

SEPTEMBER

BRIDGE

2018



© Copyright Neil Hoe Photography

An Otter on the Grantham Canal spotted on the 11th August between Harlaxton Bridge and Vincent's Bridge

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY NO: 507337



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through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

Do you realise how busy society volunteers have been since the last edition of bridge? We've held the **bank holiday weekend** event which includes **cakes and tea**; the **Information Stand** has been to several locations and events; a number of **talks** have been given to a variety of groups; we hosted a **day with brownies** - aspiring scouts not chocolate!; held a **heritage open day** and delivered several of **charter boat trips** for visitors.



We also hosted the **WRG Family Camp** where a bug hotel and bird boxes were made and who, in addition, spruced up Denton Wharf.

That of course is in addition to our regular weekend volunteer teams and to our Rangers patrolling their length of towpath.

On behalf of the society I thank each and every one of you that has been involved.

The waterway recovery group spent four week camps at Lock 14 where they constructed a by wash and also dismantled some of the remaining lock wall. The groups came from near and far and their valuable input to our restoration work is greatly appreciated.

Alongside WRG our own weekday teams have been working at lock 14. Their next task is to construct the dams so that they can work on the lock chamber. Without their regular input and management by CRT we would not be able to complete the lock by 2020 and the society thank them for their continued input.

So if anyone says to you "*nothing happens on the Grantham Canal*" just put them right! Maybe also suggest that they may like to help! **There is plenty to do and without volunteers, members and supporters life would be very different.**

Mike Stone.

P.S.

Please remember we need help on Discovery Day. If you can spare some time with setting up the event or on the day this would be greatly appreciated.



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

Nottingham Canal cleanup
Thursday 13th September starting at Sainsbury's, Castle Boulevard Nottingham NG7 1GX (parking in the store carpark) for 9.30am, work until 4.30pm, after which the boat will return people to Castle Boulevard.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Mon 10 th Sept 7.30	Talk: East Midland Canoe Group, Boathouse, Barrow on Soar
Wed 12 th Sept 9.30 am	Events Team Meeting, Woolsthorpe Depot
Thurs 13 th Sept 2.15	Talk: Nottm National Trust, Mechanics Institute
Thurs 13 th Sept 6.30	Bingham Brownies Water Safety
Sat & Sun 15 th & 16 th Sept 11.00 – 4.00	Heritage Open Days in Denton Church
Sun 16 th Sept 3.00 – 5.00	Kinoulton Horticultural Show
Sun 16 th Sept 11.00	Talk in the Fuel Tank, The Engine Yard, Belvoir Castle
Mon 17 th Sept 7.30	Rangers' Meeting, The Plough, Stathern
Sun 23 rd Sept 1.30 – 4.30	Hedgehog Welfare Fundraiser, Foston Village Hall
Tues 25 th Sept 2.30	Talk by DLB West Bridgford Library
Sun 30 th Sept 10.00 – 4.00	Summer Sunday Boat Trips
Sun 30 th Sept	World Rivers Day, Wyndham Park, Grantham
Wed 3 rd Oct 1.00	Talk: Horsington WI, Horsington Village Hall
Mon 8 th Oct 7.30	Talk: Gonerby Hill Foot WI
Sun 14th Oct 10.00-4.00	Discovery Day 2018
Wed 24 th Oct 7.00	Talk: Grantham Kesteven Rotary Club, Urban Hotel, Grantham
Mon 12 th Nov 7.30	Rangers Meeting, The Plough, Stathern
Sun 2 nd Dec 11.00 – 4.00	Dirty Duck Christmas Market
Talk bookings are already coming in for 2019!	

If you hear of a local event where we might raise awareness and funds for the society, please let me know communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971173069 *Rosemary Gibson*

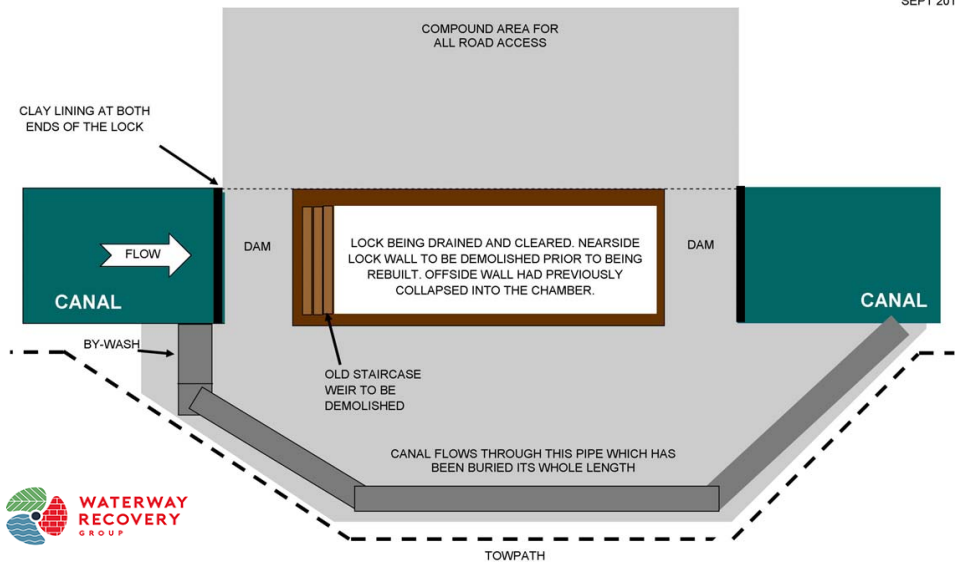


Some lovely photos of the WRG Family Camp at Denton and the Depot

GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

THIS IS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LOCK 14 - KINGSTON'S LOCK

SEPT 2018



Top Left- Nearside wall looking downstream
Top Right: Clearing the chamber
Bottom: By wash and pipe

Photos courtesy
Jim Freeman & John Clark

LOCK 15 'BOTTOM OF HALF MILE POND LOCK'



What a journey it has been from the Trustees visit in January 2015 to the 'unofficial' opening in September 2018.

In a few year's time how many will remember the 1000's of cleaned bricks & thick mud together with the coldest winter and hottest summer on record! What an achievement!

Ed



Photo courtesy Jim Freeman

Lock 15 has achieved a Grade A Listing after a recent inspection by Canal & River Trust Engineers

"Brilliant news for our guys on Lock 15 and a real lighthouse of achievement for the society. This puts the GCS up with the very best in the national canal restoration movement."

*David Lyneham-Brown
GCS Chief Executive/General Manager*

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



Bats

Last Friday we ran a Bat Walk along the Grantham Canal – led by the highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable Chris Barker from the Lincolnshire Bat Group. It was a great turnout – a group of 32 left from Woolsthorpe Wharf at sunset and walked east. It took a little while for the first bats to appear, but in the meantime the group learnt more about bat behaviour and ecology.

Did you know that all of our 18 UK bat species are insectivorous – they often catch their prey on the wing though some of the more agile species can pluck insects from the surface of leaves, known as 'gleaning'. They hunt in the dark using echolocation to navigate and home in on their prey, but they also have excellent eyesight – the 'blind as a bat' addage is very misleading!

As we walked back towards the Wharf, the bat detectors leapt to life as we found both common and soprano Pipistrelles foraging over the water and along the shrubs on the bankside. We also had a pass by a Barbastelle bat – one of the rarer bat species in the UK.

We hope to run more of these walks early next summer, so watch out for announcements in the usual places! In the meantime, why not pop along to the Bat Group's stand at the Discovery day in October – there will be captive bats to see up close and people on hand to tell you more about these enigmatic creatures.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



Things looked good with progress being made by working parties and better cooperation from British Waterway's until we got the news that Notts County Council and the Dept for Transport were going to start building a section of the Eastern Nottm outer ring road, now known as The Lings Bar. This was to start on the A52 near Gamston and curve around to join the A60 and the Clifton bypass. Our problem was it was going to cross the canal close to Tollerton Lane, bridge No.7. and only be two culvert pipes even though it was on an embankment.

When challenged the answer was that all the bridges on the route to the Trent had been lowered or culverted, one more wouldn't matter.

They also said it would cost in excess of £100,000. to build a navigational height bridge on a section of canal that could possibly never be restored because of the problems along the Lady Bay section - so a battle commenced.

The outcome was that if we didn't oppose their plans for the culverted crossing then N.C.C. would protect a line following the Polser Brook on a new route to join the Trent from just below Skinners Lock No.4. to somewhere East of the 2000mtr Water Sport centre below Holme Lock. Several of us walked the route of the brook and at the crossing of the A52 the culvert bridge appeared to be wide enough for a narrow boat but too shallow for the draught. On the other side there was a series of lakes, left after gravel

extraction, and we think used by the Gedling Colliery fishing club. These could be linked together and that left a bridge required to cross the Adbolten Road. Several locks would be needed including one to enter the Trent and it was thought that a Marina could also be built after the first lock. The canal after Skinners Lock and up to the new Lings Bar culvert could be used for mooring and a water feed to Lady Bay. This proposal was adopted and the new road built as you see it today.

Some time later, Nottm. City Council decided to improve the Daleside business Park and create an inner ring road or by-pass for Trent Bridge. Because a new bridge had not been built to cross the Trent at Gamston it was decided to convert the old Nottm - Melton Mowbray railway bridge into a road crossing. This was to link Meadow Lane to the A52 and in order to connect the different heights a gradual loop would be required. The surveyors found that the Grantham Canal from Orston Rd culvert 1a to Lady Bay bridge No.2. would provide that connecting route. So the canal was eradicated and a new road junction at Lady Bay saw the end to that bridge and possibly any reconnection with the original Trent Lock No.1.

I would like to see the A52 crossed at Gamston Bridge No.4. and then a new canal built to join the Trent or if the Polser route was chosen then a connection made to the Trent above Holme Pierrpont Lock. The reason being an easier or safer route from Meadow Lane lock to the Grantham.

More next time

Community and Education Update September 2018

At a recent meeting about paper work with Canal and River Trust Volunteer leaders, the term 'other stuff' was used and I thought it fitted what the events and education teams get up to brilliantly.

Some of the other stuff we have been getting up to recently has included a successful weekend visit from Waterway Recovery Group families who got involved with activities organised by CRT, WRG and ourselves, topped off with short boat trips and a delicious tea from some of our priceless volunteers.

Sunday's weather for the August Bank Holiday Boat Trips was a bit discouraging, although the refreshments did quite well, but we were much more successful on the Monday. The weekend added £932.45 to the coffers, and a healthy bunch of new members.

Glorious weather again for Grantham Fire Station Open Day and a selection of venues for talks has kept us busy. On 6th September we welcomed 28 Bingham Brownies and 5 leaders to the depot for short boat trips and a variety of educational activities. Their visit will be followed up with a Water Safety session at their home venue next week. They behaved very well and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Hot on the heels of the visiting youngsters, we trawled our archives for

a selection of historical pictures of the canal to decorate the Depot for Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day on Saturday 8th September. Lovely refreshments again, including some heritage recipes. Visits to the depot exceeded boat trips, despite the uncertain weather and we talked to over a hundred interested visitors, some of whom shared their own stories about the canal's past. I am delighted to say that takings on the day amounted to £407.31.

Our Oral History archive is growing, but it is in desperate need of a team to help to sort it out. These valuable stories are in serious danger of being lost. If anyone can help with this, please get in touch.

Grateful thanks to all who do help with events and community activities in any way.

LOOKING AHEAD - As Discovery Day Sunday 14th October approaches planning is hotting up and if anyone wishes to join the Events Planning Team, you will be welcomed with open arms.

We also need offers of raffle prizes and Duck Race sponsorship for Discovery Day.

As always, if you can offer any help, please get in touch:

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

or 07971 173069

FISH RESCUE



WELL DONE CANAL AND RIVER TRUST

On Tuesday 7th August the Rangers Team reported a problem with fish in the Cotgrave section of the canal.

On Friday 10th we were informed that approx 128lb of fish, mainly Rudd had been removed and transferred to the Erewash Canal by the Fisheries and Angling Team.

GCS and CRT are still monitoring a large shoal of young fish just below Josse's Lock due to receding water levels.

Headranger



On Sunday 19th August, 26 adults, 2 children and 6 dogs joined Rangers, Chris Cobb, Norma Varley and Anne Earl (along with Anne McMeekin, who looked after greeting and booking in, but did not walk) on a 6.25 mile walk along the towpath to Muston Gorse Bridge, stopping off at Lock 15 for a tour of the completed lock. We then walked across fields to Muston Village for tea and cakes before joining the Viking Way footpath back to Lock 15 and along the towpath back to the depot for more tea and biscuits for those in need.

The Rangers Team are planning 4 walks for 2019, dates to be announced later this year.

Headranger

Buy - a - Brick Campaign

The Buy-a-Brick Campaign in support of the rebuilding of Lock 15 is now officially closed.

A big thank you to all those of you who donated. Together with the nearly £10,000 raised with the help of management and staff at Sainsbury's in Grantham and various bucket collections the whole initiative raised nearly £16,000.

We will relaunch it for the rebuilding of Lock 14. The society has just moved on -site there and while currently pulling down the old walls very soon we will be building back up again.

To those of you who "bought an engraved brick" your wait is nearly over. We have decided to build a bench alongside Lock 15 and your bricks with their dedications will be built into the bench ends, visible to all passers by.

We will be reinstating the Lock 15 area using the silt dredgings being taken from the pound between Locks 15 and 17 during the coming winter months. When the reinstatement starts in spring next year then the bench will be built by GCS.

It will be ready for the official opening of Lock 15. Keep your eyes on this newsletter for announcement of that event.

**One final thank-you to the
"Buy-a-Bricks"
your help is greatly
appreciated.**

HEDGEHOG WELFARE

We have been really busy at Hedgehog Welfare, the warm dry summer has not been good for the hedgehogs, when it is dry the amount of food available to them is greatly reduced. The hedgehogs have been coming in covered in fly eggs and maggots, also very thin and dehydrated.

So if you can please put out plant pot saucers of water (even if you have a pond) and more than one saucer if you can, so that there is plenty of water for them - but check them every night before you go to bed to ensure that they still full.

Although it has rained the easier we make it for the hedgehogs to find food and water the more chance we have of saving them without them coming into care.

Please remember a little dried kitten or cat food, (chicken based), can be a real life saver for them & could mean the difference between getting to their hibernation weight or not. They were in such a poor condition at the start of this year.



Janet Peto
janethedgehog49@gmail.com



on 'The Three Shires' Trip Boat

www.granthamcanal.org

Next Trip

SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

Half hour boat trips depart from Lock 18
Woolthorpe by Belvoir, NG32 1NY
£3 Adults £2 Children



South Lincolnshire Walking Festival 2018

29 September to 28 October 2018



2018 FESTIVAL IS HERE

You are probably already aware that the 2018 festival is all ready to go. This year we have 61 events, some of those repeated so you don't miss out, bringing you 66 events in total.

We are pleased to announce that the launch is at Harlaxton Manor near Grantham, with easy access from the A1/A607. Harlaxton Manor is not generally open to the public so we are very excited about this *not-to-be-missed* opportunity.

Refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the day.

There will be plenty to do for all the family, with house tours, garden tours, family garden trail and self-led walks in the woods.

For history buffs there will be two Military History tours covering both World Wars from the trenches of WW1 to operation Market Garden in WW2.

Heritage Lincolnshire will explain how they are tackling the subject of Heritage At Risk on a short tour of the Manor grounds.

For those looking for something more challenging, we haven't forgotten you.

We have a 10-11 mile ramble going out of the grounds, along the Viking Way to the Dirty Duck Pub on the banks of the Grantham Canal where refreshments can be purchased prior to returning to Harlaxton Village and Manor via the Canal.

There is also a shorter walk of 5 miles in the afternoon, leaving the morning free for the house and garden tours.

Please do join us, all events are free except the House Tours which cost only £2 per person. All we ask is for a donation towards the running costs of the festival

Discovery Day

Sunday October 14th 10am—4pm

A Great Family Day Out

Free Admission

Refreshments

WW1 Field Kitchen — Homemade Cake

Dirty Duck Race

The silliest duck race ever

Mistress of Ceremonies
Suzie Sparkles

The Maids of Clifton
Clog Dancing

Work's a Bitch!

Jim Hancock & Gold Discovery

Clarty Sough

Wildlife Stands

Narrowboat Rides

Shrek the Boat Horse

Canoeing

Allington Morris Dancers

Live Music

Find us at

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

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

More information visit - www.granthamcanal.org

One Step Closer!

On Tuesday September 4th GCS senior management made a presentation to Cropwell Bishop Parish Council entitled "***The Grantham Canal: Re-watering the Dry Section***"



The Dry Section at Cropwell Bishop being cleared by BiTM & GCS Volunteers

For some time the GCS has been debating this project as a major step forward in the planned restoration of the canal and an opportunity to further expand our involvement with canal-side communities as we seek to restore their local section.

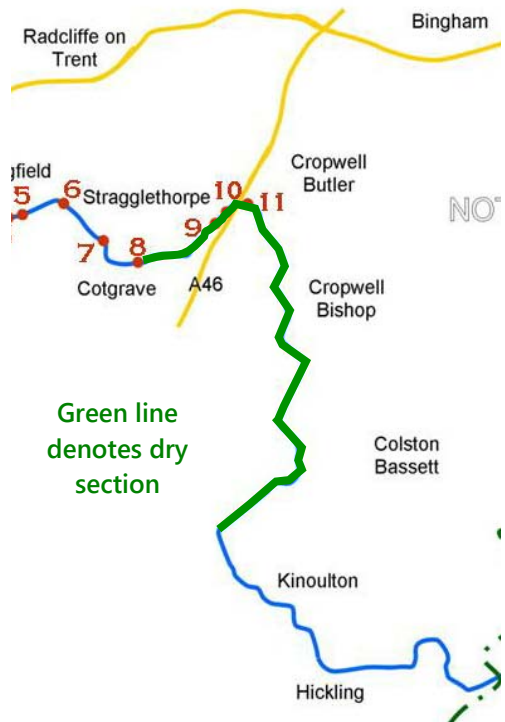
Approximately 5 miles in length the Cropwell Dry Section is the canal in miniature in all but one respect. It has locks, bridges, accessible towpaths and other walks - but no water and an awful lot of vegetation filling the space where the water should be.

We went to the council to explain our plan in outline and ask for their support. We asked for active support, including encouragement of the local community to get involved, and this they gave unanimously. A big thank you to all the councillors present.

So now we will start work with our partners in Canal and River Trust and put a comprehensive plan together.

This will not be a quick hit - there are a number of issues to be investigated and in the future expect to see plans and progress reports appear in "Bridge" as we pursue our objective of "Re-watering the Dry Section".

D L-B



The Grantham Canal Society

CHARITY No: 507337

**SUPPORT US
ON THE 18th
SEPTEMBER**



Tickets
from **£1**

Win up to
£25,000

50% of ticket price
goes to our cause

Tickets go on sale on 18th September and will be announced on Facebook and Twitter by LotterySK.

The Grantham Canal Society has been registered as a good cause and will receive 50p from every £1 ticket purchased.

The procedure for buying tickets is quite straightforward as follows after logging into <https://www.lotterysk.co.uk/>

Choose your numbers > register an account > arrange payment (either Direct Debit or debit card). For those with no Internet or no email account call the Lottery Team on 01476 347474 and they can sign you up over the phone and arrange to contact you in the future via phone, if you wish.

GOOD LUCK!



Bat Walk

Report

On the evening of Friday 7th September, 32 people joined a walk organised by GCS along with Lincolnshire's Bat Group for a Bat Walk along the Canal.

With Owl's hooting and bat detectors in hand we set off along the towpath to Bridge 62 where Chris Barker from the bat group informed us of what we may see and answered questions asked.

As dusk fell we waited, nothing but the Owl's hooting, no bat's. Darkness started to come so we started the short walk back to the Dirty Duck. What's that, as we approach the moored Three Shires the detectors start to go mad.

Common and Soprano Pipistrelles and a Barbastelle are detected and seen by some if not all.

Hopefully an enjoyable evening was had by all.

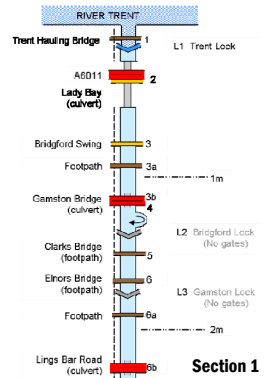
Many thanks to Chris Barker and James Faulconbridge for their help and providing the bat detectors.

Headranger

The next Rangers meeting will be held on Monday 17th September, 7.30 pm at the Plough P.H, Stathern.

Photo courtesy of James Faulconbridge

CANAL CLEANUP FULLY BOOKED!



The planned cleanup in Section 1 near Morrison's, West Bridgeford, has been arranged for Sunday 16 September. A team of 14 volunteers, all nearby residents, will be meeting at 10:00 at Lock 3 (Gamston Lock) and, if the weather is fair, plan to work until 15:00.

Canal & River Trust, who are providing all necessary equipment such as inflatables, hand tools, wheelbarrows, etc., are happy with the numbers and would not really like any more people to supervise

If you are interested in helping in the future with this essential work then please register your interest with Ranger Rob 0798 670 1348 or email

rob.cook47@virginmedia.com

The Saga of The Hickling Canal Hut

In 2013 following concerns expressed by Hickling PC and Rushcliffe BC, The Society carried out a survey and appraisal for an extensive Vegetation Clearance and Restoration of a Length-mans Hut on towpath near Hickling Basin. The hut was a very rare example of railway sleeper construction, built by Great Northern Railway (canal owners) circa 1860, and possible could have been considered for National listed building inclusion. Canal & Rivers Trust became lead, with an announcement in their Volunteer Bulletin (Aug 2013) of this restoration, and in Autumn 2013 GCS went ahead with an excellent clearance job including careful handling of fragile building sections. By summer 2014 GCS tasks had been completed and CRT took over the building restoration repair, using new materials only where it was essential (Repair & Cutting list 20.10.14). This was supported by All Parties.

Due to many problems, since 2014, the building has been demolished, with the site as at 6.09.18 now reverting to nature surrounded by expensive Heras panels, which for some reason includes two benches used by weary walkers. There are no notices displayed on the site to explain to the public why the work has not been completed, with neither reason nor any indication of a completion date given.

Tony Pitman



LADY BAY COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING.

On Thursday 26th July Chris Cobb (GCS Head Ranger) and Scott Miller (CRT Volunteer Development Coordinator - Partner Groups) attended a meeting of 30 plus Lady Bay residents concerned with the condition of the Grantham Canal through West Bridgford.

Chris and Scott answered questions ranging from : 'Why is there so little water in the canal' to 'What are the future plans for the West Bridgford section of the canal.'

After 2 hours of questions and answers we left the meeting feeling local expectations are more realistic for the future of the canal in the area.

Headranger

To the Refreshment Team.
A very big Thank You for your help and bakes over the Bank Holiday and Heritage Day.

And Thank You to all the volunteers what ever the job you came to help with.

We have Discovery Day on Sunday 14th October (4 weeks away).

Volunteers and bakers are required. Please telephone me on 01476 566578 a.s.a.p.

Data Protection Statement

The Grantham Canal Society may ask for some personal details from its members and volunteers. This ensures that we can contact you and take account of your Health & Safety.

The Grantham Canal Society takes our responsibility for looking after information seriously. We follow the data Protection Act at all times when asking for or handling your information including:

- Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully
- Data is processed only for the purpose(s) for which it was collected
- Data is adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Data is accurate and kept up to date
- Data is not kept longer than necessary
- Data is kept secure against unauthorised access and loss or damage

Sometimes sensitive information may also be asked for e.g. health information. We will always ask for explicit consent before collecting or using this information.

A copy of this statement will be brought to the attention of all members and volunteers.

GDPR1805/RO

To UNSUBSCRIBE from receiving further copies of Bridge: email bridge@granthamcanal.org putting UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



WEEKDAYS AT LOCK 14 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

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

Nigel Lee, Mr Montgomery,
C.J.Snowden and G.T.Woods