

MAY

BRIDGE

2019



Aerial photograph of Kingston's Lock (14) taken by Sea Lane Media Limited

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY NO: 507337



This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

What a contrast in our weather patterns; hottest Easter break for many years and now the coolest May holiday since records began! I hope you haven't turned off your heating yet! Nevertheless the Grantham Canal is fortunate to have loyal supporters and I thank our visitors who came to Woolsthorpe over both holiday weekends for their financial contributions. From you we raised over £2,500 towards canal restoration. I must also thank our volunteers who made the two weekend's possible and provided enjoyment to our visitors.

Have you seen how rapidly the walls of Lock 14 are growing? Every time I see a photograph several new courses of brickwork have appeared thanks to the growing band of very committed GCS volunteers. I am assured that if you have a few spare hours the teams at Lock 14 would be grateful for your assistance. You do not have to be an expert bricklayer as there are other tasks to undertake some of which are less physically demanding. Why not call in and see if you could be part of this historic project. You may enjoy it!

The Society needs to increase its membership numbers so that the Local Authorities understand the level of support for the Canal in the community. We need to reach the target of 1,000 members. This, I am advised, is the significant figure that attracts attention. So please could you help us to achieve this goal? If every

member introduced just one person – neighbour, relative, office colleague, drinking buddy, friend – we would reach our target! Will you support us and make it happen? Please become an 'active supporter' and persuade one other person to join your Society!



WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR NEW SOCIETY TREASURER

It has taken nearly two years to find a replacement for Stan Harbidge as our society treasurer but I am pleased to say that Jane Grylls has stepped forward and taken up the role.

Many thanks to Jane for picking up the reins and to Stan for hanging in there for all this time and seeing it through to a successful handover. Stan was beginning to think he was irreplaceable but he is very relieved to find that eventually that was not the case. To Stan and his very tolerant wife, have a more leisurely retirement and our thanks for a job very well done.

David Lyneham-Brown
Chief Executive

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Fri 10 th May 3.30	Info Social at Duck Hall, Woolsthorpe
Sat & Sun 11 th & 12 th May	Nottinghamshire County Show, Newark Showground
Sat 11 th May	Belvoir Wassailers Charity Walk near Woolsthorpe
Mon 13 th May 7.30	Talk: Witham on the Hill History Society, School House
Tues 14 th May Evening	Talk: Grantham British Legion, PWG Barracks
Fri 17 th May 6.30 - 8.30	Harlaxton Wharf Community Space Group Beetle Drive, Village Hall
Fri – Sun 17 th – 19 th May	Dirty Duck Beer Festival and Boat Trips in aid of Canal
Mon 20 th May 10.00	Cropwell Bishop Heritage Weekend Planning
Mon 20 th May 2.00	GCS Anniversary Planning, Depot
Wed 22 nd May	Visit and Boat Trips – Nottingham Society of Engineers
Wed 22 nd May evening	DLB Talk: Kinoulton Parish Council
Sun & Mon 26 th & 27 th May 10.00 – 4.00	Spring Bank Holiday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Thurs 6 th June 7.30	Talk: Sutton on Trent WI
Sun 9 th June	Guided Walk
Mon 10 th June 2.00	Talk: Bingham WI
Sat 15 th June (only)	Grantham Carnival, Wyndham Park (Help needed with gazebo)
Sun 16 th June 10.00 – 4.00	Fathers' Day Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Sat 22 nd June	Folk Evening, Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall – details to follow
Sun 23 rd June	Foston Fete
Tues 25 th June 8.00	Talk: Malay and Borneo Veterans, PWG Barracks
June 28 th 10.00 a.m.	Visit and Boat Trips – Fulbeck History Club
Sat 29 th June	East Bridgford Show (Help needed with gazebo)
Sat 29 th June	Woolsthorpe Fete
Sun 30 th June 10.00 – 4.00	Summer Sunday Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Mon- Fri 1 st – 5 th July	Grantham Canal Schools' Week
Sat – Sun 6 th – 7 th July	Cropwell Bishop Heritage weekend.
Sat – Sun 13 th – 14 th July	Rempstone Steam Fair
Thurs 18 th Jul 7.30	Talk: East Stoke WI
Sun 21 st July 3.00	Lyrical Songbirds Concert for Canal at Cropwell Bishop, Old School
Thurs 25 th Jul 10.00	Talk: Grantham Earlybirds WI, Grantham Museum
Sat & Sun 27 th & 28 th July	GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
Wed 31 st July 7.30	Talk: Swayfield Garden Club
Wed 14 th Aug	Walk: Nottingham National Trust Supporters
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
Thurs 5 th Sept	DLB Talk: London Canal Museum
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 14 th Sept 10.00 – 4.00	Heritage Open Day: Learning about our Canal + Boat Trips, Depot
Sun 29 th Sep 10.00 – 4.00	Summer Sunday Boat Trips
Sun 13 th October	DISCOVERY DAY
Wed 6 th Nov 12.00	Talk: Breath Easy Nottingham, Edwalton Golf Club
Wed 13 th Nov 2.30	Talk: Marlborough Court, West Bridgford (moved from May)

LOCK 14 GCHI PROGRESS



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

THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY



RANGERS GUIDED WALK

On Sunday 14th April, 21 adults and 6 dogs joined me for a short circular walk from Harby to Hose and back. Although it was a cloudy day with a fresh wind blowing everyone seemed to enjoy the walk along the towpath to Marriott's bridge.

From here it was a walk along footpaths and bridleway's into Hose for a short break. (Picnic/pub) After refreshments we walked back across the fields to Harby.

Although the walk was free, we received £40.80 in donations. Thanks to everyone who came along.

Our next guided walk is on Sunday 9th June, Denton Reservoir.

Chris Cobb
Head Ranger

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



May – Orange Tip Butterflies

One of the early season butterflies you might see brightening up the canal towpath in May is the orange tip butterfly. This species is a member of the 'white' family of butterflies alongside green-veined whites and the more familiar small and large whites which many gardeners and allotmenters will be familiar with by the name of 'cabbage white'. This penchant for brassicas is common to the family and the colourful orange tip is no exception – you will see them seeking out cuckoo flower, garlic mustard and bittercresses in the grassy verges alongside the canal.

The male butterflies have the characteristic orange wing tips, but the females have dark black colouration in the same location which means they are easily mistaken for the cabbage whites at a glance. What really sets both males and females apart is the mottled green undersides which give them excellent camouflage when they settle down to roost for the night as shown in the photograph. The orange is considered to be a warning colour indicating that the butterflies do not make a tasty meal for predators – this is due to the mustard oils which accumulate during the larval stage as the caterpillars feed on the same group of species on which the adults like to nectar.

As May turns to June, more butterflies will be on the wing along the towpath including familiar species such as gatekeepers and meadow browns, along with smaller moth-like species including the skippers with their soft orange wings.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



This month Mike details an article written by Dave Smith & published in Bridge in 1991 ...

The Sponsored Tractor Run by the Vintage Tractor and Engine Club. 1991. written by the late Dave Smith.

It has been an ambition of mine for a number of years to travel the length of the Grantham Canal by vintage tractor, just as a fun exercise.

At last years boat rally to open the now famed DENTON SLIPWAY we the Rutland Group ran vintage tractors between our own display at the Rutland Arms and Denton Wharf via the towing path both for our own pleasure and to add to the opening of the slipway. Doing this made me think again of Nottingham to Grantham on the towing path. I spoke to B.W.'s Richard Mercer of my thoughts and received an encouraging reply asking me to write to him at is office. Permission was given after assurances of any damage being made good.

Speaking to G.C.R.S. members someone said what about a sponsored event, so all members of N.V.T.E.C. who had taken part were asked if they would enter this event, the answer was an enthusiastic yes from all. Plans were made and members of both teams are involved in the drive, support teams, road crossing marshals etc. Martin Jewers has the job of secretary for publicity so sponsorship and letters should be sent to him.

The event will start at Tollerton Lane off Lings Bar bypass 8am 1st June and the tractors will make their way to Grantham, some taking as long as 12 hours to complete the course, no mean feat as the newest machine will be at least 30 years old and the oldest fifty or more (and some of the drivers !).

I hope to travel on a BARFORD ATOM a garden machine around 1950, Peter Barwell by an even older AUTOCULTO garden machine. Colin Stephenson and Colin Thomas by RANSOMES crawlers (determined men these two). Brian Slater FERGUSON. Dave Hastings MARSHALL SER 1. Nigel Brown MARSHALL. Roy Rodgers INTERNATIONAL SUPER B.M.D. Nevil Vear DAVID BROWN 25D. Martin Lee ALICE CHALMERS. Charlie King NUFFIELD UNIVERSAL. Frank Smitten FERGUSON. Norman Crawford JOHN DEERE A. Arthur Graves GUNSMITH. Eric Davies & David Hill STANDARD FORDSONS. John Sanderson FOWLER ROAD LOCO (Scale model coal fired) constructed by owner driver.

We will break at The Small Farm Centre Plungar & Rutland Arms. Dave Smith Chairman Rutland group N.V.T.E.C.

Dave worked for British Waterway's as a tracked excavator driver and gave us endless hours of his time during the Denton Slipway project, the railway embankment removal and the top three lock rebuilds together with many other bridge demolition and rebuild jobs.

I was involved as a road marshal looking after the Road Loco, making sure gates were open and road crossings were clear. The large machines had to use some public roads to bypass canal bridges that had narrow towpaths but being faster were able to keep up with the garden machines who were mainly able to stick to the towpath The small road loco was very slow and didn't complete the course, but everyone enjoyed it and the weather was good.

Community and Education Update May 2019

Events: Glorious weather at Easter meant we had the most rewarding Boat Trip and Open Day weekend we have had, thanks as always to the stalwart helpers and bakers and public who supported us, putting £1573.13 into the Canal Society Coffers. May Bank holiday was a lot colder, but thanks to stalwart efforts again, we raised £1205,50. Last weekend, we also had the information stand at Harlaxton and Denton. Along with the funds we manage to raise from events and talks, we also raise awareness and membership numbers.

We will have the stand at **Nottinghamshire County Show** this coming weekend May 11th and 12th **at Newark Showground, Dirty Duck Beer Festival**, 18th – 19th May when the information stand will be in the beer garden and the late **May Bank Holiday Boat Trips and Open Day**, mean a very busy May! Outside event invitations can only be accepted if we have the volunteers to set up and/or run them. More help as always is needed to make it possible to continue to get the word out there.

Please let us know if you know of any local organisations running events we might attend or groups that might like talks.

Education: There has been a flurry of communications about Schools' Week - July 1st to 5th and one school unable to attend that week wants to bring 4 classes on 4 separate days. We would welcome more help with activities for these visits. Children will be in small groups supervised by their own staff as well as our DBS checked learning team. We still have some spaces during Schools' Week if anyone knows of a primary school in the canal corridor that might like to bring a class of 30 to enjoy one of our days, please encourage them to get in touch.

We also love welcoming Brownies, Beavers, and other such groups or can visit them with Water Safety Activities.

Oral History, Research, Archiving: The display of our challenges and achievements over the last 50 years is growing and further information, images, copies of documents etc. is always welcome.

I am awaiting confirmation of the date of The Archive Training Day at the Depot with archivists from the National Waterways Museum. **Please get in touch if interested.**

Rosemary communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or **07971 173069**

IF YOU READ THIS IN TIME THEN DON'T FORGET OUR INFO SOCIAL ON 10th MAY

At the **Duck Hall at the Dirty Duck**. Meet at **15:00 for 15:30**.

Note the change of venue.

Speakers: David Lyneham-Brown (GCS) & Karen Rice (CRT)
Talking about the progress of lock 14 GCHI project.
Imogen Wilde (CRT's ecologist)
Talking about Canal Ecology
Followed by a buffet at the Dirty Duck (Donation to cover cost please)

Planning for the Future

The organisation and structure of the Grantham Canal Society is largely very effective but we have roles falling vacant and it is important that we appoint new people to them as soon as possible.

Soon we will lose **Chris Cobb** our **Head Ranger**; quite an act to follow but please, could someone pick up his baton.

Tony Pitman is leaving his role as **Environment Officer** and a replacement is very much needed.

Finally, our "temporary" **Company Secretary Gordon Wallis** would appreciate interest in his role.

Which brings me to the last point. If anyone in the society is interested in shadowing a particular role with a mind to taking it on when the incumbent retires please contact the Chief Executive on chiefexecutive@granthamcanal.org

COTGRAVE COUNTRY PARK

The Grantham Canal runs through the developing Cotgrave Country Park approximately 5 miles from Nottingham.

The park is on both sides of the canal, connected by foot bridges at the restored Locks 6 and 7.

Another bridge is planned for the near future.

If you have never visited the park, I highly recommend it.

The park is looked after by volunteer wardens, one of whom spends a large amount of his time helping keep the canal and towpath clear of rubbish.

On behalf of the Grantham Canal Society, can I say thank you to
Roy Southern.

Chris Cobb Head Ranger




 The Basin, Main St, Hickling
 Melton Mowbray, LE14 3AH
 01664 820448
 relax@theoldwharf.co.uk
 www.theoldwharf.co.uk

Time to relax and unwind

TEAROOM OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM 9.00 AM - 4.00PM



 Find us on Facebook

The Three Shires Update – May 2019

Hot and sunny weather over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend really brought out the crowds. We carried a massive 250 passengers across the weekend (10 short of the maximum) and took £672 in fares. **A big thank you to all the crew who worked so hard to make the day a success!**

We have another bank holiday weekend coming up on 26th & 27th May. On 18th & 19th May the Dirty Duck are holding a beer festival to raise funds for GCS. There will (so I'm told) be a hog roast and live music. We will be operating The Three Shires for short trips on all these dates so a busy month for the crew and another great opportunity to bring the family along for a quick trip.

New crew training takes place on 14th May and 2nd June. We have 10 new recruits attending classroom and practical sessions to learn how to safely operate The Three Shires.

Our private cruise bookings continue to grow. We took our first cruise passengers for a 2-hour trip to Denton on 28th April and have a further 18 cruises booked in so far.

The Three Shires is a vital source of income for the Society so please spread the word and encourage friends and family to come along. Gift vouchers are now available in denominations of £10, £20 and £50 which can be used as part payment for a private cruise.



To contact our booking team call 07486 955775 or email bookings@granthamcanal.org

NARROWBOAT TRIPS

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May

Part of the
Dirty Duck
beer festival
and fundraising
weekend
17th - 19th
May



The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

Adults £3 Children £2

30 minute trips depart from lock 18
near to "The Dirty Duck" public house.
First trip departs at 10.00am.
Park at "The Dirty Duck"
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, NG32 1NY.

**NO PRE-BOOKING.
PLACES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.**



Parking by kind permission of Lynne and JF.



Find us on
Facebook

Learn more about our work at : www.granthamcanal.org

EARLSFIELD SECTION

Our ranger, Richard Jackson, looks after the section of canal beyond the A1, running through the Earlsfield estate and owned by South Kesteven District Council.

Over the last 12 months great progress has been made by Richard and a few regulars clearing the canal of rubbish.

We are looking for 5 or 6 volunteers willing to join Richard so as to continue this work on. The work is both land and water based, using the inflatable dingy donated by South Kesteven District Council last year.

If you would like to join this team, hopefully meeting one weekend per month, please contact : headranger@granthamcanal.org



A Folk Concert by 'The Beltonas and friends'

A Ceilidh band who will soon have you tapping your feet!

Saturday June 22nd 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm

**Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall
14 Nottingham Road, NG12 3BP**

Tickets £10 available from Carole Troops who will also have a supply with her on Open Days at the Depot

Phone: 01476 566279 or Email: rosetroops@talktalk.net

All proceeds will go to The Grantham Canal Society

Tea coffee & biscuits will be available.

There is no bar but you can bring your own drinks!



Hedgehogs Need Help

they are in decline

Everyone can help by ensuring that there is always water at ground level in your garden, eg a shallow dish but not a saucer.

If you have a pond, please ensure it is easily accessible and that if a hedgehog falls in it can get out via a ramp or slope of stones.

You can scatter a few chicken-based kitten or cat biscuits over a large area that too can be a real-life saver, especially in periods of dry weather.

If you find a sick, injured or orphaned hedgehog, please call HEDGEHOG WELFARE ON **07940 714830** (we are in Newark or Grantham, depending who is on duty). **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, because the sooner we receive the hedgehog the better chance it has of surviving. Sorry we cannot collect.

If you would like one of our information sheets, please call **07940 714830**



#Trending



By Tony Jackson

One of my occasional peeps at the stats on our Facebook page, revealed 10% more women than men actively follow us. This only reflects the people who have 'Liked' our page. It gives no indication to the gender of those few thousands who simply look in on us without 'liking' – if you're one of those – give us a 'like'!

The stats also tell us the greatest number of our followers are from the Grantham area, with Nottingham not too far behind. Our one follower in Bulgaria, bordering the Black Sea, means we have more followers there than in our third largest habitation, Cotgrave, on the banks of the Grantham Canal. Before I get letters, I know we do have supporters in Cotgrave – it's just that they haven't 'liked' us on Facebook! Yet!

Maybe this will change when we launch our 'Dry Section' project later in the year? The canal at Cotgrave often suffers from low water levels, and has much to benefit from getting the dry section around Cropwell Bishop back into water. I know our CEO David has had some top level talks with key people of the Canal and River Trust, and together, they have walked this section.

We hope our Nottinghamshire contingent will become excited about the Dry Section project – enough to help us with it when it's launched later in the year!

Talking of low water levels. It was one of our Facebook followers who alerted us of the desperately low water levels at Kinoulton recently. Issues like this should be reported to the Canal and River Trust and/or the Environment Agency, which we subsequently did. Discovering who is responsible for what along the canal is confusing – and we tend to be the more accessible!



Our Twitter followers currently stand at 2,320. Twitter is not a mirror image of Facebook.

We've had some lovely wildlife photographs posted – it's been so difficult to single out just one – we could fill a page! Torn between two of professional photographer, Jacqueline Spindley's pictures, I've opted for the Mallard Duckling – you nearly had Jacqueline's Orange Tip butterfly. Is it just me, or do Orange Tip's look good enough to eat?



ITEMS FROM AROUND



Storm HANNAH makes short work of our marquee



1794-7



2019

An interesting comparison of brickwork at lock 14!

SOME BRIDGE READERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

*I always enjoy reading The
Bridge.*

*I live in Frankston South,
Victoria, Australia.*

Kind regards Geoffrey Snook

Hello from California.

**Gale and Robert Fenton reading
here in Rancho Santa Fe.**

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

R.Gibson, Grantham U3A,
Bess of Hardwick,
Miss B.A.Crabtree, Mr T Shaw,
Christina Wallace, Nigel Lee, IWA



COMPUTER TECH TIPS

We welcome Giles, a well regarded Web Designer and Technical Support



Web Browsers

Whichever device you use, Laptop, PC, Tablet or Smartphone it will come with a preinstalled default web browser which is software that allows you to load and view web pages on the Internet. For Apple devices the default is Safari, for Windows it used to be Internet Explorer but has now been replaced by (in my humble opinion, the awful) Microsoft Edge. On Android devices it depends on the device brand.

Thankfully other web browsers are available that are arguably better than the one that comes with your device. The most commonly used is Chrome (made by Google) and Firefox made by Mozilla, I also quite rate the Opera web browser.

On Windows based machines especially I'd recommend installing either Google Chrome (which integrates well if you have a Gmail account) or Mozilla Firefox. On their own they are an improvement but both have an array of so called extensions or plugins. Extensions give extra functionality to the web browser and expands its features. The main extensions you would normally have installed are security based ones like Trusteer Rapport or ad blockers which filter out annoying adverts. Firefox in particular has some very useful extensions.

For older computers running Windows XP, Vista (and soon Windows 7) the software developers no longer support those operating systems and the web browsers stop being updated and can suffer issues displaying some websites. For those scenarios Firefox provide an extended support release version available from this link: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/organizations/> (or Google search for 'firefox esr')

On 14th Jan 2020 Windows 7 will stop being supported or updated by Microsoft it will still continue to function but will gradually become outdated in the coming years: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsforbusiness/end-of-windows-7-support>

I do rate the Opera web browser and urge you to check it out, it looks nice and has a customisable speed dial page for your main bookmarks which is a really nice feature if you like organising bookmarks

COMMUNITY CLEANUP - AT GAMSTON

A group of hard working volunteers carried out an excellent clean-up of the Gamston Section of the Grantham Canal on the morning of Sunday 14 April. However, this wasn't one of the usual organised Grantham Canal Society (GCS) Task Days. Instead of spreading our work over a number of activities such as general litter picking, towpath widening, trimming overgrown bushes, painting steelwork gates and bridge parapets etc., all efforts concentrated on removing litter from the canal itself.

Of course, in order to do this, it is necessary to actually get onto the water. It was thought that none of the usual volunteers had the means to do this. However, one of the volunteers belongs to a group of paddleboarders and put us in touch with the **Nottingham Surfers against Sewage group**. Their representative, **Neil Cutts**, arranged for several of his colleagues from other paddleboard and kayak groups to join GCS volunteers to work as a team. The volunteers were briefed on health and safety issues by the Canal and River Trust (CRT) volunteer coordinator who also explained about being careful of the plentiful wildlife on the canal, some of which occupied nests and others which had very young chicks.

The paddleboarders and kayakers went into action armed with litter pickers and buckets mounted on their boards. Their filled buckets were emptied by the land based volunteers who bagged it all up to be disposed of by CRT.

Unfortunately, due to a possible contamination further down the canal, the work had to be halted before we could reach the Radcliffe Road bridge. It is hoped we can carry on this great work in a few weeks time and then continue onto the Lady Bay section.

The Grantham Canal Society is extremely grateful for the work done and time spent by the paddleboarders, kayakers and the land based volunteers. It's certain that passers by will see a huge difference in the condition of that part of the canal. **Task Days will be planned throughout the year and if you would like to take part please contact Ranger Rob on 07986 701348 or by email to rob.cook47@virginmedia.com confirming your interest.**



FUNDRAISING WEEKEND FOR
THE GRANTHAM CANAL
SOCIETY

THE DIRTY DUCK BEER FESTIVAL

17-18-19
MAY 2019

LIVE MUSIC,
EVERY DAY

HOG ROAST SAT
BBQ SUN

FRIDAY 17 MAY
FROM 7.00PM
CHARLOTTE CHURCH
JACUZZI SOUP

SATURDAY 18 MAY
FROM 2PM

EVONNE RIVERS
THE RETURN OF LOOSE CHANGE
SUNDAY 19 MAY

FROM 1PM
JENNIFER GREEN
LOOSE CHANGE



*£1.00 will add to all drinks in
favour of the Charity*

Since they took over the Dirty Duck by the canal at Woolsthorpe J-F and his wife Lynne have become good friends of the Grantham Canal Society and have been very supportive of our efforts. Next weekend that support will achieve a new high as they promote a Fundraising Weekend for the Grantham Canal Society at the Dirty Duck. Taking place on the 17th, 18th and 19th May a donation from every pint will go to the society and Rosemary, with the events team, will have a marquee up in the pub gardens.

Live music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon to entertain us all - be great to see as many GCS members attend as can make it and PLEASE tell everyone you know, and bring them along.

DL-B