

FEBRUARY

BRIDGE

2019



The half mile pound being dredged

Photo by John Clark

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)

Winter has shown just how much rubbish, human and otherwise, plant growth conceals for much of the year. Winter exposes the canal 'warts and all' as they say with its bare banks and water surfaced by dead and rotting vegetation visible to all who walk the towpath. Whilst nature can be forgiven if it hasn't been properly managed there is no excuse for the humans. Why is it necessary to tip domestic waste in the canal? Why do dog walkers put their pets' droppings in plastic bags which they leave tied to trees and hedges? Why can't the DIY brigade drive their off-cuts to an approved tip instead of driving to a canal? Our Canal Rangers work hard to keep their allotted lengths of waterway in a presentable condition but I see no reason why they should be expected to remove items that are thoughtlessly – I suspect more likely intentionally – left by others. Dog owners are the worst offenders and we will be looking for future opportunities to encourage them to change their habits.

However, there are areas of the canal where nature conceals more disturbing problems. The dry section has areas where growth of brambles and weeds provides a very suitable home for a rodent population – no not hamsters I mean rats! The pipes under the various lowered bridges are a very comfortable home for these pests and they can often be seen on the towpath if the watcher stands quietly for a period of time. Undergrowth scrub prevents larger birds of prey from access so they are unable to reduce rodent numbers. The Society has plans to minimise this problem by clearing much of the dry section vegetation and, hopefully encourage a reduction in the rat population.

A cleared and clean waterway promotes environmental growth as the canal facilitates several links in the food chain. Our water is of varied depths and of good quality sustaining development of plants, which provide habitat for both flying and swimming larva, insects and invertebrates. These in their turn are sources for others that swim, walk or fly in that same water.

Other larger birds or mammals take full advantage of the available food larder. Thus we see waterfowl and bats on the canal in numbers; herons and occasionally kingfishers; mink, and now but very occasionally' an otter. A gentle flow of deep water provides the right environment for all that's good – ok so not the mink – and more particularly the right balance for nature in the Vale of Belvoir. If water is too shallow or too stagnant some invertebrates cannot survive; specialist plants will disappear; without both of them fish, who also need deeper and flowing water, will disappear; insects will not reach maturity; lack of insects means fewer fish and reduced birdlife. The chain gets broken!

Hence the GCS promotes clean flowing water in the canal and CRT has undertaken dredging of the lengths through the SSSI. All of this work needs to continue as otherwise the waterway will become clogged with plants and in turn it will silt up. A canal is, unlike a river, not self-cleaning so requires human assistance to ensure nature's normal life-cycle of growth continues to sustain the environment we all enjoy.

The latest very good news from the WHI Project is that dredging of the length below Lock 16 has been completed! This is a first step to getting a boat through to access the new Lock 15. A boat going through that lock will really demonstrate the positive messages that the GCS volunteers and others are delivering to the community.

Mike Stone.



**INLAND
WATERWAYS**
ASSOCIATION

**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 15th February AGM. Followed by "The Boston to Peterborough Waterway, part of the Fens waterway link" an illustrated talk by IWA Regional Manager, David Pullen.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Sat 16 th Feb 10.00 – 4.00	Grantham Museum 'Do Something New' event
Mon 25 th Feb 2.00	Events Team Meeting, Depot
<u>Sun 3rd Mar 10.00 – 2.00</u>	How to recruit new members and volunteers? Depot
<u>Thurs 7th Mar 7.00</u>	<u>Talk: Rippingdale & District WI - RG</u>
Mon 11 th Mar 7.30	Rangers' Meeting, Old Wharf Tea Room, Hickling Basin
Tues 26 th Mar 10.30	Cake Bakers' Meeting, Depot
Sun 31st Mar 10.00 – 4.00	Mothers' Day Boat Trips – Depot open, volunteers needed
<u>Wed 10th Apr</u>	<u>DLB talk IWA Warwickshire Branch</u>
<u>Thurs 11th Apr 7.45</u>	<u>Talk and information stand, Langar Cum Barnstone Parish Meeting</u>
Sun 14 th Apr	Walk: Stathern – Hose – Harby headranger@granthamcanal.org
Sun & Mon 21st & 22nd Apr 10.00 – 4.00	Easter Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Sun & Mon 5th & 6th May 10.00 – 4.00	May Day Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open. volunteers needed
Mon 5 th May	Denton Street Market, Display in St Andrews Church
<u>Tues 14th May Evening</u>	<u>Talk: Grantham British Legion, PWG Barracks</u>
<u>Wed 15th May 2.30</u>	<u>Talk: Marlborough Court, West Bridgford</u>
Fri – Sun 17th – 19th May	Dirty Duck Beer Festival and Boat Trips in aid of Canal
Wed 22 nd May	Visit and Boat Trips – Nottingham Society of Engineers
<u>Wed 22nd May evening</u>	<u>DLB Talk: Kinoulton Parish Council</u>
Sun & Mon 26th & 27th May 10.00 – 4.00	Spring Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
<u>Thurs 6th June 7.30</u>	<u>Talk: Sutton on Trent WI</u>
Sun 16th June 10.00 – 4.00	Fathers' Day Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Sun 30th June 10.00 – 4.00	Summer Sunday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Mon- Fri 1st – 5th July	Grantham Canal Schools' Week
<u>Thurs 18th Jul 7.30</u>	<u>Talk: East Stoke WI</u>
Sun 21st July 3.00	Lyrical Songbirds Concert for Canal at Cropwell Bishop, Old School
<u>Thurs 25th Jul 10.00</u>	<u>Talk: Grantham Earlybirds WI, Grantham Museum</u>
Sat & Sun 27th & 28th July	GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
<u>Wed 31st July 7.30</u>	<u>Talk: Swayfield Garden Club</u>
Wed 14 th Aug	Walk: Nottingham National Trust Supporters
Fri – Sun 16th – 18th Aug	WRG Family Camp
Sun & Mon 25th & 26th Aug 10.00 – 4.00	August Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open
<u>Thurs 5th Sept</u>	<u>DLB Talk: London Canal Museum</u>
Thurs 12 th Sept 7.00	Visit from Upper Broughton History Group to Depot
Fri 13 th Sept evening	Heritage Open Day Pop in for Teachers
Sat 14th Sept 10.00 – 4.00	Heritage Open Day: Learning about our Canal + Boat Trips, Depot
Sun 29th Sep 10.00 – 4.00	Summer Sunday Boat Trips
Sun 13th October	DISCOVERY DAY
<u>Wed 6th Nov 12.00</u>	<u>Talk: Breath Easy Nottingham, Edwalton Golf Club</u>
<u>Wed 27th Nov a.m</u>	<u>DLB Talk: Vale of Belvoir Probus</u>
Talk bookings are already coming in for 2020!	

GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

at LOCK 14 - **REBUILDING STARTS!**



After the first concrete pour some tidying up and the whole area is ready for rebuilding to commence



From the first bricks being laid to the growing inner wall - all in a few days!



Dredging the pound between Carpenter's Lock & Woolsthorpe Middle Lock

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



The Three Shires Update – Feb 2019

February is now upon us and there are only a few weeks to go before we start our 2019 cruising season.

We are running our popular 'Turn up and Ride' trips on 18 days this year. Prices are the same as last year - £3 adults, £2 children for a 30-minute cruise. Why not bring mum along on **Mother's Day on Sunday 31st March** where we will be cruising from 10 am to 4 pm. We will also be running trips on **Father's Day on Sunday 16th June** if you want to treat dad too.

We already have 7 private cruise bookings in the calendar. If you are thinking of making a booking, contact us soon to secure your preferred date.

Our gift vouchers are now on sale for 2, 3 or 4-hour private cruises. Printed on high quality card, and in a presentation envelope, they make an unusual gift and an ideal way to get up to 10 family members together.



We know that our private cruises might be a little out of reach for some, so we are working with the Dirty Duck pub on plans for 'Cruise and Dine' trips. Small groups or couples will be able to enjoy a cruise on The Three Shires combined with a meal at the Dirty Duck at very special prices. We hope to publish details soon.

To book a private cruise, purchase a gift voucher, or to find out more about 'Cruise and Dine', please contact our booking team on 07486 955775 or email bookings@granthamcanal.org

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



Snowdrops

The first of February is Imbolc - the Gaelic festival marking the end of winter and the start of spring. Much of the vegetation still seems very much set in its midwinter torpor, but snowdrops are in full flower promising more signs of spring will follow in their wake.

Snowdrops are probably not native, but have been naturalised for so long that they have gathered many regional folk names including "February Fair-Maids", "Eve's Tear", "dewdrops" and "Mary's Tapers". They are classified as 'neophytes' which quite literally means 'new plant' from the Greek *néos* meaning new, and *phutón* meaning plant. In the UK, neophytes are alien species which escaped into the wild after 1500 AD.

Snowdrops are often planted but will quickly naturalise if left to their own devices – they can be seen in several locations along the Canal, including at the Grantham end on the A1 embankment. They often grow well under trees and in woodland, but are equally at home in parkland and gardens.

There are several species of snowdrop you might find growing naturalised in the UK but the most common is *Galanthus nivalis* – shown in the photograph. The genus name 'Galanthus' derives from the Greek *gála* meaning milk and *ánthos* meaning flower; whilst the species name 'nivalis' is from the Latin and means snow-like. Other species with bright grass-green leaves, and ornamental varieties such as double-flowers are also found planted, especially in churchyards and cemeteries around the Vale.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



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

After joining the canal society it was always my ambition to cruise the Grantham in my own boat. In the mid 80's I had an opportunity to give this idea a trial. I still had a small inflatable with an outboard engine and asked Fred Marsh if he would like to join/help crew the trip. The idea being with two cars you could pre decide each days journey length and leave one vehicle at each end of the trip. This saved a to and fro journey reducing unnecessary mileage. We decided to start from the Grantham end and chose Denton Wharf as the first launch place the other car was left at Woolsthorpe.

The idea to start at Denton was because of the possible difficulty navigating Harlaxton Drift and road access to towpath also being awkward. We set off in the Grantham direction so as to see how far it was possible and the end or blockage came just after Harlaxton bridge No.66. with several fallen trees. So turning and travelling in the right direction the rain started but it was light and soon stopped. We managed to get under the old Casthorpe bridge by lying flat in the boat and the bridge was ok apart from a fallen tree which we brushed over the top of. We had to stop at lock 18 Woolsthorpe so called it a day for that part of the trip. Because of the difficulty port gaging the boat around all the lock flight the next trip started at Muston bridge No.59. and finished at Redmile bridge No.54. The only obstructions on route were Muston Gorse bridge No.57. and Middlestie bridge No.56, both culvert pipes. Next trip was to Langar bridge No.43. but for ease started at Redmile Mill bridge No.53. Again the only obstructions were Plungar bridge No.49. and Malt Room bridge No.48. again both culvert pipes. We did stop for a pint and meal at The Anchor, Plungar.

The final trip was from Harby Colston bridge No.41 to Hickling bridge No.30. but never quite made it. Apart from bridge Nos. 40 and 39 at Hose both culvert pipes, we managed to squeeze under all the other low bridges. The problem occurred within sight of Hickling, we came across a family of Swans with cygnets who were determined we were not going past them and also a group of people possibly feeding them also told us off for upsetting the birds and also we shouldn't be on the canal so to diffuse the situation we turned about and returned to Harby. Because of the potential problems that could of occurred up to the dry section and many obstacles thereafter we decided to finish the cruise.

Along the route there were many area's of mass reeds which we had to ram several times to create a passage but overall the water was clear and deep enough to maintain a nice steady cruise and a lot of sights that only towpath walkers would see were enjoyed. We both enjoyed the whole experience and would recommend anyone with similar interests to give it a go.



A young Fred Marsh - always busy!

TONY OSBOND

(Update from David L-B)

When I took the Chief Executive post in early 2017 I also took on board the role of General Manager while I restructured the GCS executive organisation. I am content that this process is complete for the time being and thank all those who have taken up key roles and team leadership throughout the society.

I am pleased to announce that I have now shed the role of General Manager and that Tony Osbond has taken up that mantle for the society. In career terms he and I have not dissimilar backgrounds involving project management which has enabled us to work very effectively together on society business.

I have asked Tony to take primary responsibility for Lock 14 completion and forward planning to tackle Locks 12 and 13 once 14 is complete. I thank him for taking on this role.

We will also work together on the Dry Section Project which will be launched once we have resolved a number of ecology issues and completed our strategy and action plan.

We are currently preparing a presentation for Kinoulton Parish Council which will be detailing our long and short term plans for the canal. This is booked to take place on May 22nd.

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!**

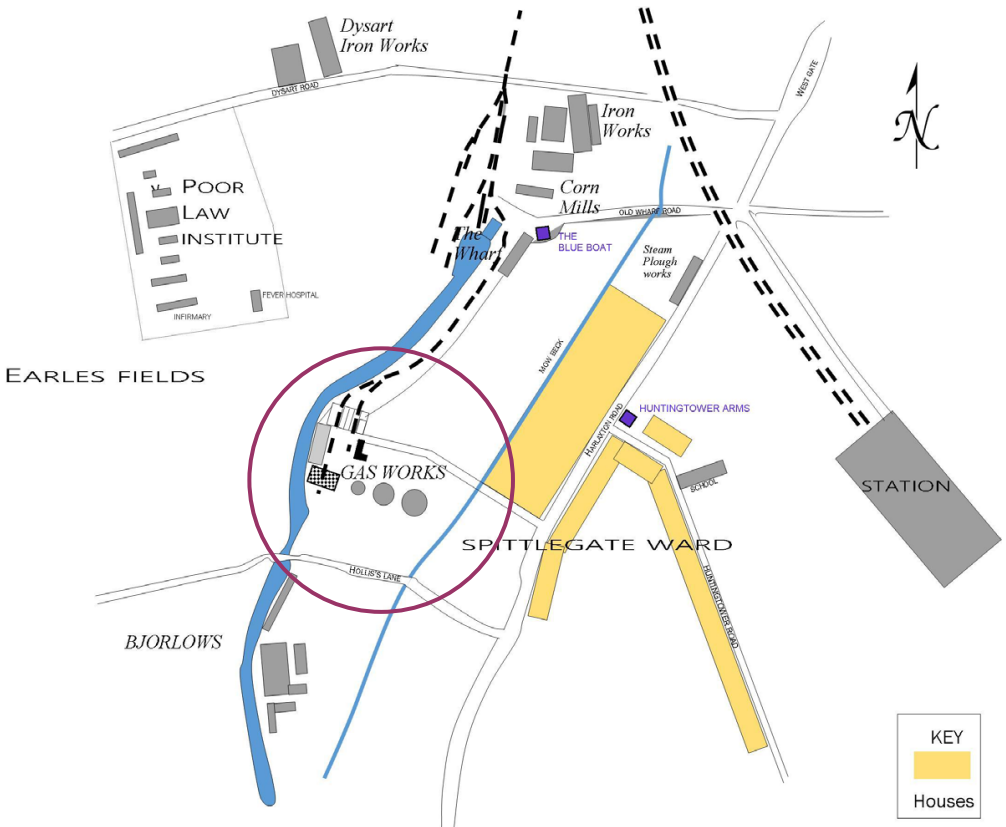
**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR
WISH TO DISCUSS THE DUTIES
THIS POSITION REQUIRES THEN
PLEASE CONTACT**

**chiefexecutive@granthamcanal.org
or contact me at Bridge & I will pass
your details on**

Ed

Earle's Field industry

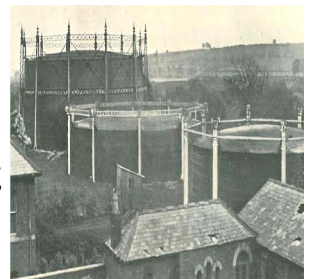
Over the next few months we are going to explore some of the past industry in the Earlsfield district of Grantham and, with the help of several Bridge readers will highlight some of the local industry which contributed to Grantham's wealth.



IF YOU CAN PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BUILDINGS ON THIS MAP THEN PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

This month we'll look at coal distribution and Gas works

The Grantham Gas, Light & Coke Company was established in 1833 on the canal bank. The object of the company was to manufacture and produce inflammable air or gas from coal, oil or other materials for the express purpose of supplying the town of Grantham. The location was ideal for the movement of coal



in Grantham

(part 2 - Coal & Gas)

from the Nottinghamshire coalfields via the canal and later the Old Wharf Road railway sidings. The canal water proved a useful source for process & cooling water. Apart from the Gas Works there were several coal merchants and these included J Gibson & Co, H Bowman & Co, WA Garton & Burton's

Firefighters tackled a small but difficult blaze at Grantham Gas Works in 1955.

Many thanks to John Watson & Grantham Library

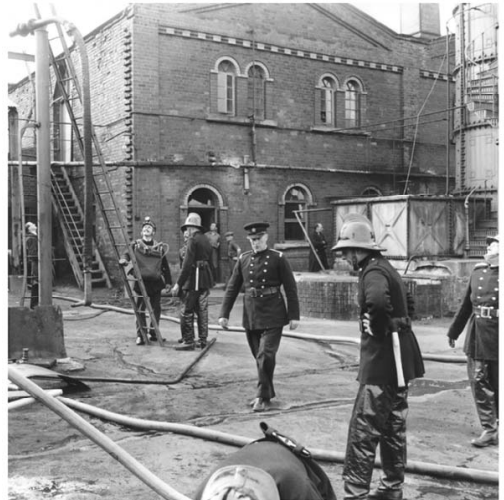


Photo - Grantham Matters



Aerial Photo - www.britainfromabove.co.uk

Some of the wharves along the canal between Grantham & Cropwell

Apart from the main wharf in Grantham there were several. Travelling downstream there is Harlaxton Wharf followed by Woolsthorpe Wharf, then Muston Wharf, Bottesford Wharf and on to Redmile Wharf. Then came Barkstone Wharf followed by Cropwell Wharf.



Woolsthorpe Wharf



Muston Wharf



Cropwell Wharf

Many thanks to the Redmile Archive, (www.redmilearchive.freeuk.com), for the wharf details

Community and Education Update February 2019

Busy working out which events we can manage this year. We have increased the number of Depot Open Days with Short Boat Trips, refreshments, information and family activities. See the diary for dates in red. These events have proved invaluable for fund and awareness raising and increasing membership.

How to recruit new members and volunteers? – Andrew Peters has agreed to offer us a session on **Sunday 3rd March 10.00 at the Depot**. This would be especially useful for Events team, Rangers and Boat crews. Let me know if you are interested.

Outside events: So far, we have few confirmed bookings, needing to be sure we have enough able bodies to help put up and take down gazebos.

Next planning meeting Mon 25th March 10.00 at the Depot (Carole said if we had it in the afternoon, she could bring scones)

50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS: much of this year's display will focus on the achievements of the society over the 50 years of it's coming into being to prevent the powers that were from turning our beautiful waterway into a linear tip. Mike Atherley's articles in Bridge on THE WAY IT WAS have been fascinating. I will be chasing his contact details and would like to collect copies of photographs of activities from the last 50 years from anyone who may have any. Once used for display, the developing **Archiving Team** will know what to do with them.

Anniversary Open Days on July 27th & 28th July at the depot

Celebratory entertainment evenings (dates to be confirmed)

Folk Night at Cropwell Bishop

60s night in Duck Hall, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir

Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days – 'Learning, Wisdom and Folklore'

Saturday 14th September Learn about Our Canal

DISCOVERY DAY Sunday 13th October 2019

EDUCATION

WRG Family Camp – enjoyed last year so much they want to come back
August 16th – 18th

Schools' Week – Building on last year's efforts July 1st – 5th. I shall be inviting schools along the canal corridor to join us at the depot for a variety of educational activities. If you have useful contacts, please let me know.

MARQUEE

We have made good use of our 2nd hand marquee, but it was more of a sieve than a shelter last year. We are looking into repairs, hire or purchase of new one. Funds will be needed for either option.

To get in touch: Rosemary on communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or
07971 173069

Rosemary



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)

GUIDED WALK

Sunday 14th April 2019

Join the Grantham Canal

Rangers for a 6.75 mile

(approx) walk from

Harby along the towpath

to Hose and back across

fields to Harby.

Meet at 10.30am in the car

park, School Lane,

Harby, LE14 4BZ

The walk is free, donations to

the GCS welcome.

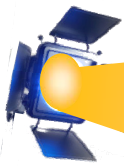
For further information

contact:

headranger@granthamcanal.org

Or telephone:

07926 414652



Spotlight on Volunteers

Mike Stone
Chairman

By Tony Jackson

Looking back I have enjoyed a varied career and can say that if I lived it over again I would change little.

My formative years were spent on a farm in Stoke Bardolph which was part of a 2,000 acre estate owned by Nottingham Corporation and where my father was the Manager of both the Sewage Works and Farms. The farms were mixed and made up of arable, grazing and livestock made up mostly of pigs and cattle. I was able to enjoy some of the early farm equipment including steam ploughing engines, a traction engine and a 2 foot gauge railway. What more could a boy want?

I was always going to be interested in transport (now called logistics) and used to travel on the River Trent barges by 'thumbing' lifts. I won the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce Centenary Scholarship (1960) to study the Inland Waterways of Western Europe and spent the whole of the summer holiday 'thumbing' lifts on continental waterways. The following summer break was spent travelling with a pair of narrowboats operated by Willow Wren and visiting English waterway locations.

My first job was as a management trainee in the transport department at J. Lyons & Co who were large caterers and hoteliers. Six years at Lyons taught me food preparation, man management, engineering, financial planning, HGV driving and a whole range of 'life skills'. The 1960's in London saw a period of massive fundamental economic and social change and by 1966 the London wharves, which handled almost all imported cargo, were declining and the London docks were losing business. Restructuring of the Lyons distribution service was 'needed, so I applied to Procter & Gamble for post in shipping!

I moved to Hexham, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and managed transport by road, rail & sea which also involved Customs and insurance negotiations. This work took me to Scandinavia, Germany, Belgium and France and for a year or so I was the buyer for inorganic chemicals with a multimillion pound budget. I was involved in the design and implementation of the P & G UK distribution system which resulted in the closure of local distribution depots. This gained me the title of 'hatchet-man' although many staff benefitted from the change.

In 1980 I joined British Road Services to assist in the restructure of that company as part of the National Freight Company. As part of the NFC restructuring I was asked to become Director of Sales for Pickfords Business Travel, an off-shoot of the large Pickfords Group where the business was as a corporate travel agent – no holiday destinations here! Thanks to good management, and a complacent competitive market, the business grew rapidly and became the second largest in the UK in a decade. Success often means mergers and so my life became hectic travelling and negotiating all over the world. But this type of life takes its toll so I decided to 'retire' in 2000.

No chance! Close to home was the HQ of RSPB who asked me to manage their credit card service but it wasn't long before two colleagues and I presented a radical business trading plan to the Board who approved its implementation! So, for me, it was a return to transport, warehousing, procurement, etc. Through this business I was able move back to Nottingham and now live in Burton Joyce less than a mile from where I started. I retired from RSPB aged 65 and promptly was asked to help organise Grantham on Water in 2007. **I appear to have been stuck with the Canal Society ever since!**

Be a Winner with The Grantham Canal Society!

As some of you may have read The Grantham Canal Society had a major winner on the recent LotterySK draw, with one of our supporters winning £2,000!

LotterySK was launched in October 2019 with the first draw being made on October 27th, and I was delighted to be one of the first winners. Unfortunately, I did not scoop the maximum prize of £25,000 which was won on the first week by a local Grantham resident. However, I was happy to receive a prize of three extra tickets for the following draw. Since then we have had a massive 42 winners including the £2,000 winner last weekend, with the majority being either extra tickets or a cash prize of £25.

January was our most successful month with 16 winners. So, if you have not purchased a ticket yet then you can sign up at lotterysk.co.uk and remember to select **The Grantham Canal Society** as your chosen charity. You do not have to be resident in the SKDC area to purchase a ticket, it is open to all UK residents. So please spread the word with friends and family, GCS receives 50p for each £1 ticket purchased. With the current number of tickets being sold weekly we are currently raising over £3,000 annually – that is a significant contribution to our work restoring the canal.

And finally, what will you do if win a cash prize? Obviously, go shopping and don't forget that you can assist GCS further by shopping online with NO cost to either you or GCS. Retailers pay a commission which is shared between the partner website and us. It is simple to use, go to www.giveasyoulive.com and register, select **The Grantham Canal Society** as your chosen charity and start shopping. There are over 4,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Expedia, eBay, Tesco, Sainsburys, Holiday Companies, insurance companies and many more!

Neil White
Fundraiser



Anyone got one of these on their boat? Bob Crew has!



We have a number of original paintings from along the Grantham Canal which are available for sale. If you are interested then please contact me & I will send you further details. Ed

bridge@granthamcanal.org

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



#Trending



Nearly 4,000 of our Facebook followers liked: 'Boats returning to a stretch of the Grantham Canal for the first time in 90 years'. This was in response to the press release sent out by the Canal and River Trust. This related to the Heritage Lottery Fund supported project to restore locks 14 & 15 in the Woolsthorpe Flight.

My favourite Facebook picture since our last edition of Bridge, is one sent in by Ashley Waterfall, of Lock 17, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir.



The popular pastime of some to hide painted stones, resulted in this cheery one being discovered by Canal Ranger Sharon, along the towpath near Harlaxton, who posted it on Twitter. This one originated from @sleafordrocks. Hopefully Sharon has hidden it for someone else to discover :-)



Tony

BIG BOY'S TOYS



A PEACEFUL ENDING!

Many thanks to Ian Wakefield for the above photos

Letters to the editor

Dear Steve, What can one say ... but "many thanks for all your hard work behind the scenes (or should I say locks)" and enjoy your good monthly read.
Many thanks to all with Best Wishes for 2019 ... Gerry

Dear Steve

Having now seen your latest edition of 'Bridge' I have some further information about the Bjorlow tannery site.

I had not seen the aerial photo which shows a number of buildings worthy of mention. I am very pleased to see this reminder of the site.

The house seen in the bottom left of the view was occupied by Managing Director Harold Hempton, who does appear in the 1935 photo of the tannery personnel.

Just visible at the bottom of the picture, and opposite the road entrance to the yard from Hollis Lane, is the main office building. This does not show on the map but has the gasworks behind. Off the aerial photo but on the Lane nearer to Harlaxton Road and opposite the MD's house are four houses (2 semidetached I seem to remember) which were occupied by various staff members. I have photos of them being built I think. So far as I know they are still there but I have not had a look.

The large square in the photo was a bowling green. I can remember some of the processes which went on in the various tannery buildings but my memory fails a bit. I left in 1970! There is in possession of Lincolnshire Museums a photo album with pictures of the various stages of leather production. This was given originally to my father, a Director of the Company, who passed it on to me. Later I gave it to Grantham Museum and then it went to Lincoln when our museum was closed. I have spoken with John Manterfield about this document which I think is of interest to the Civic Society. It did not have any descriptions to the photos but I could probably add at least some. I would like to see it back in Grantham. One further small piece of information - Bjorlow waterproof suede shoe leather was sold with the trade name 'Shearwater'.

On another part of the map is a building on the north side of Harlaxton Road near to the main railway. This was in my time the premises of Jack Harris, a haulier. He had contracts with Bjorlows to deliver coal for the tannery boilers and to remove certain waste products of the leather production. This is now the site of a filling station and a builders' merchant.

I will add further if other details emerge!

Best wishes, Humphrey Platts

Steve

It was a very interesting Bridge this month. I was particularly interested in the article on Bjorlows (I'm not sure of the author of the article), which I can remember, closing when I was about 13, circa 1973.

Also the close-up of the original Hollis Lane (Earlsfield Lane) Bridge was interesting. Do you know when this was taken?

Keep up the good work.

Regards Paul Watson

I must admit I don't always link through to Bridge but I did last time and enjoyed the historical articles so keep up the good work. I just wish the Grantham spent some of their funds on hard copy communication to members. We have joined the Cromford and they have an excellent mag. which gets posted out. Equally as long standing members of the Huddersfield we like their mag to drop through the letter box. Regards Ken and Linda

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!

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL



Leicestershire
County Council

Melton
Borough Council



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 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 ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org

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

Nigel Lee and David Heath.

Also for the
regular contributions from
John Dodwell