

MARCH

BRIDGE

2019



View from Harlaxton Wharf (Bridge 66) looking towards Denton. Photo by John Clark

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

 **HERITAGE
FUND**

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

Welcome to all the new volunteers that have heard the call and joined the active supporters of the Society. Thank you for getting involved and contributing to our current progress.

Have you noticed how rapidly a new Lock 14 is appearing from the ashes of the old one? Techniques learned during the Lock 15 reconstruction are being applied and hence the significant growth of a new structure.



The length of canal from the tail of Lock 16 to Stenwith Bridge has been dredged and it now looks like a navigable canal.

There are however further matters to be undertaken before we have the length complete. In places the banks are too low for the required water level and will require raising; some boat movements need to take place to confirm that the dredging has been completed satisfactorily; until Lock 12 is restored there is no access to the winding point near Muston Bridge.

Until we reach there I think the main users of this length will be canoeists and the fish. Yes, those anglers who read Bridge should get a much improved fishing experience. The Bottesford club has already expressed thanks.

The weather last month suggested Spring was arriving early in 2019. As I write the rain is lashing down and is driven by strong winds so March is giving a more usual message.

Nevertheless wild-life appears to be following the February signals so we should now be prepared to find the off-spring of flora and fauna arriving early on the canal. Volunteers please be careful when working!

Enjoy our canal

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**

**Our next meeting
Friday 15th March will be an illustrated talk by
Philip Mulligan, the new East Midlands Region
Manager for Canal & River Trust.**

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019

| Date & Time | Event & Venue |
|---|---|
| Thurs 7th Mar 7.00 | Talk: Ripplingdale & District WI - RG |
| Sat 9th Mar 10.00 | Info Stand at Barnstone Coffee Morning |
| Mon 11th Mar 7.30 | Rangers' Meeting, Woolsthorpe Depot (changed venue) |
| Mon 25th Mar 2.00 | Event Team Meeting, Woolsthorpe Depot |
| Tues 26th Mar 10.00 | Cake Bakers' Meeting, Woolsthorpe Depot |
| Sun 31st Mar 10.00 – 4.00 | Mothers' Day Boat Trips – Depot open, volunteers needed |
| Wed 10th Apr | DLB talk IWA Warwickshire Branch |
| Thurs 11th Apr 7.45 | Talk and information stand, Langar Cum Barnstone Parish Meeting |
| Sun 14th 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 5th May | Denton Street Market, Display in St Andrews Church |
| Sat & Sun 11th & 12th May | Nottinghamshire County Show, Newark Showground |
| Tues 14th May Evening | Talk: Grantham British Legion, PWG Barracks |
| Wed 15th May 2.30 | Talk: Marlborough Court, West Bridgford |
| Fri – Sun 17th – 19th May | Dirty Duck Beer Festival and Boat Trips in aid of Canal |
| Wed 22nd May | Visit and Boat Trips – Nottingham Society of Engineers |
| Wed 22nd May evening | DLB Talk: Kinoulton Parish Council |
| Sun & Mon 26th & 27th May 10.00 – 4.00 | Spring Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed |
| Thurs 6th June 7.30 | Talk: Sutton on Trent WI |
| Sat 15th June (only) | Grantham Carnival, Wyndham Park (Help needed with gazebo) |
| Sun 16th June 10.00 – 4.00 | Fathers' Day Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed |
| Sat 22nd June | Folk Evening, Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall – details to follow |
| Tues 25th June 8.00 | Talk: Malay and Borneo Veterans, PWG Barracks |
| Sat 29th June | East Bridgford Show (Help needed with gazebo) |
| Sun 30th June 10.00 – 4.00 | Summer Sunday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed |
| Mon- Fri 1st – 5th July | Grantham Canal Schools' Week |
| Sat – Sun 6th – 7th July | Cropwell Bishop Heritage weekend. |
| Sat – Sun 13th – 14th July | Rempstone Steam Fair |
| Thurs 18th Jul 7.30 | Talk: East Stoke WI |
| Sun 21st July 3.00 | Lyrical Songbirds Concert for Canal at Cropwell Bishop, Old School |
| Thurs 25th Jul 10.00 | Talk: Grantham Earlybirds WI, Grantham Museum |
| Sat & Sun 27th & 28th July | GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENT |
| Wed 31st July 7.30 | Talk: Swayfield Garden Club |
| Wed 14th 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 |
| Thurs 5th Sept | DLB Talk: London Canal Museum |
| Thurs 12th Sept 7.00 | Visit from Upper Broughton History Group to Depot |
| Fri 13th 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 |

GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE at LOCK 14



11th Feb



12th Feb



15th Feb



19th Feb



21st Feb



25th Feb



26th Feb



26th Feb



26th Feb

**WHAT AN
ACHIEVEMENT!**

**THE PHOTOS
TELL THE STORY**

Many thanks to
John Clark, Dave
Cross, Jim Freeman
& Colin Bryan

The Three Shires Update – Mar 2019

Preparation for the cruising season continues. The Three Shires has been de-winterised and a new storage box has been installed at the mooring so that we don't have to take the aluminium window panels and tonneau cover with us on our cruises. Steve Parkes has begun painting the gunwales and stern deck area to match the roof colour. Hopefully you can spot the difference below!



Don't forget that our first 'Turn up and Ride' trips are on **Mother's Day, 31st March.**

The depot will also be open for refreshments.



JOIN THE CREW

We are currently looking for new crew members to join The Three Shires team. To find out more call Paul Dadford on 07870 238688. You don't need any previous experience, but you must be a member of the Grantham Canal Society.

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

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge

Willow Flowers

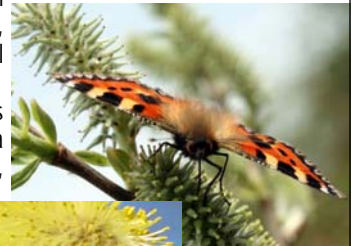
Willows are perhaps the archetypal waterside tree in the UK – you will find them on river banks, around ponds and lakes, in damp hollows of pasture fields and of course, lining the Grantham Canal.

My copy of Rose's wildflower key lists 16 species of willow in the UK though they have an inconvenient habitat of hybridising leading to a whole host of trees with intermediate characteristics. There are several which you can certainly find along the canal including white willow, goat willow, crack willow and eared willow.

March is when willows are perhaps at their most prominent – amongst the bare twigs and new buds, you will often see them festooned with flowers. Unlike many plants which have male and female parts in the same flower, each willow tree is either male or female and now is the time to tell them apart.

Male trees produce dense flowers with yellow pollen-tipped stamens facing in all directions. Female trees produce subtler flowers of green, looking perhaps a little like a soft, spiky caterpillar. Each of these spikes is in fact a stigma, but the nectar is cleverly stowed away at the base meaning pollinators need to lean in over the stigma, thus transferring pollen from a nearby male tree as they do so.

Flowering willows are a great place to spot spring pollinators like newly emerged bumblebee queens – in the photos, the small tortoiseshell butterfly is foraging on a female flower,



whilst the honey bee is gathering pollen from a male flower.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



Last month Mike described a short cruise he & Fred Marsh took along the canal ...

I came across an article by Dick Harrison of Retford in Bridge, Summer, 1994 which adds a few more details to the wharf area at Grantham.

The Grantham end detail is incredible. In the following description of an imaginary journey from Grantham basin all the information is gleaned from the maps. The journey begins at the Great Northern Railway bridge on Wharf Road, immediately on the left is a Steam Plough Works and next to that is the "Blue Boat Inn" public house, on the right is the Earlsfield Corn Mill and behind it an iron works. Care has to be taken as we enter the wharf to avoid tripping over the railway lines. The GNR has laid a siding that leaves the main line at the Barrowby Road bridge. The siding divides just before the wharf, the right branch going to the wharf, the left runs alongside the canal to the gas works. There is just time to admire the wharf's crane before boarding a boat and setting off at a gentle pace. Soon on our right we see the Fever Hospital then the forbidding shape of the Grantham Union Workhouse complete with its own infirmary. Entrance to the workhouse is from Dysart Road opposite Westbourne Place. Next we pass the gas works on the left (off side). There are allotments on the off side just before Hollis's Lane Bridge and the Earl's Field Works, a large leather dressing works also on the off side. As we pass out into the countryside known as The Earl's Fields (two words, not plural) the Mow Beck flows beside us and we pass a swing bridge just before entering the cutting.

Very little remains today. The Blue Boat is long gone. Earl's Fields has become Earlsfield. It suggests that this land once belonged to an Earl, is it safe to assume that it belonged to the Manners family? Westbourne Place is still there but there is no trace of the workhouse the area is now an industrial estate. Road names often give a clue to a former usage but there is nothing there, people prefer to forget. Would you want to work or live on Workhouse Way? The modern road map shows the line of the railway embankment that carried the siding to the wharf, but I could not see anything when I drove along Barrowby Road recently. The site of the steam plough works is now a builders' merchant and the Earlsfield Corn Mill is buried under Lee's Yard. Hollis's Lane has become Earlsfield Lane but there is a Hollis Road off it and little remains of the gas works. The site of the swing bridge is buried under the A1 embankment. The ghosts of boatmen would be well and truly lost.

Dick mentions other features down the line of the canal such as Vimy Ridge Farm, was it once High Pasture Farm? At Foss (no "e") bridge there was a large wharf and above the swing bridge on the off side was a large Brick and Tile works. Between Cropwell Bridge and Cropwell Roving Bridge, on the towpath side, was a Brick, Tile and Pipe works and another Brick works. After the Roving Bridge is a Plaster and Cement works. This latter building although derelict is still standing. On either side of Devils Elbow were Old Stone Pits - quarried by the canal builders, perhaps. Between Kinoulton and the swing bridge is the site of an Old Brick Yard, derelict even then. All that remains is a small pond in the north east corner and the pond is still there today.

Although I can't confirm Dick's description of how it was, it's a fascinating account of the canal's past history.

Community and Education Update - March

Events: The diary is filling up but we could accept more bookings if we had extra help. We need to be constantly on public view in order to increase our membership numbers and income. Andrew Peters' workshop on Mar 3rd "How to recruit new members and volunteers", proved inspiring for the small dedicated team who attended. We aim to be smarter in our approach to volunteers and have more 'pop-up' mini information stands along the towpath to try to recruit more and increase membership numbers.

Some additional events we could attend if help was available:

4th May Harlaxton Village Fete and Beer Festival

18th June Waltham Charter Fair

13th July Radcliffe Carnival

Please let us know if you know of any others.

Education: Invitations have gone out to schools in the canal corridor to take part in our Schools' Week. Depot events usually feature educational family activities and we are building up resources with the help of Grantham Men's Shed who are making us the framework a mock up narrow boat cabin.

Oral History, Research, Archiving

Karen Rice, GCHI Project manager is trying to arrange an Archive Training Day at the Depot with archivists from the National Waterways Museum, a potential date is Thurs 25th April, about 10.00 – 3.00. **Please get in touch if interested.**

Further opportunities in this area may be offered when Heritage Lincolnshire Layers of History move their project to the Harlaxton area with an initial coffee morning at Harlaxton Village Hall 10.30 – 2.00 Tuesday 9th April.

www.heritagelincs.org/layers

Don't forget our first event of the year is Mothering Sunday

Short boat trips

Depot open for refreshments

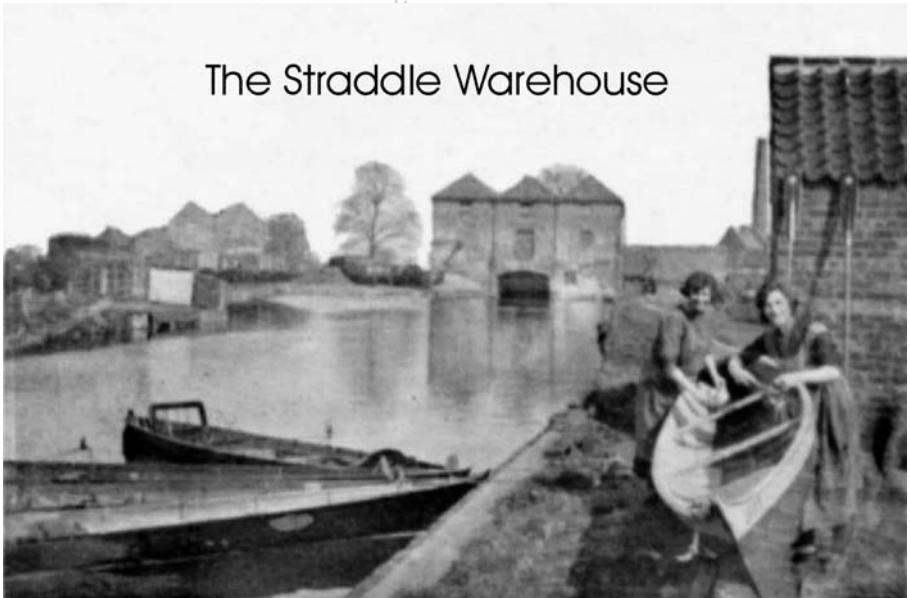
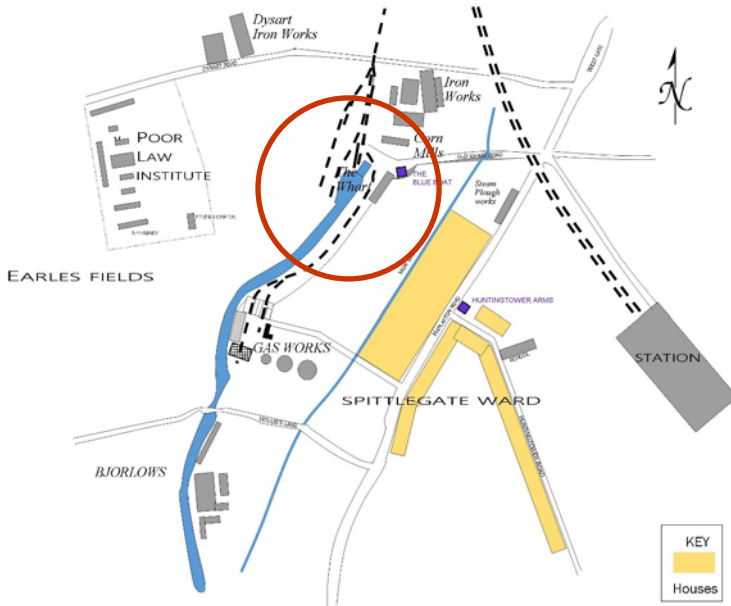
Canal exhibition and activities

Sunday 31st March 10.00 – 4.00



Earle's Field industry

With the help of several Bridge readers we have shown over the past two months some of the past industry in the Earlsfield district of Grantham. This month we'll look at the Wharf and its demise.



Probably one of the most published photos showing the Misses Cameron's Penny boats

in Grantham

(part 3 - The Wharf)

The Straddle Warehouse being demolished in 1929.

Below is a painting of the warehouse that is available to purchase. Please let me know if you are interested Ed



The above aerial photos courtesy of 'britainfromabove' & show the Wharf in 1950.

The Basin and Earlsfield area was filled in stages. The main wide area between 1959-1962, and then progressively from about 1964-1970 to the Gas Works Lane area. Then the rest to Hollis Lane Bridge by the late 1970s - early 1980s. Most of the demolished buildings ended up in the canal.

Many thanks to GCS Archives and to Paul Watson for his help and numerous contributions.



Demolition of the Gas Works in 1959 'Grantham Matters'



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



Email Account Security

Recently I rendered assistance after an email account had been hacked which can be a major problem and in this case it was used to commit fraud by emailing one of their contacts with a bogus invoice and bank details.

A hacked email account can be quite serious because the hacker can use your email account to reset passwords and gain access to other online accounts, banks tend to have extra security measures in place but online shop accounts would be vulnerable as would social media accounts. Also a hacker would have access to any attachments that have been sent or received, some of which may contain information that could be used to commit identity fraud.

Your cloud storage could also be compromised which may contain sensitive information.

Email hacking is quite a common problem and can be avoided, by following certain guidelines, you can make it very difficult for scammers to hijack your email account.

- Always make sure you have a strong unique password that is at least 8 characters (preferably more) and contains a mixture of upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters (like #£!\$%)
- Ensure the password is unique for your email account. If you use the same password for any other online accounts then it would only require one of those accounts to get hacked for your email account to be compromised.
- Turn on two factor authentication if available so that any account changes have to be authenticated using a code sent to your mobile phone. A different code is generated each time and is only valid for a short period.
- Keep devices secure by enabling security code or password logins and as always ensure you have up to date online security software installed.

If you're unlucky enough to get your email account hacked, reset your email password immediately. Then run security scans on all devices used to send & receive email. Log into your mail account via a web browser & check your account details & security settings, ensure the hackers didn't nominate their own email or phone number for account recovery allowing them to reset the password on your account, if any settings exist that you don't recognise, remove them. Also check any online accounts linked to your email address that may have been compromised.



#Trending



Posts on our Facebook page continue to receive over 2,000 views, particularly those about the rebuild of Lock 14. I got myself into hot water with one picture, depicting the reverse side of the off-side lower wing wall.



John emailed me to say the guys working on the lock weren't best pleased with my comment suggesting 'there's hope for me yet'. I had intended this to be self-depreciating on my part! This wing wall is a feat of bricklaying in which straight lines, plumb lines and other such items considered de rigueur in the brickie's tool bag are dispensed with. More art form, it throws off its shackles and departs the ridged constraints of the lock chamber wall, to take on this wonderfully sinuous curve to meet its mate – the original stone approach wall.

I hope I've done enough, so as not to get my tyres let down when I next visit the worksite :-)

Our Twitter feed does have a life of its own. Some stuff is the same – some isn't. Twitter has a different audience and serves a slightly different purpose. It tends to reach businesses, local authorities and the political elite.

It's also good for wildlife, e.g. it's where you might find sightings of summer visiting birds. I'm looking forward to the arrival of the Chiffchaff, possibly our most tuneless warbler – for me, the herald of springtime.

Also good for pictures of coffee and cake! Thank you to Owen who sent us this picture from the Old Wharf Cafe, Hickling Basin, while out cycling. The cafe is highly recommended as a fuel stop for cyclists!



Tony Jackson

*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

WRG's BITM in action

Excellent work at Bridge 23 by WRG's BITM In the Middle Group (they come from all over the country, hence the name) During the weekend of 16/17th Feb. Thanks also to the 6 members of the GCS workparty who braved the hot weather to lend a hand and shed a few pounds and also to Chris & Mary for attacking passers by telling them about the canal and our work. We made some new friends who live in the house next to the canal and took all the cut logs off the towpath for us and have offered to get involved wherever they can. Many thanks also to Scott & Imogen from CRT who helped with the approval of the work. There is still some tidying up to do and hopefully we can press our new chipper into action when it arrives.

Ian Wakefield



Work on the Cut



Before



During



After

Dredging being carried out by CRT on the Half Mile Pound



GCS Volunteers clearing branches & fallen trees at the A1 end of the canal



**POO BINS
AT LONG
LAST!**

**Well done to
all who
worked
tirelessly to
achieve this
satisfactory
conclusion!**

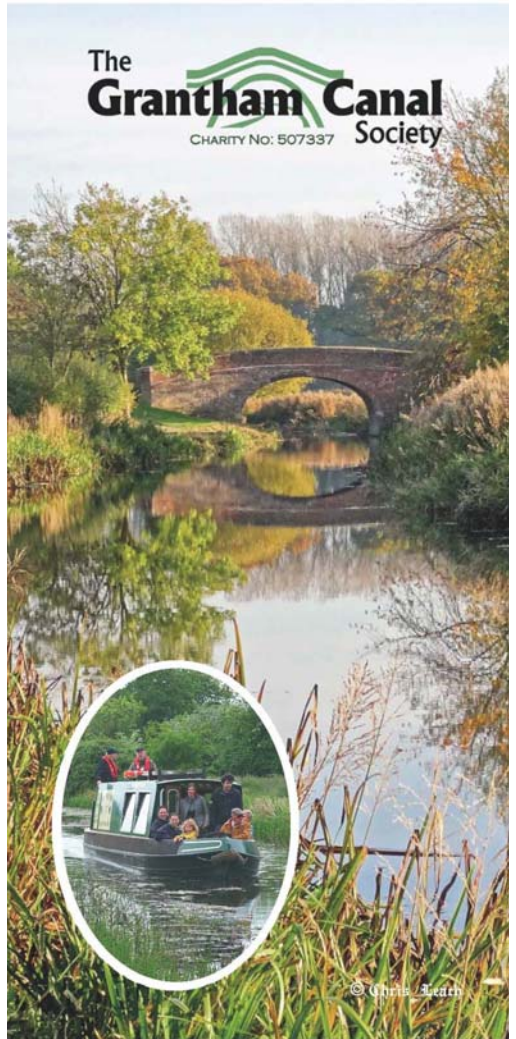
West Bridgford



Many thanks to Ian Wakefield for these photos taken of lock 1 and the local area on a visit with the Environment Agency

OUR NEW BOOKLET

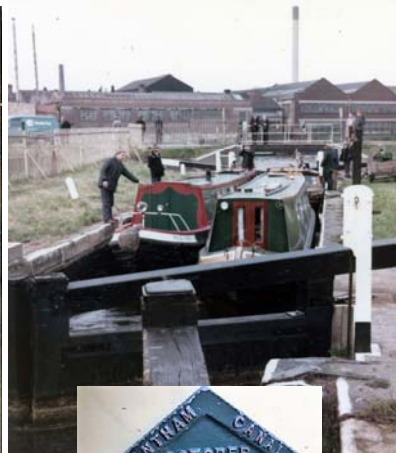
The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337



Look out for our new booklet which will be available on 31st March - Mothering Sunday - 10 am to 4 pm.

We will be starting the season with short trips on our narrowboat.

Refreshments will be available in the Depot together with an exhibition of lock rebuilding and other activities undertaken by our volunteers.



Rally to boost an old canal

For the first time in over 30 years a lock leading from the River Trent into the Grantham Canal at West Bridgford was brought into use at the weekend and boats were seen on the canal for the first time since 1936.

The historic occasion was a two-day rally staged by the Grantham Canal Preservation Society to raise urgently needed funds for their restoration work.

The rally was opened by broadcaster Mr. Dennis McCarthy who was accompanied at the ceremony by Sir Dennis Le Marchant, president of the Preservation Society.

Nearly 50 boats of all shapes and sizes took part in the rally and were tied up on the canal bank for the weekend. On land there was entertainment by Melton Town Silver Band and a gymnastic team from Whetton Detention Centre.

One of the boats, owned by Mr. Bill Attenborough, of Sawley, is thought to have been the last vessel to travel along the Grantham Canal before its closure 37 years ago.

Officials are hoping that the rally will raise about £1,000 for their funds.

● In the picture: Mr. McCarthy, arriving with members of the society at the river bank near the Forest football ground. With him (from left): Mr. Chris Tizzard (rally organiser), Mr. Garland Crylls (chairman) and Sir Dennis



Dear Editor

You ask if anyone else has a 1973 rally plaque.

Yes, we have - 2 in fact !

My husband and I - not knowing each other at that time - penned up the lock together in our separate boats.

I attach a press cutting of my husband, Michael Harrison's, then boat Mercury ready to pen up having loaded the dignitaries for the press photo, and pictures of our two boats in the lock. My then boat 'Wollaton' on the right.

(The last line at the bottom of the press cutting reads ... Mr Garland Grylls (chairman) and Sir Dennis and Lady Le Marchant.)

It was in the Nottingham Evening Post 15.10.73

keep up the good work

Best wishes Mrs Val Roberts

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!



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:

Dick and Vida Smith and
Dr John Bannister