

# BRIDGE



APRIL

2021

The monthly newsletter  
published by the

The  
**Grantham Canal**  
Society

CHARITY No: 507337



**Kingston's Lock**

Lock 14

Photo by Jim Freeman

## This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

The society continues its objectives of the past 50 years which are to protect the route of the canal; to work with the Canal & River Trust, its owners, to provide a rural environment for the community to enjoy and to restore the waterway to navigation for the benefit of all.

One of the surprising results of the recent Lock-down has been the dramatic rise in the number of people using the canal towpath. Many might never have seen the canal before and have appeared in droves with their, families.

The canal is now reaching out to a much wider community who enjoy the facilities it offers. They are attracted by the freedom; the environment; the new bench seating; the insects and birds which thrive together and the clean fresh air. The reach of the Society is now much greater than before so we need to inform our new audience of Society's short-term and long-term plans and encourage audience participation. With luck everyone will benefit from this win, win opportunity!

By the end of this month most of the practical work on Locks 15 & 14 will have been completed. There will still be some community facing tasks to be progressed as part of the Project and at some stage the final figures for the Project will have to be calculated and approved. Hopefully all will be completed by the end of this year and we can **formally acknowledge the contributions** from Heritage Lottery Fund, Canal & River Trust, several other corporate and volunteer groups, particularly those who have supported the project financially over the past 5 years and the many hours of practical support given by GCS volunteers who have toiled in weather good and bad to build two brand new locks.

Those of you who have recently walked the towpath near Kinoulton will have seen the progress made in clearing the canal of weed and tree growth. New vistas are opening up but for the next five months nature will be left largely to its own devices as it is the nesting season. We will recommence the work in the autumn.

The Society does however have much to do during the summer so if you enjoy the fresh air and are able to spare one or two days per month why not become a GCS volunteer? You can gain a lot of satisfaction from our work and talk to some jolly nice people. If time is short why not become a member of the Grantham Canal Society and add your support to our membership numbers. Please do!

*Mike Stone.*

Dear Mike

Can you please convey my thanks for the cards and donations kindly sent to me.

The Rotary End Polio Now donations in memory of Gordon raised £3,215.47. which is wonderful and very comforting to me. as I know how close the cause was to his heart.

I would hate to miss anyone out so could you please send an email to members for me.

*Ever.*



**Support the IWA & become a member**

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



# NEIL WHITE



It is with very sad news that I have to report that Neil White passed away last November. His wife Lauren has told me that Neil died from Sepsis and not from the Myeloma he had been suffering from for many years.

Neil had been fronting our fundraising activities until late 2019 when he reluctantly told me that the medication for his condition was having an adverse effect on his ability to continue with his work for GCS.

Neil was 47 years old and leaves Lauren and his two children Ella 12 and Alfie 14.

*Tony Osbond - General Manager*

## The Friday Team



Mark, John W, Martin, Lou, John T, & Jim

## The Monday Team



Bob T, Ralph B, Tony K, Martin D, Richard C. not forgetting Mark.

## The upstream landing for Lock 14 gets completed



## The finished job

Many thanks to Jim Freeman, Rod Taylor and Dave Cross for these photos



## Hedgehog Welfare

Hedgehogs are now out of hibernation and already we are receiving calls about some thin ones who just made it through the winter months. They've emerged to very changeable weather. We can all help hedgehogs by putting out a little food (dried, chicken based, kitten or cat biscuits). Also, remember to check water is at ground level before going to bed.

If you see hedgehogs that are small, wobbly, keep falling over, limping, circling or have an injury there is something wrong. Sadly, we cannot collect hedgehogs. We suggest you make up a high sided cardboard or plastic box or pet carrier, that has plenty of newspaper on the bottom, then more newspaper torn into 25cm to make a nest. Fill an empty screw top bottle (plastic or glass) with **hot water** and wrap one sheet of newspaper round the bottle and place it on its side in the torn up paper.

This will help to warm up the hedgehog slowly; poorly hedgehogs cannot control their temperature. Put two small containers with food and water in the box then, wearing gloves that can be washed or thrown away, lift the hedgehogs and place in the box. Put something over the box to make it dark, then put the box somewhere it won't matter if the hog escapes - the bath is a good place, it's easy to clean and will contain the hedgehog. Then telephone us on **07940 714830**.

We are an essential service and are open and will go through the Covid-19 procedures with you.

Janet Peto

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



### Hairy-footed flower bees

One of my favourite bee species is on the wing in April and you might have spotted them in your garden or visiting wildflowers along the canal towpath. Amongst the mining bees, nomad bees, honey bees and bumblebees is a zippy little species known as the hairy-footed flower bee. At first glance, it looks like a small bumblebee but lacks the bands of colours being either jet black in the case of the females or a rusty brown in the case of the males. The reason for their name is apparent if you manage to get close but the alternative common name of 'feather-footed' flower bee is perhaps even more evocative of the whispy hairs which line their legs.

Both males and females visit a range of flowers including primrose, lungwort, grape hyacinth, alkanets and deadnettles. The females focus on the feeding whilst the males which spend much of their time searching out females to mate with – a female happily feeding on a flower will often have 2-3 males hovering at a not-so-discreet distance waiting to pounce when they think the moment is right!

These bees are solitary – meaning they do not form the complex social relationships found in honeybees and bumblebees with queens, workers and males. However they do often form nesting aggregations in suitable locations. Their favourite nest sites are stone walls with gaps in the mortar and it's not unusual to find 20-30 of these flower bees entering different nest holes in a suitable wall.

# All about Televisions

By Mike Atherley

During the 1930's, the first TV receivers were manufactured for public use. These were only available around London within the range of the Alexandra Palace Transmitter. The sets had a very small cathode ray tube with a picture size of about 4" x 5". The authorities gave the franchise to the BBC with one channel only. Outdoor aerials had to be erected, usually on chimney stacks, with a large vertical H or X style. Slowly more transmitters were built, one at Sutton Coldfield and one at Holme Moss, These all operated on a different frequency so sets could not be moved around the country without modification. The first set I saw in Nottingham was at a school friends home about 1950. Of course, they were only B/W then.



Around 1956 the authorities allowed an independent group ITV to start broadcasts with revenue income from commercial adverts. Several companies formed this franchise like Thames, Anglia, ATV, etc. To save buying a new TV a set top box could be added but this required an additional aerial quite different in shape, similar to a toast rack and again the set would only work within the range of your local transmitter. By this time tube sizes had grown to 12" and as the composite sets were built some came as large as 17".

The next change around 1962 was quite different, the authorities allowed the BBC to create a second channel but on a new frequency called 625 lines, previous was 405 lines. It was also not possible to convert existing sets so to receive 625 you had to purchase a new dual standard TV and also a third aerial very similar to the present type. These sets were very troublesome because of the huge internal switch to convert from 405 to 625. The switches got full of dust etc and were very difficult to clean with Servisol. The reason for 625 was the proposed change to colour TV. Again this required a completely new set which apart from the cost was very complex to set up before use. Luckily the aerial system remained the same, slowly the old 405 system was disbanded so all old aerials could be removed. Then Channel 4 came in the 1980's but would work on existing tv's and then channel 5 around 1998 but this was very low on output power so not all areas could receive it. Tube size and shape had changed by this time with rectangular tubes replacing round ones and now up to 26" There were companies that built projection tv

1957 Rogers Majestic (Canada)  
21" B&W Model 7621



which was a standard set built into a cabinet with prisms and mirrors finally shining onto a pull up screen, like a film projector, but the brightness was poor so could only be used in a dark hall or room. Finally the time had come for digital tv so to receive this a digital converter was required for existing tv's but also new receivers had liquid crystal or LED screens, no CRTube so sets are light, flat and can be hung on a wall, also size has increased dramatically. Eventually analogue transmissions were stopped.



As i mentioned earlier regarding service and breakdowns, the early receivers had lots of valves and other components that produced heat, this created dust etc which together with the high voltage, about 10 to 15,000 volts would cause many faults for the service engineer. Also the early CTV's would require setting up by the supplier in the customers home which could take several hours, No straight out the box and auto tune in those days. Early tv's had many set up controls, mainly at the rear, you had to set up a large mirror in front of the screen then starting with a test card, the broadcasters only had programs on in the evening, you had to adjust the width and height to fill the screen then adjust the brightness, contrast and focus then finally the horizontal and vertical holds. There were several magnets around the tube that could be adjusted to pull the screen into shape. There was also an eon trap on the neck of the crt which was

adjustable to gain better cantering and focus. CTV's had secret panels with many controls for convergence, linearity and colour set up, these sets could have a high voltage of 25,000 v so not to be tampered with. Tubes and line output transformers were pretty reliable but expensive to replace. Reconditioned tubes became available at a greatly reduced cost but at your risk. Early tubes were very long and had to be protected by a dome on the back board then they got much shorter which allowed sets to become more shallow until a total transformation into todays model. I would think the days are gone when an engineer carried a wooden case with about 50

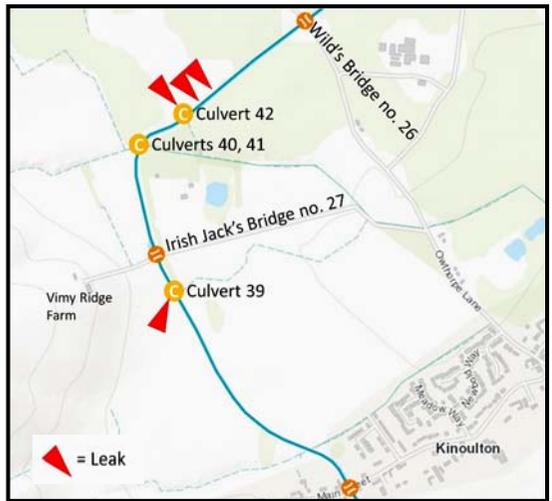


assorted valves, a model 8 AVO, soldering iron and various components into the customer's home. There were smaller portable tv's available but getting a good signal with a set top aerial was very difficult. Satellite dishes also became popular with the increased programs from some distributors.

## Water Levels Dropping Again!

Those familiar with the excellent guide produced by GCS will know that, currently, there are distinct 'wet' and 'dry' stretches of the Grantham Canal. The assumption being that, since this is a canal, the 'wet' stretches will always have water in them.

One such 'wet' area extends 21 miles from the A1 at Grantham to Wilde's Bridge No. 26 at Kinoulton. In 2020, after heavy rain in February, the downstream part of this wet stretch was filled to overflowing. Mere weeks later, however, water levels had dropped considerably. Kinoulton and Hickling through to Hose were worst affected, but there were reduced levels throughout. For months, the stretch from Kinoulton Bridge No. 28 to Wilde's Bridge No. 26 was almost completely dry.



This happened at a time when there were ever more users in need of the canal for exercise and for well-being – and we all know how beneficial walking next to water can be. Wildlife, too, was badly affected with birdlife disappearing overnight and, of course, aquatic species damaged, some probably beyond repair - fifteen year old mussels (count the rings!), for example, high and dry on the canal bed.

Levels rose, of course, with the rain this winter but once again they are dropping rapidly.

Why is the water disappearing? Because there is more water going out of the canal than is coming downstream and it is safe to assume that this is because of leaks as there will be little loss due to evaporation or transpiration at this time of year. Blockages, too, due to silting and dense reed growth, compound the situation.

In September 2020, following the catastrophic loss of water, the Grantham

Canal Water Restoration Group – GCWRG – was created, bringing together Parish, Borough and County Councils and residents together with Grantham Canal Society and Canal and River Trust to push for the identification of these issues and to get them fixed and to restore consistent water levels to this part of the canal.

*Continued ...*

There has been some progress and the recent reed clearance is a start but there is much more to do. Of the key issues identified so far:

- **A serious leak at culvert 39** near Irish Jack's Bridge No. 27 will receive a temporary fix in the next month, carried out by GCS volunteers. This will be followed by a permanent rebuild of the bank and culvert by CRT sometime next year.
- **Another serious leak at culvert 42**, along from Devil's Elbow, is causing concern with several leaks and a damaged culvert losing significant amounts of water. Analysis is underway to define the issues and come up with a plan to fix them.
- **Meanwhile, there is another serious leak upstream at culvert 13** near Muston Gorse No. 57 and east of Knipton Feeder. This will be fixed by CRT shortly using a new 'grouting' solution. This leak has meant that water, including from the already depleted Knipton feeder, was leaking away before coming downstream.



**Above: Leak at culvert 39**  
**Below: Leak at culvert 42**



A number of other issues are being examined but it will all take time and money. We know that the Canal and River Trust do not have the budget to enable all the work needed to be done, and this is a 'remainder waterway' so not high priority. GCWRG is launching, therefore, a fundraising campaign to raise cash to fix these issues. Individuals and groups are invited to hold fund-raising events and several established village events have already offered to donate. **Mike Hill, a member of GCWRG, is bravely doing a '70 @ Seventy' bike ride of 70 miles to raise funds.** Take a look at page 13 to see what he's doing. Why not stage your own event if you can.

GCWRG is proud to be working closely with GCS to achieve our objective of restoring consistent water levels to this 'wet' section of the canal. This is, after all, completely in line with the GCS longer term vision of making the canal navigable again along its full length, and, after all, it's not a canal unless it has water in it!

You can follow GCWRG on [Facebook](#) by searching for Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group or GCWRG. Join the Facebook group or email GCWRG@yahoo.com to keep up to date with progress, contribute knowledge and ideas and to volunteer assistance.

*Peter Cadwallader*  
*Chair – Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group*

# My diary from the Isles of Scilly by James Faulconbridge

## April 2021

One of the first things which might strike you as unusual about the vineyard here on St Martin's, Scilly—especially if you have visited other UK vineyards—is the small field structure bounded by high evergreen hedging.

The unique south-westerly position of the islands coupled with a coastal climate mean that winters are very mild with frost and snow almost unheard of. Islanders could therefore deliver certain produce long before the rest of the mainland including potatoes and, most famously, the flowers such as narcissi and pinks. Before international transport was commonplace, these early spring flowers could command premium prices and by the turn of the 20th century the islands were shipping 40 tonnes

of flowers to London markets via the Penzance train. However the benefits of this climate come at a cost with wind being the biggest challenge.



Dry stone walls were the original defence and this resulted in the development of many small fields to maximise the protection they afforded. Windbreak species have mostly established in the last hundred years or so and they add significantly to the level of protection offered. The key characteristics of a successful windbreak species is tolerance to salt winds during winter storms, and evergreen to provide protection for crops early in the season. The most successful and now dominant species on St Martin's can be found around the vineyard—these

are *Pittosporum*, *Escallonia* and *Euonymus* which hail from New Zealand, South America and Japan respectively.

Vineyards in mainland Britain can lose a season to a late frost. Whilst we do not need to worry too much about this, a late storm can do the same for us here on Scilly, especially if it comes at a vulnerable time such as flowering, and so the fence which was established to protect the bulbs has been allowed to grow high and keep our vines safe!

All this is a roundabout way of saying: we have 2km of 12ft-18ft high evergreen hedging around the vineyard and spent a significant part of March maintaining it using hedge trimmers and a tripod ladder as it's too tightly planted for a tractor! Other notable developments were significant progress with the shepherds hut; finishing the winter pruning of vines and apple trees; completing the solar installation and creating new no-dig vegetable beds for spring planting.

The first visitors will be arriving on the islands after the weekend so we're now preparing to re-commence self-guided tours and outdoor wine tastings in the sunshine!



## LANDSCAPING to complete the GCHI project



**Lock 14 and the area around gets some TLC. The towpath side has been grassed and the hedge reinstated. The far side now has the lock sign erected and area prepared for seeding. Overgrown vegetation around the area has revealed some hidden cabins.**  
Many thanks to Jim Freeman & Richard Caunt for the photos

# GCS Volunteers clear the canal at Mackley's Bridge



**A job well done!**



**How our canal should look**

**Photo by Colin Bryan**

## **70@Seventy**

### **Fundraising For - Grantham Canal - Stop Losing Our Water**

During the pandemic, the importance and popularity of the canal running through our villages has become clear, not only for us humans but also for the wildlife. Last year we went from a flooded towpath to no water in the canal in a matter of months and the disappearance of the swans and birds was alarming – and water levels are dropping rapidly again.

We must make sure our canal continues to be an asset to our villages and enjoyed by all.

In response, the Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group is pleased to announce the

### **SLOW fund-raising programme – Stop Losing Our Water!**

Created to respond to the loss of water, the group has a clear objective to achieve consistent water levels in our area and are now looking to raise funds to help make this happen.

Working closely with Grantham Canal Society, all funds raised will be 'ring fenced' and used for projects including fixing leaks, clearing blockages and improving feeds to our part of the canal.

I would like to start the fundraising ball rolling or wheels turning, with a 70 mile sponsored bike ride around the Vale of Belvoir, along the canal towpaths and venturing in to Rutland and as I have a big birthday in May, I'm calling it '70@seventy', you can sponsor me on -

**<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/70atseventy>**

If you have fundraising ideas for the canal, maybe a sponsored walk in the summer along the length of the canal, please let us know.

Contact GCWRG at [pcadwallader.gcwrg@yahoo.com](mailto:pcadwallader.gcwrg@yahoo.com) or tell your local parish councillor who will pass it on.

Join us and Stop Losing Our Water!

*Mike Hill*

# #Trending

By *Tony Jackson*



I've been pondering. I wonder how much the Grantham Canal Towpath has raised for good causes over the years?

This year alone, we've had serving soldier Richard doing a marathon every day for 30 days, carrying his kit weighing in at 28kg. I met him on his first day, and again with 18 days still to go. If he's successful, it will be one hell of an accomplishment. That's some punishment for a body. His cause is to raise money for injured servicemen. At the time of writing he'd raised £2,865!

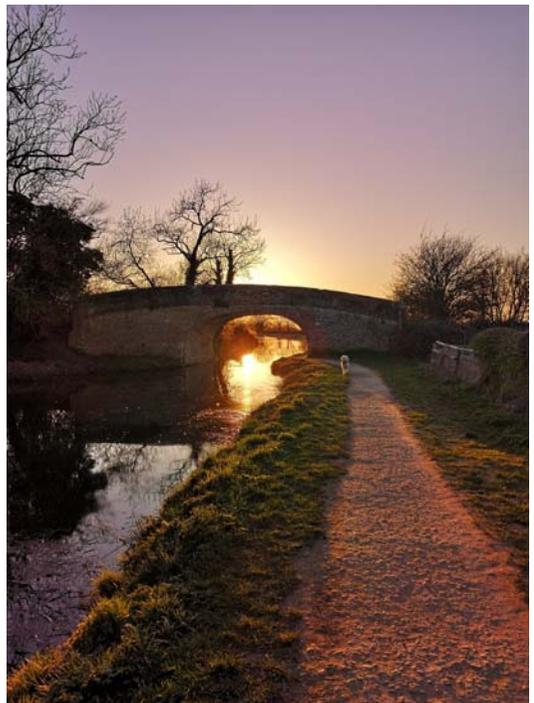
Adventurers, Esme & Bronwen (pictured) with, I suspect, a little guidance from mum and dad, are walking the canal in stages. Four miles completed, they've raised £250 so far for Dementia sufferers!



Walking the 30 miles all in one go were the Caseldine family raising funds for sick, premature babies. The cause being £861 better off. Well done Lucia, Sofia, Tim, Alicia & Nala!

If you'd like to send the towpath a little gift showing your appreciation of all the work it does for good causes, send it to me: c/o Grantham Canal Society. I believe it has a particular liking to Licorice Allsorts.

The sun not only set the canal on fire, it also lit up our little corner of the online world! Our Facebook and Twitter followers liked Eva's picture of the sunset at Bridge 62.



**Cruise along one of Britain's  
most beautiful canals on  
*The Three Shires***



**Enjoy a 30 minute trip  
Sunday 18th April & every Sunday  
until further notice**

**Also Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May  
Trips will depart from Lock 18 landing  
stage at Woolsthorpe by Belvoir at  
10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 12:15, 13:00,  
13:45, 14:30 and 15:15**

**Price: £20 per boat up to 10  
passengers, plus £1 booking fee.  
Trips must be booked in advance via our  
online ticketing system:  
Buy Tickets ~ 30min Trips**

**Due to Covid-19 restrictions - you cannot  
just 'turn up and ride' without  
pre-booking!**

**A two hour private cruise?  
To book call**

**07486 955 775**

**Or discuss your requirements email  
[bookings@granthamcanal.org](mailto:bookings@granthamcanal.org)**

**For full details go to**

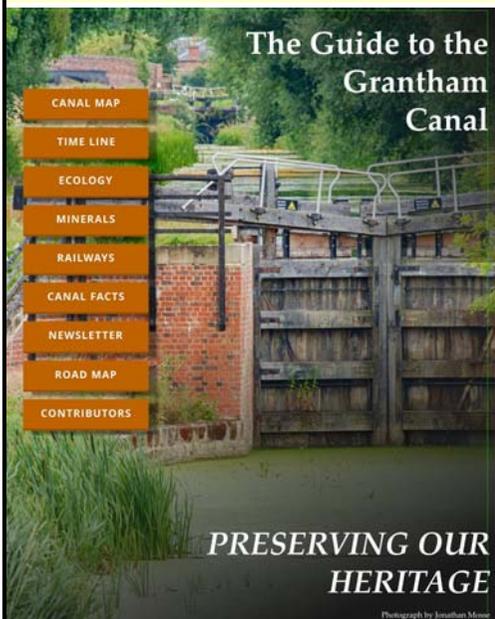
**<https://www.granthamcanal.org/trip-boat21b/>**

***Parking by kind permission of Lynne & JF,  
licensees of the Dirty Duck  
NG32 1NY***

**This is our on-line guide to the  
Grantham Canal.**

**You can search the guide for details  
about the canal together with  
interactive maps which, when clicked,  
enable both past & present photos to  
be viewed.**

**Give it a try: <https://gcsguide.org>**



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**The Grantham Canal**

As the Canal is 33 miles long we have divided it up into five sections below.

The map shows the Grantham Canal route from its source to the Lincolnshire coast, divided into five sections: 1. From the source to the first lock, 2. Between the first and second locks, 3. Between the second and third locks, 4. Between the third and fourth locks, and 5. Between the fourth lock and the Lincolnshire coast. Each section is color-coded and labeled with its respective lock name.

**You can just click on the section of map  
to view photos of the canal in detail.**

**SPRING**

The  
**Grantham Canal**  
Society

**2021**

**WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Mrs K M Baker, Mr P & Mrs J Cadwallader, Mr D Middleton, Mrs H Ansell**

**Mr A R K Clayton, Mr R Crawley, Mr D Hackett, Mr & Mrs P Stoves**

**Mr S & Mrs C Temprell, Mr L & Mrs M A Clift, Ms J Flanagan, Mr D Kissman**

**Mrs A M Ledger, Mr I Martin, Mr M & Mrs S Meech, Mr S & Mrs B Roots**

**Mr J & Mrs Y Ellison, Mr M & Mrs M Squires, Mr R & Mrs J Rawson**

**Mr G J & Mrs C G Wood, Mr B Cantwell, Ms A Fewtrell, Mr C Tate**

**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF  
THE GRANTHAM CANAL  
SOCIETY?**

**Our membership is growing  
so why not join us and help  
make a difference to our  
canal and preserve our  
HERITAGE**

**It doesn't matter if you live miles away  
or don't wish to actively volunteer - you  
will be supporting our efforts**

**THE COST IS MODEST!**

**The annual subscription rates are  
as follows:**

**Single Adult: .....£20**

**Family: .....£30**

**Under 18/Over 60: ..£15**

The  
**Grantham Canal**  
SOCIETY CHARITY NO. 647537 Society

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

Margaret Leighton, John Dodwell,  
John & Yvonne Ellison, Tony Osbond  
Neale Taylor & Christine Mills, T & P Powell  
Tony Binch, R M & C Powers, Richard Black  
Avenol Scott, Diane Worn, Peter  
Cadwallader, John Clark, Susan Whitworth  
Rosemary Gibson, M Webster, Paul Green,  
Jeremy Lee, John Sentence, Jo & Tim  
Altham, Rosemary Gibson, John Nuttall