

APRIL

# BRIDGE

2018



The Canal at Denton - Photo by Chris Leach

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

I think you are due an explanation about the GCHI Project and to why work hasn't yet started on Lock 14. Last year the Society, through its Company Secretary Gordon, had agreed with the land owner, The Castle, of the field we required to cross to access the Lock 14 site that a simple exchange of letters was appropriate. However, CRT stated their preference for a formal legal agreement and last December introduced a document to The Castle based on their standard format. Understandably The Castle has forwarded this to their solicitors and so far no answer has been forthcoming despite our regular contact. The change of direction has now had unfortunate consequences in that we have volunteers frustrated by the delay; hired equipment that is being paid for and standing idle and eating into the fixed funding allocated by the Heritage Lottery Fund; and, to date, four months restoration time that has been lost and which may be difficult to recover as the funding provision has an overall time limit of 5 years from May 2015. You may be assured that as soon as CRT and The Castle conclude their discussions the Society will move with all speed to progress the Project. Until then we just wait!

In other areas of volunteering the GCS is very active. Thanks to a number of volunteers who braved the rather sodden Easter weekend we were able to offer the usual boat trips, depot and Lock 15 visits and the highly regarded tea and homemade cakes. In addition the landlord of the Dirty Duck, J-F, constructed a chocolate Easter Egg which was the key prize in a 'Guess the Weight' competition. We thank J-F for his artistry and skill and for the money raised which was donated to the Society.

We must also thank the members of the public who were prepared to get wet and contribute to our raising £928 for our funds. A really great result and our thanks to all of you who came to Woolsthorpe and also to our magnificent volunteers who made things happen.

Work continues along the top length to clear the effects of the long cold winter – fallen branches – and we look forward to the summer when our Education section plans to be working with pupils from local schools. We have other projects in the pipeline including reconstruction of the toilets at the Depot and restoration of the Depot slipway for craft maintenance.

The Rangers and the Events team are continuing to focus on the west end of the canal, West Bridgford, where we have given support to a group in Lady Bay who have improved the appearance of the canal in their area. We also plan to increase awareness of the GCS in West Bridgford which is the largest centre of population through which the canal passes. If you live in the area and can spare a little time please do so and contact us!

*Mike Stone.*



**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, April 20th 2018**

"Be Careful What You Wish For" – an illustrated talk on the progress of restoring the Cromford Canal and trip boat *Birdswood* by Mike Kelley of Friends of Cromford Canal.

# NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date & Time	Event & Venue
<u>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Apr 7.00</u>	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
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1.00	Learning Team Meeting, Depot
<u>Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Apr 7.30</u>	<u>Talk: Corby Glen Horticultural Soc, Ron Dawson Memorial Hall</u>
<u>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> May 8.00</u>	<u>Talk: Keyworth 8 o'clock Group, Parochial Ch Hall, Selby Lane</u>
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Denton Street Market
<u>Sun &amp; Mon 6 - 7<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<u>Bank Holiday Boat Trips - lots of help needed</u>
<u>Wed 9<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<u>Talk: Tollerton Parish Meeting</u>
Sat & Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Nottingham County Show
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30	Rangers Meeting, Depot
<u>Sun &amp; Mon 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<u>Bank Holiday Boat Trips - lots of help needed</u>
<u>Wed 30<sup>th</sup> May 1.00</u>	<u>Talk: The Spriteleys, Grantham</u>
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Grantham Steam and Country Show, Stainby
Sat & Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Grantham Carnival
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Cotgrave Festival
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Barnstone Festival Family Fun Day
<u>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June 10.00-4.00</u>	<u>Summer Sunday Boat Trips</u>
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> June 11.00 - 5.00	East Bridgford Village Show
Sat & Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> June & 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Lady Bay Open Gardens Weekend - details to follow
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Dysart Park Family Fun Day, Grantham
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 2.30	Schools' Week at Woolsthorpe Depot
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30	Rangers Meeting, Depot
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Radcliffe Carnival
Sat & Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Rempstone Steam Fair
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Harlaxton Gala
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	WRG Family Weekend at Woolsthorpe - <u>help needed</u>
<u>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2.00</u>	<u>Talk: Colsterworth WI</u>
<u>Sun &amp; Mon 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug</u>	<u>Bank Holiday Boat Trips - lots of help needed</u>
<u>Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 11.30</u>	<u>Talk: Trent Valley Probus</u>
<u>Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.00 -4.00</u>	<u>Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days 'Picture the Past', Woolsthorpe Depot, short boat trips, etc.</u>
<u>Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00-4.00</u>	<u>Discovery Day 2018</u>

## Community and Education Update April 2018

**Events:** The Training Day on 10<sup>th</sup> March was well attended and many of those attending ably supported the Wyndham Park Event in the snow and Easter Bank Holiday Weekend in the rain. Despite the weather over Easter Weekend we had over 138 passengers on the boat (counting babes in arms who count as people). More people came to enjoy the home-made cakes and family activities. When asked how they found out about the event, the majority of newcomers had consulted the internet. Some of these seemed to have got so fed up with being stuck inside that they gave us a visit during Monday's soggy afternoon. After the Weekend, I was able to bank £928.28!

BIG THANKS to the army of volunteers who helped set up on the Saturday, helped out on the Sunday and Monday and baked such a sumptuous spread.

BIG THANKS also to JF at the Dirty Duck for producing such a tempting giant Easter Egg to raise further funds for the Canal and thanks to JF, Lynn and their staff for all their support and putting up with us. Future Event application forms are stacking up and we need to assess what we can cope with at our team meeting at the Depot on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00. As well as Bank Holiday Boat Trips and some Summer Sundays, we have a Heritage Open Day on September 8<sup>th</sup>. I think I mixed the date up with a Summer Sunday in the March Edition of Bridge.

More events are in the diary, but they may not all be confirmed bookings as we go to press

*Rosemary*  
[communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org) or 07971 173069

See page 11 for Education update



# THE GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

The lock gates are being built and should be ready Wednesday 11th April



**Many thanks to Dave Cross & John Clark for these photos and our particular thanks go to the workshop team and CRT for organising the visit which took place on Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## THE WAY IT WAS

### By Mike Atherley



After the Trailboat rally had finished there were lots of unfinished work especially around lock 18. British Waterway's had advised us that they required a bywash to be built around the lock. They provided a detailed drawing for the design, fitted the interlocking steel piles to the correct spillway height at the top off-side bank and supplied the various reclaimed stone blocks and flat top stones. We had to supply all other building materials and labour. The design was to have a slope from the piles to a small waterfall then a long straight run down the length of the lock, with slight gradient, then a series of waterfalls to the lower canal level. The idea being to slow the water flow down to reduce turbulence.

John Moulsher's relative Roger dug out the channel with his JCB and the Waterway Recovery Group helped us with laying the concrete bed. We had to request small lorries of ready mix because of difficult access to site. We soon ran into trouble with very soft ground near the lower end of the straight run, fortunately there was still plenty of waste material about to stabilise the ground but it took a lot more concrete than we had budgeted for. We eventually succeeded in laying the base foundations so that the wall building could commence.

The walls were reclaimed stone blocks of various sizes and the tops were reclaimed York stone slabs, again of various sizes. The waterfalls used the larger size stone to give some strength and we had to shutter up behind the walls so that concrete could be poured in to give strength and

stability before the flat stones were fitted. We mixed this concrete using our own portable mixer. At the lower end a stream flowed into the canal so we diverted this through a large plastic pipe so it came through one of the waterfalls and built a brick buttress to divert the water into the pipe. Also because the lockside was now an island we had to build huge concrete walls near the lower end, either side of the channel, so that heavy plant and diggers could cross the open water course to replace lock gates etc. I notice that on lock 15 you have installed underground pipe for most of the bywash. Something that BW would not accept on our job.

After the bywash was finished we set about fitting mooring bollards alongside both sides of the lock chamber, building a brick cobblestone surface around the lock gate walks, laying stone slabs behind the coping stones and finally filling all the rest of the lockside with topsoil and grass seeding.

Unfortunately some years later the chamber wall failed and needed rebuilding which no doubt destroyed a lot of the work we had done. I did manage one trip through the lock on the way to officially opening the new Casthorpe Road bridge.



**Lock 18 during reconstruction in 2009**

**A Big Thank You  
to those who helped  
to organise the Easter  
Weekend, the marvellous  
Cake Makers and the  
Volunteers who braved the  
winter weather to erect the  
gazebos and stalls and to man  
them. The Refreshment team,  
the skippers and crew on  
'Three Shires' and our  
Volunteers at Lock 15.  
It was very much  
appreciated.  
from Mary &  
Christina**



### **April – Diving beetles**

One important group of species you'll rarely see (unless you join one of the canal's pond dipping events) is the invertebrates which live in the canal and are vital to its ecological function – there are voracious predators, sedate herbivores and vital detritivores breaking down dead material.

One of those you might however spot from the tow path is a diving beetle – so named because they rise to the surface occasionally to replenish their supply of fresh air to breathe underwater.

These large insects are upto 4.5cm long and well armoured with a nasty nip if you get too close! Diving beetles are fantastically adapted to life in the water. They undergo all four stages of their life beneath the surface – adult, egg, larvae, pupae – but the adults perhaps show the greatest designs. They are elongated and flattened, to reduce the resistance as the swim through the water. Their hind legs are powerful swimming oars, lined with hairs which increase water resistance as they paddle forward and lie flat on the return stroke. The other four legs meanwhile slot into grooves along their sides.

Despite these modifications, they retain the ability to fly, taking to the wing to colonise new ponds and shift locations when conditions change.

Some of the larger species can live for several years and adults will often move to larger bodies to overwinter. The canal provides ideal habitat for them to settle into the sediment during the cold months, and enact their lifecycle in spring when the waters warm.

**Some hedgehogs have started to come out of hibernation and it appears they have had a rough winter.**

**Which isn't surprising as the temperature has been up and down over the winter period. They are very thin and weak - so if you can put some food out and water it would be greatly appreciated.**

**Janet Peto**

**Hedgehog picture by Sally Smith**



**What's  
this  
and  
where  
is it?**



# COMPUTER TECH TIPS

BY GILES

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



## Photo Management on your PC or tablet

I remember the days when you used to have a roll of film in your camera which you took to Boots, waited several weeks and got about 20 photos back in a little paper wallet, always with one blurry photo you took of your feet by accident with a quality control sticker on it.

Nowadays though we think nothing of taking hundreds, even thousands of photos and managing them all can become a bit of a headache.

Invariably when you connect your camera to your PC or laptop you'll upload new photos into a folder automatically named with the date and time, this isn't descriptive of the contents though and it's easy to lose track of which pictures are where.

There is software that can help though, **Google Photos** (which used to be called 'Picasa') and also the Windows 10 **Photos app** will scan your photos folder and show photos in a timeline from earliest to latest based on date information stored by each photo. The photos can be rotated, cropped, straightened, tweaked and shared.

There are some free apps to help with photo management on smartphone or tablet devices too.

**Tidy'** for Android and iOS sorts your photos using photo metadata, this is data assigned to each photo and is automatically generated by the device that created it, you can group photos by shape, location, date, distance and more...

Also worth a mention - **'Quickpics'** for iOS which has similar functionality to Picasa, so it allows you to tweak and share photos as well as organise them. The equivalent on Android is **'Quickpic Gallery'** which is similar to Quickpics but not by the same software vendor.

Another issue with photo organisation is managing duplicates, copies of photos are often created as a backup but it's easy to lose track of what copies you have where.

There's free duplicate image finding software available to help with this. The two that are worth looking at are **'VisiPics'** at [www.visipics.info](http://www.visipics.info) and **'Free Duplicate Photo Finder'** at [www.freepicturesolutions.com](http://www.freepicturesolutions.com).





## Spotlight on Volunteers

In conversation with Christina, our Volunteer Coordinator, we thought it would be nice to feature some of our volunteers.

Christina offered to set the ball rolling by going first – but, beaten by time – we never connected up before the closing date for Bridge. So we'll get yours truly out of the way first:

### Tony Jackson

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be an electrician – and that's what I became – before finding myself working in the telecommunications industry installing telephone exchanges.

Circumstances dictated a change of career, and for the last 26 years I've been a rocking horse maker and restorer – sort of retired, the horses still manage to seek me out!

A racing cyclist, runner, swimmer, once taking myself off on a walk and, finding myself foot sore and satiated after 1,040 miles hopped on a train and came home.

I've known the canal all my life, having vague recollections of the canal basin in Grantham. I had a raft on the now filled in section in the town, which I shared with my school friend Paul – a raft which, for some reason would only float two inches below the surface.

I went to a slide show at the Shirley Croft Hotel in the early '70s about the canal, given by a working boatman who had brought boats along it. With the knowledge I've gained since, I think this must have been the late Ike Argent. I've never met anyone else who attended this event – I'm sure I didn't dream it up!

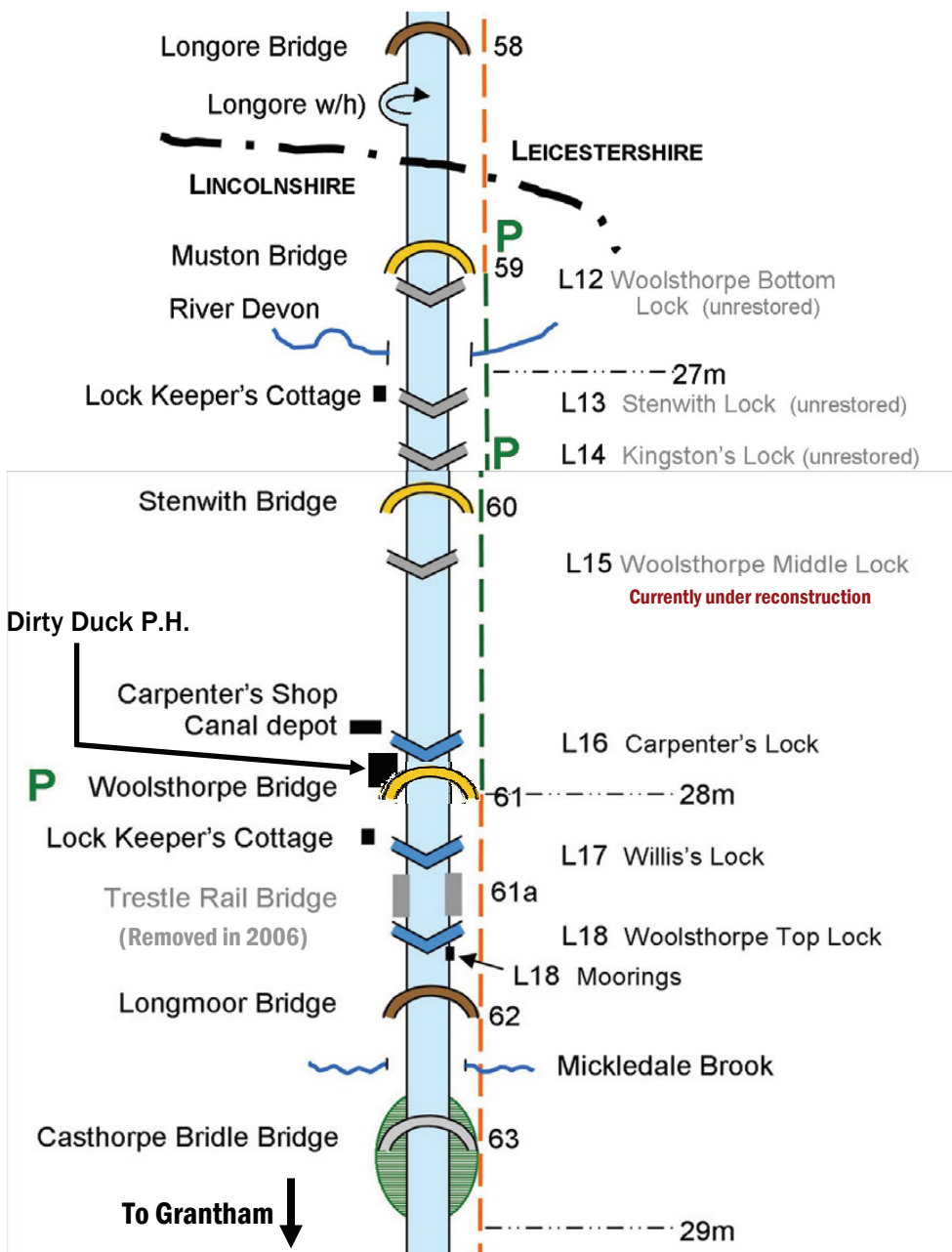


Whilst the canal has always been on my radar, it wasn't until my good friend Rosemary said she was going to join the Grantham Canal Society – and she was going to join me up as well – that I became a member around 8 years ago.

Starting on the Events Team, I've found myself added to other duties: canal ranger, Facebook, Twitter, website content and answering many of your questions you send us via 'contact us' on our website.

So there you go – I'll try to catch up with Christina for next month's Bridge – and then, look out volunteers – I maybe heading your way with notebook and camera!

*Tony*



Following a request from one of our readers I have included a map from our current canal guide which shows the location of the Woolsthorpe Flight together with the distances between them and other general features. The mile markers indicate the distance from the River Trent.

Ed

## LOCK 15 - THE FINISHING TOUCHES!



Left: Lock landing completed. Above: Sue's quadrant  
Below: Looking upstream - a proper canal!  
Photos courtesy Bob Taylor & John Clark





*The Learning Team Aims*

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

**EDUCATION:** We are still looking forward to receiving resources from the Heritage Initiative Project.

One of our commitments to the Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative Action Plan is to offer a Schools' Week of activities at the Depot in July. Planning for that is hotting up and we should be able to tell you more about this in the next issue. As always more people willing to come forward and join the team will be most welcome.

**ORAL HISTORY AND RECORDING REMINISCENCES** has also been part of the Action Plan and this is a subject that fascinates me, but I can't fit everything in that I would like to do. We need someone to work with me on processing what we already have and to take over some of the organisation of this aspect of our work. Not all of our active volunteers are wallowing in the mud, some of us end up drowning in paper and electronic information.

For further details please contact Rosemary  
[communityandevents@granthamcanal.org](mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org)  
or call 07971 173069



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## **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.



Clifton Suspension Bridge over the Avon Gorge

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 jetty; 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 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.



Sharpness Docks

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 a small coaster into the docks, quite a contrast to our small narrow boat!

## **Our Triumphant Volunteers**

Our GCS volunteers delivered the Easter Weekend events to our supporters and visitors under such conditions that would try the best of us. They sustained an excellent quality of service under pressure and maintained professionalism and consistency throughout.

Having been involved with the Grantham Canal for nearly 30 years I believe that collectively we have matured the society, under Mike Stone's leadership, into an increasingly professional organisation. We have every right to be proud of what we have achieved, not only with Lock 15 but across all the societies activities.

One key aspect of professionalism is that we can make, take and react positively to any form of criticism, especially of ourselves, by ourselves.

We have more than doubled our membership in the last three years and that speaks volumes for what the public see, experience and appreciate about our organisation and its progress. The Easter weather tested us - we did not fail, but we can always do even better.

*David Lyneham-Brown*

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

Rev Rook, Mrs V.H.Smith,  
Holland Funeral Directors  
(on behalf of David Green),  
J Parsons, M.A.Scott,  
Ian Wakefield (on behalf of Lock  
Gate viewers),  
Neil Green and Cath de Villeneuve.

**DON'T FORGET THAT IF YOU  
WISH TO VOLUNTEER YOU  
NOW MUST BE A MEMBER**

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

## **3<sup>rd</sup> GCS Info-Social A Reminder to All Volunteers**

**This will take place on Wednesday  
25th April at the Woolsthorpe  
Depot. Meet at the depot 14:00  
for 14:30 start.**

**A buffet has been arranged at the  
Dirty Duck for after the meeting.**

**You must let us know if you are  
coming. Reply YES to this email or  
email Rosemary Gibson directly  
on [RhuMaere@aol.com](mailto:RhuMaere@aol.com) If you  
don't let us know there will be NO  
EATS for you**

**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.**

**Don't forget - let us know**



**New for  
2018**



on 'The Three Shires' Trip Boat

[www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

Enjoy a half hour boat trip on the scenic  
Grantham Canal on the following dates:-

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> April

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> May

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> May

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> July

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> August

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> August

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> September

**10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Where to find us:**

Trips depart from Lock 18,  
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, NG32 1NY  
(Close to the Dirty Duck Pub).

**£3 Adults  
£2 Children**



**Trying to walk on water is not recommended!**

Don't forget that you can print out your copy of Bridge into a booklet format. Just email me at [bridge@granthamcanal.org](mailto:bridge@granthamcanal.org) and I will send you a formatted file copy.

Providing you have a Duplex printer, (one that prints on both sides of the paper), and by choosing landscape A4, double sided printing with flip on SHORT edge, you will be able to print out a copy and read it at your leisure.

Apologies if you don't have a duplex printer, however there is another version that enables you to run the even pages through your printer and then, once turned over, you can then print the reverse.

Ed

### **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.**



**What's this & where is it?**

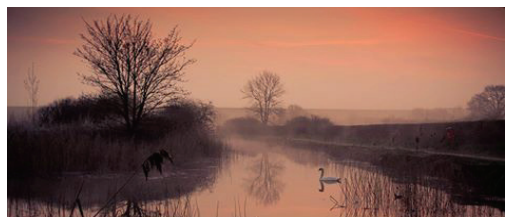
**Answer  
Lock 14 concrete weir  
pictured below**



**Even the  
frogs are  
safety  
conscious  
at Lock 15!**



**Follow us on  
Facebook**



## 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/Over 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!



Nottinghamshire  
County Council



Rushcliffe  
Borough Council

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.

**A membership form is available to  
download from our website - just click  
the 'join now' tab.**

## 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](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org)  
or [ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org](mailto:ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org)