

JANUARY

BRIDGE

2019



Almost a painting by Constable!

Photograph by Jim Freeman

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)

During one of those seasonal chit chats I was asked **"How do you motivate volunteers?"** My fairly short answer was "You don't have to; if they were not already motivated they wouldn't be volunteering". Ask any dozen active members why they volunteer and you will likely receive more than a dozen different answers. As individuals they are self-motivated so what then are the roles of management in a voluntary society?

Put simply a manager is a facilitator.

A person who ensures that a volunteer has the necessary opportunity to give of their time and energy to the subject of their interest. A volunteer's commitment is to donate their time; management responsibility is to see that that time is used beneficially for the good of both the society and the individual.

Time is a precious commodity and should not be wasted or regarded as expendable. It is valuable! The level of satisfaction a person receives from volunteering mostly depends on how well they consider the organisation is valuing their time and how productive they have been. To ensure that the Society continues to develop an offering that attracts increasing numbers of volunteers our Managers should forward plan so that every volunteer feels welcomed. By that I mean that each feels they receive the support needed to accomplish their task by the most efficient methods available ... and this probably requires our management team to plan well ahead of implementation dates.

Last minute decision-making does not usually demonstrate the most efficient organisational style!

"Remember all volunteers are priceless!"

So what are the roles of Society Chairman and Chief Executive?

A Chairman's role is to make sure that the organisation has a long-term strategy that will ensure its success. He is also the custodian of the organisation's reputation with the outside world.

The Chief Executive's role is to drive the organisation forward on a day-to-day basis and make sure it achieves its short-term plans.

Ideally the two jobs should not be combined and I was delighted that David Lyneham-Brown was willing to take on this latter role from my portfolio over a year ago.

So what does the future hold?

I will be looking at the long-term objectives of the Society to ensure we fulfil our goal of connecting to the National waterway network.

No! I can't tell you when this will happen ... but the sooner the better!

A very Happy New Year to you all.

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 18th January,

"IWA Canalway Cavalcade"

An illustrated talk by Jerry Sanders, one of IWA's events organisers.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Mon 14 th Jan 7.30	Rangers' Meeting, The Plough, Stathern
Mon 21 st Jan 2.00	Talk: Ruddington U3A
Wed 23 rd Jan 10.00	Earlesfield Canal Clean Up
Fri 25 th Jan 10.00	Events Planning Meeting, Woolsthorpe Depot
Mon 28 th Jan 10.00	Education Team Review and Planning Meeting, Woolsthorpe Depot
Wed 23 rd Jan 10.00	Lady Bay Canal Clean Up
Thurs 7 th Mar 7.00	Rippingdale & District WI
Sun 31 st Mar 10.00 – 4.00	Mothers' Day Boat Trips
Sun & Mon 21 st & 22 nd Apr 10.00 – 4.00	Easter Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open
Sun & Mon 5 th & 6 th May 10.00 – 4.00	May Day Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open
Tues 14 th May Evening	Talk: Grantham British Legion, PWG Barracks
Fri – Sun 17 th – 19 th May	Dirty Duck Beer Festival and Boat Trips in aid of Canal
Sun & Mon 26 th & 27 th May 10.00 – 4.00	Spring Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open
Thurs 6 th June 7.30	Talk: Sutton on Trent WI
Sun 16 th June	Fathers' Day Boat Trips
Thurs 25 th Jul 10.00	Talk: Grantham Earlybirds WI, Grantham Museum
Sat & Sun 27 th & 28 th July	GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY 50 TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
Fri – Sun 16 th – 18 th Aug	WRG Family Camp
Sun & Mon 25 th & 26 th Aug 10.00 – 4.00	August Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open
Sun 29 th Sep 10.00 – 4.00	Summer Sunday Boat Trips
Sun 13 th October	DISCOVERY DAY
Talk bookings are already coming in for 2020!	Talk bookings are already coming in for 2020!

GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE at LOCK 14

**Demolition nearly complete
Just a bit more really hard work!**



**Foot
note!**

Many thanks to John Clark, Jim Freeman &
Dave Cross for these photos

Community and Education Update

January 2019

Happy New Year one and all. Girding loins for another active year promoting the Canal, especially since Grantham Canal Society is

50 years old

1969 – 2019

I shall be looking out for pictures and information to display telling the story of these 50 years and would welcome anything anyone is willing to share.

You are cordially invited to an **Events Planning Meeting** on

**Friday 25th January 10.00
at the Depot, Woolsthorpe
by Belvoir**

If you have ideas, but can't make that date and time, please get in touch.

We have dates for some other events through the year, but I haven't got round to making definite bookings yet.

Learning Team/Explorers meeting –

Monday 28th January 10.00 at

Woolsthorpe Depot – Please join us if this interests you.

Rosemary

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org
or 07971173069

Rosemary

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



January Wildflowers

It might seem like a strange time to be thinking about wildflowers, but the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) runs a New Year Plant Hunt each year to see what people can find in bloom.

This year has been unusually mild in the lead-up to Christmas with very little in the way of sustained frosts, and this means many late-season stragglers are hanging in there alongside the regular winter reliables.

This year, over 14,000 records of New Year wildflowers have been submitted to the BSBI and over 600 different species were recorded – to put this in context, there are generally considered to be around 1,600 native, naturalised or introduced species in the UK.

It's worth keeping an eye out to see what you can spot along the towpath in January, especially if it remains mild. The species you might find fall broadly into one of three categories.

The 'hangers-on' – these are species which flower late into the summer and will try their best to carry on until a hard frost finishes them off – examples I've seen in flower recently include hedgerow cranesbill and black knapweed.

The 'winter reliables' – these are species which can generally be found flowering at any time of year – the common daisy is a typical example but other 'weedy' species such as dandelion and groundsel also fit the category.

Finally there are the 'spring starters' – these are species which typically flower early in the season such as sweet violet, hazel and winter heliotrope.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



Last month Mike detailed some more buildings and mentioned the wharves along the canal. He continues ...

The first catastrophe that happened on the Grantham after the society was formed was in September 1972. I had a call from a relative who had driven over the old Casthorpe bridge and noticed that the canal was almost dry and was I aware of it. So I drove over and parked near the bridge and started to walk towards Grantham. I hadn't gone far when I came across a large hole in the canal bed with water rapidly disappearing down it and flooding down a very narrow dyke and away to a stream. Luckily someone had alerted BWB and the main water supply from Denton reservoir had been turned off. With it being the top pound the water loss was not as great as if it had occurred on the 20mile section. The big catastrophe was the loss of fish and other water based creatures, many hundreds of fish had been swept down the dyke and the local fishing club tried to recover as many as possible with limited success. BWB were soon on the scene and a repair was successfully carried out but it took many years before the fish stocks recovered.

The photo shows a group of GCRS volunteers repairing a culvert at Fishpond Cottages, Kinoulton in the early 1970's.

The next culvert to fail was in February 1980 between bridges 37 and 38 near Hose and carried the Stroom dyke, luckily the BWB were able to block the culverts at bridge 39 and the lowered bridge 38, Marriots, has a concrete weir underneath it so water loss was kept to a minimum. This culvert was two brick pipes and one had collapsed but things had changed. No quick fix this time. First a road was laid down to the site, then a large compound was built with huts, toilets and other amenities then BWB laid bypass pipes with pumps to keep the rest of the canal in water. The old brick culverts were all dug out and a concrete base relaid to support a metal Armco pipe, made in Canada. All public and sightseers were excluded from the towpath and worksite. Health and Safety at Work had appeared. The work took some considerable time but the site was landscaped and little trace remains. A lot of us thought it could have been a training exercise and learning curve away from a busy used canal. Since then many more culverts have been replaced, possibly in poor condition, and before they were mini disasters.



Longore bridge no. 58 was partially rebuilt without any advice to us, I found out about it from a neighbours son who had been recruited for that one job. Apparently BWB had sourced some hand built bricks of similar size to the original's and wanted new bricklayers to practice once again away from the public eye.

Contribution

Dear Steve, I read with great interest the article on canal-side properties by Mike Atherley, covering in particular "Skinner's Lock", Lock 4. I am able to fill in a few details of those living in the late 1800's in what is now "Shepherd's Cottage", the head of the household being William Skinner, my great grandfather, born 1844. My research is not at all intensive, and I am no historian, but may be of interest. If any readers know more, I should be delighted to hear from them.



The earliest I have, (from Cotgrave records), is a Richard Skinner married a Jane Sharpe in 1776, but I have no evidence he became connected with the new canal. The 1841 census gives at Canal House, John Skinner, Agric.Labourer, 40 y.o. There were some years ago a number of Skinners in the graveyard at Cotgrave, but on a second visit we saw they had been removed. Enquiries why and whither proved fruitless.

The first quoted Lockkeeper is @1851, John Skinner, "Canal Lock House", aged 30, and he is classed as Canal labourer in 1861.

My first personal connection is in the 1881 doc, where residents of the cottage were William Skinner, (son of above), Lockkeeper, with offspring John, Oscar, Annie, and Amy, [sister in-law]. The last three were known well to me as a child.

Oscar was my grandfather, but worked in Nottingham, where at 14 he was firing up Midland Railway locos at 4a.m. He eventually became Fireman, Driver and retired as a Superintendent and a strong ASLEF delegate. One of his engines was a "duckie six", 4416, not the most distinguished class to come out of Derby! The irony is that the railway eventually put the Canal, by which he spent his childhood, out of business.

I am aware of most of the detail of the huge "tree" from Oscar to date, but not that of his siblings, but these details would be of scant interest to your readers.

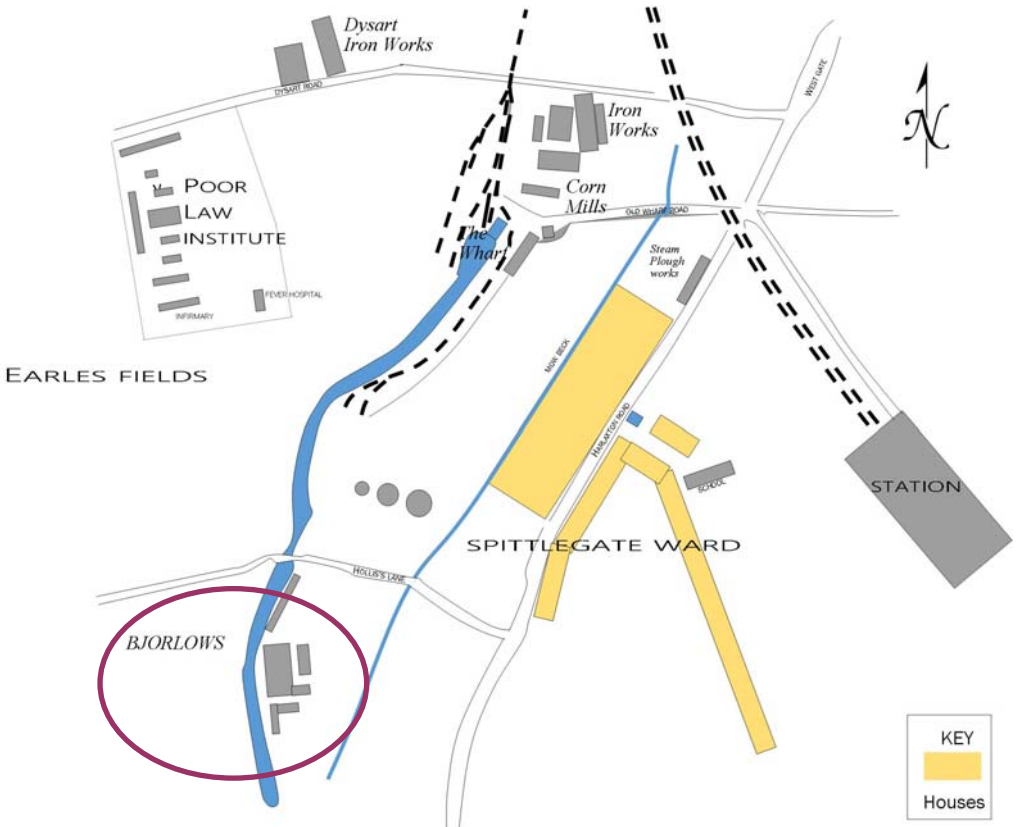
Best of luck, and strength of arm to all those enthusiasts who have made the Canal a living concept,
from Roger Skinner [81]



William's great-great-grandson, and daughter at Skinner's Lock

Earle's Field industry

Over the next few months we are going to explore some of the past industry in the Earlsfield district of Grantham and, with the help of several Bridge readers will highlight some of the local industry which contributed to Grantham's wealth.



IF YOU CAN PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BUILDINGS ON THIS MAP THEN PLEASE LET ME KNOW. PUB NAMES? WAS THERE A BUTTON FACTORY?

This month we'll look at Bjorlows (Great Britain) Ltd., Earle's Field Lane Tannery



in Grantham

(part 1 - Bjorlows)



Memory Lane : Bjorlows 1935 - c/o Grantham Matters



An aerial view of the factory taken in 1957 with a closer view of Hollis's Bridge no 69.

Grateful thanks to John Manterfield, Humphrey Platts and Grantham Library for these photos and details

Prior to 1933 high quality leather goods had been exported by Bjorlow's from Copenhagen in Denmark but in that year the British Government imposed a high import tariff on leather goods so the decision was made to set up a factory in Britain and serve their well established customers with high their quality calf suede.

In 1934 an independent company was set up and moved to a derelict site of Shaw's Tannery adjacent to the Grantham Canal. Danish technicians originally set up production but returned home once their work was completed.

Rather than just produce calf suede the company decided to specialise in suede kid which was a more popular leather for use in the manufacture of ladies shoes and produced from goatskins.

Bjorlows started producing split leather suede

in 1939 which was very suitable for heavier shoe production and served them well during the war years for supplying flying boot leather to the RAF.

During the post war years suede kid production increased considerably and during this time the factory would abstract about 100,000 gallons a day from the Grantham Canal.

In the early 50's a new suede product was pioneered by Bjorlows which rendered it water repellent and significantly improved the resistance to rain of shoes made from this product.

During the 60's production increased and the factory grew to occupy a ground area of 100,000 square feet. During this time new suede leathers were produced which were particularly suitable for the clothing industry.

The factory closed in the early 70's.

The Three Shires Update – Jan 2019

Passers-by at Lock 18 may have noticed that two of the rather unattractive aluminium window panels, installed on The Three Shires when not in use, have recently been transformed. Vinyl graphics have been fitted to provide better information about our 'Turn Up and Ride' trips and private cruises. Whilst we hope that this will generate more bookings, the panels also make the boat a little more appealing on her moorings!



The Three Shires is now laid up for the winter and our crew are also enjoying a well-deserved rest. Looking at last year's statistics, they have put in over 1,300 hours between them! We want to make 2019 our best cruising season ever and new crew members are more than welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch via the Membership Secretary at membership@granthamcanal.org. Don't forget that details of all our Turn Up and Ride trips, and our current availability for private cruises, can be found on the website. We have one 2-hour cruise booked in already. It's never too early to get your booking in the diary! For details, contact our booking team on 07486 955775 or email bookings@granthamcanal.org



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)



#Trending



By Tony Jackson



Top tweet during the last 28 days was Harlaxton Wharf in the snow. No, fear not, you didn't blink and miss it. This was early 20th Century snow, when the wharf was still in use. The picture showing the tripod from which the weighing scales were suspended. Over 1,800 of you viewed this.

The biscuit this month goes to Facebook, with 4,196 views and still counting – you really do like the Dirty Duck! This post was a whistle-stop tour through 260 years or so of the pub's history – starting before it even was a pub!



Many are surprised to learn the pub pre-dates the building of the canal, and if you want to know what 15 tablecloths, a horse pistol and Tasmania have to do with the Dirty Duck – you need follow us on our social media.

Looking forward to meeting you in cyberspace. Don't be frightened by what you hear; stay off the subject of politics, cyclists (of which I'm one) and, as I've recently discovered; dog poo – and you'll remain unscathed.

Your rural cyberspaceman
Tony

**OUR TREASURER
STAN HARBIDGE
IS HAVING TO
RELINQUISH
HIS POSITION
WITH THE
SOCIETY FOR
PERSONAL
REASONS**



**WE HAVE MADE
NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS TO
FIND A WILLING
REPLACEMENT BUT SO FAR
HAVE NOT BEEN
SUCCESSFUL.**

**PLEASE COULD YOU
HELP?**

**IF A REPLACEMENT FOR STAN
ISN'T FOUND WITHIN THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS THEN THE
SOCIETY WILL HAVE NO
TREASURER!**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR
WISH TO DISCUSS THE DUTIES
THIS POSITION REQUIRES THEN
PLEASE CONTACT**

chiefexecutive@granthamcanal.org

***or contact me at Bridge & I will pass
your details on***

Ed



CAKE MAKERS!

**Please make a note in your
diaries to remind you that
there is a meeting of all cake
bakers at 10.30am on Tuesday
26th March in the Depot at
Woolsthorpe in order to plan
for the Easter Open Days**

**Our Volunteers are out on
Fridays and Saturdays**



**tidying up the 4 mile stretch
of our beautiful canal from
Lock 18 to the AI and
around the Woolsthorpe
Depot.**

**Thank you to all our volunteers
and A Happy New Year.**

**If you would like to join us then
please come down to the Depot,
NG32 1NY Friday and/or
Saturday 9am
(coffee and cake is available)**

Mary N



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



Internet Banking Q&A

I've noticed that many people don't use internet banking due to security concerns which I can understand but it's quite safe as long as you adopt sensible security measures.

Banks have their own security measures such as partial passwords when logging in to combat key stroke logging malware or using two step verification which involves generating a unique code each time you sign in using a security device from your bank or a unique code sent to your mobile as you sign in, there are other things you can do to make it safer still though.

Malware can infect mobile phone or tablet devices and increasingly Android devices are becoming a target for hackers. That said, using your bank's official app on your tablet or smartphone is always more secure than using a Windows PC or laptop. Although Apps are vetted for security before they become available on the App Store, sometimes malware apps can get through so whichever device you use for banking keep it as free from unofficial apps as possible, so WhatsApp or Twitter apps are fine but a niche game from an obscure developer should be avoided on a device you do banking on. Never download an App outside the official App store or do banking on a jailbroken mobile device (a device that has had security restrictions removed).

Apple devices are particularly secure due to their software and inherent security measures. For that reason I almost exclusively do online banking via an iPhone.

Using a Windows PC or Laptop remains the least secure device for online banking as they have far more malware threats to contend with. If you do use Windows for online banking always ensure Security / Antivirus Software is up to date, make sure Windows is up to date too, be vigilant and ensure any software installed is from a legitimate source and watch out for fake Phishing email messages, ensure emailed links are from a trusted source before clicking on them. Also most banks insist that you have a browser extension installed called Trusteer Rapport by IBM which is software that integrates with your web browser and protects you when logged into your bank.

Although communications are encrypted to your bank always ensure you're using a secure network when doing online banking, don't access your bank when on an open network such as the free WiFi at Starbucks or Costa Coffee, use your mobile data connection if possible or better still wait till you get home and use your own broadband WiFi connection.

Also it probably goes without saying that you should make your banking password quite complex and never share this information with anyone including anyone claiming to be your bank.

COMMUNITY CLEANUPS AT GAMSTON & LADY BAY

Another big thank you to Gareth and Ayden of the Canal & River Trust (CRT) and all of the volunteers who enjoyed yet another session of grafting along the Gamston section of our lovely canal on Sunday 9th December. Our volunteers this time were Jon, Diane, Laura, Sarah, Keith, Deb, Mark, Kath and Alistair. A really big thank you to all.



Yet another example of the Grantham Canal community action. This is the third time in less than three months that an enthusiastic group of community volunteers carried on the good work over the same stretch of canal.

This time we had two separate groups. The main group concentrated on the area at the Ambleside end of the canal but another group dealt with litter at the opposite end, namely from the River Trent to Mable Grove in Lady Bay. The Gamston team met in Morrisons Cafe at 10:00 to plan the work. The "Trent End" group swung straight into action litter picking down their end.

One of the jobs that's extremely difficult for the Canal & River Trust (CRT) to do is restoring the towpath to its original width. This is because it is very labour intensive. Over the years the grass and weeds encroach into the towpath, drastically reducing its width.

Armed with edging cutters, spades, rakes, brushes, wheelbarrows and muscle power the volunteers set to work. It was amazing just how much the grass had encroached onto the towpath. Have no doubt this is hard work but the

Gamston team were up to it. The Trent End team concentrated purely on litter picking.

The difference made to the width of the towpath was really surprising. The area worked on now looks much tidier and is far more practicable for walkers and cyclists. There's still much more to do and this particular task will be the mainstay of many more future events.



The Gamston litter pickers had the usual haul of rubbish from the towpath, hedge bottoms and surrounding areas.

The "Trent End" litter pickers also hauled in several bags of litter. On this

occasion it was not practicable to remove many objects from the canal itself due to the towpath being quite a bit higher than the canal in this area.

The morning was very pleasant, sunny and fairly mild. The continuous hard work ensured that no one had time to feel cold.

The event was organised by the Grantham Canal Society and overseen by the Canal and River Trust who also provided the equipment.



MORRISONS' RESPOND TO COMMUNITY EFFORTS

After months of Katy's letter-writing to Morrisons' and finally dealing direct with the Director of Corporate and Social Responsibility at head office, they have put:



A NEW BIN BY THEIR EXIT
ON TO THE CANAL AND A
LARGE SIGN UP BY THE EXIT
ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO
USE THE BINS

A NEW BIN BY THE
CASHPOINTS



SOME WIRE MESHING BEHIND SOME OF THEIR
FENCING NEXT TO THE CANAL TO REDUCE THE
AMOUNT OF LITTER BLOWING THROUGH.

This is a great start and I hope it will reduce the
amount of litter we have to pick up.

Katy Sewell

Well done Katy - a very good result

Ed



With the new year upon us it's
time for us to start on the
second phase of the Earlsfield
section clean up.

On **Wednesday 23rd January** we
will be starting to clean the
section of canal between Trent
Road and Swingbridge Road,
Grantham.

This section is very overgrown
and we are expecting to spend
many months removing reeds
and rubbish from it all by hand.

If you would like to join this
small group, we will be meeting
at **10.00 am** by the bridge on
Trent Road.

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

Mrs B.Anthony, Anthony Binch,
Jane Grylls, P.J.Braton, Nigel Lee,
David Heath, Iain Yexley,
Samuel Graham and
Antonia Browne.



**PLEASE
SUPPORT
US**



Tickets
from **£1**

Win up to
£25,000

50% of ticket price
goes to our cause

Tickets are **now** on sale
so don't delay!

**DON'T FORGET TO NOMINATE
THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY
AS YOUR CHOSEN CHARITY**

To buy your ticket visit
<https://www.lotterysk.co.uk/>
or call the Lottery Team on 01476 347474