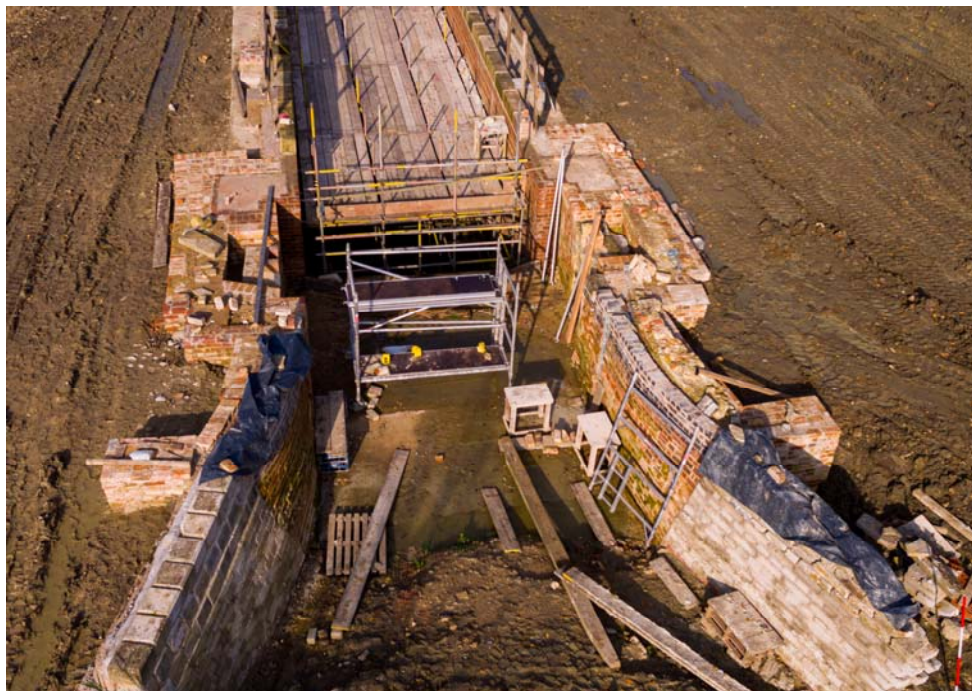


NOVEMBER

BRIDGE

2019



The downstream approach nearing completion
Aerial photography by Sea Lane Media Ltd



This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

A new decade is nearly upon us so is this the occasion to review future objectives?

The Society needs to develop further and to do this we require a number of differing resources. Below is a simple list of **achievable targets** that would ensure continued growth in restoration of the canal: -

- **More people** – as Members, Volunteers, Managers
- **Further funding** – to enable the society to procure materials or meet any Matched Funding commitments.
- **Infrastructure** – New slipway, silt removal & waterway clearance machinery.
- **Maintenance** - Silt removal to access A1, Cills on locks 16 & 17,
- **Restoration** -
Locks 13 & 12, ,
Dry section re-watered
Muston Gorse Bridge
Middlestie Bridge
Navigable length increased to Redmile Village by **2026**
- **Innovation** – Lock gates constructed from re-cycled plastic

To achieve all of the above we need people to actively support our work.

Membership numbers are very important and demonstrate to the wider world that there is support for our work.

Everybody has skills and the society offers a wide range of opportunities many of which require little commitment of either time or finance.

You will know from previous editions of *Bridge* that our volunteers who bake or assist at open days are key to raising funds.

Others offer their skills to undertake roles in construction, engineering and design

without which there would be little or no forward progress.

Leadership, training, fund raising and events are part & parcel of the societies activities including boating and giving pleasure to visitors cruising on our navigable section of waterway.

We would like to be a self-sufficient organisation that can undertake the full range of tasks required but we still have a little way to go to reach that state.

From the list of targets please consider how you could contribute and help the society deliver significant progress in the next six years.

If you aren't already a member of the society then maybe you would like to complete the application on page 16 and we will be in touch.

If you have a suggestion you feel would help us to move forward in the next decade then please send an email to the Editor or talk to any member of the committee.

Mike Stone.

Maybe the time is right for the GCS to seek a new Bridge Editor with a more innovative and different approach. Social media seems the favoured media by many and the reach of this newsletter, especially in a printed format, isn't achieving the circulation I had hoped for.

Ed



**INLAND
WATERWAYS**
ASSOCIATION

Our next meeting will take place at the **Clock Warehouse, Shardlow, DE72 2GL**
The next meeting is on November 20th at 7.30 pm. For full details go to:

<https://www.waterways.org.uk/nottingham/nottinghamshire-derbyshire>

COMMUNITY & EVENTS DIARY FOR 2019 (& INTO 2020)

Date & Time	Event & Venue
Wed 13 th Nov 2.30	Talk: Marlborough Court, West Bridgford (moved from May)
Mon. 18 th Nov 7.00	Rangers Meeting, Plough, Stathern
Wed 27 th Nov	DLB Talk: Vale of Belvoir Probus
Sun 1 st Dec	Dirty Duck Christmas Market
Mon 2 nd Dec 9.30	Events Team Meeting
Mon 9 th Dec 2.00	Sleaford U3A Local History Group, Winchelsea Centre
2020	
Sun 5 th Jan 10.30 -4.30	DLB Walk and Talk Warwickshire IWA
Thurs 6 th Feb 7.15	Talk: Rauceby WI, Village Hall
Thurs 13 th Feb 1.30 for 2.15	Edwalton Gamston U3A, Gamston Community Hall
Wed 26 th Feb 1.30 for 2.00	Grantham Breathe Easy Christian Centre NG31 9JE 21a Belton Avenue,
Thurs 5 th March 2.00	Radcliffe on Trent U3A, Grange Hall
Wed 11 th March 10.30	Vale of Belvoir Coffee – Bingham Bowls
Mon 23 rd March 7.15	West Bridgford WI, St Paul's Church Hall, Boundary Road

Community and Education Update November 2019

A HUGE THANK YOU to all those volunteers who contributed before, during and after to Discovery Day. Despite the weather, and some people not being able to turn up for various reasons, we raised around £1800. Did I hear the weather correctly that October was the hottest on record?!

Some may be breathing sighs of relief that this year's busy Events Season is now over, but I still have a lot of catching up to do with paperwork and the house and garden, etc. have been sadly neglected. Nor is the work of getting the word out there finished. We still have talks booked and the information stand at the Dirty Duck Christmas Market on December 1st.

As well as reviewing the last year, the team are looking forward to next year and exploring what we can manage. This year we benefitted financially from more Depot Open Days and the cakes have contributed to this as much (sometimes more) than the boat trips, but pats on the back all round. However, I regret that we have not taken the word out to other events as much as we have in the past. One reason for this has been commitments at home, where we do bring in more funds, but also the key, core members of the team are no longer able to haul and put up gazebos and stand at the stand for the hours we used to do. Outside events are less profitable immediately, but it is difficult to gauge their value in terms of promoting boat trips, events, talks and visits and recruiting new members. The Events Team meet again on Monday 2nd December, 9.30 at the Depot. Fresh blood and ideas most welcome and we are usually spoiled with scrumptious cake.

Rosemary communityandevents@granthamcanal.org

Grantham Canal Heritage Initiative at Lock 14



Lock 14 nears completion - Aerial photo from Sea Lane Media Ltd



Photos:
Far Left- work on the inspection pit for the permanent byewash commences & grows,
Left - a sneak peek at lock 13
Above -Martin & Lou dry stone walling - (another GCS skill!)

Many thanks to John Clark & Jim Freeman for these photos
Ed

The Society's AGM is due to take place on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall, Nottingham Road, Cropwell Bishop commencing at 7.30pm.

Following completion of the formal AGM business, there will be an opportunity for those present to put questions about the canal to members of the Committee and discuss topics of interest concerning the canal over tea and biscuits.

All members of the Society will receive or have received formal notice of the meeting and the Agenda and the Annual Report & Accounts will be available to view on the Society's website prior to the AGM. It would be really good to see a large attendance of members on this the Society's 50th anniversary.

Do come along to support your Society and enjoy a natter with other members present.

GW

**Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal
by James Faulconbridge**



Robin's Pincushion

Robin's pincushion is the delightful colloquial name for a gall known more formally as bedeguar gall, and when the leaves fall is one of the best times of the year to spot them. They appear as tufts of green or red fibrous tendrils sprouting from wild roses such as dog rose which is common within the hedgerows which bound the canal.

A gall is an abnormal plant growth which can be caused by a range of foreign agents such as a fungus, a mite or a wasp. Those such as the bedeguar gall and many of the oak galls are interventions by the invertebrates, designed to make the plant create a structure which provides both food and shelter for the organism. In this case, the mechanism is a chemically induced distortion of unopened leaf buds by a tiny wasp which has the latin name *Dipoloepis rosae*. The species name '*rosae*' indicates the intimate relationship between the wasp and the rose. The wasps are tiny – only 3-4mm across – and most are female.

The female wasp lays her eggs on the rose and, a week later, the larvae hatch and induce the formation of the gall. The gall provides food for up to 60 larvae as they grow throughout the summer, passing through various 'instar' forms or life stages. Inside the centre of the gall is a woody core with chambers where the larvae spend the winter in pupal form and then begin emerging as adults in May, continuing through to August.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



This month Mike describes his gear box exploits whilst on a boating holiday ...

Many years past I shared a boating holiday with Mel and Joan Crosby on their narrowboat Collie 11. The trip started at Sawley and passed along the Trent and Mersey to Fradley on to Birmingham and down the Wolverhampton to join the Staffs and Worcester to Stourport. Then down the Severn to Tewksbury and on to the Avon river. You had to purchase a licence here to navigate up to Stratford on Avon. Everything had gone very well with plenty of sites visited on route, the upper Avon had not been fully restored for very long so it was quite an adventure. As we approached Stratford the drive to the prop began to keep changing speed, sometimes stopping altogether. An inspection was made in the engine bay and immediately it became obvious that red hydraulic oil was leaking from a pipe connected to the gearbox. The pipe had chafed and created a small hole, luckily I had my toolbox on board and a temporary repair was made, Mel had some spare oil so we were able to proceed to Stratford.

We found a boat yard just near the start of the Stratford on Avon Canal and were able to purchase a new pipe and more oil, this was fitted and tied back to stop the chafing, so on we pressed. I was keen to see this canal again because our GCS team had spent many visits with Waterways Recovery Group working on lock and bridge restoration after BWB had taken over from the National Trust. During the whole journey we had noticed the vibration level at certain RPM speeds was increasing so another inspection was made in the engine bay and weed hatch but we noticed in trying forward and reverse the gearbox appeared to be moving on the engine bell housing. I checked a few bolts with the limited tools we had on board and found them loose. After making what repairs I could it became obvious that was not the only problem, loud clanking noises were coming from the drive plate when either forward or reverse gear was selected.

Now Mel had recently retired from the Police Service so was hoping to start a new career in acupuncture which involved a training session at Leamington which was on route and we had to be there by a certain date so we pressed on carefully. When we arrived at Leamington a decision was made for Mel to start his course and I would make a start on splitting the engine and gearbox to reveal the drive plate.

The main problem was a lack of tools, small jack and packing material etc. luckily it was the weekend and Mel rang his son Ken to see if he could bring down what we required on his motorbike. Ken arrived on Sunday with pannier bags bulging so we started the strip down immediately, Ken couldn't stay but Mel and I managed to split the gearbox and bell housing and moving the propshaft out as much as possible, luckily the water leakage was minimal so that was a relief. The revealed drive plate had no shock absorber components left, just broken springs and bits of metal. Once again we were in the right place with Calcutt Boats who were good BMC and drive plate stockist just a short distance away.

On Monday Mel went on his course and I walked into town to find a phone and contact Calcutt who agreed they had every thing we needed in stock. I was able to find a taxi rank so arranged a trip asap. I went back to the boat to collect the old parts and list of new, etc. then back to the taxi after lunch.

Continued on page 7

The cab was an old London type, a bit noisy and the driver had no idea where Calcutt Boats were but after several wrong turns and stops to ask the way we eventually arrived. No doubt its easy to find by canal but out in the back of beyond by car.

Once all the large items had been cleaned I set about assembling the new drive plate and bolting up the bell housing, I had purchased a new set of bolts to stop it coming loose again and bit by bit assembled the gearbox, propshaft and cleaned down the engine bay.

The big start up, what a difference, no vibration, smooth forward and reverse and only a pleasant whine instead of the old rattles. When Mel finished the short course and we set off for home, this time heading for the Grand Union and Leicester Arm and we all agreed what a transformation the job had made, with the old parts failing very slowly it was not particularly noticeable that a major problem was around the corner.

This was my first attempt at a job like this, I had worked on car engines, gearbox and clutches but there were a lot of similarities so it made the job a bit easier. What an unusual holiday, not quite as planned but still very enjoyable.

No boat rescue or mobile phones back then!



David Lyneham-Brown presenting a cheque for £10,000 to Phil Mulligan of CRT as further Match-Funding of the GCS commitment to the WHI Project



#Trending



Over 2,400 of you now follow us on Twitter! Looking through 'tweet activity' numbers for the most viewed tweet since our last copy of Bridge; you liked the picture of Waterway Recovery Group volunteers working on bank raising at Lock 15. This looked like being the winner – but the picture of the two young canal builders in training on Discovery Day, came in with nearly 3,000 views! Streets ahead of anything else!



Neil heads up our fundraising team – only, he hasn't got a team – but he would like one! He needs some assistance. Always one to help a fellow if I can, I put out a plea on Facebook. Over 6,600 viewed this post, with 26 of you sharing it around – thank you! Now, I don't know if you liked this post because our Neil is in need of help, or whether it was because of the fabulous picture of the huge lock gate hanging in the air at Lock 15, which accompanied my post. Sadly, everyone took one step back, and not just from the lock gate – so if you'd like to help Neil with fundraising, do drop us a line.

I have the power! And I'm going to use it! I'm going to choose my favourite Facebook 'picture of the month'. And the winner is (dramatic pause): The picture of two boats passing each other – not a common occurrence on the Grantham Canal! This picture's a year or two old now, but it typifies what volunteering is all about. Summer boat rides, drinking tea and engaging in good humoured banter with a passing crew. Oi!, who said let 'em find out different when they join! It must be right? I have photographic evidence! Okay, sometimes it rains – but not very often...

...dear Lord, you can turn the tap off now!

Tony Jackson



In October's edition of Bridge we gave you the opportunity to vote for The Grantham Canal Society as we were finalists in the Ringrose Law 'Grand Idea' project. Thanks to the efforts of all our supporters we were voted winners.

Roger Charles, GCS Safety Officer, comments; "We are delighted that we have been successful in our efforts to secure this funding for such essential safety equipment. The society has a duty of care to ensure that all our volunteers have adequate protective equipment to provide a safe working environment.



Having recently acquired the wood chipper, I would use some of the money to purchase appropriate visor, headgear and ear defenders together with suitable protective equipment for those involved in the use of polesaw and chainsaw equipment."

From left to right Roger Charles, GCS Health & Safety Officer, Ringrose Law Partner, Nearina Farmer and Ringrose Law Associate (Marketing Manager), Alex Bennett

IWA Lincolnshire Branch Donation



**INLAND
WATERWAYS
ASSOCIATION**

Whilst work is being finalised at lock 14 the Lincolnshire Branch agreed to donate **£1000**

to The Grantham Canal Society to help towards funding the rebuilding of Muston Bridge as an intermediary project until lock 14 is complete and a further lock rebuilding grant can be applied for.

The cheque was presented by Dave Carnell, IWA Lincolnshire Branch Chairman, to David Lyneham-Brown, GCS Chief Executive, with Rosemary Gibson, Tony Jackson & Jacob Brooks in attendance.

(Photo by Heather Nettleton)

Grateful thanks to IWA Aegre publication 155 for text and photograph



The Three Shires Update – November 2019

That's a wrap! The Three Shires season is over for another year, with our last private cruise having taken place on 21st October. So how did we do this year?...

1	4 hour cruise
5	3 hour cruises
18	Short trip days
31	Volunteer skippers and crew
35	2 hour cruises
1,649	Hours of volunteer time recorded (I'm sure there is plenty more unrecorded too!)
1,867	Passengers carried

...and nearly £8,000 taken in fares.

A massive thank you to our crew and customers for a fantastic season!

Looking ahead to next year, we will be running short trips on

Sunday 22nd March (Mother's Day)

Sunday 12th April (Easter Sunday)

Monday 13th April (Easter Monday)

Friday (yes, Friday!) 8th May (Early May Bank Holiday)

Sunday 24th May (Summer Sunday)

Monday 25th May (Spring Bank Holiday)

Sunday 21st June (Father's Day)

Sunday 30th August (Summer Sunday)

Monday 31st August (Summer Bank Holiday)

We will also be supporting Discovery Day, the Dirty Duck Fundraiser and Heritage Open Days with further short trips.

With 16 potential new crew to be trained in March next year, we are hoping to be able to run additional short trips to take advantage of the weather, rather than operating to a fixed schedule. We will increase our Cruise and Dine offering next summer and we are planning a number of other special services. Keep your eye on Bridge and social media for details.



Shopping Online this Xmas?

I feel rather ashamed to be advertising Christmas related fundraising ideas in the September Edition, but as many of the national stores are now on the Christmas Warpath it would seem that Christmas has come earlier again and many of you may be already planning those purchases for friends and family. **Did you know that you could be supporting The Grantham Canal Society with every purchase you make?**



Debenhams



LAKELAND

Currys PC World



Go to <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/the-grantham-canal-society> and create an account – it is that easy! And furthermore, you can get a handy reminder on your browser which reminds you to donate to GCS every time you make an online purchase.

The Giveasyoulive platform supports all major retailers; Amazon, John Lewis, eBay etc. The retailers will give us a small percentage of the amount you spend.

Look out for the special offers – last year I bought my son a new phone and CarphoneWarehouse donated £20 to GSC as a Black Friday Special!!

So far we have raised nearly £800, so please sign up and don't forget to tell your friends and family to sign up and support us.



red letter
DAYS

Etsy



HOTEL
Chocolat.
BRITISH
CHOCOLATE MAKERS & BAKERS ASSOCIATION



Neil White

GCS Fundraiser

07934 025435




📍 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



It could have been like this on Discovery day!



Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven

Grantham Santa Fun Run

Sunday 1st December 2019, 11am
Starting at Wyndham Park Visitor Centre

2 routes: 2.5 or 5K (run or walk!)

Medals for all at the finish

FREE Santa Suits for all paying entrants

Raise money for your own Charity, Club or School
Entry: Adults £12, Children 5-12 £6, under 5's free!

For more information visit
www.granthamsantafunrun.co.uk
or follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Proceeds from this event are for the charities and good causes supported by Rotary.

Rotary
Grantham Kesteven

The Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven Trust Fund Charity Commission registered number: 1112945

Black Friday and Cyber weekend
Don't forget to sign up for Giveasyoulive.com and nominate The Grantham Canal Society as your chosen charity. We receive funds every time you shop!

Littlewoods Argos
Currys PC World

JOHN LEWIS

RAISE MORE
WHEN YOU SHOP DURING
CYBER WEEKEND

Support us whilst you shop!
No matter what gift you're giving, you could raise an extra gift for us for FREE! Click via @GiveasyouLive before you shop, and the retailer will pay us a percentage of your transaction as a donation, at no cost to you! Merry Christmas! > <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/the-grantham-canal-society>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKDAYS AT LOCK 14

or

**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
WITH ONE OF OUR
WORKPARTIES**

Boots RADLEY LONDON
very ebay
JOHN LEWIS

RAISE MORE
WHEN YOU SHOP
CHRISTMAS GIFTS



COMPUTER TECH TIPS

BY GILES

Here are some useful tips from Giles, who is a well regarded Web Designer and qualified Support Technician



Christmas Things

Windows 7 expiry: I mentioned earlier this year that Windows 7 is expiring on January 14th 2020 and just like earlier versions of Windows this doesn't mean it'll stop working all together, but it does mean that you should consider updating to Windows 10.

Once Windows 7 expires it'll stop receiving updates from Microsoft and software developers will stop supporting the programs running under Windows 7, so over time software will become outdated, Windows will become less secure and some software will even become incompatible with Windows 7.

At the time of writing Windows 10 is still a free upgrade from an activated version of Windows 7 and available to download from the Microsoft website.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows10>

Always do a full backup before attempting any major system upgrades.

Christmas shopping care: If you're doing your Christmas shopping online this year, please be careful of fraudulent websites and always make sure the website is legitimate and secure, always ensure that there is a padlock symbol next the website address before entering credit card details. It will be safer to shop online through main high street store websites like John Lewis or well-known outlets like Amazon. Smaller obscure websites are more likely to be compromised by fraudsters or be a fake online store.

If you're shopping on the high street this year then please be wary of pick pockets and purse snatchers and be vigilant when anyone is handling your credit card. At Christmas the instances of crime on the high street and online increases tenfold.

Charity and TV licensing scams: The Christmas season is all about giving and receiving, some take advantage of our generosity by collecting donations as a fake charity. I'm not saying you shouldn't give to charity but just be mindful that there are charity scammers out there over Christmas and they sometimes pray upon our guilt while we indulge in Christmas shopping. If you want to make donations, then please do it through official channels so you know that your money is going to those who truly deserve it.

I highlighted last month a TV licensing scam that is targeting the elderly, please be wary of any email messages, text messages or phone calls asking for payment for TV licensing.

Discovery Day 2019



The ducks didn't complain, bless 'em! It rained a bit. It rained a lot! You came, you supported us and, you raised our spirits – thank you! Children enjoyed their activities, including bricklaying – real bricks – none of your clip together plastic stuff! They're future lock and bridge

builders in training! With one parent remarking her children had been occupied all day, with not an ipad in sight! Other activities, included making bricks and building bridges to experiencing the cosy; very cosy; living conditions in a working boat cabin.



Always popular, Raptor Rescue, brought along a number of birds of prey – some happily perching on visitors' gloved hands. Hook a Duck 'A Prize Every Time' and fabulous canal art by Sugarfoot were just some of the outside pitches. No one needed to go home hungry! Tracey's homemade soup, BBQ, with homemade cake for pudding! Rovin' Ron had us singing along, and no Discovery Day would be complete without our dancing girls. The Maids of Clifton, have almost taken up residence, delighting us with their Lancashire clog dancing.

Inland Inspirations had a busy day introducing visitors to kayaking and the art of paddle boarding. Those a little less adventurous electing narrowboat rides. Waterways groups, crafts, tombola, raffle and the legendary Dirty Duck Race to round up the day! We thank everyone who supported us and those who gave up their day to entertain us at their own expense. We thank volunteers who donated homemade cakes, and all those who worked hard to put the event on. This amount of goodwill enabled us to bank over £1,800 for the cause! Thank you to radio presenter Suzie Sparkles, who added a touch of sparkle in challenging conditions.



Ducks bathed, counted, and put to bed until next year – when the sun WILL shine!

Tony Jackson



**IF YOU SUPPORT OUR
HERITAGE AND GAIN
ENJOYMENT FROM SEEING
THE RESTORATION OF THIS
BEAUTIFUL CANAL -
THEN PLEASE JOIN OUR
SOCIETY**

THE COST IS MODEST!

The annual subscription rates
are as follows:

Single Adult:£20

Family:£30

Under 18/Over 60: ..£15

**Membership is important to us and
encourages our active volunteers with
their various tasks.**

**With your help we can also persuade
the local Parish, County & Borough
Councils to support our efforts to
maintain and rebuild our canal for the
enjoyment of future generations.**



**Please complete the adjacent brief
membership application form and either
post or email it to our Membership
Secretary who will then send you full
details in the post.**

**A full application form can also be
downloaded from our website
www.granthamcanal.org/join-us**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you would like to become a member of
the Grantham Canal Society then please
complete the form below and send it to:

**The Membership Secretary,
340 Harlaxton Road, Grantham, Lincs,
NG31 7JY**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Please circle which category of
membership you would like:

Single Adult

Family

Under 18/Over 60

**Alternatively you can email the above details to
our Membership Secretary at**

membership@granthamcanal.org

**The
Grantham Canal
Society**

CHARITY NO: 507337

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

Ambrose, J. Dodwell, M. Noble
M. Duignan, D. Rhodes