

DECEMBER

# BRIDGE

2018



*Wishing you all a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year*

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



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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

Perhaps you were as disappointed as I was that lock 14 has had to be almost totally dismantled. However, looking on the bright side, this presents an opportunity for the Society to show how effective volunteers can be. It offers us an chance for innovation and development seeing that realistically we are building a new lock. Here is a chance to "Work smart" and to save project time by reducing the number of weeks required to build a new lock. This will save real money as well as time.

What is "Work smart"? I am sure that you have seen one person doing work on the road and five others standing by watching him. Smart working ensures that at least four of those standing could be doing something else. Working in that manner moves any project forward and speeds up completion. It pays to THINK AHEAD and plan more effectively to embrace "Work smart".

A similar attitude does not only apply at the lock 14 site but can be developed in many of the tasks we all undertake as a Society. We now have more skilled volunteers than we have ever in the 49 years since the Society was founded. Let's use this opportunity to show how effective we are at working on canal restoration by applying "Work smart" to any activity associated with the Society. Please think of ways you can be more effective when carrying out your role? If you can see areas where we can be more innovative and could lead to more effective working, then please let the management team know.

There was a good attendance at the AGM last month probably attracted more by the organisers' unexpected excellent refreshments and a chance of a raffle

prize, than by the Trustees Annual Report!



Last week more than 50 Volunteers and their partners enjoyed an excellent Christmas meal at the Dirty Duck which was organised by the same team, namely Mary & Jane, pictured above.

I notice that lots of coloured lights are now appearing in villages across the area so it must be getting near to Christmas. A really magical time for children and an exhausting one for Grandparents! Sue and I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

*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 21st December**

Our usual Christmas Social with Buffet and  
Illustrated talk by Richard Whybrow entitled  
'Adventures on a Narrowboat' about a journey  
across the Wash from Boston to Wisbech.

## Community and Education Update December 2018

We wound up 2018 events with a successful stand at Dirty Duck Christmas Market on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, signing up 2 definite new members and some more possibles.

Then on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> we visited Aslockton Beavers with CRT Explorers Water Safety materials as a preliminary to a visit to the canal in the spring.

2019 diary starts with a talk on 21<sup>st</sup> January at Ruddington, and I need a 2020 diary, because I already have a booking that far ahead. Dear Santa, please can I have a 2020 diary?

**Wishing you all a happy, peaceful and restful Festive Season and a happy and productive 2019.**

*Rosemary*

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

**Why not join the 8 new  
members we gained on**

**Discovery Day?**

**It doesn't matter if you live  
miles away or don't wish to  
actively volunteer - you will be  
supporting our efforts**

**THE COST IS MODEST!**

The annual subscription rates are  
as follows:

Single Adult: .....£20

Family: .....£30

Under 18/Over 60: ..£15

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



### **Mosses**

The green is sapping from the canalside at this time of year as the grasses fall flat, the wildflowers die back and the trees drop the last of their leaves. But look closer: there is one group of plants which are in their element right now.

Mosses, along with liverworts and hornworts, are a group of lower plants called bryophytes of which there are over 1,000 species in the UK. They can be found in a whole multitude of habitats – particularly good spots along the canal would be on rock and stonework around locks and bridges; benches and fences; on the bark of trees; or low amongst the grasses in shadier spots. They are excellent at colonising bare ground and create the conditions for other plants to establish.

During reproduction, the antherozoids – sperm equivalent – swim through surface water on top of the moss to fertilize neighbouring egg cells. This means that, unlike higher plants, ideal conditions for reproduction are in autumn, winter and spring. The moss then produces spore-filled capsules on stalks – these spores are wind-dispersed to establish new mosses elsewhere.

Mosses are very dependent on external water and have evolved to easily withstand desiccation but a few drops of water is all it takes to resurrect them after periods of dry weather - museum specimens have been brought back to life in this way after many years.

Take a closer look next time you're walking the towpath and you'll be amazed at how these plants are hiding in plain sight!



# GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE at LOCK 14



The photos say it all - very hard work to break up the substantial brick structures & ironwork  
Photos by John Clark & Jim Freeman

## A GREAT DAY OUT!

In mid-November six people with a more than passing interest in the Grantham Canal walked the six miles from Cotgrave Country Park to the basin at Hickling to survey the territory of the Cropwell Dry Section Project that the Grantham Canal Society are launching in January 2019. Three senior staff from Canal and River Trust (CRT) and three from the Grantham Canal Society (GCS) covered the ground, discussing a wide range of issues that will be addressed as the society seek to bring this major section of the canal back into water.



In the photograph, from left to right sits Tony Osbond, GCS Special Projects leader, then standing Chris Cobb, GCS Head Ranger, seated is Scott Miller, CRT Volunteering Development Coordinator, standing is Sam Anderson-Brown, CRT National Restoration Manager and finally, seated, is David Lyneham-Brown, GCS Chief Executive/ General Manager. The photograph was taken by Phil Mulligan, Director, East Midlands Region who declared it "A Great Day Out" as the group further developed their working partnership.

The walk ended at the Hickling Basin where the society were able to show CRT the results of the 1994 project which restored nearly 3 miles and replaced 3 swing bridges. Tea and cakes at the Canal Basin cafe brought a convivial end to a very constructive days work. *DL-B*

## Extending our Reach

Here is a summary of the address made at the AGM by David Lyneham-Brown - The GCHI project at Stenwith progresses well and we still have plenty to do in Lincolnshire.

**However, for some time I have regretted our absence from Nottinghamshire as the major population centre along the canal and to rectify this I have launched the Cropwell Dry Section Project.**

So, while continuing to work from the east we will have a new project zone much further west. This will be the third major project in Nottinghamshire, the first being the £400,000 project to restore Hickling Basin and nearly three miles of canal in the mid 1990's followed by the Cotgrave project funded by EU RECHAR grants. Both were of short duration.

**The Cropwell Dry Section Project could take 8 to 12 years and give us a long term presence around which to base recruitment, publicity and PR.**

The section is approx. 4.7 miles in length. The bed of the canal requires extensive clearance, as do the banks. The reasoning behind this project includes:

- **It is in Nottinghamshire**
- **It will take a long time to execute**
- **There is local community interest**
- **Water safety is less of an issue**
- **Long-term publicity/participation**
- **Can work alongside existing projects**
- **Geological Survey expertise available**
- **Alleviate the water shortage**

The project would require a new sub-base with new volunteers, equipment, etc. I have already met with the Rushcliffe Economic Development Manager and she is now looking as to how the Borough Council can assist us.



## THE WAY IT WAS

### By Mike Atherley



Last month Mike detailed the canal properties from the River Trent to just after Hickling  
He continues ...

Moving on from last month the next building complex is the canal owners maintenance yard and workshops at Harby, 18 mls. These buildings must be relatively modern, probably built when British Waterways took over and are on what would have been Harby Wharf. Moving on quite a way to Lock 14 (Kingstons), 27mls there is a cottage set well back from the lock, it was occupied when we were removing the railway embankment at Woolsthorpe but whether it was built by the canal company I don't know.



Carpenters shop 1948 - Bernard Jessop

Next is Carpenters Shop, 28mls. This was where all lock gates and other wooden structures were made and maintained by the original canal company. The original yard had a tall brick wall all around it with large wooden doors on the main drive. There was a loading access hole on the canalside section. There were many more buildings than remain now, storage, workshops, open fronted wood stores and a saw pit. The rest of the site was for general storage and slipway for boats.

Next is Willis's cottage alongside Lock 17, this was the

residence of the Forman Carpenter just down the road.

Nothing now until the terminal basin at Grantham 33mls. This was the largest group of buildings on the whole canal, all demolished, nothing remains. Possibly the headquarters of the canal company. There was large under cover storage, outdoor storage area, a large loading basin and stables for boat horses. When the railway came to Grantham a line linked the basin to the goods yard. Along the route of the canal there are still properties, often near road bridges, that still exist and could once have been occupied by canal workers, probably now in private hands.

Finally the many wharves, one for every village or town, not always very close. There were only a few like Hickling where the canal passed through the village. There is no evidence that any buildings, other than Hickling were built, I presume there was a wharf manager in charge at each one. Possibly if the canal was run like the railway, the manager would know what day and what cargo the boat was carrying so that he could arrange the carrier to be there and help offload the cargo. I don't know whether a night watchman had to remain if any cargoes still remained on site. Another anomaly is there is no evidence of either wood or iron cranes at any wharf site, must have been quite a job handling bulky or heavy objects off the boats. Apparently there was a crane at the Dukes wharf at Muston but that went when the Castle railway closed.

The main cargo's carried were coal to Grantham and farm produce to Nottingham. Hay and straw would be a regular load for all the town horses. Night soil from Eastcroft Dept in Nottingham was sent to most wharves for distribution on local farms as fertiliser (I wouldn't have liked to be crew on those boats). Did you know the Middens,

(toilets), were used like our old steel dustbins. The public were encouraged to place broken crockery, ash, non returnable bottles, in fact anything that couldn't be burnt on the house coal fire. That is why you see after a field has been ploughed bits of broken crockery and other items. It all apparently helps the soil structure.



Dukes Wharf - Bernard Jessop





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## Here is the definitive list of all the roles currently undertaken by volunteers within The Grantham Canal Society.

Whilst individuals may take on other responsibilities within the society the contact email address will remain unaltered.

This list has taken me forever to obtain - so please don't lose it!

*Ed*

Patron	His Grace, The 11 <sup>th</sup> Duke of Rutland	
President	John Brydon	<a href="mailto:president@granthamcanal.org">president@granthamcanal.org</a>
Chairman	Mike Stone	<a href="mailto:chairman@granthamcanal.org">chairman@granthamcanal.org</a>
Chief Executive/ General Manager	David Lyneham- Brown	<a href="mailto:chiefexecutive@granthamcanal.org">chiefexecutive@granthamcanal.org</a>
Treasurer	Stan Harbridge	<a href="mailto:treasurer@granthamcanal.org">treasurer@granthamcanal.org</a>
Secretary	Gordon Wallis	<a href="mailto:secretary@granthamcanal.org">secretary@granthamcanal.org</a>
Canal Operations Manager	Ian Wakefield	<a href="mailto:operationsmanager@granthamcanal.org">operationsmanager@granthamcanal.org</a>
Head Ranger	Chris Cobb	<a href="mailto:headranger@granthamcanal.org">headranger@granthamcanal.org</a>
Health & Safety	Roger Charles	<a href="mailto:healthandsafety@granthamcanal.org">healthandsafety@granthamcanal.org</a>
Membership	Jane Grylls	<a href="mailto:membership@granthamcanal.org">membership@granthamcanal.org</a>
Social Media	Tony Jackson	<a href="mailto:socialmedia@granthamcanal.org">socialmedia@granthamcanal.org</a>
Webmaster	Mark Hubbard	<a href="mailto:webmaster@granthamcanal.org">webmaster@granthamcanal.org</a>
Senior Skipper	John Trigg	<a href="mailto:boatmaster@granthamcanal.org">boatmaster@granthamcanal.org</a>
Publicity	Kevan Bailey	<a href="mailto:pr@granthamcanal.org">pr@granthamcanal.org</a>
Fundraising	Neil White	<a href="mailto:fundraising@granthamcanal.org">fundraising@granthamcanal.org</a>
Volunteering	Christina Wallace	<a href="mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org">volunteer@granthamcanal.org</a>
Bridge Newsletter	Steve Swann	<a href="mailto:bridge@granthamcanal.org">bridge@granthamcanal.org</a>
Special Projects	Tony Osbond	<a href="mailto:specialprojects@granthamcanal.org">specialprojects@granthamcanal.org</a>
Community & Events	Rosemary Gibson	<a href="mailto:communityandevents@granthamcanal.org">communityandevents@granthamcanal.org</a>
Social Secretary	Mary Noble	<a href="mailto:socsec@granthamcanal.org">socsec@granthamcanal.org</a>



## A TIGHT FIT

### Purpose built locks for River Cruises built in 1970, helped create Portugal's Tourism Industry.



The River Douro Valleys of Portugal, are some of the most picturesque in The Iberian Peninsula. The 557 mile waterway flows from the 7000ft Picos de Urbion in Castile y Leon Spain to the estuary and out into the Atlantic at Porto in northern Portugal. The Heritage, habitat and beauty of this Portuguese region has been recognised by UNESCO and is designated as a World Heritage Site. Furthermore with the fall in height from Picos and volume of the river it is a major source of hydro -

electric power generation with many dams and locks providing navigable waterways in Spain and Portugal, as well as attracting wildlife. Of particular interest to boaters is the river cruising tourism and the locks which control navigable water from Spain,



not forgetting wine and port which has developed. There are 5 locks on the Portuguese section which control a fall of 426 feet from



the summit at the Spanish border, to the fifth & last lock, Carrapatelo, having a lift of **115 feet**. That is almost the total fall of The Grantham from Woolsthorpe to Trent Bridge (138ft)! The Carrapatelo is the deepest lock in western Europe: Spec; Built 1965-72, Length- 95m/313ft, Width-12m/40ft, Lift- 35m/115ft, gate Guillotine, Electricity Production 8/900GWh per year. The cruise ships are designed to virtually fill the lock with about 12 inch clearance from the deck rail to the canal wall. For precision steering the ships are fitted with 2 propellers at the bow and 2 propellers at the stern, all can be rotated through 360 degrees.

*Tony Pitman*

## The Three Shires Update - Dec 2018

Although our last private cruise took place on 27<sup>th</sup> October, The Three Shires team have had a busy few weeks. Some of our crew and other society members took part in a photo shoot, taking The Three Shires up to Denton winding hole on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Although not a perfect day by any means, the rain held off and a good time was had by all. We now have a good stock of pictures for next year's publicity.



Our last public trips of the year took place as part of the Dirty Duck Christmas market on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Passenger numbers were low, but the team worked hard to increase our profile, and some of our passengers showed interest in booking a private cruise next year.

Now is also the time that we start making plans for the 2019 cruising season. Our popular 'Turn up and Ride' public trips will operate on 17 days next year, the first of which will be on 31<sup>st</sup> March, Mother's Day. Why not book a meal at the Dirty Duck pub and treat mum to a short trip on the canal too? The dates for all our 2019 public trips are now on the website.

We are currently trialling a gift voucher scheme for private cruise bookings. If you are stuck for a gift for a loved one, what better present than a voucher for a 2, 3, or 4-hour cruise along the canal for up to 10 passengers. Contact our booking team on **07486 955775** or email [bookings@granthamcanal.org](mailto:bookings@granthamcanal.org) if you are interested in purchasing one. Please note that bookings made using a gift voucher are subject to availability, so book early if you are lucky enough to receive one!



Senior skipper, John Trigg and the team will be 'winterising' the boat and carrying out essential maintenance over the next few months.

We wish you a happy festive break and look forward to seeing you on board in 2019!

PD



# #Trending



By Tony Jackson

Fewer events to cover during the winter months, allows us time to talk about other aspects of the canal, its history and, our inland waterways in general.

During the last month, our Facebook followers will have enjoyed features as diverse as that pure extravagance of a confection which is the boatwoman's bonnet - through to a picture of the long lost bridge at Hickling Basin.

Twitter, has some of the same content as Facebook, with much less detail – but our Twitter feed does have a life of its own, which is nice I think, and reaches a different audience.

Of course, both have regular updates from Lock 14 as I receive them. I'm grateful to the guys working on this project for taking time out to take photographs for us. I'm sure photography is often the last thing on their mind at times – but, our social media analytics tell us - tens of thousands of you are hanging on their every picture! ...I've just had a lightbulb moment :-). I don't get 'em very often, but when they do come – they're brilliant! If every one of our social media tens of thousands were to visit our Donations Page on our website over Christmas – picking a campaign which floats their boat – chipping in a tenner – WOW! I'll put the idea to them.

The rain is hammering at the window as I write – let us hope for some traditional Christmas weather for our traditional Boxing Day walk along the towpath. If you do venture out – please post your pictures!

Wishing all our Facebook and Twitter followers a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! Feeling particularly generous; I'll extend my good wishes to all, follower or not.

I'm sure there'll be a post or two over the Christmas period – boredom doesn't take long to set in. The satisfaction gained from chewing one's nuts soon diminishes – and the pull of a little creativity in the form writing draws.

If you're wondering what Hickling Bridge looked like before the act of corporate vandalism, here it is:







## RANGER'S WANTED

Do you have a couple of hours to spare every week or every other week?

The Ranger's team require new Ranger's for two sections of canal, Kinoulton and Redmile.

Duties include :

- Regular walk's/rides along the towpath reporting issues including changes to water level, obstructions in the waterway, environmental issues etc.
- Interact with the public raising awareness of the Society and recruit new members.
- Help carry out surveys of canal and towpath users.
- Litterpick and bank clearance.
- Minor repairs and restoration.

We are also looking to increase the team on other sections of the canal, mainly between West Bridgford and Hickling.

If you are interested please contact :  
Chris Cobb

([headranger@granthamcanal.org](mailto:headranger@granthamcanal.org))



## COMPUTER TECH TIPS

BY GILES



### General Editing Tips

These editing tips can be applied in all editing programs not just Word, so will work in Excel, Publisher, Powerpoint etc.

The first tip is controlling double line spacing for a new paragraph, usually when you press return on a new line, Word and other text editors assume you want a new paragraph and so insert a double space between lines, but if you don't want this (for instance if you're typing in an address when creating a letter) you can hold down the Shift key and press return (or enter) and the cursor will go directly underneath to the next line.

When resizing images by dragging the handles at the corners of an image you can keep the image in the same proportions when resizing by holding the shift key down as you drag and resize the image. Right click an image or table to give further options on formatting and control how text flows around an image.

Quick tips when editing: hold down the ctrl key and press B to turn **Bold** on or off, ctrl+I for *Italics* and ctrl+U for Underline. Hold ctrl and press S key to save your document, hold ctrl and press P to print. Hold ctrl and press Z to undo your last action(s).

If you're copying content from another source such as a web page and you want to copy the text and not the formatting, once you copy from the source do a right click in the word document and choose one of the paste options, these allow you to copy the content with or without formatting.

If spell check has highlighted a word, underlining it in red, if you right click on the miss-spelt word it'll show a menu with suggested spellings and also the option to add the word to the dictionary if spelt correctly. This will usually work in most email systems including Outlook mail and Gmail.

## CANAL CLEANUP ... AT GAMSTON

Gareth of CRT, Chris of GCS and a group of willing volunteers enjoyed a few hours grafting away along the Gamston section of our lovely canal. The volunteers on the day were Diane, Tori, Daisy, Helena, Laura, Insan, Katy, Mark and Deb.

### A really big thank you to all.

We managed to remove quite a few objects from the canal, not just litter and cans but, amongst other items, a wicker chair, a child's tricycle, a duvet, steel reinforcing mesh, fallen branches, half of a traffic cone and, would you believe, a shopping trolley. Two other shopping trolleys were "rescued" from bushes and all were returned to their owner.

A good deal of perspiration was generated by scabbling the towpath back to its original width (there's much more to do on this) and by raking and sweeping up the trillions of leaves from it. As usual a thorough litter pick was carried out along the towpath. We even managed to finish the last bit of painting of the steel gate (the white bands) which was not quite completed last time.



**By popular demand and even by insistence from some of the volunteers another task day was arranged for early December**



*Ranger Rob*

## LADY BAY "TRUXTOR" ACHIEVEMENT

The "Truxtor" machine is owned and operated by Serco who operate the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. **The Friends of Lady Bay Canal (FLBC) clubbed together and raised a lot of money to hire it for a week.**

The plan being to remove most of the weeds and reeds from that section of the Canal.

The "Truxtor" was contracted to operate for the whole week or until the job was done. The Grantham Canal Society & the Canal & River Trust are interested to see how it performs as it may not have been used on the canal before.

After a lengthy negotiation with Nottinghamshire County Council & the farmer it was agreed that the cut material could be deposited onto the opposite bank and into the margin of the field.

*The "Truxtor" is amphibious with caterpillar type tracks which propel it through the water and enable it to climb up quite steep banks. It can be driven directly into the water from the towpath & carries a wide meshed basket at the front to scoop up the weeds. The basket can be raised, lowered and tipped to eject the spoil which contains very little silt.*



*Rob*

## **LOCK 15 BUY-A-BRICK UPDATE**

The rebuild of Lock 15 is now complete, and the Buy-A-Brick scheme helped us enormously in providing bricks for this project.

**The engraved bricks will form part of a seating structure near to Lock 15.**

However the proposed area is presently unsuitable as it is still being used as our works compound during the restoration work. We do need to keep this compound operational for a while, due to lack of space at Lock 14.

Ecological reinstatement of this area is planned so that native trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers and reeds can be planted.

At the moment, we are not sure when this reinstatement will take place and are obviously reluctant to create a structure which could be damaged during the clearance process.

**Thank you for your support.  
We aim to provide more details soon.**

## **HEDGEHOG WELFARE**

As winter is approaching please remember to leave out food and water for the hedgehogs. I am still getting them in the garden every night. The extra food can make a big difference to a hedgehog that is still a little under weight.

Wild hedgehogs need to be a minimum of 450g to get through hibernation. If they are underweight they need to come into care.

With the mild weather we are having, we are still releasing hedgehogs as they reach their release weight. Although release weight is always a little more than hibernation weight, they often lose a little when they are first released. That is why we ask you to continue to feed them.

**Janet Peto**

**Hedgehog Welfare**

**07940 714830**



Hedgehog drawing by Sally Smith

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

Mr Duignan, Ralph Bellamy,  
Worthwayflete Foundation,  
Nigel Lee, D.R.D Broome and  
Mrs R.J.Gibson

Also to Mr/Mrs Altham for their monthly donations throughout the year





# This Christmas

give some community

# Spirit



- This Christmas you can now buy lottery gift vouchers to support us
- Every £1 ticket helps to support local good causes
- Your support will make a real and lasting difference this Christmas to our amazing local community groups
- As well as doing something great for your local good causes, you also get the chance to win £25,000 every week

To start supporting, visit:

**[www.lotterysk.co.uk](http://www.lotterysk.co.uk)**

and search for: **Grantham Canal**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

\*See website for terms and conditions

## 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

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# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



**WEEKDAYS AT LOCK 14**



If you can spare some time to join one of our teams then please email [volunteer@granthamcanal.org](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org) or [lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org](mailto:lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org)

### AGM Raffle Winners

Tony Kirkland, Carole Troops, John Robinson, Anthony Goody, David Lyneham-Brown, and Paul Dadford.

We made £135 for the Grantham Canal Society. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Mary Noble