## MARCH







"Daffodils in Spring" - photographed near Bridge 62 by Tony Jackson







2018

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

Somewhere the seasons appear to have got muddled! Snow sweeps in on a very cold air from Siberia in March (spring?) but by the end of January (winter?) the spring flowers were already showing buds. I guess, like me, they will now hold back until the warmer weather arrives! Outside construction work in this weather is not easy so it can be a time to consider other, more attractive, tasks. The Three Shires team would like help in advertising our charter and short trip cruises. If you could put a leaflet on a notice board have a chat with the proprietor of a shop: persuade a pub landlord to stock some leaflets: encourage a school to tell parents and children you would be spreading the word far wider than we usually do. Please don't leave all the advertising to the guy who knows how face book and twitter work: not everyone has access to them.

Disappointingly we are still awaiting permission from the Castle to construct an access route to Lock 14 but there are other projects which would benefit from preparation work. These include installation of accessible toilet facilities at the depot; site investigation for the restoration of the depot slipway; maintenance of our plant and craft.

You, dear readers, have responded really well to my appeal for more members and our numbers are already showing an increase; thank you and please can more of you join those who have already shown their support. Easter arrives soon and with it your opportunity to visit Woolsthorpe, have a short cruise on the canal, see the completed Lock 15 and enjoy an afternoon tea at the Depot. We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday or Monday.

Below are two momentous photos taken when the upper dam was completely removed enabling this section of the canal to be reborn!

Mike Stone.



Looking upstream from lock 15 with dam now removed



Looking towards lock 15 with new piling in place



#### 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, March 16th 2018

"Getting About" - a history of the transport of people and goods from place to place, an illustrated talk by Bob Massey.

### **NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY**

	NUIES FUR
Date & Time	<u>Event &amp; Venue</u>
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00	Events Training Day – Woolsthorpe
& 1.00	Depot
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00-	Coffee Morning – Vale Market Café,
12.00	Barnstone Village Hall
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7.30	Rangers Meeting, The Plough, Stathern
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar 8.00	Talk: Belvoir Vale & Soc Club, Radcliffe
	on Trent British Legion
Wed 14th Mar 7.30	Talk: Ruddington Contact Group
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Talk: Grantham Museum
10.30 – 11.30	
Sat 17th Mar 11.00-	Bugs, Bats & Beasties, Wyndham Park,
4.00	Grantham
Thurs 29th Mar	Education Explorers Meeting, The Kiln,
10.00	Newark
Sun & Mon 1 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help
Apr	needed
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7.00	Events Team Meeting, Woolsthorpe
	Depot
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr 6.00	Cropwell Bishop Cubs, Woolsthorpe
	Depot
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2.30	GCS Info Social with Ruth Garratt
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7,30	Talk: Corby Glen Horticultural Soc, Ron
	Dawson Memorial Hall
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 8.00	Talk: Keyworth 8 o'clock Group,
0	Parochial Ch Hall, Selby Lane
Sun & Mon 6 – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help
May	needed
Wed 9th May	Talk: Tollerton Parish Meeting
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30 Sun & Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> –	Rangers Meeting, Depot
28th May	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help needed
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Grantham Steam and Country Show,
June	Stainby
Sat & Sun 16th -	Grantham Carnival
17th June	Grantinam Garnivar
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Barnstone Festival Family Fun Day
Sun 24th June	Summer Sunday Boat Trips
10.00-4.00	Cuminer Cunday Doat mps
Sat 30th June	East Bridgford Village Show
11.00 - 5.00	Last Bridgiora Village onow
Sat & Sun 30th	Lady Bay Open Gardens Weekend –
June & 1st July	details to follow
Sun 1st July	Dysart Park Family Fun Day, Grantham
Mon 9th July 7.30	Rangers Meeting, Depot
Sat 14th July	Radcliffe Carnival
Sat & Sun 14th &	Rempstone Steam Fair
15 <sup>th</sup> July	
15 <sup>th</sup> July Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Harlaxton Gala
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	WRG Family Weekend at Woolsthorpe
Aug	- help needed
Sat 28th July	Harlaxton Gala
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2.00	Talk: Colsterworth WI
Sun & Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> –	Bank Holiday Boat Trips – lots of help
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	needed
Sat 8th Sept 10.00	Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days
-4.00	'Picture the Past', short boat trips, etc.
Sun 14th Oct	Discovery Day 2018
10.00-4.00	Discovery Day 2010
10.00-4.00	

#### Community and Education Update March 2018

**Events:** 'Do Something New' event at Grantham Museum on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February saw the Canal Stand being visited by over 100 people and some useful networking.

We have a good number of people 'signed up' for the Event Training Day Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March and look forward to expanding the team and sharing out the workload.

This year's Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days in September are themed 'Picture the Past', giving us an opportunity to exhibit some of our old photos and offer an extra day of short boat trips on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>.

More events are in the diary.

**Education:** The Grantham Canal Learning Team are looking forward to receiving water safety teaching kit and other resources to interest young people and families in the canal. They are the custodians and volunteers of the future. Our updated leaflet is going out to Rangers to take into local schools and groups such as scouts, guides, etc. Further copies are also available from Rosemary.

I look forward to hearing from you.

#### Rosemary

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971 173069

## THE GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Part of the waterway is reborn!



The clay lining is first removed



The water starts to seep through





The stop planks doing their job

The sluice gets flushed

#### LOCK 14 - Kingston's Lock The nearside area has now been cleared and the lock awaits attention!





Many thanks to John Clark for all his hard work in taking the photos on this page

#### THE WAY IT WAS

With the work on Lock 18 and all the other jobs in the pipeline we began to realise that if we began the restoration of Locks 17 and 16 without a considerable amount of extra volunteers and money, the whole project would take far too long. But just in the nick of time we were advised that a Derelict Land Grant application might resolve the situation.

It took several attempts by Colin, Ian and myself before we heard our application had been successful. I can't remember how the figure was worked out to restore Locks 17 and 16 but the DLG offered us £65,000-00. The agreement being we have to equal that amount from our own resources using our own plant and equipment, any building materials we had in stock or were given and voluntary labour which they allowed us to equate at approx. £5-00 per hour per person. This formed a grand total of £130,000-00 that had to be spent on the project.

John Nuthall of B.W. was in charge and he agreed the Trainline Co. at Grantham could supply enough manpower to complete the project because there was a time limit set by DLG of approx. 12 months. There were a lot of rules and regulations you had to abide by, one being the requirement of an approved accountant to scrutinise all of the bills submitted too DLG, luckily Chris Tizzard knew someone local who agreed to do this job. It was all complicated because all purchase invoices still had to go to Jim Barker our own Treasurer for eventual payment then copies of them together with individual timesheets etc. from anyone working on the project had to sent to the accountant who submitted them to DLG. I agreed to compile and check all the time

sheets and work out the total man hours at £5-00 per hour to arrive at a final figure to be submitted once a month for the duration of the work. I think the DLG only sent a return cheque every three months so there was always delay's in keeping a balance. So to summarise, each month we had to send to DLG invoices for purchased items and a similar amount made up from time sheets, materials and loaned plant from our own stocks. All this checked by the accountant. We were also lucky that we were registered for VAT which we reclaimed off purchase invoices because DLG would not pay for the VAT content of purchases. Also the chairman's wife, Sandie Cook was incredibly good at getting building materials etc. at heavily discounted prices or for free.

As the project went on unfortunate problems arose with hidden faults found in the deterioration of Locks 17 and 16, impossible to be traced when the original survey's were carried out. This meant a team of us meeting up with the DLG at their office at Trent Bridge, Nottm. to persuade them to part with more money.

John Nuthall was pretty good at this so they agreed reluctantly and I think by the end of the job the total of their grant was almost double the original amount, making the whole cost over £200,000-00.

We had to erect a large sign board near the tail of Lock 17 with all the names of sponsors, Trainline, British Waterway's, ourselves and the Derelict Land Grant office showing the public what the grant was for. Well it all got done in time to enable us to hold the IWA Trailboat Rally in 1994. Thanks to everyone involved.

Mike Atherley

### Some readers comments

Dear Steve, Congratulations on excellent edition of "Bridge" but also to the works being achieved on the restoration of the locks by your members and am amazed at their achievements.

Sincerely ... Gerry (Gerald P)

#### Dear Steve

Congratulations on another very newsy and readable edition of 'Bridge'.

If it weren't for the thieves at Lock 15 and the frustration around Lock 14 access, it would be a 100% great read on a wet day!

I've not forgotten that I owe you something about our (heritage) boats ...

Best wishes Peter (S)

#### Hi Steve,

A belated thank you for the latest copy of Bridge, which looks much improved in its new format.

With kindest regards, Norman (W)

#### Steve,

My son, now resident in Texas, is very interested in what is being achieved with the canal and I always forward the latest copy of Bridge to him.... Regards, Peter (S)

If you wish to make a comment, suggest an improvement or would like a topic to be included in Bridge, then please let me know. Just email me at: bridge@granthamcanal.org

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



March – Hoverflies and bumblebees

After the 'beast from the east' passed through at the beginning of the month, spring seems to have been waiting just beneath the snow cover ready to pick up where it left off. With temperatures warming once more, the buzz is beginning to return to the air.

One of the first insects which is likely to catch your attention in the springtime is a queen bumblebee - larger than the summer workers and often noisy and bumbling true to their name, they are on the wing in March and April searching for somewhere to establish their nest. Different species use different locations but gaps under roots, old mouse burrows and other cavities are favourites which makes the canalside hedgerows and banks an ideal place to scout for locations. These gueens have hibernated through the winter as adults waiting for the warm weather and nectar-providing flower - willows are a favourite! Some species of hoverfly also hibernate and thus appear with the spring sunshine - the robust Eristalis species, commonly known as droneflies thanks to their mimicry of honeybees - are on the wing now.

As March progresses, you might also spot the beefly which is a furry little bumblebee mimic with a long proboscis. This mimicry is not incidental – their disguise allows them to approach and flick their eggs into the bumblebee nest entrances established by the new queens and this is where the larvae develop. Look out for them warming themselves in a sunny spot at the base of the hedgerows along the canal!



# COMPUTER TECH TIPS

We welcome Giles, a well regarded Web Designer and Technical Support Person, who has agreed to do a regular article for Bridge Ed



### Email security and safety:

The first thing to be aware of when keeping safe online and using email is to be vigilant of so called 'Phishing' emails which are email messages generated by scammers to appear to be from your bank, internet provider, the government, police or other service, if these emails contain a link to a logon page then it could be a bogus website for the purpose of harvesting your logon information.

In most cases your email anti-spam will divert these emails to your spam folder but anti-spam is not always 100% affective, sometimes it identifies legitimate messages as spam and sometimes spam messages get through and appear in your inbox rather than your spam folder.

Antivirus and Internet Security software while a good safeguard shouldn't be relied upon as it isn't always 100% affective. Vigilance is often a good defense against hacking and scammers, often they are looking to trick you into making a rash decision, that's why they employ tactics like sending messages appearing to be from an official source like the bank or the police and they often impose a time limit saying 'act now' to rush you into acting without checking properly first, for instance they often might say that your account is about to be shut down which is guite a common one. (This is also true of scam phone calls)

As a useful check **before clicking** any link within an email you can hover the mouse pointer over the link and this will show where the link will take you at the bottom left of your web browser or email software.

Scam emails are becoming more sophisticated and more difficult to spot, previously bad grammar or spelling errors were common place but it's not so much the case now. Emails are made to look the same layout and design as emails from original legitimate sources. Scammers are always looking for new ways to part you from your money, these are among the most common ways they might do it, always keep your security software and your operating system up to date & above all be vigilant and question any unsolicited email message. If you are unfortunate enough to get tricked or suspect that a logon or your email account has been compromised then please change the password for the account immediately and if it is your banking information that has been compromised then contact your bank immediately.

You can report any instances of cybercrime to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.

A good free online resource for further advice on internet security is available here:

https://www.getsafeonline.org/

#### www.jigster.com 07904 702702

## **GCS** Rangers

#### **COTGRAVE WEED CONTROL**

The Canal & River Trust have started work on Weed Control on the section of the Grantham Canal between Lock 5 and Lock 7, covering approximately 1.5km of waterway.



#### The 'Truxor' amphibious vehicle

The work carried out so far (between Lock 5 and Bridge 12 and Lock 6 and Lock 7) has been done using a Truxor amphibious vehicle which has a range of attachments & tools to allow it to deliver a number of works on the waterway - on this occasion to cut and collect weed.

The section between Bridge 12 and Lock 6 is too shallow for the Truxor to operate therefore this section will be cleared using a long reach excavator to remove the weed. Unfortunately the waste will be deposited on

the towpath side of the canal.



Before



After

We would like to organise a volunteer work day or two later in the year to remove this waste. If you would like to sign up for this please contact me.  $\underline{c j cobb@msn.com}$ 

#### NEW RANGERS



We would like to welcome 3 new Rangers to our team.

Charlotte Woolford and Richard Jackson will be looking after the Earlsfield section.

The next Rangers meeting will be held on Monday 12th March, 7.30pm at the Plough P.H, Stathern

Chris Cobb Head Ranger

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY?

THE COST IS MODEST! The annual subscription rates are as follows:

Single Adult:	.£20
Family:	.£30
Under 18/0ver 60:	£15

# The benefits to the Society are enormous.

Apart from the obvious increase in regular income, enhanced further by Gift Aid, we are then given a louder voice to "talk" to the local councils. The canal's corridor passes through more County & Borough Councils than you may think!







Rushcliffe Barough Cauncil

If you are already a member could you persuade a friend to join? You will also be encouraging those who volunteer and support the Society in various practical ways.

## **Our 3rd GCS Info-Social**

will take place on Wednesday 25th April at the Woolsthorpe Depot. Meet at the depot 14:00 for 14:30. Updates from GCS (David Lyneham-Brown), and from CRT (Karen Rice) re the lock 15 project will be followed by a Q&A session. Then we will hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final part of her presentation on the Archeology of the Canals by CRT's Ruth Garratt. This time she will be specifically talking about the artifacts and findings from the Lock 15 project.

We will arrange eats – more details in the next edition of "Bridge"

As always I want us to celebrate our progress with the GCHI project, the role and achievements of GCS volunteers and how we have moved forward as a team. Also, what we can improve and do better. So if you are part of the lock 15 squad, involved with the Three Shires, canal track maintainers, rangers, social and community eventers, Bridge editor, Discovery Dayers etc you are all welcome. Several of the society officers will be present so you can question them on issues of your particular interest.

BUT please let us know if you are coming. Email 'YES' to Rosemary Gibson on <u>rhumaere@aol.com</u>

DL-B

### **WORK ON THE CUT**



Lock 15 towpath is now closed again!



This is why we do it. Lots of fun! With Jez and Keith and one of the American students from Harlaxton.



Time for a photo shoot!



Cable sheathing dumped in the canal from Harlaxton Bridge.



Tony and Rod setting the final level of the sheet piles that will form the edge the upper landing stage of lock 15.



A boater's eye view looking upstream from lock 15

Many thanks to Ian Wakefield for these photos



## 'How can we enhance your learning experiences?'

The Learning Team Aims

To promote interest and a sense of community and ownership of the Grantham Canal

We can offer activities to schools and community groups such as scouts and guides along the canal corridor tailored to individual curriculum and activity plans in the following areas:

**Science** – e.g. local habitats, canal mini-beasts

**Technology** – e.g. how bridges were constructed

History and Local Geography – why and where the canal was dug, and what working life was like

Water safety – in partnership with Canal and River Trust Education Explorers

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/ explorers/water-safety Activities can be carried out on or near the canal, at our Canal Depot at Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir or in your own schools or meeting venues.







#### **An extraneous voyage** By Norman Woolley on his narrowboat "Bruin"



This recounts the first of several adventurous voyages undertaken on Bruin, namely the Severn Estuary from Bristol to Sharpness. I usually undertake such escapades with a crew, as my late wife, Julie, had a greater sense of self preservation than myself, preferring to join me by train following such sea passages.

In 1993 Bruin sailed the Severn Estuary; what a wonderful experience! As with all estuary passages you need the right weather, and for the Severn Estuary employing the services of a Pilot .who knows such treacherous waters, is essential. With the right weather window we left the safety of the river lock at Bristol Floating Harbour and on the ebb tide headed downstream on the River Avon to Avonmouth, turning left for Portishead to await the flood tide to carry us up to Sharpness Docks. In 1993 the Marina at Portishead didn't exist and the old docks were derelict, so it was necessary to moor by the jetty on what we hoped would be a flat area of mud when the tide went out. We moored as instructed, putting out our anchor at the bow and a mud weight at the stern, but as the tide went out the anchor did not hold, due to the river of water through the docks leaking lock gates making Bruin slide towards the heavily barnacled ietty: fortunately the mud weight held. It was a close call not to have the cabin sides damaged by the jetty, a very anxious time! We had left Bristol on the early morning ebb tide, to await the arrival of the flood tide that afternoon. The tides in that area of the Severn have the second largest variation in

the world, some 40 feet between high and low water. The Pilot arrived as the flood tide started in the early afternoon, climbing down the ladder from the top of the jetty to our mooring. We raised the anchor and mud weight and headed up the estuary at great speed on what was probably a ten-knot current. It was a beautiful sunny day with good visibility and very little wind, perfect sailing conditions for a narrow boat. The second Severn Road Bridge was being constructed, just the support piers being built, so there was only the original road bridge to sail beneath. We motored through some very rough water, giving the impression of rough water over rocks. Another feature is an area where the current turns back on itself. so the ten knot current on which you are being swept along is suddenly alongside you going in the opposite direction, most alarming ! Some coasters have been caught in these currents and been turned completely around. The entrance to Sharpness Docks is very narrow, protected by upstream and downstream jetties either side of the entrance. You have only one chance of getting into the entrance, for with a ten knot current up your stern if you miss it there is no way a narrow boat can go against that current, thus appreciating the need to have a pilot on board. We safely moored overnight in the docks at Sharpness and the next day saw our Pilot bringing into the Docks a small coaster, guite a contrast to our small narrow boat

## **PASSER BY SAVES DOG**

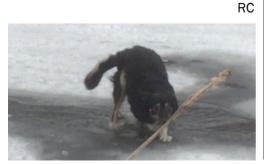


On the 3rd of March a dog was chasing birds and ducks on the partially frozen Grantham Canal when it fell through the ice into the freezing water. It tried to get out but couldn't obtain a sufficient grip on the edge of the ice. The dog's owner tried in vain to reach it but it was too far from the bank.

A passer by came to assist and laid flat on the ice in order to reach it - but the ice broke under her. Fortunately she reacted swiftly and did not go in too deeply and, although very cold and wet, she got out with assistance. As the ice was now broken the dog was able to swim to the bank and was pulled to safety by its owner.

So the message is:

Never step onto the ice - irrespective of how safe it looks - and ensure the safety of your kids and pets.



## **Volunteers and Membership**

A decision has been finalised over the question often asked: "do volunteers have to be members?"

This a question often discussed by management and now, for insurance reasons, we need to put this matter to rest once and for all.

## As from February 2018 all volunteers must be paid-up, card carrying members of the society.

Until now there were no insurance implications to a volunteer not being a member, however that may be about to change.

The companies that insure the different parts of the canal restoration movement have been hit by some big claims in the recent past and have started to tighten up.

It is likely that any substantial projects we undertake in the future will have to be submitted to our insurers for ratification along with project plans, method statements & risk assessments.

Insurers are tightening down to limit their liabilities and this is expected to be an ongoing trend. It is not acceptable to allow the officers of the GCS to be put at risk without full comprehensive insurance cover being in place.

So, from now onwards, not a member? Sorry you can't be a volunteer.

So that is it - discussion over. Now let's focus on the work in hand.

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## The Lady Bay Residents in action!



Dressed for a night out!

On Sunday 11 February 2018 another group of keen Lady Bay residents, 20 plus people, some children and a couple of dogs, turned out on a very cold day to have another muscle wrenching, back straining canal clean-up session. The work continued on from the excellent work done in the November 2017 session, extending further east and west.



Two men in a boat!

Most of the action concentrated on clearing reeds, tidying up canal banks and removing overgrown weeds and grass from the towpath. However, using the inflatable, a large amount of timber was also cut down from overhanging trees. The usual litter picking and dog poo spraying was also carried out. We removed a bike, a sleeping bag, many special brew cans and a blanket from the canal. A couple of really efficiently loaded lorry loads were carted off leaving the area clean and tidy.



Lorry ready for action!

People young and old worked really hard, some until they could do no more. A husband and wife team who had spent all morning grafting reappeared with hot coffee, tea, biscuits and pot mugs (no disposable plastics). The coffee and tea went down very well especially as it had just started snowing really hard. Unfortunately I never saw any of the biscuits - I think one of the dogs had those.



All together now!



Towpath work!

Our thanks must go to Gareth for his supervision of the work, provision of equipment and to the rest of his CRT team who worked so hard and disposed of the waste.

Thanks also are required to Verity who worked tirelessly to make the event happen. She will be arranging a follow-up session soon to work solely on the towpath clearing.

No work is allowed in the canal due to the start of the nesting season.

Verity also has a plan to include the canal into the Lady Bay Open Gardens week end later on in the year.

If anyone has any ideas for this please email me Ranger Rob on <u>rob.cook47@virginmedia.com</u>.

Many thanks for an excellent write-up Rob

#### URGENT

Volunteers Required for Easter Bank Holiday to include cake making, pond dipping, gazebo erecting, refreshments etc.

> Please, please ring Mary on 01476 566578

**Green Work Wear** T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Fleeces, Caps and Woolly hats with the Grantham Canal Society logo. Contact Mary on 01476 566578 Available at Depot only.

## 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 <u>volunteer@granthamcanal.org</u> or <u>lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org</u>

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

T.Shaw, Nigel Lee, P.J Braton and David Heath.

Ed



#### Winter Beauty at Lady Bay Photographed by Richard Arblaster

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