

BRIDGE



JULY

2020

The monthly newsletter
published by the

The
Grantham Canal
Society

CHARITY NO: 507337



A tranquil scene at
Kingston's Lock
Photo by
Jonathan Mosse

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

Thoughts from the Chair

Back to Work with a vengeance! Risk Assessments written and approved; Training of maintenance Volunteers delivered; Three months natural growth has ensured there is more than enough work to keep us occupied!

The weed growth from the canal bottom has made navigation almost impossible so getting to floating weed and fallen trees is difficult. The fairly heavy rainfall has required craft to be drained and batteries charged – unlike a car the battery has to be removed to reach a charging point – and everyone has to keep their 2 meters social distance (6' 6") which is not easy on a 7 foot wide narrowboat!

After we returned to work on Monday CRT re-opened the worksite at Lock 14 and we hope to progress so that their staff can install the lock gates within the next six weeks.

NOTE: At this time and if you are not a regular volunteer please do not arrive on site either at Lock 14 or at the Friday, Saturday and Monday maintenance teams **without first contacting** Tony Osbond.

On page three you will see our advertisements for volunteer positions within the Society. We have much to achieve and so little time available so some specialised assistance is required. Some positions may suit those who would prefer to work at home whilst others are clearly at or near the canal. In most instances some experience will be helpful but we are all learning and I have yet to meet anyone who knows everything! I have met some who think they do!

Please give us a call if you have skills to offer as we can probably tailor the role to suit you.

Our appeal to members to support further developments at Woolsthorpe has once again been well received by you and so far donations have reached **just over half of our target**. You are not letting us down!

My, and the Committees' heartfelt thanks to those contributors so far received. If others can help by adding their donation then the figure will move closer to 100% and we can get the projects underway before winter comes in.

Those who keep diaries please note that there will not be a GCS Discovery Day this year but there will be an event at Woolsthorpe coinciding with Lincolnshire Heritage Day on **20th September** – unless Covid-19 intervenes.

Thank you all for supporting the Society at this difficult period.

I hope you enjoy summer but stay alert.

Mike Stone.

IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION

Two Vacancies
Summer Update
A Winter's Tale
Rocking Horse repair
Meet the Rangers



Support the IWA & become a member

<https://www.waterways.org.uk/account/register/>



WE HAVE VACANCIES FOR THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Position Title: Operations Manager, Woolsthorpe

Would suit: Self-motivated person who is well organised and enjoys rural life and has a "can do attitude"

Outline of post: Responsible for the organisation of routine maintenance on the canal, in charge of workboats and the coordination of volunteers to carry out the work.

Essential skills: Management of volunteers, team building, planning workloads.

Position Title: Plant and Machinery Manager

Would suit: Self-motivated person who is well organised, used to working in a team environment

Outline of post: Responsible for the organisation of routine maintenance and repair of machinery and boats and recruiting the skills of known volunteers that can help in discharging these duties

Essential skills: Management of volunteers, team building, planning workloads.

For more information please contact

Tony Osbond – General Manager

Mobile: 07803 973257 EMail:

generalmanager@granthamcanal.org

GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE AT LOCK 14

BACK TO WORK!



Photos from top down

Clearing the invert

Paul & John tidying the site

Tony & Ralph building 2 quadrants

Many thanks to Martin Duignan for these photos

Photos from top down

Concreting the Byewash

Both invert sills now fully concreted

Tony levelling the towpath side

Many thanks to Dave Cross for these photos

Grantham Canal Society Summer Update July 2020

We are back!

During lockdown we have not been idle - oh no we have been working behind the scenes, following latest government guidance, communicating with our volunteers and members and have come up with a working health and safety plan that allows us to move forward.

- We have and continue to hold zoom meetings (we have become very modern!)
- We have drawn up a Health & Safety plan and carried out risk assessments for the various aspects of our work
- Work parties have recommenced on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays, clearing the banks, tidying the depot and mending things that have broken
- We have recommenced work on lock 14 – we are behind schedule - but we are back on it
- We have actively started work on the slipway project at Woolthorpe depot
- We have reviewed our calendar and we think we will be able to hold a Heritage Open day – within the guidelines in September 2020
- Our rangers have continued where safe to do so walking the towpath, collecting litter, observing and reporting on wildlife, vegetation and water levels as well as socially distanced conversations – where safe and appropriate – we have managed to fill 2 of the vacant rangers sections just leaving the Earlsfield section unmanned
- We have welcomed (virtually) 20 new members since January 2020 and we plan to meet them in person in a new style Welcome to the Grantham Canal Society – this is what we do

Lockdown has hit us hard (just like everyone else) but our passion and dedication to maintaining and restoring our beautiful canal has not and we are sure that many more people than usual over the last few months have spent time on the canal and we really want to put out an appeal for membership, we currently have 720 members and we rely on our membership numbers to demonstrate community involvement and support and to achieve match funding, our membership numbers and volunteer hours go a long way towards getting in new funds – we would love to reach 1000 by the end of the year (some canal societies have 1000's of members and it really does help to progress the work) we would very much appreciate your help to do so, how?

If you are a current member please do renew your membership and if you have a family please list all your family members (up to 4) they all count in the numbers then for no extra cost (£30 per year) but we will get 4 names instead of 1 or 2 and they all count

If you are not a member and you live locally or walk the canal or have an interest in history, the area and canals please do join us for £20 an individual or £30 per family a year your membership is vital to us either join via our website at www.granthamcanal.org.uk or email membership@granthamcanal.org we would love to hear from you, follow us on Facebook and Twitter too

Would you consider gifting a membership for those friends and relatives that seemingly have everything already?

Introduce a friend or family member to us – pass on our details

We will be plotting our progress regularly and have a progress thermometer all set up please help us to get to the top.

Michelle Storer

Jim's Story - how we rebuilt Lock 15

Part 4 COMPLETION



The weir gets demolished



Dave & Iona work on the base of the nearside upper quoin



Friday gang May 2017



Excavator training



CRT staff - Jacob, Mark & Iona



Letterbox tunnel



Dave concentrates



Lower nearside quoin being worked on by John & Tony



Pumping out the letterbox base



Digging the trench for the byewash



Stage of rebuilding for May open day 2017



Letterbox tunneller

Jim's Story - how we rebuilt Lock 15

Part 4 COMPLETION continued



Anchor blocks arrive



Anchor blocks fitted Sept 2017



Lower nearside quadrant in the course of preparation



Sue & John point coping stones



Letterbox grid fitted



Mooring bollards being fitted



CRT engineer examines the new bottom gates June 2018



Final adjustments



Checking the paddle gear



Stank planks being lifted before the lock is flooded August 2018



Top gates prior to flooding showing the new timber floor

Mike Atherley



Mike is debilitated due to Shingles so will not be doing his usual article this month.
We wish him well for a speedy recovery.

Police Gazette 12/02/1864

On the 29th December last, the body of a female child was found floating in the Grantham and Nottingham Canal, in the parish of Redmile, in the county of Leicester; at an inquest held on the body, the jury returned an open verdict.

Description of HARRIETT KETTLE, who is charged with concealing the birth of the said child: a married woman, a native of Redmile, Leicestershire, 29 years of age, 6 feet 4 inches high, blue eyes, black hair rather curly, fair complexion, thick lips turned up, stoutly made, stoops a little in her shoulders, and holds her head back; dressed, when she went away, in a black and white straw bonnet trimmed with green ribbon, dark grey shawl, drab alpaca dress, under her dress a jacket with red flannel front, kid- top boots with elastic sides and patent fronts.

She absconded after the inquest on the 1st ultimo, and was seen at Peterborough the same night, where she remained until the 15th ult., and afterwards took train, going in the direction of Wansford to Lincoln, where she is now supposed to be getting her living by prostitution.

Information to be given to Mr. John Platts, Superintendent, Melton Mowbray; or to Sergeant John Taylor, Constabulary Station, Bottesford, Leicestershire, who holds a warrant for her apprehension.—

**REDMILE
ARCHIVE**

<http://www.redmilearchive.freeuk.com/index.html>



Many thanks for those of you who pointed out my "deliberate" mistake. The photo is of course at the Nottingham end of the Grantham Canal. It gives me an idea though!



July - Meadowsweet

A number of people have posted photographs of this beautiful wildflower spotted along the canal in June and July. These foamy cream-white flowers, reminiscent of elderflower, can be found in damp habitats such as floodplain meadows and the banks of watercourses, but you might also spot them flowering at the edges of roadsides around the Vale of Belvoir where a ditch runs along the base of the hedge.

Meadowsweet – which also goes by the latin *Filipendula ulmaria* – is a member of the rose family. This is a fairly cosmopolitan family featuring a whole range of species beyond the classic 'rose' flower – others you might spot along the canal include blackthorn, bramble and hawthorn in the hedges or silverweed and wood avens along the towpath.

The flowers were often used both historically and today to flavour wines and beers with a subtle, almondy note and indeed the original vernacular name for this wildflower is likely to derive from this use – variations include mead-sweet or mead-wort.

If you look at the flowers in July, you are bound to see them filled with insects as this is an excellent nectar source for bees, butterflies and beetles. Though a wildflower, it would look good in an ornamental border and is in the RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' scheme – with the recent publication of the 'Action for Insects' report by the Wildlife Trusts, it is one of the species you might consider planting in your garden to help halt the decline in our insect populations!

Debbie's picture of the swan shading itself from the hot sun attracted just shy of 4,500 likes on Facebook!

Not to spoil a good story, but Tom, our resident swan expert suggested the swan was actually preening itself – doh!



We've had some really lovely pictures from our contributors – thank you!

I thought Alan and friends were re-enacting the Battle of Britain, but no, they were just making sure they weren't getting too cosy in these socially distant times. Alan posted this picture on Twitter, taken during their 24mile round trip from Kinoulton to the Trent and back.



In our 'I'll show you mine if you show me yours' on Twitter, we had some lovely granthamcanalbikes.



Nicki, along with her canine friend visited Hickling Basin. Nicki has even offered to help paint some of our mileposts for us too!

Tony Jackson

WINTER ON THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL

By Polly
in Meadow Pipit

We cruised along the River Witham from Boston towards the Trent, venturing briefly up the Kyme Eau Navigation where we thought we might end up stuck forever, then on through Lincoln and out onto the River Trent at Torksey, narrowly avoiding severe flooding on the Witham all along the way.

Torksey is a very small place, not heard of by many, but if you're a boater it has a huge significance, being the junction of the Witham and Fossdyke Canal with the Trent, and a half way stopping point on the Tidal Trent from Cromwell to Keadby. There's a lovely cosy pub called The White Swan where the steak pies are the best!



Torksey looking towards the Trent



West Stockwith Lock

From Torksey we turned North onto the Trent to West Stockwith and the safety of the Chesterfield Canal. There was so much water in the Trent that the journey only took 90 minutes, and the sharp turn into West Stockwith Lock was a bit hairy!

During our stay the River Idle flooded at Retford, the whole of the Chesterfield Canal was closed to navigation which was worrying as it also corresponded with the spring tides being at their highest on the Trent.

The flood gates were shut to stop the Trent waters from coming into the basin, but meanwhile water from further up the canal was gushing down the bywashes and into the basin. We spent a few anxious hours watching the water levels, but thankfully the tide receded and the flood gates could be opened again to allow the extra water in the canal to drain out into the Trent.



The Clayworth Coal Express

Once the canal was open again we made our way to the Retford and Worksop Boat Club in Clayworth and enjoyed socialising with the members. Whilst there we bought some coal and were just about to start hauling it the 1km walk to Meadow Pipit when one of the Club members (Graham) appeared on his buggy and offered to tow all seven 25kg bagson all the way for us. Graham and his buggy are now known as the Clayworth Coal Express.

In Retford winter began with the Pilgrim Fathers lantern parade, celebrating the anniversary of the eve before the Retford Pilgrim Fathers left for America on the Mayflower.

There were some boats permanently moored just above Charlie's Lock, so we asked what they do about diesel and we were immediately directed to the nearest local supplier of red diesel about 6 miles away, loaned containers to transport it in, and even offered a lift if the containers wouldn't fit in our car. Problem solved and that's the boating community for you!

The next amazing treat we came across was Chesterfield Canalside Gin. The flavours come from elderflower, dandelion, blackberries and nettles, all of which can be found along the canal towpath, and it is actually very tasty. We even took a bottle of it to France for the New Year celebrations where it went down a treat and was enjoyed by a top French chef.



My diary from the Isles of Scilly by James Faulconbridge

July 2020

Scilly Diary – July 2020

The island feels like a very different place from the one I wrote to you from last month – we have been in effective isolation here as a community since March and the first visitors arrived on the 4th July when the lockdown measures were eased – suddenly there are new faces around the island! We have been busy preparing to welcome visitors for tours and tastings – this is an important part of the vineyard offering but we've got to do things a little differently this year.

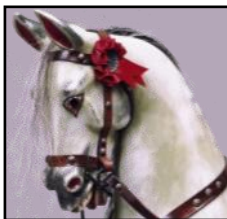


Rather than a guided tour, we have created a self-guided wine trail which takes visitors from the first fields planted with vines back in 1996 up to the top of the vineyard with views out over the sea and the Eastern Isles. We are also offering tastings of five different wines produced on the vineyard – this is outside the winery on picnic benches with an opportunity to buy a bottle (or two) afterwards! Sales so far this year have been online only, so it's nice to be able to hand over a bottle direct from the cellar door, albeit in a gloved hand!

Aside from preparing to re-open the site, we have been inspecting each vine and managing the growth as they have developed considerably in the last few weeks. Firstly we need to raise the training wires to hold the vines in place - protection from the wind is a constant consideration on this site. Secondly we need to go through and strip out non-flowering shoots to clear some space around the developing grape flowers to maximise their chances of successful wind pollination and allow the sun to reach the developing bunches. Thirdly, we need to take the tops out of the growth at around 6ft to focus the vine's energy on the production of grapes - the vine's natural habitat is woodland where they need to scramble up trees to reach the lighter canopy so this tendency needs to be kept in check.



We are continuing to make as much space for nature as we can - leaving long-grass in between the mown paths provides habitat for meadow brown, ringlet and gatekeeper butterflies, whilst recently fledged swallows zip low as they hunt across the grass. We are also leaving sunny bramble banks along the bases of hedgerows and these are superb habitats – as well as providing us with blackberries come autumn!



Look after it better!

The making of Traditional English Rocking Horses
By Tony Jackson

When your customer walks through the workshop door with their beloved rocking horse in a hessian sack – you know you're in for a challenge!

This Lines Brothers (Triang) rocking horse c1930s, had seen better days – damp days. The moisture had softened the hide glue; the horse reverting to its component parts. Severe cracks had developed and some rot had set in. I noticed there were no long bits sticking out of the top of the sack? Woodworm having eaten the stand, meant this was the easiest part of the job!

Well not quite the easiest part. The easiest part was to put this bag of firewood in my dehumidifying store for six months or so, trying to forget about it.

Eventually one has to face up to things. Careful measurements were taken to ensure, when the horse was painstakingly pieced back together, all dimensions would be true to the original design.

Triang will be a familiar name to those of a 'certain age'. Brothers, Walter, William and Arthur, returned from fighting for King and Country, to carry on where they had left off in the family firm of George & Joseph Lines, London. Young, enthusiastic and driven, they were frustrated by the old ways of the family rocking horse business, started in 1860. With little prospect of changing their father and uncle's ways, the three brothers set up their own business in 1919, in direct competition.



Three Lines (brothers) making a triangle – Triang was to grow into the largest toy manufacturing company in the world.

A huge factory complex in London, with factories also in Canada and Australia, making everything from train sets to dolls prams. The London factory had its own railway sidings and a loading bay which could accommodate 40 delivery vans.



All good things come to an end, and the company collapsed in 1971 due to poor exports. Government injections of cash allowed the firm to limp on; the plug finally pulled in 1978.





COMPUTER TECH TIPS

BY GILES (giles@jigster.com)

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



Working from home

Working from home can be challenging but there's plenty of technology and software available to help you, much of it free to use, some of which you may well utilise already.

I've already highlighted video chat and collaboration software such as Zoom, Teams, Skype, Facetime, Google Hangouts and WhatsApp. Other software worth a mention is Slack, Zoho, Flock and Trello (for task management).

Note: In the May edition of the Parish Magazine I mentioned that Microsoft Teams was only available if you have an office 365 subscription, however there is a free version, it doesn't have the full functionality of the subscribed version but is nonetheless good for use during lockdown.

Visit: www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/free
(or google search 'teams free')

Team interaction is important, some of the problems highlighted during lockdown have been difficulty in collaboration, coping with loneliness, distractions in the home, the inability to unplug and lack of motivation. Connecting with others can help alleviate some of this and mental health has been a hot topic during the pandemic, the use of technology to connect with others has been a welcome resource to many over recent months.

Some software I've been utilising during lockdown is Team Viewer, which is available to download for free from www.teamviewer.com if you select non-commercial use. You can install for unattended access on a remote PC and access that PC remotely using a randomly generated ID and password. Useful for secure remote access without too much hassle. If using regularly for commercial purposes, consider buying the commercial version which does give added features.

If you're doing any editing or writing tasks then Grammarly is worth checking out, an online tool that verifies your spelling and grammar, but it also analyses the tone and clarity of your writing.

If sharing large files with others there are many cloud services available that allow you to share data with others. Google Drive gives you 15GB free sharable storage, Microsoft One Drive offers 5GB free storage or 1TB on an Office 365 subscription, Apple iCloud Drive is 5GB for free or 50GB for around £10 a year or 200GB for £30 a year. Other mainstream cloud storage services include DropBox, Box and Amazon Drive.

If you need to send a large file securely to someone else via email then use www.wetransfer.com which allows you to send up to 2GB of data to selected email recipients for free.

Hopefully, some of these tools may help during lockdown, taking regular breaks is also something I sometimes forget to do but I find you can often be more productive after a walk or just a bit of fresh air.

Stay safe and well...



Meet the Rangers – Part 4 July 2020

Anne McMeekin looks after section 7 of the canal, she is 67 years young has retired and returned to work part time for a charity called The Safer Living Foundation.

Anne has lived near Bingham since 1997 prior to this she lived in Cumbria she still has relatives in Cumbria and when not locked down likes to visit them.

Since moving to the area Anne has always had an interest in the canal and regularly walks along the canal not just her own section but neighbouring sections and Anne often walks along the canal in the Cotgrave area too. Anne has two grandchildren that also live locally aged 9 and 11 and sometimes they accompany Anne on her walks along the canal.

Anne has been a ranger for the Grantham Canal Society since 2016, on one of her many walks she met Bob Hudson another ranger who gave her leaflets, they had a discussion and Anne was recruited to the ranger role as well as a Grantham Canal Member. Anne walks regularly she says she walks her section usually in 2 halves but all of it at least monthly.

Section 7 is now 2.7 miles from Hickling Bridge incorporating the Lengthman's Hut Anne's section goes over border to Leicestershire between bridges 30 to 37, previously this section was slightly longer going to bridge 39 but a new section was created leaving Anne with the 2.7 miles. Anne says the people living local to her section look after the canal path and surrounding area very well, she rarely finds litter or has to spray dog poo (although it does happen occasionally). This section of the canal is very pretty and is very well used by locals and those from further afield walking and cycling. Anne alternates her starting point between Hickling and Hose to ensure all bits are covered at least monthly. Anne takes her 3 year old Westie Angus walking with her, having a dog is often a good communication tool; she sees lots of walkers, cyclists and fisherman when she walks the towpath. The Hickling basin area is also very lucky to have the Wharf café which attracts users from near and far (outside of lockdown) and hopefully they will get back to a socially distanced service in the very near future. The Plough Inn at Hickling is a neighbour of the canal and they will be opening their doors from 4th July too.



Anne enjoys the wildlife along the canal swans, moorhens, coots as well as an array of other birds.

If you would like to volunteer for ranger duties within the GCS all sections have at least one ranger except the Grantham Earlsfield section (section 15) some sections have 2 rangers and there is certainly always something to look out for being a ranger so please does let us know if you are interested. All our volunteers are required to be members of the Grantham Canal Society this is for insurance and health and safety reasons.

**This is the GCS new WEED CUTTER.
The cutting blade is trailed behind our
workboat, *Centaury*, as shown below.**

**This worked well and cleared the
weeds between lock 18 and Bridge 62.**



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS WITH ONE OF OUR WORKPARTIES

If you can spare some time to join one of our teams then please email
volunteer@granthamcanal.org

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

Mary Noble, Anthony Warman, Jeff & Sheila Finch, Sue Stone, Anonymous,
Andrew Skirving & Rosi James, Joan Spooner, Tony Saward, Dave & Lizzie Turner,
Margaret Leighton, Mike Beeby, John Dodwell, Tony Osbond, Anne Earl, Jacqueline Bryan,
Anonymous, Tony Binch, Ray Smith, Peggy O'Callaghan, Hilary Keightley-Hanson,
Richard Black, Anonymous, John Woodrow, Michael Scorrer, Jeremy Lee, Peter Mustoe,
Urs Krause & Nadine Devonport, John Sentence, Jo & Tim Altham, Stephen Ball,
Hilary Taylor, Jane & Geoff Sharp, Anonymous, Richard & Elizabeth Hazelwood,
Rosemary Gibson, Sue Carr, Chris Hassall, John Nuttall, Norma Varley, Ralph Bellamy,
Sarah Luce