 9g, are highly social birds – they move through the landscape in flocks of closely related individuals, maintaining a shrill 'si-si-si' call-and-response as individuals keep in touch. Their aim, at this time of year especially, is to forage for enough high-value food to keep their tiny bodies warm enough to survive. They seek invertebrate prey by preference, capitalising on their low weight to pick food such as moth eggs as well as other invertebrates from the higher reaches of twigs and leaves which their heavier counterparts are unable to reach.

At night, the flock remains together, nestling down in a shrub or tree to form a dense ball with just their tails sticking out. As spring marches on, they will be building their tiny nests out of moss, lichen and spiders webs, lined with feathers. Interestingly, they are also social at nesting time – they will try to pair up and nest on their own but if unsuccessful, they will help at the nest of a close relative.

Listen out as you walk this winter – the distinctive call will alert you to the presence of these charming little 'flying teaspoons'!

CROPWELL CLEAN-UP



A joint effort with **Grantham Canal Society (GCS)** and **Waterway Recovery Group (WRG BitM)** to clear a section of Grantham Canal bed at Cropwell Town Bridge.

Unfortunately the weather forecast for the second day indicated heavy snow and although Cropwell only received a light covering, other parts of the country had bigger problems. Some of our guests were many miles from home, (the cook came from Kent!), so the Sunday workparty was abandoned.

The work will be continued at a later date. My thanks to our Guests and the one volunteer from the Village who joined us.

Ian didn't manage to thank the local volunteer but if he or anyone else is interested in 'looking after' this bit of the canal then please get in touch with ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org



Canal Rangers Required



Earlesfield Section in Grantham

Whilst we have rangers who keep a watchful eye on the 32 miles of canal from its Junction with the River Trent to the A1 at Grantham, we don't at present have rangers on the South Kesteven District Council owned section in Grantham.

This part of the canal runs through a housing estate, and is popular with families who can often be seen feeding the ducks and swans. It has wide expanses of grassland adjoining the canal with seats along its length of around half a mile.

It has to be said, it has the appearance of being a little unloved in places. This is where rangers can help. Rangers on this section will benefit from the support of our existing rangers network – training, meetings, updates etc. They will have a reporting system in place to notify SKDC of any issues outside of their remit.

We envisage a small team of 2, 3 or 4 maybe. Perhaps with a degree of self determination, identifying issues which they feel need attention – then carrying these out. Nothing too major – it might be to weed and tidy around the benches for example.

Litterpicking is an important part of the role, equipment will be provided. Hopefully, this will intercept litter before it reaches the waterway.

Rangers are not expected to recover items from the canal. This can be organised to be done by liaising with SKDC.

In time, rangers might like to help us form links with local schools and youth groups – to be followed up by our Learning and Explorers Teams – which could also benefit from additional volunteers.

It is a volunteer role; hours are flexible and can be fitted in around other commitments.

If you would like to find out more, email me in the first instance:

anthonykjackson@btopenworld.com or

telephone: 01476 567477

Recognising the Work of the Volunteers

Shortly before Christmas an envelope arrived which contained a very welcome surprise - a cheque for £1000. Also a brief note but no identity of the sender. The handwritten note said "in support of all your efforts" and the cheque was made out to the Grantham Canal Society. The donor is not a society member and respecting their anonymity we will not attempt to contact that person via their bank but two points pertain.

Firstly, if they should perchance read this, please take our grateful thanks for your generosity. Secondly, to all our volunteers, this recognition of your efforts demonstrates that you are valued and our collective efforts appreciated. So the next time a stranger stops to watch and chat or just passes by without comment remember this event, and the generosity that your efforts can inspire.

DL-B

CHANGES TO BRIDGE FORMAT

You will notice the change that I have made to Bridge if you are reading this directly from the downloaded pdf. The difference, however, will be very noticeable if you print it out!

So if you have a duplex printer and would like to receive the version that can be printed into a booklet then please email me at bridge@granthamcanal.org

Ed

A Possible Threat

Grantham Canal – LadyBay Section

Summary

A Planning application has been lodged with Rushcliffe Borough Council (15th Nov 2017) to build a Large Apartment Block, with parking; only a few feet from the canal and towpath, near Footbridge 3a at Lady Bay. The canal section is a particularly fine picturesque example of the 18th century canal and is a haven for wildlife and fishermen.



Substance

Recently Verity Butler who organises - 'The Friends of Lady Bay' held a work party day, which I attended. Several members drew my attention to the fact that a stretch of canal hedge including mature trees had been destroyed. Approximately 70 mtrs had been cleared some alongside a dilapidated bungalow, adjacent to the towpath with a 3ft foot gap. At a subsequent visit the hedge line had been replaced with metal bars and safety tape. GCS, C&RT and Notts. Wildlife Trust are aware and presumably are investigating. The architect CAD picture of the block shows the building line following the boundary line of the original CRT hedge. A protest against the application is in progress. As at 8th Jan RBC planning site shows " pending".

I understand the GCS position is that " The Society is not in favour of intrusive development

that will Prejudice; amenity, access, wildlife or it's habitat, as well as the integrity of the canal structure. sec. David Lyneham-Brown.



For more details, letters, etc. visit the RBC site below

References

Nottingham Evening Post 17th Nov

Planning Ref: 17/02658/FUL

<https://planningon-line.rushcliffe.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Planning Officer ...Helen White Tel 0115- 9819911

Property 21 Kendal Court West Bridgford in Abbey Ward

Tony Pitman

Ceilidh (Barn Dance) at Kinoulton Village Hall

on the

20th January 2018

8pm - 11.30pm.

**Organised by Anne Earl in aid of
the RNLI and Grantham Canal.**

Tickets £10. includes supper.

Bring your own drinks.

Tickets go quickly
contact Anne on anneearl@live.co.uk

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!**

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

Claire Barrat, Nigel Lee,
Miss Dunsmore, Mrs Snowden,
Mr J Kitchen, Mr Bullock,
Dr Bannister, R.L.Leadley,
Gordon Wallis, Mary Noble and
Teresa Phillipson

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



**WEEKDAYS AT LOCK 15
Or**



**FRIDAYS & 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