

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

Let me start by saying 'Thank You' to the WRG team who came for a week in October and supported the GCS work at Lock 18. We much appreciate their help and we hope that they will return either as a team or as individuals. They can be sure of a warm welcome!



It is amazing how much progress can be achieved over a pint of beer. CRT have now committed that the works at Locks 17 & 18 will be carried out before Christmas and, even better, that the work will be shared with the GCS team being responsible for the leak above Lock 17 and the CRT contractor the drop chamber and leak at Lock 18. This is very positive news and it is great that the GCS volunteers are to be involved.



I hope to see many of you at the GCS Annual General Meeting.
 Best wishes

Mike Stone.

**Aviva Community Fund
 THE SOCIETY URGENTLY NEEDS
 YOUR VOTE
 VOTING CLOSSES 18th NOVEMBER**

The Society has been awarded a great opportunity by the AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND to undertake a new project along the canal, but to get the money, we need as many people as possible to

VOTE FOR THE PROJECT

The Project

The Society proposes to provide four substantial, custom made, wooden bench seats, similar to the one illustrated. They will be strategically placed along the canal and will bear an engraved map of the entire canal, with a "You Are Here" locator. Further details will include things to see and do in the vicinity, together with questions and riddles to enhance & stimulate interest in the canal.



These seats will form an interesting, informative and useful addition to the canal side for all users of the towpath.

To win the money for the project, the Society must get AS MANY VOTES AS POSSIBLE

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Click this link: <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-2223>

Register your name and email address as instructed on screen. Once this has been done you can vote.

When the screen has been refreshed enter **16-2223** in the "Search project title & organisation" box.

Vote when prompted

You have TEN VOTES to use as you please. PLEASE CAST ALL VOTES FOR OUR PROJECT

VOTING CLOSSES on 18th NOVEMBER – so don't delay – **VOTE TODAY**

TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, RELATIONS, COLLEAGUES, ANYONE – ALL CAN VOTE **THANK YOU**



NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

Public meetings. Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

Meetings 7.45 pm at the Poppy & Pint, Pierrepont Road, West Bridgford, NG2-5DX

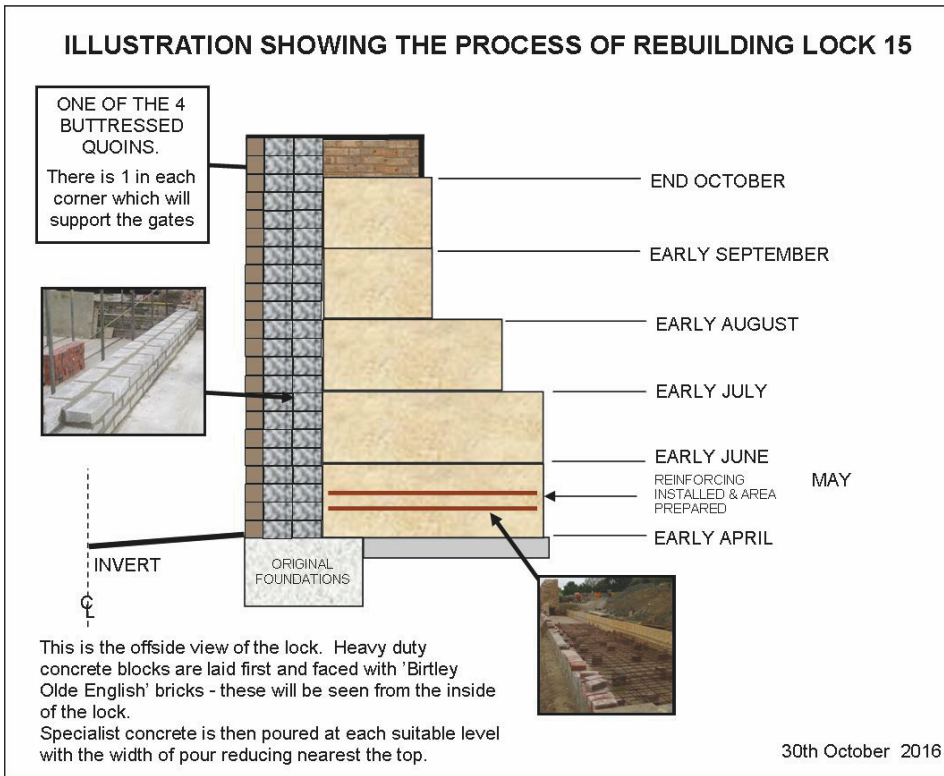
Branch Christmas Social

Thursday 8th December, 7:45pm

We will again enjoy the excellent catering available at the Poppy & Pint when we hold our traditional Christmas Buffet. As with last year's event, we will be entertained by Mick and Carole Golds, whose theme this year will be the BCN (Birmingham Canal Navigations) from the 1960's to the present.

Further information from: nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



WRG were on site during October and good progress was made. The lock walls are approaching the final stages of rebuilding so some other work, essential to the locks operation, needed to be started. This work included preparation of the wing walls and rebuilding the four corners.



Inner brickwork nearing the top showing the scaffolding before being raised for the final time.

walls are approaching the final stages of rebuilding so some other work, essential to the locks operation, needed to be started. This work included preparation of the wing walls and rebuilding the four corners.



Access cut down to the upstream wing wall to enable a concrete floor (shown left) to be poured for work to proceed on re-pointing and cutting in new stop board recess



Grateful thanks to John Clark and Dave Cross for these photos and update info.



CRT Trainees rebuild part of the corner post using reclaimed bricks and lime mortar

Talks and Events Diary
If you can help out with any events, please contact Rosemary on communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971173069

2016 bookings

Saturday 12th November 10.30 Talk: Melton and Oakham Waterways Society AGM

Saturday 14th November 9.00-4.45 Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Day, The Source, Sleaford: 'Canals and Waterways of Lincolnshire Past Present and Future – Talks on Grantham Canal, Sleaford Navigation, Fosdyke, Caistor Canal, Stamford Canal and Louth Canal. The day includes lunch – details www.slha.org.uk

Wed 2nd December Talk: Triumph Owners' Club, The Gate Hangs Well, Syston, Leics

Monday 7th December Talk: Collingham Memorial Hall

Monday 14th December Talk: Ashby Canal Association

Sat & Sun 17th & 18th December **Sainsburys fund raising event** -details to follow

2017 bookings

Tues 12th January Talk: Hougham and Marston Local History Society

Wed 17th February Iron Age talk for Harlaxton WI. Open meeting – canal society members particularly welcome – proceeds for GCS Funds - there are also several other talks on the Iron Age and Bess of Hardwick booked – let me know if you are interested.

Mon 14th March Talk: Melton Mowbray branch Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Wed 18th May 2.00 Talk: Bingham U3A

Tues 14th- Sun 17th July U3A summer school at Harlaxton Manor – Rosemary will be covering 8 teaching sessions on Grantham Canal history, restoration projects, ecology and environment, canal crafts, etc. to include visits and boat rides.

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

Miss Arnold, R.Gibson, Doric Masonic Lodge, Mr&Mrs Altham, M.Stone, G.Wallis

The 2017 IWA Festival of Water and Mr FIXIT

In 2017 the IWA will be celebrating their Festival of Water on the Erewash Canal at Ilkeston Derbys during August Bank Holiday (England) weekend, supported by MR FIX IT.

Consequently it seemed appropriate to focus on one man who will be heavily involved - a well-known National and Local figure in the Canal World, John Baylis, BEM, or MR FIX IT, as he was described in a featured article for Autumn 2016 `Waterways` recently. And perhaps especially since John has been fixing things with The Erewash for some 40 years, a canal which has been one of his special interests, and will now host The Festival on home ground. Quite a welcome reward for his campaigning.



On the Tiller

Since the late 1960`s John has been involved in numerous initiatives, restoration projects, and organisation of rallies throughout the whole canal network of England. This included advising The Grantham Canal Society with a complicated lock wall rebuild, of the top lock, number 18 at Woolsthorpe in 2008..His` hands on skills` have been invaluable with many

projects, in his early days with The Montgomery and Frankton Lock, and later with Morse Lock on The Chesterfield Canal, and many others. He claims to be a good acquirer, knowing where to go to get the necessities and technology to achieve the result needed, a very valuable skill, also associated with a lifetimes` experience.

Being Involved with many initiatives concerning the IWA, and as a committee member of WRG, his efforts have brought both Local and National recognition together with awards.



For his life-long service to waterways and their communities, John was presented with the British Empire Medal by The Lord Lieutenant Sir John Peace in 2012.

For further Festival information E:
info@waterways.org.uk

www.waterways.org.uk

(Extracts and pictures by the kind permission of The Waterways Editor, IWA)

Tony Pitman

NEWARK TOWN & DISTRICT CLUB

35 BARNBYGATE NEWARK NG24 1PX

"A little bird told me"

LET'S DO CHRISTMAS!

Woodland hunt competition

Beautiful Crafts, Gifts, Interiors, Xmas goodies. Fashion show and just a great day out!

Tea, coffee, mulled wine mince pies Hot & cold food

Bar open
Beers, wines & spirits

Christmas carols & music

Wollie throwing competition

Mrs Christmas!
(Father Christmas is much too busy!)

Kids Choir

Painting Workshop

13th NOVEMBER
10am - 4pm

ADMISSION £1 which includes entry into the RAFFLE

WORK ON THE CUT!



Mudlark clearing reeds in the narrow section.

Although work continues at a pace on rebuilding lock 15 essential work now starts in clearing weed and reeds in the navigable section.



Common reed, shown above, form an important habitat for birds and other wildlife. However these species can colonise a large area of canal very quickly and create an impenetrable barrier to boats and fishermen alike.

Ed

Lucy's Towpath Walk

We were all asked by our friend, Lucy Greaves to help her raise money for both **Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity**. So early morning on 8 October 2016, **Lucy's Towpath Treasures** set off from the start of the Canal at the River Trent and walked the 32 miles of the Nottingham to Grantham in **11 hours and 25 minutes**. We have to say thank you to **The Plough Inn at Hickling** for letting us in for a quick stop, **Dove Cottage at Stathern** for putting together our lunch order at short notice and **The Dirty Duck at Woolsthorpe** where we stopped for a drink as we were nearing the end! Although it was the ladies who were walking the miles, we couldn't have achieved it without the help of our support crew who were with us throughout the entire day, fund raising at each bridge, making us laugh and keeping us topped up with drinks and cake. **A huge thank you has to go to all our partners and family who supported our challenge wholeheartedly and to all those family and friends who gave up some of their day to cheer us on along the way and join us for parts of the walk, their encouragement really made the day truly enjoyable.** One person even said 'we could hear your laughter coming along the canal five minutes before we saw you!'

Thank you also to the people who go out of their way to keep the Nottingham to Grantham Canal and towpaths maintained. Their care for this stretch of England made our walk both easier and more enjoyable and we really appreciated it. **If anyone would like to know more about our challenge, or would like to donate, please go to the Just Giving website at www.justgiving.com and search for Lucy Greaves (Trudging the Towpath).**

Sharon Beevers



MEMBERSHIP CARD PRIVILEGES



The Co-op are stating to all Members that for every purchase of

Co-op Own Label Products Members will receive 5% off the price as Dividend and in addition a further 1% will be paid to the Community cause nominated by the member who must show their membership card at the time of purchase. To choose their Cause Members must visit co-op.co.uk/membership. The cause being "Grantham Canal Society" of course!

Gurkha Square



GURKHA SQUARE
NEPALESE & INDIAN
RESTAURANT in
Grantham

20% discount from Sunday to Thursday inclusive

10% discount on Fridays & Saturdays

There will be no discount during December

<http://gurkhasquarerestaurant.co.uk>

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY?

We really need all the support we can gain in order to carry out the restoration of this beautiful canal.

Visit www.granthamcanal.org FOR DETAILS

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge

Cold feet along the Canal

November typically sees the arrival of the first frosts of winter and the wildlife apparent along the Canal decreases. Species such as hedgehogs and bats hibernate, or otherwise reduce their activity levels considerably. Many other species appear to disappear, but in fact persist through the winter in a different form – the dragonflies which hawked the towpath in summer continue as larvae now stalking the bed of the canal. One group who remain apparent, and sometimes even increase in number, are the ducks.

Watching the ducks walking the ice, or paddling in the close-to-zero waters of the canal, is enough to make your own feet feel cold but despite being plunged into the cold water, it is estimated that ducks lose only 5% of their body heat through their legs and feet. This is because ducks have a clever trick in their physiology to withstand such trials - the warm blood pumped straight from the heart in the arteries passes in very close proximity to the veins returning blood from the legs with extra 'netting' to maximise the interface. This sets up a gradient where heat exchange occurs – blood cools as it moves down the leg by transferring heat across to the cool blood returning to the body. This means that the blood in the feet is much cooler than the blood in the rest of their bodies. By minimising the temperature difference between the blood and the cold water, heat loss is minimised and the ducks can skate with impunity!



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
To contact us please send your email to:

bridge@granthamcanal.org

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

THE WAY IT WAS

While the Grantham Canal was being built the Duke of Rutland asked William Jessop the design engineer and James Green the on site engineer if a branch canal could be taken off the mainline and up to the castle to bring in coal etc and take away farming produce etc. After the survey the engineers decided the rise and number of locks required with also the problem of water supply would make the task to expensive and unpractical so a light railway was built instead.



The railway started at Muston Gorse alongside the canal where a loading wharf was constructed and rose up to the castle, crossing the road near the main entrance, next to the pub that is now the home of the previous Duchess. It also crossed the private road that coaches use to reach the upper car park and then split into two routes, one entering the basement through a large door and the other up to the second level which supplied the boilers.

All of this was horse drawn, built to 4ft 4inch gauge with 3ft cast iron fish belly



rails set on large stone bases. The trucks were towed by the horse, not in shafts like normal carts, and an emergency brake, a large piece of

timber dragged behind to stop the cart if the towrope broke. There was a siding on the wharf and a watchman's hut so that several trucks could be loaded from the canal boats and the four wheel wooden trucks were taken individually up to the castle.

Little remains now, the outline of the wharf near bridge 57, the weighbridge hut and some stone blocks are still visible but most of the track was used for kerb edging around the upper car park. Many years ago when Ken Brockway and I were setting up for an event we were able to trace large sections of track in the woodland beneath the castle wall.



Also track still remained on the private roadway and underneath a gate near the main entrance . The Duke also showed us photo's of the track before it was finally lifted. A wagon, on tracks, is still available to view in the basement.



We also had several events at the castle with displays of photographs and canal artefacts which we were allowed to display in the old kitchens and sell canal based items. There were also several seminars organised by the British Waterways Board. On one occasion I was mistaken for a castle guide by a tour of American visitors and advised them where the art gallery was.

Mike Atherley.

Autumn and Winter is a Dangerous Time for Hedgehogs

As we come into cooler days and the nights have started to draw in, it is now time to start thinking about what you can do to help the hedgehog in your garden (our little gardener's friend). Hedgehogs hibernate as the ground starts to freeze not at a set time of the year, some years they could go into hibernation at the end of October but in other years it has been as late as the middle of January.

Hedgehogs need to be a minimum of 450g to get through hibernation but it is not just weight we need to take into consideration, if you look at the hedgehog it should have a good round bottom and not pointed. If so then you can almost be certain that your hedgehogs are in the best possible shape to face whatever the winter has to throw at it. If a hedgehog is thin and does not have enough body mass the animal will not make it through the winter. **Never feed bread and milk**, as this can kill hedgehogs. Although they do eat seeds, nuts and fruit they find these difficult to digest and they will often pass straight through the hedgehog undigested. Remember it is good to put at least a little food (6-10 biscuits) out every night all through winter, if you do have a hedgehog that wakes up, or the nest is disturbed, he will always have some food to find, especially if you feed in the same place all the time. Remember to check the water just before you go to bed as it may freeze overnight.

To help the hedgehog to get to a peak of fitness for winter, we suggest that you start feeding the hedgehogs about now with any kitten biscuits. Kitten biscuits are better as they are small, & young hedgehog will find them easier to eat. Kitten biscuits are higher in protein which will help all the hedgehog put on weight. Ensure that you have at least one cat bowl or large plant pot saucer of water in the garden as the hedgehogs will need water to drink and many die from the lack of water. If you wish you can add a few meal worms, live or dried, these are also high in protein but only feed a few as they are not a good balanced diet on their own.

If you would like more information about hedgehogs please call **Hedgehog Welfare 07940 714830** after 18.30 and before 22.30 any evening and we will send you some information sheets.

ROUND & ABOUT *with Louise*

Christmas may only be a few weeks away, but the trees around here are still putting on a magnificent show of autumn colours. It's the same across the country. As I understand it, a wet spring followed by a sunny and prolonged summer have resulted in the trees building up more than their usual level of leaf sugars. It's these leaf sugars that produce the reds, golds and oranges we enjoy each autumn, and this year they're more vibrant than ever. Well, I suppose that's some consolation for the miserable spring we had!

Back to Christmas, or should I say the build up to it. The end of November is traditionally the time when Christmas lights go on, and a quick search of the internet has thrown up three local 'switch-on' events. Conveniently, they're on different days of the same weekend, so there's nothing stopping you going to all three!

First up is the Community Christmas Lights event on **Friday 25 November** from 3.00pm to 5.30pm at the **Cotgrave Shopping Centre**. Local organisations and businesses will be setting up stalls there for the afternoon. Then on **Saturday 26 November** the Christmas lights will be switched on in **West Bridgford** town centre. Seasonal festivities throughout the day will include street entertainment, fairground rides and ice skating plus there'll be a variety of food and gift stalls. The big switch on will be at 5.00pm followed by a firework finale. At the other end of the canal, **Grantham** will be putting on 'Christmas on the Green, including Christmas Lights Switch On' on **Sunday 27 November** between 10.00am and 4.30pm. Again, lots to keep you entertained including stalls, fairground rides, Santa's grotto and refreshments.



A 'roof' of autumn colour on a road near Whatton in the Vale

Once we hit December, of course, there are Christmas-themed events going on almost daily. Here are a few that attracted my attention

A Christmas Carol – West Bridgford: Saturday 3 to Saturday 10 December at The Studio Theatre, Stamford Road, West Bridgford, NG2 6LS. This adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale is written by Neil Bartlett and directed by Jerome Foley, and is sure to get you and all the family in a Christmas mood. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the foyer. Tickets £8 (£7 concessions). Visit www.wbds.org.uk for full details.

Santa Fun Run/Walk for Dove Cottage at Belvoir Castle: Sunday 6 December. Help raise funds for Dove Cottage by joining in a Festive Fun Run/Walk (5k or 2.5k) around the castle. Registration is from 9.30am for a 10.30am start, and costs £10 for adults/children over 12, and £5 for children under 12. Santa suits are included in the registration fee. For more information, visit www.dovecottage.org/events/santa-fun-run-walk.

Carols in Brass at Harlaxton Church: Friday 9 December, 7:30pm: An evening of Christmas music interspersed with popular Christmas carols. Tickets cost £8.00 and are available from Harlaxton church warden Sue Taylor (call 01476 574040) or Rev'd John Bruce (call 07947 156933 or email jcb.churchmail@gmail.com). The ticket price includes festive refreshments.

Belvoir Castle Christmas Extravaganza: Sunday 11 & Monday 12 December, 5.00-9.00pm. The Duke and Duchess of Rutland will be opening the doors of the castle for some seasonal entertainment in magnificent surroundings. You'll be free to wander through the majestic rooms of the castle where atmospheric music will be performed, while over in the kitchen there'll be a complimentary glass of mulled wine and mince pie waiting for you. You'll also have a chance to do some Christmas shopping from the craft stalls and in the castle gift shop. And last, but not least, Santa will be there with gifts for the children. To round off the evening, you'll be invited to join in the carol singing in the Guard's room. For more information, visit www.belvoircastle.com. For tickets, call Debra on 01476 871035.

Louise Lambert

www.the-write-words.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



WEEKDAYS AT LOCK 15
or



SATURDAYS WITH ONE OF OUR WORKPARTIES

If you can spare some time to join one of our teams then please email

volunteer@granthamcanal.org

or

lan.wakefield@granthamcanal.org

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

www.granthamcanal.org

From January 2017 our monthly email will direct you to our website for an enhanced edition of Bridge which can be viewed on line or downloaded

HOW "Sell & Donate" Works:

Selling: If you have an electrical or domestic item you no longer require then place it in our "SELL - & DONATE" feature along with a guide price. Please note that the proceeds of all items will form 100% donation to the Society.

Buying: If the item is of interest to you then contact the seller and agree a price. You must then collect the item at a mutually agreed time and hand over a cheque made out to "The Grantham Canal Society".

To proceed:

Please send details of your items to bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk for entry into the next edition & don't forget to include your contact phone no. or email address. You must advise bridge when your item has been sold. Items will be displayed for a maximum of 2 months.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

To contact us please send your email to:

bridge@granthamcanal.org

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337