

JUNE

BRIDGE

2019



Tidy brickwork at Kingston's Lock No 14

Photo taken by Dave Cross

**OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO INVESTSK FOR FUNDING 8000 BRICKS USED IN THIS LOCK'S REBUILD.
THEIR CONTRIBUTION HAS HELPED US ACHIEVE SUCH EXCELLENT PROGRESS.**



This month's update from Mike Stone
(Chairman)



Another concrete pour
Aerial photo by Sea Lane Media Ltd

The really positive progress that the construction teams are making has encouraged us to look forward to the next major obstacles.



Lock 13 - Stainwith lock



Lock 12 - Woolsthorpe Bottom lock

Clearly locks 13 and 12 need some remedial work and decisions have yet to be made firstly on the work required and secondly on the funding we can attract. **HLF rules require that funding associated with locks 14 and 15 project must have been fully completed before any application for additional funding for a new project can be made.**

Whilst this ruling is understandable it would result in our experienced construction teams having a **period with no work to do** on lock refurbishment. Consequently we are looking at the next major project which is **Muston Gorse bridge**.

Ideally this should be an original style structure to maintain the environment of the area and we are already discussing design with a volunteer who has experience in this field.

The society will also need to identify benefactors who could meet the cost of the materials as, within our present construction terms, we have demonstrated sufficient skills to permit construction by volunteers. **If anyone wishes to put themselves forward as a potential funder** please contact the Editor.

I am most anxious to maintain the continuity of a major ongoing project for our key construction teams so that their skills are not lost.

I wish to thank our boat crews who are, very successfully **raising the profile of both long and short cruises**. The level of demand is excellent which requires team commitment by crews and also makes a **significant contribution** to our restoration funds.

Thanks also to the passengers for their support. **Have you tried our new "Cruise and Dine" package yet?**

Mike Stone

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
Mon 10th June 2.00	Talk: Bingham WI
Wed 12th June pm	Learning team to Cotgrave CofE School
Sun 16th June 10.00 – 4.00	Fathers' Day Boat Trips – Depot Open, volunteers needed
Mon 17th June	Learning team to Harlaxton School
Sat 22nd June	Folk Evening, Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall
Sun 23rd June	Foston Fete
Tues 25th June 8.00	Talk: Malay and Borneo Veterans, PWG Barracks
Wed 26th June	Info stand at East Bridgford Garden Centre
June 28th 10.00 a.m.	Visit and Boat Trips – Fulbeck History Club
Sat 29th June	Woolsthorpe Fete
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
Mon 15th July 7.30	Rangers Meeting, Depot
Thurs 18th Jul 7.30	Talk: East Stoke WI
Sun 21st July 3.00	Lyrical Songbirds Concert for Canal at Cropwell Bishop, Old School
Sun 21st July	Guided walk: Hickling-Kinoulton area
Mon 22nd July	Waterways Archivists Training Day, Depot – times to be confirmed
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
Wed 6th Nov 12.00	Talk: Breath Easy Nottingham, Edwalton Golf Club
Wed 13th Nov 2.30	Talk: Marlborough Court, West Bridgford (moved from May)
Wed 27th Nov	DLB Talk: Vale of Belvoir Probus

LOCK 14 GCHI PROGRESS



Another concrete pour



Concrete pour completed



Back filling



Nearly complete back filling showing the stepped concrete level after each pour

Lock 14 diary notes

- May 10th - Bricklaying
- May 13th - Bricklaying
Byewash found to be leaking behind the outlet pipe
- May 14th - Temporary repair to byewash so that area could be pumped out
Bricklaying under a blue sky!
- May 17th - Brickwork completed on towpath side & ready for shuttering
- May 20th - Erecting towpath side shuttering
Small amount of bricklaying still to be done
Concrete ordered
- May 21st - Brickwork level completed
Shuttering being erected
- May 28th - Shuttering completed
Byewash leak remedied
- May 31st - Concrete pour
- June 3rd - Scaffolders start to lift platform
Shuttering removed & backfilling commenced
- June 4th - Scaffolders complete platform
Brickwork commenced
Backfilling
- June 7th - Bricklaying
Backfill completed

Many thanks to John Clark, Jim Freeman & Dave Cross for these photos & (edited) diary notes

Ed

FUNDRAISING WEEKEND FOR
THE GRANTHAM CANAL
SOCIETY

THE DIRTY DUCK BEER FESTIVAL

Ever since they took over the Dirty Duck at Woolthorpe the landlords, Lynne and JF, have been interested in and supportive of the efforts of the Grantham Canal Society to restore the waterway to its rural glory. The

GCS were delighted when they suggested putting on the Dirty Duck Beer Festival as a fund raiser for the society.

This took place on May 17th to 19th and raised £945 for the Grantham Canal Society. The society had a stall in the garden of the inn and the well-attended event saw many enquiries from those who visited the Dirty Duck as to society activity and plans for the future. Our thanks to all the volunteers who made themselves available to inform everyone of our growing achievements.

The GC Society presented landlords Lynne and JF with a bouquet of flowers in thanks for their organisation of the event and in recognition of the support and encouragement they continue to give the society in so many different forms



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

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



June - Damselflies

June sees the canal margins come alive with bright flashes of blue and red as damselflies take to the air.

Damselflies have spent the winter as larvae in the depths of the canal where they feed and grow and develop. These larvae are known as nymphs and are ferocious predators, eating other invertebrates and even small fish fry. In early summer, they climb out of the water and emerge from the larval case, unfold their wings which dry in the sun, and take to the air to live out the rest of their life cycle.

Once on the wing, they retain their predatory tendencies taking small insects in mid air using their legs as a basket to capture their prey, though they will also take terrestrial insects such as spiders.

There are a number of damselfly species you might spot along the canal. Several of these are a similar bright blue and can be tricky to tell apart; though one of these which is common along the canal - the red-eyed damselfly - has a handy diagnostic feature! Other species are a red in colour - with a seriously simple approach to nomenclature these are called large red and small red damselflies.

An old name for damselflies was 'Devil's Darning Needles' relating an myth that if you went to sleep by a stream on a summer's day, damselflies would use their long, thin bodies to sew your eyelids closed! Fortunately this is entirely untrue - like the larger dragonflies, these insects are completely harmless!

Community and Education **Update June 2019**

Events: Manic May's efforts boosted the bank account and membership, leaving some of us shattered. No weekends free and planning and admin work doesn't stop, even when away. I turned into a right Moaning Mini. We always manage to get enough volunteers to help at events on the day, but ensuring tasks will be covered takes time and effort. I keep wanting to do more, but can't without help. I failed to book Grantham Carnival this year because I wasn't sure we had help with the gazebo and we will be busy at the Depot on Fathers' Day.

Grateful thanks to all who do help and particularly to those stalwarts who have offered to man the stand at Radcliffe on Trent Carnival and East Bridgford Garden Centre.

Lots of other organising to do for celebrating our 50th Anniversary including a 60's Night for members, supporters and friends just for fun. Watch this space.

Education: One school who wanted to visit us found coach fees too expensive, but we have 2 confirmed school visits during Schools' Week and are visiting 2 more this month, taking activities to them. The younger generation need to pick up the baton when we can't run with it any more.

Oral History, Research, Archiving: The Archive Training Day at the Depot with archivists from the National Waterways Museum is booked for Monday 22nd July (times to be confirmed). **Please get in touch if interested.**

Rosemary

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



#Trending



You like your boat trips – and don't we all! Over 6k of you viewed the poster on Facebook for our Spring Bank Holiday event! You also liked the story of Bridge 62, with over a thousand viewing this. You can read this tale of robbery, murder and skulduggery in our Cruise Guide on the boat trip page of our website – whilst you're there – book a cruise? Wasn't too subtle – was it?

Over 45k had our Twitter feed on their screens during the month of May, with the top tweet being the aerial shots of Lock 14 restoration works from Sea Lane Media. I love the sketches Vanessa Stone tweets. The one pictured is Bridge 50, Barkestone Le Vale.



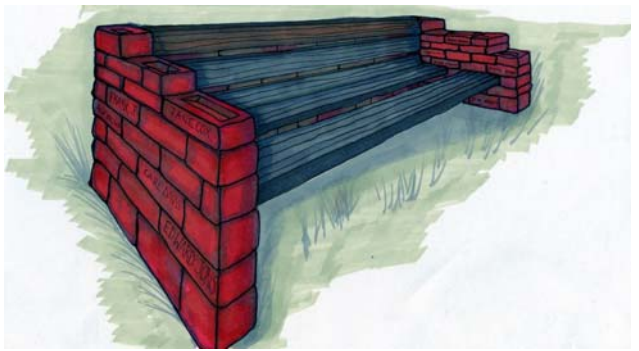
If I could put in a word for our website? 5k visited during May. A visit to our public transport page will tell you that from leaving Grantham Railway Station around a mile from the canal – it's canal towpath all the way to the Midland Mainline Station in Nottingham! Brilliant if you live in the Capital! Our accommodation page will suggest places to stay.

There are also a number of exciting ways in which to give a donation towards our work – well, it's exciting for us when you chuck a few quid in the pot! Give the LotterySK a go? This is working well for us and we get some winners among our supporters most weeks. £25,000 could be yours.

Tony Jackson

BENCH AT LOCK 15

The GCS will soon be constructing a bench by the side of the newly restored Lock 15. Built of brick the bench will incorporate the engraved bricks purchased by our supporters under the “Buy a Brick” Fundraising initiative.



The proposed design will utilise recycled plastic joists for the seat and back and the engraved bricks will be in the bench ends, visible to those walking the towpath. The last heavy plant used on the site to distribute the silt dredged from the Half-Mile Pound has now been completed. The area will soon be grassed over and trees planted.

As soon as our construction team have completed the Lock 14 chamber we will be looking to build the bench and have it installed ready for the official opening in **September**.

DL-B



THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



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

There have been many stories or articles written regarding a branch canal of 3miles starting at Cropwell Wharf just above lock11 and terminating at Bingham, two original members were quite passionate about whether it was built or not built. Chris Tizzard considered it was and Chris **Bates who wrote this article** thought otherwise.

"... and for a collateral cut to or near the township of Bingham..." - so ran the gist of the 1793 Act for the Grantham Canal which relates to the Bingham Branch, it can therefore be safely assumed that the branch had not already been built! .

The next piece of information relating to the branch is apparently Laird's description of Nottinghamshire of 1810 which refers to the Grantham Canal as " having a branch, upwards of 3miles in length, leading to the town of Bingham." Jessop's (ie the engineers) original map shows the branch to leave the main line of the canal just above lock 11, passing under the Fosse Way, curving back to travel almost north east before overshooting Bingham and coming back to end near the Church. Allowing for slight inaccuracies in this map, this line would follow the 146 contour on which level the 'long pound' of the main canal also flows. This agrees with the 1793 Act, which say's "that the intended collateral cut aforesaid shall be made and constructed without any locks or lock thereon, and that every part thereof shall be of the same level as that part of the said intended canal with which it is intended to communicate". This subject of locks is important as we shall see later. Carey's 1831 map of Nottinghamshire shows the Bingham Branch following a similar line to that of Jessop's map (ie within the limitation of Carey's map as a whole which is elsewhere wildly inaccurate - in terms of positions as opposed to representations). Two other small scale maps of 1830 , and one of between 1830 and 1840 also show the branch. However the Ordnance Survey Map of 1835 does not show the branch. This is not remarkable in itself since OS Maps have always been notoriously inaccurate were canals and their branches are concerned but ' Priestley's Canals and Navigal Rivers ' of 1840 mentions the branch as "work on the collateral cut..... not yet having been commenced".

Priestley is well known and very accurate source and I am therefore very loth to doubt his word. This would explain the 'gap' on the 1835 o.s. map whilst the other maps - being more local in nature - would be far more likely to show a projected canal. We have therefore reached an interesting point - 40 years after the remainder of the canal is completed , the branch has not been started - in stating this we have only disagreed with Laird (1810) who may - in the excitement of the opening of the rest of the canal - have been also a trifle premature.

At this point the evidence becomes considerable , but we must bear in mind that what follows may have been based on the earlier (and inaccurate) maps. As one of my correspondents put it "dire stories are notoriously inaccurate" - but surely the shear amount of evidence cannot be treated lightly . 1844 'Nottingham Directory'

The Grantham Canal is connected to the Trent , commencing near Nottingham and having a branch to upwards of three miles in length leading to the town of Bingham. 1853 White's directory of Nottinghamshire , Bingham though once of considerable repute ! is now merely a straggling and inconsiderable market town having a branch from the Nottingham and Grantham canal. Cropwell Butler near the Grantham Canal.... Thos Musson lockkeeper (note the reference to locks again) Saxondale boat owner :- Foster Thos (near the line of the branch), Bingham Tradesman :- Marine Store dealers, Leighton J. and Ward J. (2 separate stores- ie some way from the main canal but near the branch). Morris' Gazetteer of Nottinghamshire 1869 Cropwell Butler near the Bingham branch of the Grantham Canal.

Continued ...

White's Directory of Nottinghamshire 1894 "Nottingham. At Nottingham a canal branches in a south easterly direction to Grantham and Bingham". "Cropwell Butler Robert Wesson - Lock Keeper". This second entry in a later Whites Directory would appear particularly interesting since I would have thought that an error in the earlier edition would have been removed. I would think the references to lockkeepers at Cropwell Butler rather more interesting if there were also reference to another at Cropwell Bishop or the Fosse Way. This would provide the necessary inconsistency. Whilst this evidence is considerable , I am sure that no-one would consider it conclusive. We have therefore only one further opening (unless other information is forthcoming) - that is evidence on the ground. First I should point out that the branch must of been disused by 1908 since H. R. De Salis in Bradshaw's - the canal enthusiasts bible- also makes no reference . Our members Mr and Mrs Tizzard , some time ago made a fairly extensive tour of the relevant area , which I propose to go into more fully next time, but at this point I am concerned with the question of those locks. The Tizzard's suggest that they have seen "in Autumn the outlines of a least two locks with their pounds.... visible amongst the undergrowthwith their walling. This is obviously in direct contravention of the Act and besides we have already shown that such locks were unnecessary. I have seen the brickwork myself and my view is that it is possibly the remains of a site for stop gates. A short embankment would been necessary across to the main canal and it was usual to provide such a means for stopping off the canal in the event of a breach. Another view put forward by a contributor is that this was connected by the brickworks which once stood on this site. Aha! you say , what's this about a brickworks? Well you will have to wait until the next issue to find out. Chris Bates; with thanks to Sue Maude, Peter Hammond, T.W.Townsend, M.D.Mitchell and Gil Tizzard.

My own view on this story is that it would have been a great waste of time and money to build a branch and then close it in such a short time. Unless you know different!.

Ed's Comment -

Below is an extract of a copy of Cary's England, Sheets 42 - 43 which quite clearly shows a Grantham canal branch extending into Bingham. Draw whatever conclusion from this as you like, **however**, this map was published on the 11th June, 1794!



The Three Shires Update – June 2019

The Early May Bank Holiday weekend saw Three Shires carry an amazing 171 passengers, taking over £450 in fares. We had the boat out again two weeks later as part of the Dirty Duck Fundraising weekend and also at the end of the month for the Spring Bank Holiday. With the addition of 5 private cruises, May saw the Three Shires raise over £1,500. A big thank you to all our crew and passengers from Paul and the Senior Skipper!

We ran a new crew training course on 14th May adding 5 new members to the Three Shires team. A big welcome to our new crew Martin Wills, Roz Symonds, Roger Charles, Jan Dadford and Pete Lester. Sadly, our second course planned for 2nd June had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a conflict with the angling match taking place on the same day. We will re-schedule towards the end of the season.



*Our new recruits and instructors heading back across lock 17 after a glorious day on the canal
Thanks for the picture Roz!*

May wasn't without incident however.

Mid-afternoon on the last day of the Dirty Duck Fundraising weekend, Three Shires suffered a mechanical breakdown. The skipper and crew followed the emergency procedures, safely disembarking the passengers and recovering the boat by hauling it along the canal. We were very disappointed to have to cancel a private cruise scheduled for later that afternoon, but the customer was very understanding and has agreed to come back later in the year. The fault was traced to a broken gear box cable and the boat was repaired by the Senior Skipper and back on the water 2 days later.

June sees us running another 13 private cruises and well as 'Turn up and Ride' trips on Father's Day (16th) and Sunday 30th June. Our first evening Cruise and Dine in association with the Dirty Duck departs on 25th. Both trips are fully booked although we may run more if there is sufficient interest.

We really do need to get the boat out on the water as often as we can so please come and support us on 'Turn up and Ride' days, tell your friends about us, share us on social media, buy a gift voucher for someone or book yourself a private cruise.

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

PET DOG DIES AFTER EATING BREAD

A devastated dog owner is warning others to be vigilant after her pet dog died after eating what she believes was poisoned bread during a walk on Saturday.

The dog's owner had taken Jack Russell Dexter out for a walk along Grantham Canal.

She posted on Facebook: "We went for a walk down Woolsthorpe to Dirty Duck. There was some bread along the canal path and my Dexter was eating it. After 20 minutes, he was foaming, bleeding and vomiting."

Dexter's owner rushed Dexter to the vets who said it was poison. Despite the vets best efforts, Dexter suffered a seizure and died just hours later.

His owner is warning other pet owners to be on their guard, adding: "Please everybody keep your pooches safe and keep a look out."

Photo & article Grantham Journal



MOULDY BREAD CAN BE HARMFUL - NOT ONLY TO DOGS BUT TO WILDLIFE AS WELL

The Canal & River Trust are trying to discourage the feeding of bread to wildlife along the canals. Many pet owners are aware that various human foodstuffs are harmful to our pets. Did you realise that any mouldy foods could be potentially dangerous for dogs and cats too?

Mouldy foods and mouldy plant material, could contain toxins called tremorgenic mycotoxins. These toxins are produced by moulds found in mouldy foods and organic material, with bread being one of them.

If your dog or cat eats mouldy food or plant material containing tremorgenic mycotoxins it may become ill very quickly, often within one hour. Common signs that are seen are vomiting, wobbliness, tremors, agitation and hyperactivity, a high body temperature and panting. In severe cases there may be convulsions. Effects could possibly last for several days and deaths in cats and dogs have occurred. Prompt veterinary treatment is essential. The sooner they are treated, the better the outcome.

The Canal & River trust wish to discourage the feeding of ducks, etc., with bread. Any left-over is likely to encourage rats and poses a hazard to dogs. The message that the Trust have been pushing for a while now is to avoid feeding ducks bread, both for the health of the ducks & for the health of the waterways, but we wish to highlight the dangers of left-over bread, which is potentially going mouldy, to other animals too.



For further information go to:

<https://www.animalpoisonline.co.uk/blogs/2018/3/27/mouldy-food-and-compost-dangers-to-dogs-and-cats>

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!



OUR NEXT GUIDED WALK IS ON

Sunday 21st July 2019

Kinoulton - Hickling - Kinoulton.

**Approx 6.75 miles across fields and
along the towpath to Hickling for a
break at Hickling Wharf Cafe.**

Then back across fields to Kinoulton.

Meet for 10.30 am start at:

Kinoulton Village Hall car park.

Main Street,

Kinoulton, Nottingham.

NG12 3EL

Children and dogs welcome.

5th GCS Infosocial May 2019

The latest GCS Infosocial was held in Duck Hall and heard updates from GCS (David Lyneham-Brown), and from CRT (Karen Rice) re the Lock 14 project. This was followed by a Q&A session and then we heard about Canal Ecology, with special reference to the Grantham Canal, from CRT's ecologist, Imogen Wilde.

We had much to celebrate - our progress with the Lock 14 GCHI project is truly stunning; the role and achievements of GCS volunteers and how we have moved forward as a team is clear testament to the fact that **we may be volunteers but we are most certainly not amateurs.**

For the next Infosocial I would like to update and upgrade the format and to do that **I seek your ideas and suggestions.** As GCS members and volunteers if you have any such inspirations as to how we can continue to interest you please send them to me chiefexecutive@granthamcanal.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

We need volunteers for June 16th (Father's Day) and June 30th (Summer boat trips) at the Depot for erecting gazebos, booking in, cake making, refreshments and stalls etc.
Please call Mary on 01476 566578 for a chat
or email Rose if you can help with cakes
rosetroops@talktalk.net

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

Fern Charity Enterprises

presents

"A SUMMER AFTERNOON CONCERT"

by the Lyrical Songbirds

on

Sunday, 21st July 2019 at 3 pm

in

The Old School, Cropwell Bishop

The Choir will entertain us from a range of musical repertoire so there will be 'something for everyone'.

Proceeds in support of the work of the volunteers of

The Grantham Canal Society

A glass of sparkling on arrival, home-made cake in the interval and, of course, a Raffle with super prizes.

To reserve your ticket (£10) kindly

RSVP to contact details below:

Elaine & Mell

jarobinson1981@gmail.com

0115 989 4459

*Fern Charity Enterprises
12-14 Fern Road, Cropwell Bishop
Notts NG12 3BU*

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You can now support us 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's simple to use

Go to www.giveasyoulive.com and register, select

'The Grantham Canal Society'
as your chosen charity and start shopping!



COMPUTER TECH TIPS

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



Windows 10 for free

About 3 or 4 years ago Microsoft offered a free upgrade from Windows 7 or 8 to Windows 10. Some of you may have taken Microsoft up on this offer using the Windows 10 upgrade assistant which checked your system for compatibility and allowed you to upgrade if the hardware passed all the checks.

Although the window of opportunity for upgrading Windows 10 has reportedly passed, Windows 10 can still be upgraded for free from a licenced version of Windows 7 or 8.

The hardware compatibility checks will still happen, so if your computer doesn't meet the requirements then it will warn you of this and if you decide to upgrade anyway you could experience issues, usually system crashes and reboots.

This offer is particularly useful given that Windows 7 is expiring at the end of this year and will no longer be supported. As I mentioned last month, although it's expiring this doesn't mean Windows 7 will stop working but over time it could develop issues and become less secure.

In order to install Windows 10 for free you can download the media creation tool from the Microsoft website at www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows10 (or just Google search 'windows 10 download') this will download Windows 10 installation files allowing you to either burn to a DVD or copy to a spare USB memory stick (usually 8GB or more req'd). You then just launch setup from within Windows 7 or 8 and follow the on screen prompts.

Important: Remember to always backup your data before you start this upgrade or better still make a full system image on an external drive to allow you to restore everything back to how it was just in case. It's unlikely you will encounter an issue if it passes all the pre-flight checks but better so be safe than sorry. If in doubt, contact your local computer specialist for assistance or advice if required.

RANGER NEWS FROM GAMSTON COMMUNITY

I am sad to report from the Gamston Section of the canal that all of the fish seem to have disappeared.

The drought last summer is the main source of the problem but there is another, more current issue. What few fish survived last year's drought have been stolen! I know this sounds extremely unlikely but I've been keeping a look-out for possible suspects. This vigil paid off.

I found two culprits and passed the information on to the CRT Police Force.

The CRTP are now searching for a neatly dressed character in a black and grey suit and his accomplice, a small round guy in a green stained shell suit (see photos).

If anyone sees either one they are advised to inform the CRTP immediately and not to approach them as they could be dangerous!



Now for some better news. I have been informed by a lady, very knowledgeable in all matters of things relating to flora and fauna and who walks along the Gamston section regularly, that she has heard Reed Warblers in two separate locations. Also, whilst walking with her, to listen for the Reed Warbler which was quiet that day, I heard a Song Thrush and some Chiffchaffs. During our walk the lady managed to save the life of a very young duckling. It was on the towpath, separated from its mother and courting certain death. We found the family and reunited it with its parents.

The pair of swans which abide near the footbridge at the rear of Morrisons have finally produced cygnets. The pen had been sitting for several weeks and there was concern that the eggs were not going to hatch.



Some of the neighbours are now concerned that the cygnets will fall over the weir of Lock 3. They would be unable to get back and die. This did happen to many of the cygnets last year at both Locks 2 and 3. If anyone has any ideas as to how this could be prevented would they please contact me.

Ranger Rob 07986 701348



📍 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

Thank you to the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group who presented us with a donation of £60,

proceeds from their annual tractor road run. The cheque was presented to Rosemary Gibson, Community and Education Team Leader. A wide range of vintage tractors proved quite a spectacle, as they made their way along the lanes and byways of the Vale of Belvoir from their headquarters in Harby to reach their lunch stop at the Dirty Duck, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, where this presentation took place. Whether by accident or design, where there just happened to be a beer festival taking place - hope they were reminded they still needed to plough a straight furrow on their return journey!

Tony Jackson



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

Allan Holmes, George Moore,
Grantham British Legion, John Dodwell
Witham on the Hill History Society,
Diane Kidger, Langar cum Barnston Parish
Meeting, Nigel Lee, D Smith