

This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

Autumn has clearly arrived as the night-time temperature has declined by about ten degrees! This signals the time to really start work on the navigable length of the canal. We look forward to the teams undertaking necessary pruning of trees; recovering fallen branches; getting weed removed from the canal bed and cutting the reeds back as much as possible. All these tasks involve *Centauri*, *Mudlark* and *Osberton* so if you wish to get out on a boat or help the teams from the land now is the time!



View from Osberton's cab showing the cleared water and in the background the excellent results of the workparties who have opened up the "narrows" between the Bridle bridge and Casthorpe Bridge. Courtesy Ian Wakefield

Everything has to completed by the start of the nesting season in March – so much to do; so little time!

Have you been to Lock 15 lately? If not you should go and admire the work of the volunteers who have completely rebuilt the lock which is now only awaiting new gates. It has been a tremendous achievement by all concerned and only now that most of the scaffolding has been removed can be fully appreciated. We hope to incorporate the name engraved bricks very shortly so if you haven't filled in your application form I urge you do so this week! Your name and contribution will be there for all to see! [A form for you to print, complete and return by post can be found on page 6.]

We are delighted to welcome several new work-party volunteers who have joined recently. Thank you for offering your help in restoring the Grantham Canal and we hope you enjoy working with us.

Another year has passed so it is time for the Society Annual General Meeting which will be held on 28th of this month. For details a separate notice on page 3. Come along and have your say during the open forum following the formal meeting. I hope to see you there!

Mike Stone.



Some comparison photos for you to compare!
 Top photo taken in January 2015

Bottom photo taken in November 2017



Meetings are held at 7.45 pm at Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2-7HY, about 15 minutes from M1 Junction 24 up the A453

Friday, November 17th 2017

"The Tall Ships Trust" - an illustrated talk by Kevin Miller about those majestic 3 masted sailing ships and the volunteers that sail and maintain them.

Friday, December 15th 2017

Christmas Social with buffet including an illustrated talk – "Champagne to Alsace" a continental boat trip by John Wilkinson.

The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE

The coping stone story



The crane being delivered



The coping stones - ready for a wash



Richard in his element



The completed job

As ever our grateful thanks to John Clark for this months photos & captions.

The scaffolding is coming down!



Temporary safety fencing now installed

Community and Events Diary

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

- Tues 14th Nov 2.00** Talk: Ascension Ladies Fellowship
- Wed 15th Nov 2.00** Talk: East Leake Local History Society
- Sat 18th Nov 10.00 - 2.00** Information stand at Morrison's Gamston
- Tues 21st Nov 10.00** Event Review Meeting Carpenter's Shop, Woolsthorpe
- Wed 22nd Nov 7.30** Talk: Springwells Heritage Group, Meeting Rooms, Horbling
- Sat 25th Nov 10.00 - 4.00** Dirty Duck Christmas Market, Woolsthorpe
- Sat 9th Dec 12.00 - 6.00** Geese and Fountain Xmas Mkt, Croxton Kerrial
- 2018**
- Thurs 25th Jan 8.00** Leicester Taverners Motor Cycle Club, Ratby Social Club
- Mon 12th Mar 8.00** Belvoir Vale & Social Club, Radcliffe on Trent British Legion
- Wed 14th Mar 7.30** Ruddington Contact Group
- Mon 30th Apr 7.30** Corby Glen Horticultural Society, Ron Dawson Memorial Hall

Some dates for events are already filtering through. If you hear of a local event from a coffee morning to a Steam Fair where we might raise awareness and funds for the society, please let me know

communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971173069

Rosemary Gibson

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 18th Nov 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
Info Stand at Morrisons Store, Gamston, Nottingham

Sun 19th Nov 10.00 am to 4.00pm
Info Stand at Canal Clean up, Lady Bay, West Bridgford.
(GCS Help would be very welcome at this community event.)



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

bridge@granthamcanal.org



THE WAY IT WAS

Following on from last month ...

The next problem was how to pump the water out after managing to get one pipe run working. We couldn't afford to hire or buy a large diaphragm pump but someone suggested a portable fire pump. So we purchased a 250gallon per minute twin hose Coventry Climax and Dave Carnell helped with fittings and hoses. When up and running this would pump out the lock chamber and short pound in about half a day.

The first time we saw it empty revealed many hidden items. The remains of the top gates, several large coping stones and many tons of building waste tipped in by small lorries from the towpath. During some of the clearance days we found many period items possibly cast aside by boat crews.

The problem we now found was that the chamber and pound would refill with water over several days and the time taken to pump out took too much time out of the working day also the pump was only suitable for clean water so a small diaphragm pump was purchased to lift sludge, etc.

The reason it all refilled was water leaking through the old sluice in the concrete weir and a small stream running down from the higher woodland's . We tried many methods to try to seal or divert these but none were successful.

An idea came to mind to build a coffer dam across the tail of the lock similar to the one used on the Canal Museum job in Nottingham. The reason being to reduce the amount of water pumped out each time we began. We had some scaffold poles, fittings and boards so we built an 'A' frame to support

the boards and covered it with sheeting and it was reasonably successful until someone kept vandalising it. With the help of the local fishing club the problem was resolved.

We knew that in the long term none of the above would be successful. Someone found a company trying to get rid of many tons of clay so, for the transport costs, we had several lorry loads delivered and stored on the old railway track. The field down to the lock side was too wet for heavy lorries so we brought the clay down using dumpers and even these cut up the field, John Moulcher was not happy!

We hired a tracked excavator and this quickly built a clay dam above the lock chamber and another one after the tail of the lock. This cured all the leakage problems and set the precedence for all future lock restorations.

What a learning curve, when you think of the wasted man hours etc!

We then had to remove all the other systems we had tried together with running a new pipe on the off bank side well back from the lock side. Because it was higher than the water level it had to be siphoned using a Y branch with removable caps to pre fill the pipe. This all worked reasonably well and the next job was to clear the chamber of all that rubble.
More next time.

Mike Atherley

THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty Ninth Annual General Meeting (the "AGM") of the Grantham Canal Society will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th November 2017 at the Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall, Nottingham Road, Cropwell Bishop, Notts NG12 3BA (at the entry to the village from the A46) to consider the following resolutions, all of which will be proposed as ordinary resolutions unless otherwise specified.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. To receive the Chairman's and the Independent Examiner's reports and the Accounts for the 12 months ended 31st March 2017
3. To re-elect the following members of the Committee who retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election:
 - a. John Brydon
 - b. David Lyneham-Brown
 - c. Tony Pitman
- 4.a To ratify the appointment of David Lyneham-Brown as General Manager/Chief Executive
- 4.b To appoint a Company Secretary – no nominations at the date of this notice
5. To appoint Steven Adcock as Independent Examiner of the Company, to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting
6. To authorise the Committee to determine the remuneration of the Independent Examiner
7. To conduct any other business relevant to the AGM

By Order of the Committee

Gordon Wallis

Temporary Acting Company Secretary
3 Norfolk Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6PN
3rd November 2017

Notes :

1. If any member wishes to nominate another member for election to the Committee at the AGM, he/she must send notice of the nomination to me in writing and countersigned by the nominee, to reach me no later than 7 days prior to the AGM. Nominations for Company Secretary will be taken at the AGM if none are received previously
2. The Chairman's Statement, the Independent Examiner's Reports and the Accounts will be available for inspection at the meeting venue or on the company's website prior to the AGM
3. There will be an opportunity to raise questions of the Committee or discuss any issues pertaining to the Canal or the Company after the end of the AGM. Prior written notice of any questions would be appreciated



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

Social Media Medley

The Grantham Canal Society Twitter and Facebook pages continue to be popular, and are updated (almost) daily with news and information about our canal.

Our Twitter feed has 2,030 followers and receives around 10,000 views each week.

Our Facebook community, still in its infancy, continues to grow, with 472 followers to date. One post about bow hauling received a staggering 4,324 views!

Recent informative and fascinating posts about our reservoirs were particularly popular and well received by our audience –

A Canal and River Trust inspector posted a picture of Knipton Reservoir on our Twitter feed yesterday...

One of the reasons the Grantham Canal is of historical importance, is that it was the first in the country to be fed by 'floodwater reservoirs'. The first Act - a prerequisite to building the canal - put before Parliament, was thrown out. Our canal's engineer, William Jessop, needed to put his thinking cap on.

One of the reasons for this set back (I'll stick to one reason... See more



and for those who didn't know we had tunnels on the Grantham Canal –

Grantham Canal @GranthamCanal - Nov 3
Only the size of a pinhead - but there is light at the end of the tunnel
facebook.com/granthamcanals...
#Grantham
#ValeofBelvoir
#Nottingham



well, you learn something new every day – if you look in on our social media!

Facebook is particularly useful, for, unlike Twitter it's not limited to 140 characters. However, it was one of our Twitter followers who told us about 20 fridges being fly tipped at one of our beauty spots, this within hours of the crime being committed.

We were able to alert the Canal and River Trust, who were very supportive in dealing with their removal – shame the cost of this befell a charity.

Facebook is particularly useful for our volunteers too, particularly those in our Rangers, Events and Education Teams – it helps them to keep up to speed and well informed when meeting the public.

Both Twitter and Facebook can be accessed via their respective icons, top right on the homepage of our website.

Please share posts with your friends too! This helps us enormously in raising the profile of the canal, which pays dividends in so many ways. The key to getting our canal restored, lies within the community.



Follow us on Facebook



Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal

by James Faulconbridge

November – Hedgerow Banquets

A walk along the canal towpath in November is likely to be preceded by flurries of wings flitting ahead of you down the hedgerows. Autumn berries are a banquet for birds, allowing them to fatten up and maximise their chances of surviving the winter and hedgerows provide them in abundance.

Hedgerows are an intrinsic component of the countryside but not a natural one. They are planted features, used to demark boundaries such as parish boundaries or fields, and thus are often the oldest components in a planned countryside landscape such as that through which the Canal runs.

Their composition locally is often dominated by hawthorn with their familiar deep-red haws, but other berry-bearing species include blackthorn with its deep purple sloes; buckthorn with its small black elderberry-like bundles; dogrose with those swaying red rosehips; and bramble with its familiar blackberries. Ivy too produces berries – less appealing to human tastes but a nutritious source of food for birds, especially after the juicier fruits have been taken.

Mixed tit flocks are a common sight – you'll hear the 'chik chik' of long-tailed tits as they keep in contact with one another and they're joined by blue tits, great tits and coal tits. You might also spot the white rump of a bullfinch shooting ahead of you, not to mention the familiar chaffinches. Such is the bounty of these food sources that birds fly from colder climes to take advantage of them – soon fieldfares and redwings will join the year-round residents.



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

bridge@granthamcanal.org





RANGERS REPORT

We have had a case of fly tipping in the car park at Fosse Bridge in October.

About 20 fridges and fridge/freezers had been dumped overnight on Friday the 27th.



These have now been removed by Canal and River Trust.

The Rangers Team are just starting a programme of training covering safety, defect reporting and lone working procedures.

The next Rangers meeting will be held at The Plough, Stathern, on Monday 13th November 2017.

Anyone interested in becoming a Ranger is most welcome. Please contact me for more details on 07926 414652

Chris Cobb
Head Ranger



IT's a bit sad ...

When they pinch a piece from the grass you've just laid!



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

K.Challis, H.Christopher Holmes, Nigel Lee plus any one who contributed on Discovery Day

ENGRAVED BRICK

YOU CAN BUY AN ENGRAVED BRICK FOR AS LITTLE AS £25 & HAVE YOUR NAME, OR THAT OF A LOVED ONE, REMEMBERED

Just print out the form on Page 6 and post it to the address detailed.



Early editions of Bridge

It's interesting to see that these early editions carried advertisements - is that something that we should introduce?

Each edition listed Committee members and Work Party leaders together with their contact details.

Ed

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

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

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>



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For a minimum donation of £25 (£75 if a commercial organisation) you can fund bricks for the restoration.

- Donation - £ _____
- Make cheques payable to:
Grantham Canal Society.
- Alternatively, you can use Virgin Money Giving on our website. At www.granthamcanal.org click on the "Help! Click here to Buy a Brick" then click "Make a Donation". Indicate the donation amount then enter your name below in "I'd like my name to be shown with my message". Un-check the box.

Whichever method you use post this tear-off leaf (and cheque if this is your chosen payment method) to the address detailed

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Charity Gift Aid Declaration: I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to the Grantham Canal Society. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Today's Date: _____

Signature: _____

So we can claim Gift Aid please tick this box

Please notify The Grantham Canal Society if you

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

On Your Brick.

The engraving will be in one or two rows, 13 characters per row (a space = 1 character).

This is an example of the font
Both upper & lower case can be used

12ABCdef

You can nominate your name, your family's names or, if a business sponsor, your organisation's name. Include the date if you wish.

Double the donation and you can have two bricks. If you wish to donate more than one brick (either as an extension of the first brick or for another individual) please use a second form and secure to the first.

Please write your inscription in the boxes below:

Thank you for your donation which will enable the Society to complete the restoration of these locks.

Please send completed form (and cheque if that is your preferred way of paying) to:

Buy-a-Brick
The Grantham Canal Society,
c/o 213 Melton Road,
Edwalton,
Nottingham
NG12 4AF

Please write clearly & ensure that you complete both sides of this form



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