

JULY

BRIDGE

2019



Two teams from lock 15 attended, names as follows, reading from left to right

Seated:

Mark Owen (CRT), Jayne Slaughter (CRT), Karen Rice (CRT), Stephen Hardy (CRT)

Standing:

Martin Heywood (GCS), John Trigg (GCS), Jim Freeman (GCS), Ian Wakefield (GCS), Ruth Garratt (CRT), Richard Caunt (GCS)

See page 13 for more details



This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

It is time for readers to acknowledge the significant people that enable the Society to deliver the restoration of the Grantham Canal. They are found in two key groups and I, for one, know that work would not progress without them both! They are the **volunteers & supporters**.

The volunteers do things – well everything actually – otherwise no progress would be made. They, in a whole range of work roles, 'grow' the operational canal.

The supporters enable us to fund the work - by enabling the purchase of materials and products that are needed. Again they are found in many guises and include those who pop cash into collecting boxes, attend events, charter cruises, donate materials, organise external events, loan equipment, give their professional services, facilitate grants and all support our objectives. Next time you meet either volunteers or supporters please remember to thank them. We could not achieve restoration without them!

So what progress is being made thanks to all the above? In terms of construction Lock 14 walls continue to grow and, after a further pour of concrete last week I am told that over 66% of the walls, 3m (that's nearly 10 feet), leaving only a further 1.5m (4' 10") to go.

This year's first Waterway Recovery Group camp started this past weekend and with their usual productivity coupled with our own volunteer teams I expect the walls to rise rapidly. Completion by the end of August is more than possible. It is likely therefore that Lock 14, without gates, will be substantially completed by the year end.

Then what do we do? The alert amongst you may have noticed that there are Locks 13 and 12 to be restored. Visually these appear to be in better condition than Locks 15 and 14 but they

will have to be surveyed to establish the condition of those bits we cannot see i.e. the situation of the bottom and what is happening behind the walls. If both these areas are in good shape major reconstruction may not be required.

However this presents another opportunity as the **Society will need to raise funds for that work** which may not be supported by major grants as it was by Heritage Lottery for Locks 15 and 14.

During five years the generosity of supporters has contributed to the Society supporting the HLF grant with matched funding on Locks 15 and 14 by £100,000. This is a magnificent achievement and I thank everyone who has made it possible. So now key questions are:

- Could we achieve a target of £50,000 in the next two years for Locks 13 and 12?
- Is there a corporate sponsor out there who can support our very skilled construction teams?
- Could you charter the boat more often?
- Would you like home-made afternoon tea more frequently?
- Will you organise an event to support our funds?

The Society management needs to know how much funding support could be pledged before we set our next big objectives.

Please let me know your fund raising suggestions or pledges by dropping me an email; chairman@granthamcanal.org

or alternatively

Come to Woolsthorpe for tea and talk to us.

Email The Editor of Bridge

Comment on Facebook or Twitter

Send a postcard!

I don't mind how you communicate! It would really help us to know how much more support we could gain for our further work. So please, please, tell us your views using whatever media you prefer.

I look forward to hearing from YOU

Mike Stone.



COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019

| <u>Date & Time</u> | <u>Event & Venue</u> |
|---|--|
| Wed 10 th July 9.30 | Events Planning Meeting, Depot |
| Sat 13 th July | Radcliffe Carnival |
| Sat – Sun 13 th – 14 th July | Rempstone Steam Fair |
| Mon 15 th July 7.30 | Rangers Meeting, Depot |
| 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 |
| Sun 21 st July | Guided walk: Hickling-Kinoulton area |
| Thurs 25 th Jul 10.00 | Talk: Grantham Earlybirds WI, Grantham Museum |
| Sat & Sun 27 th & 28 th July | GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY 50 TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT Boat trips, Depot Open, volunteers needed |
| 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 Volunteers needed |
| Thurs 5 th Sept | DLB Talk: London Canal Museum |
| Fri 6 th Sept 7.00-11.00 | 60s Night, Duck Hall, Woolsthorpe |
| Sat 7 th Sep afternoon | Imagineer Bridge Project Earlesfield Grantham |
| 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) |
| Wed 27 th Nov | DLB Talk: Vale of Belvoir Probus |
| Mon 9 th Dec 2.00 | Sleaford U3A Local History Group, Winchelsea Centre |

LOCK 14 GCHI PROGRESS



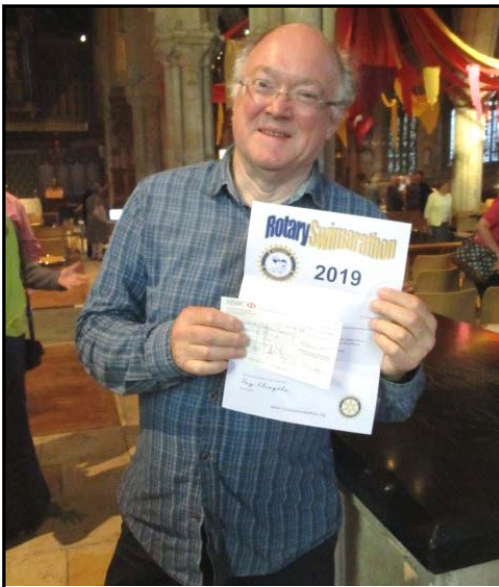
Yet another concrete pour takes place



Our teams of volunteers are amazing!



Many thanks to John Clark, Jim Freeman & Ian Wakefield for these photos



On June 27th The Grantham Canal Society, in the form of John Clarke and David Lyneham-Brown, attended the Grantham Rotary Swimarathon annual presentation evening, to receive a cheque for £500 in support of our work on the canal.

Swimarathon 2019 was the 30th such event for Grantham Rotary, an idea pioneered by them which has become a national event. Congratulations to the Grantham Rotarians on this achievement and the fact that during these years it has grown from a 1 day to 3 day event and has raised in total over £850,000 for the Grantham area schools and charities.

This year they raised in excess of £40,000 and the thanks of the society go to Rotary for their recognition and support of the GCS in this and previous years.



Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge



July – Fledglings

The main breeding season for many of the birds in the UK is in April and May, with many chicks leaving their nest in June and July. A walk along the canal in the height of summer might well reveal a number of recent fledglings getting to grips with their new physiques!

One of the canal specialists – kingfishers - will often have 2-3 broods through the summer; however their focus seems to be on producing many chicks rather than necessarily caring for the ones they have. The young will typically attempt their first dive around 4-5 days after fledging, but the parents spend little time teaching them this high-risk technique and around 50% will become waterlogged and drown in their first few weeks.

Moorhens and coots are common along the canal but unlike most species, flight is fairly low on the list of priorities for new fledglings. Unlike the kingfisher, these species make diligent parents and the newly fledged young will spend several weeks being fed by both the male and female until they develop independence enough to make it on their own.

Perhaps the award for most caring parents has to go to the mute swans with their train of cygnets working their way along the canal. These large waterbirds are the third heaviest flying bird in the world, so it's little surprise that it takes 4-5 months before these young learn to take to the sky and gain their independence! At least the canal provides a nice long, straight runway...

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



This month Mike describes the 'arduous' task of mapping pubs along the Grantham Canal ...

Sometime in the 1970's or 80's CAMRA (The campaign for real ale) were trying to encourage the public to consume real cask ale instead of keg beer and landlords to promote real ale from whatever brewery they could buy from. So CAMRA started to produce hand books, similar to Nicholson's Canal Guides, but showing the location of pubs within easy walking distance from various canals and rivers. Also they described the pub listing the type of ales stocked and what rooms or outside accommodation they provided for the whole family and whether they served food, hot or cold. All the pubs listed were checked by CAMRA volunteers and only included in the guide if they met their standards. So Ken Brockway contacted CAMRA to see if they would produce a guide for the Grantham Canal and their reply was yes, provided we did the survey and listing. So Ken and myself agreed to take on this job as we both enjoyed a good pint of real ale.

The basic idea was to look at OS maps and our canal guide to find all the pubs, within easy reach of the canal towpath, starting from Lock 1, Nottingham, through to Wharf Road, Grantham and visit each one to see if



The Plough at Hickling

it met CAMRA'S approval, if so we would list the facilities on offer, try some of their beers and chat to the landlords to ask if they would like to be included in the guide. Our canal doesn't pass through the centre of many villages and the Dirty Duck is about the only one you could say was canalside, the Plough at Hickling a close second so most pubs on route vary considerably with regard to distance of travel from the canal towpath.



The Dirty Duck at Woolsthorpe

The main difference between real cask ale and keg beer is the way its produced, type of container it's kept in, the way it's pumped to the bar and how it's kept in the cellar. And of course the taste. Keg beer is easier for the landlord because its fully conditioned, comes in a pressurised sealed container and often refrigerated, the keg can be anywhere in the pub or outside and the beer is easily pumped up to the serving point. The taste varies little from one keg to another and is generally maintenance free. But by contrast, cask conditioned ale comes in barrels and is still working, conditioning, and needs special treatment by the landlord to set the barrels up properly, alter the wooden pressure pegs and keep the beer at a regular temperature of about 60°F. It also requires pumping up to the bar or drawn up using beer engine hand pumps. The pipes should also be disconnected and flushed through with water overnight. The taste can vary from barrel to barrel, how its kept by the landlord but generally is the preferred brew for a great lot of people. But you can see why some landlords were more than eager to convert to keg only beer.

We managed to complete our survey without becoming too drunk and if you can remember back to those days, most pubs didn't serve hot meals, only snacks and some just crisps or nuts. Bob and Nancy at the Anchor, Plungar, had a big bank of microwave ovens so could rustle up pie, beans and chips very quickly. Pubs owned by brewery's mainly stocked one brand of real ale but free houses could have many different ales from brewery's of their choice. I think that all of our local brewery's, Home Ales, Shipstones, Kimberley and Mansfield have been taken over and closed down but some Burton based brewery's still survive. Also a lot of micro brewers have started, giving fresh life to real ale.

CAMRA produced a nice guide for the Grantham's pubs, I can't find mine, but probably it would be out of date anyway.

Community and Education **Update July 2019**

Events: Still working hard getting the word out and pennies in the bank. Thanks as always to the priceless volunteers who help with events at home and away. Visits to the depot for boat trips and talks have been well received. The Folk Concert organised by Carole Troops was enjoyed by a goodly crowd.

We have plenty of events coming up and thanks to Bob Terry and team, we are at both Radcliffe Carnival on July 13th and Rempstone Steam Fair July 13th and 14th.

July 27th & 28th at Woolsthorpe Our 50th Anniversary celebration weekend approaches with a few extras to the regular boat trip weekends. We hope to welcome long standing members and supporters with their reminiscences.

Friday 6th September, talented local singers and musicians will provide the entertainment for a **60s Night** in Duck Hall, Woolsthorpe. Admission by free pre-booked for members and supporters. Separate buffet tickets for a 60s buffet at a small cost. A fun night to reminisce about 50 years ago. Bring a photo of yourself back then.

Education: Portable activities went out to about 90 children at Cotgrave and Harlaxton Schools and classes from Langar and Denton came and enjoyed glorious weather for their visits to the depot to learn about why and how the canal was built, what it was like in the working days and what creatures live in and around the canal as well as taking boat trips. One young man was very worried about going on the boat, but he overcame his panic and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

Oral History, Research, Archiving: Working with Cropwell Bishop Heritage Group on the exhibition last weekend has enabled the sharing of some interesting images, documents and stories. The space was tiny, but the exhibition well received.

The Archive Training Day at the Depot with archivists from the National Waterways Museum was postponed. I hope to get a new date soon.

Please get in touch if interested.

Rosemary communityandevents@granthamcanal.org
or 07971 173069



#Trending



Hmm, you obviously like your dog fouling posts. Over 1.2k visited this post on Facebook. I wrote this out of frustration, when two – shall we call them 'deposits' were met with on the morning of one of our school visits recently. One of these dogs 'performed', not two yards from where I was standing, this while I was making preparations for a lock demonstration, i.e. exactly where the children were going to stand. Totally oblivious, the owner was hailed, and returned to clear it up. There is a bin at this location, one of four installed following five years of negotiations by our ranger team with the various stakeholders involved. Permissions needed to be sought, as did funding to buy the bins, contractors sought to regularly empty the bins, funding to pay for the emptying – yup, this took five years – please use them? A fifth bin is planned on this South Kesteven section (Casthorpe Bridge) – it's hit the red tape buffers at the mo – I'm waiting for a window of opportunity to pick this little project up again. 37.5k of our Twitter followers had us on their screens over the last 28 days. Top tweet during this period was one about our Schools' Week. This was so successful – the sunshine undoubtedly the icing on the cake. Our Learning Team of three, sometimes four, are so stretched at times like this. The work is very rewarding, with young minds energetically absorbing this new found information. If you would like to help in this and/or other events, email: communityandevents@granthamcanal.org Naturally, our followers on both platforms are treated to regular updates on the rebuild of Lock 14.





*Our next walk is on
Sunday 21st July
2019.*

*Approx 6.75 miles. 5
stiles and a couple of
steady ascents.*

*The walk is across
fields to join the
towpath to Hickling.
Stop for refreshments at
the Wharf Cafe, then
back across the fields to
Kinoulton.*

*Meet at Kinoulton
Village Hall, Main
Street, Kinoulton.*

*NG12 3EL for a
10.30 am start.*

*Chris Cobb
Head Ranger*



**Friday 6th September
7.00 - 11.00**

60s night

**for members,
supporters and
families**

**Live music to
reminisce by**

**Duck Hall, Dirty Duck Pub,
Duck Lane,
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir
NG32 1NY**

Admission by free ticket –
numbers limited.
Optional themed buffet for a
small charge

For tickets and to pre-book
buffet

Rosemary:

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org
or call or text **07971173069**

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for help in maintaining our floating and land based plant.

Our equipment ranges from Strimmer's & Mowers up to floating Dredgers & Weed Harvesters.

All this equipment is vital to the Society to enable us to maintain the present navigable section, and open up further sections of the canal.

The people we are seeking would ideally have a good understanding / background in Plant Maintenance. A working knowledge of Plant Hydraulics and Electrics would be helpful as the Dredger and Weed Harvester require both.

We have a good friendly cross-section of people & skills within our volunteers.

Contact:

generalmanager@granthamcanal.org



MUDLARK



OSBERTON



CENTAURI

We're doing a re-branding of our boats & started on Earwig!



The Three Shires Update – July 2019

June was a busy month for The Three Shires. We operated 11 private cruises welcoming a mix of families and local groups. We've had some great feedback from our customers this month too. Many thanks to all who booked and travelled with us!



Happy customer Emily with the crew (Paul, Bob and Martin)

Our first Cruise and Dine on 25th June was well received. A pleasant evening's cruise was followed by a 2 or 3 course meal at the Dirty Duck. Our next one on 23rd July is fully booked but we might run other 'specials' later in the year....keep your eye on the GCS Facebook page and Twitter feed.

For the first time we ran short trips on Father's

Day carrying 87 passengers. Our popular Summer Sunday trips on 30th June saw us carry another 94 passengers. So far this year over 1,000 people have enjoyed The Three Shires!

We look forward to meeting the children from Denton and Langar schools on the boat in July, and we will be running short trips again as part of the GCS 50th Anniversary celebrations on 27th and 28th July.

Bookings are a little bit quieter in July so there is good availability to book a private cruise during (hopefully) some fine weather.

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**



Letter to our Trip Boat crew

Good morning, Mr Dadford.

Yesterday's cruise was perfect. My partner, Jill, was completely delighted with her birthday present.

Please convey our thanks to the Grantham Canal Society for putting on such a cruise and to Captain Trigg and his crew for being such good hosts on the day. It was a lovely way to see the canal – we have walked good stretches of it already, but this was a very different view.

Many thanks again.

Jeff Fry

A big THANK YOU to Carole Troops for organising a Folk Concert at Cropwell Bishop.

The Musicians and Dancers were great.

Mary N



On Sunday 9th June, 15 adults and 1 dog joined me on a 7.75 mile walk from the Dirty Duck along the towpath to Denton Reservoir.

Although most on the walkers are from the local area, 5 had never seen the reservoir before and said how peaceful it was.

After a short lunch stop by the reservoir we walked through Denton village to join the old railway (now a cycle track) back to the canal and the Dirty Duck.

Thank you to all who came along and for your donations.

Chris Cobb






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



We welcome 3 new
 rangers to our team.
 Liz & Doug Smith, who will
 be looking after the
 Cotgrave Country Park
 section and

Maggie Shirran who is looking after the
 Owthorpe to Kinoulton section.

The rangers team are still looking for new rangers.

We patrol 16 sections of the canal plus Denton Reservoir.

Rangers are still required for:
 West Bridgford/Gamston to assist Rob Cook
 Redmile to Muston Gorse Bridge - without a
 ranger at present
 Grantham (Earlsfield Estate) to assist Richard
 Jackson.

If you are interested in joining our team please contact:

headranger@granthamcanal.org

Volunteers learn the skill of
bricklaying



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

Notts Engineering Scy, Sutton on Trent WI,
 Mr P Skerratt, Bingham WI, Kenneth Sharpe,
 Fulbeck History Club, Malay & Borneo
 Veterans

Our thanks also to Messrs. Dodwell, Lee
 Leighton & Altham for their monthly
 donations to the society

Waterways Alive Awards

The Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative for the restoration of Lock 15, (Bottom of Half Mile Pond Lock), was a finalist in the Canal & River Trust's award for the Best Construction, Heritage, Engineering or Environment Projects Award ceremony held at the Box, Birmingham on Thursday 4th July.

A splendid achievement for all our volunteers who worked on it. Ed.

Waterways Alive Awards
Best Construction, Heritage, Engineering or Environment Project
Finalist

Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative, Restoration of Lock 15

Mark Cress, Karen Rice, Joyce Slaughter, Sam Anderson-Brown, Stephen Hardy, Imogen White and Ruth Carroll

with thanks to: Stuart Gaddling, Steven Gurney, Wayne Bell, Scott Miller, Julie Wetherill, Chris Cresswell, Graham Mitchell and volunteers from Canal & River Trust, Grantham Canal Society and Waterways Recovery Centre

Richard Parry
Richard Parry
Chief Executive



SCHOOL WEEK LANGAR CofE PRIMARY 1 & 2



How a lock works with Tony



How to build a bridge with Brian

This note was sent to Tony & Rosemary by the class teacher following the school's visit:

Thank you so much for the amazing day we had last week. The children were buzzing and said it was the best trip they had ever been on. One of the children even went back on Sunday to show his dad how lovely it was.



Lotterysk

Raising money for local good causes

Tickets from **£1** | Win up to **£25,000** | **50%** of ticket price goes to our cause

**PLEASE
SUPPORT
US**

Tickets are on sale now!

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

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

Planning for the Future

We wish to appoint new people to the following roles as soon as possible.

**Head Ranger
Environment Officer
Company Secretary**

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

RANGER NEWS FROM GAMSTON COMMUNITY

By Ranger Rob

On Sunday 30th June I was joined by six volunteers who came along to clean up the Gamston section of the canal. One came with her paddle board and all the necessary safety gear. Chris Cobb also came along to spread the word to passers by about the Grantham Canal Society and sign a few up.

We worked from 10:00 until 12:30 or so. Gareth Carter & Mark came from of CRT. Gareth supervised the work and provided the necessary equipment.

One group was allocated towpath litter picking, a second to paint a towpath gate and timber fence, Mark cleared rubbish off the Lock 3 crests. I was banksman and canal litter collector to the paddle boarding lady.

There wasn't very much litter to collect as the area has improved over the recent months with the efforts of volunteers. Overall, we had a very productive morning's work and made real improvements to the appearance of the Gamston section of the canal.

Flora and Fauna Update:

Update of sights & sounds along the canal over the period 28th June to 3rd July.

A black cap was singing, both morning and evening, by the stream which flows under the canal, just above lock 2. It was really interesting because the song can be mistaken for that of a blackbird if you're not familiar with the difference. Two adult reed warblers were seen together in the reeds near bridge 5 on two separate occasions so it would seem safe to assume they are feeding chicks. The male is usually singing, if it's sunny, around 10.30am.

A tree full of adult and fledgling goldfinches were seen also around this time, but these tend to be commonplace in this locality these days. Also in the same area were several long tailed tits, chaffinches, chiff chaffs, wrens, dunnocks, great tits, blackbirds, carrion crows and jackdaws. The song thrush, heard on previous occasions, has not been heard for at least a week.

Very few butterflies had been seen by the canal so far this summer. A painted lady, small tortoiseshell, female common blue, small white, ringlet and orange tip butterflies, also a currant clearwing moth.

Buff tailed & red tailed bumble bees and honey bees have been seen as well as several unknown species of bumble bee. When out at dusk, week ending 30th June, she saw 2 pipistrelle bats flying between the flats at Stavely Way, adjacent Lock 2. Flowers seen included bladder campion, red campion and white bryony.

Swan & Cygnet News:

In the June issue of Bridge there was concern that young cygnets could be washed over the lock weirs and die, either from drowning or from the neglect of their parents. Well, it is thought that a couple of very young cygnets did perish this way. However, a third cygnet did go over the lock weir but, being a little more grown up than the first two, it actually survived for a week at the lower level on its own. The whole family of two swans and five cygnets are now together at the lower level.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY 27TH AND SUNDAY 28TH JULY

NARROWBOAT TRIPS

ADULTS £3 CHILDREN £2



30 minute trips depart from lock 18
near to "The Dirty Duck" public house.
First trip 10.00am - Last trip 4.00pm.

Park at "The Dirty Duck"
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir. NG32 1NY.
NO PRE-BOOKING.
PLACES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.
Sorry, no dogs allowed on the boat.



Come and see the great work we're doing on the canal!