

BRIDGE



JULY

2021

The monthly newsletter
published by the

The
Grantham Canal
Society

CHARITY No: 507337



The Belvoir hounds on early morning exercise

Would your dog walk to heel as well as these?

Photo by Colin Bryan

ONLINE
COPY
ONLY



This month's update from Mike Stone (Chairman)

The Sooth Sayers are implying that later this month we will have an opportunity to welcome our visitors face to face. Likewise our faithful supporters will have an opportunity to come to Woolsthorpe Depot and discuss their interests and to meet the volunteers who delivered the restoration during lock-down.

Will it feel strange meeting people in the depot again; looking at the emerging reconstructed slipway; travelling along the canal on Three Shires full to capacity or cycling or walking the towpath as part of a group or enjoying tea and homemade cakes once again? **Of course it will!**

The Society will change its Covid protocols as instructed by Westminster but the speed of future change may more appropriately reflect the Society's circumstances and the availability of experienced volunteers. Please keep your eyes open as we will communicate all activities using social media

Behind the scenes maintenance activity continues and craft which had irritating issues can now look forward to an operational autumn and winter season.

So all we need now are volunteers! Yes more of them please! Skilled or unskilled; old or young; fit or less agile; we can offer you a little spell of life in the countryside in the fresh air of the Belvoir Vale where you can enrich your health and banish your Covid blues. Time spent, however short or long, will bring with it the satisfaction of your contribution to the real progress restoring part of England's heritage.

Of course there is a further group of supporters who may not be volunteers but who give readily to our requests for funds. We thank you for your generosity during the past year which has enable the Society to procure materials for the

reconstruction of the slipway at Woolsthorpe; acquire a van to support our teams when they visit our various worksites; purchase appropriate equipment for the maintenance tasks volunteers undertake; and restore the historic infrastructure of a 200 year old waterway. Our heartfelt thanks go to each and everyone who has donated to Society funds.

Those of you enjoying the towpath may have used our interactive web guide www.gcsguide.org or used the QR codes fixed to different structures. Have you seen the new bench seats which have been installed as part of the GCHI lottery fund incentive. All these developments are designed to enhance your personal experience of the Grantham Canal.



Looking ahead, if you wish to keep up to date with changes and activities, progress is regularly reported on social media, Facebook and Twitter. Further information and booking details can be found on our website www.granthamcanal.org

I look forward to meeting you at our Open Day on 30th August!

Mike Stone.



Support the IWA & become a member

<https://waterways.org.uk/support/ways-to-give/join>



Scott Temprell has been appointed Safety Officer and Environmental Manager for the Grantham Canal Society



Scott lives in Grantham and is currently working full time for the Cranswick Group based in Melton Mowbray. He is their Health & Safety Environmental Manager.

He has over twenty years of experience in the Health & Safety and Environmental Management sector within the food and industrial sectors completing 18001 audits for a number of organisations he has worked for in the past

Scott is new member of The Grantham Canal Society but in the past has carried out fly monitoring for the Lincolnshire River Trust as well as general river work for the Trust.

I have told Scott that he is joining a lively bunch of volunteers dedicated to seeing the continuation of improvements to reopen more of the canal towards Nottingham and trust you will all join me in welcoming Scott to the Grantham Canal Society.

Tony Osbond
GCS General Manager

THE SLIPWAY

The Monday & Friday gang's progress



The original 200+ year old wall is carefully removed



Inevitable brick cleaning - not as easy as it may look when in the hands of professionals!



Nothing left but a pile of bricks - and the Friday team enjoying a well deserved rest!

Many thanks to Martin Duignan for the photos & for Jim's (with the bionic knee) forwarding skills!

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



Mammals

We've had a bit of excitement here on Scilly this month with the walrus known as 'Wally' turning up – delighting most residents but causing a little displeasure thanks to his propensity for popping boats when he tries to clamber about – they seem to look like rather nice floating beds to him!

The visit from such an unusual marine mammal put me in mind of the mammals you might find along the Grantham Canal. In terms of those who use the canal, rather than sticking to the banks, the only species which is well established is the American mink. There are occasional sightings of otters, and tantalising reports of water voles, but these two native species are yet to take up residency in the canal. Otter have been shown to displace mink which in turn creates more space for water vole, so hopefully these rare sightings will soon become more frequent!

The banks provide habitat for a much wider range of mammals – I've seen rabbits, hares, rats, hedgehogs, voles, mice, grey squirrels, stoats and weasels along the towpath and associated hedges. Badger setts can sometimes be found on the banksides where the angle gives them a good start to excavations, and foxes are common. Deer including the smaller muntjac and larger fallow cross the canal using the bridges, judging by the footprints after a rainy night; and that's before we get onto the winged mammals – the bats which hawk insects over the canal with species including common and soprano pipistrelles, Daubenton's, barbastelle and brown long-eared!

**HEDGEHOG
WELFARE**



Charity No.
1194494

Well done Janet!



**Left to right- Back Row:
Jayne Porter, Claire Myers**

**Front Row:
Julia Paige, Janet Peto, Sally Key**

It has now turned hot and dry again and hedgehogs are appearing during the daytime. Although they might look fine, they need food and water. They are struggling to find natural food. So, before bedtime, try to leave out a little dried kitten or cat biscuits and a few plant pot saucers of fresh water. Scatter the food on the patio or lawn - that ensures all the hogs manage to feed, not just one greedy one.

The Grantham Canal Society – Summer 2021

We have been very busy despite the last year and the Covid challenge.

Whilst we have been quiet on the events side of things, we have been busy elsewhere, Rangers, work parties, Lock 14, fundraising, Three Shires and Nottingham section - so much to tell you...

Rangers – our team of rangers have worked throughout the pandemic, in a safe socially distanced way, checking water levels, wildlife and the towpath, spraying dog poo and picking up litter and what a brilliant job they do – reporting back every month through our head ranger on canal highlights (wildlife spotting) and lowlights (fly tipping) – fancy joining that team – volunteer@granthamcanal.org and register an interest in becoming a ranger and what area!



Work Parties – we have increased our numbers on the work parties men and women getting together on a Friday/Saturday and Monday tackling current issues, log retrieval, clearing weed, checking water depth, mowing, strimming, hedge trimming you name it they do it – really sociable and really visible, they also look after our fleet of boats keeping them in ship shape – you fancy something hands on in a group with lots of cake



volunteer@granthamcanal.org and put yourself forward for the work parties

Lock 14 – it is finished our dedicated team of volunteers have done a fantastic job – such a huge achievement, re-watered and landscaped too and once again the towpath is open – we are now turning our attention to funding opportunities for locks 12 and 13 (the last two to be restored on the flight of 7), to keep our skilled and enthusiastic volunteer team busy into the future.



Fundraising – we now have a small but perfect fundraising team, looking at many opportunities to raise money, we are looking at small and large donors, activities 100 club, events, and bids to funding pots, give as you live etc. its busy busy on the fundraising team. We have with the huge support of our followers managed to raise £10,000 for a much needed vehicle to transport equipment along the canal so we can do more work! – if you want to be part of it and have some ideas and energy do get in touch

volunteer@granthamcanal.org and say you want to be part of fundraising



Three Shires – our dedicated captain and his crew have been cruising the canal on Sundays and for prebooked trips – a new way of working small groups, infection prevention and pre booking – its all new but they have embraced it and many families have enjoyed a trip on Three Shires – if you fancy being trained to skipper the boat or be part of the crew get in touch and offer your services to the Three Shires team

volunteer@granthamcanal.org or if you are interested in booking a trip (30 minutes – 2

hours) visit www.granthamcanal.org and click on boat trips for availability and booking – you could combine it with a nice meal at the Dirty Duck.



Nottingham section – we have been looking for a second home towards Nottingham so we can be visible at that end too, do more fundraising, more rangering, more work parties and engage with more communities – we have identified a base and we hope to be up and running in the Autumn 2021 watch this space for more second depot details!



Membership – we are eternally grateful for the ongoing support of our members – we have 740 members currently – we are always looking for more, you don't have to volunteer to become a member your support is still much appreciated – active membership is a way of demonstrating community support as well as income and it helps in a much broader sense so please do consider becoming a member – membership@granthamcanal.org

Events are back in 2021 - we plan to hold an open day – fun and frolics at Duck Hall (Dirty Duck Woolsthorpe) on Monday 30th August from 10am – our team will be there with cakes, stalls and fun – if you would like to be part of the events team email us and register your interest in events at volunteer@granthamcanal.org



Don't forget to keep up to date with our social media



@granthamcanalsociety



@granthamcanal

Sleaford Navigation Trust & North Kesteven District Council visit locks 14 & 15



Representatives from North Kesteven District Council accompanied by Sleaford Navigation Trust to look at the finished Locks 15 and 14.

They are shortly to embark on a lock refurbishment themselves on their navigation.

The above photo was taken by Tony Osbond, GCS General Manager, who organised the trip and was supported by GCS members Jo Altham and Richard Caunt together with Mark Owen from Canal & River Trust.

Dear Tony

Thanks once again for hosting our visit on Thursday. We really do appreciate your organisation of the morning and I'd be grateful if you would pass on my thanks to Mike Stone as well as to the people we met on the day, Richard, Jo and Mark

The representatives from NKDC were very impressed by the visit and I think it will have a positive effect on the way forward. Sharing good practice and achievement in waterway restoration is by far the best way to get the message over.

All best wishes.

Regards

Chris Hayes

(Chairman)

Sleaford Navigation Trust

My diary from the Isles of Scilly by James Faulconbridge July 2021

It feels like lots of things have reached a conclusion here on the vineyard in the last month – quite a relief as the visitor numbers are increasing and the vines are beginning to demand our attention too!

We completed the Shepherds Hut and all of our guests so far have given it the thumbs up! There are lots of vineyard stays available across the UK, but I think we might be the only one who can also offer bed to beach in under 3 minutes! We are fairly well

booked up now until the end of October but we do have autumn availability so do take a look at our website if you would be interested staying with us!

With able assistance from my parents, during an all-too brief visit to the islands, we bottled all of the 2020 vintage in June – our very first wine since taking on the vineyard just before lockdown last year! We have four different wines blended from the eleven varieties of grape which produced a harvest here last year. These range from our dry white through to our bold red produced from the Rondo grape variety with just a splash of pinot in there too. Bottling is one of the jobs where many hands really do make light work. First the wine is pumped from the vessels where they've been fermenting out through the filter and into a header tank. We then have a series of nozzles which are used to fill the bottles – we call the machine 'Daisy' as it's more like something you'd see in a milking parlour! Bottles are sterilised first, then dried, then filled, then corked immediately to minimise the risk of oxidation. We let them stand for a day, they lay them sideways in the bonded store where they will spend the next year before being available for sale in 2022.

Just as we were finishing the bottling, we heard that the walrus (known as Wally) had hauled up on the north side of St Martin's, just a few minutes walk from the vineyard!

This was just a day or two after he first arrived on the islands and we had to go and pay him a visit – he settled and snoozed comfortably on the rocks for a few hours apparently unconcerned by quite a crowd of people who gathered to see him. It certainly made for a memorable first vintage!



**See 'Devon & Cornwall' Channel 4
Monday 12th July at 8pm when
James' Vineyard will be featured**

“We Haven't Been Doing Much at the Gamston End Lately”

There's been no Local Volunteer group organised Task Days at the Gamston end of the canal for quite some time, actually, since our last Task Day on Saturday 18th January 2020. That's around 19 months ago. That was a very dark and damp day but we managed to clear some of the debris from the canal under Bridge 4 (Radcliffe Road) along with a general clean up of the towpath and the steps down to it from the bridge.



However, that's not to say that nothing has been done at all. Three willing young people who wanted to do some volunteering along the canal, in association with their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Scheme, have been active during dry evenings and weekends painting the steel barrier and the fence at Lock 3. Here's a few photos of them in action. Being outside, safe distance could be maintained without too much trouble.

I'm happy to say that, aided by our Grantham Canal Society (GCS) DofE Coordinator, Heather Ansell, two of them have completed their Volunteering part of their DofE and are now moving onto the next step. The third one still has a couple of hours to complete his time but he should be able to get that done soon. There is a minor glitch there though, we've very nearly run out of preservative for the timber fence. Collectively, they have managed to get through two 5 litre tins of it so far, not to mention how many paint brushes and sheets of sand paper they've worn out.

The Hammerite Smooth direct to rust metal paint and the Cuprinol Ducksback preservative for the fence was kindly provided by the Canal & River Trust (CRT).

Unfortunately, the Cuprinol Ducksback preservative was actually provided for our Local Volunteers to paint the fence around Lock 2 back in September 2019. That day and the following Task Day in November were too damp to apply any preservative as the timber was far too wet. But it was put to good use by the DofE boys.

Where do we go from here? Well, I'm hoping to get some more tins of preservative from our new CRT Volunteer Coordinator so we can continue our work on the Lock 2 fence. He has already lent me two life jackets for the DofE work until the GCS can obtain some more. However, he could need those back at any time.

All of this is a good example of GCS and CRT coordination. We need much more of this “working together ethic” to help speed progress along to reach our goal of restoring our canal to full navigation.

Last week I emailed all of our Local Volunteers with the idea of arranging a Task Day this weekend (Saturday 10th or Sunday 11th July) but the response has been light, more than likely because so many could be on holiday. So I will cancel that one and try again at the end of July.

Ranger Rob



Paddleboarding is coming to the Grantham Canal!

Emma Love of Wotbikini from Redmile will be bringing paddleboarding to the Grantham Canal from July 2021.

Emma is a British Canoeing qualified White Water Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) Coach and Flat-Water SUP Instructor.



Sessions

Start – Introductory (7 yrs +)

Discover – Improving (7 yrs +)

Explore – Paddleboarding and awareness of the environment (14 yrs +)

Social Paddle - (14 yrs +)

Meno-paddling – for women

Maximum of eight participants per session / minimum of two

Must be able to swim 25 meters

Delivery on stretch of water post Lock 18 Woolsthorpe by Belvoir (towards Denton)

START/DISCOVER/EXPLORE are British Canoeing accredited

In July

Delivery of sessions start 21st July Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun Morning sessions (START/DISCOVER)

9.30am on the water x 2hrs

Women Only sessions Thursday/Friday evenings 6.30pm **

**** Meno-Paddling Sessions – For women going through the menopause.**

For more information and to book please visit/contact

www.wotbikinipaddleboarding.co.uk

enquiries@wotbikini.co.uk

When Booking please quote the following codes

Grantham Canal Society Members get a **10% discount** with **WGCSB2021/MF**
or any non-members who book Wotbikini will make a **10% donation** to GCS with **WGCSB2021/NM**

THE WAY IT WAS

By Mike Atherley



This month Mike reminisces on the early days of the Grantham Canal Restoration Society

This photo, taken in 2014, shows Ian Goodson, Fred Marsh and Les Reid at Woolsthorpe, Carpenters Shop Discovery day. All were founder members and HGV vehicle drivers. This was very useful in the early years when heavy equipment needed bring to work sites. Ian was a good work party volunteer and could cope with any type of work, Fred was better known as sign and mile post painter but also was a regular work party attendee. Les was our engineer and also involved with rally's and sponsored walks



These photos , show the bridge 2 at Lady Bay as original and after the first rebuild, all the first hump bridges would be similar until they were rebuilt or flattened. This road junction has been altered on two further occasions.

Bridge 3 is a unique lifting bridge also known as the Meccano bridge. I don't know whether it replaced an earlier swing bridge or carried vehicles but it certainly was evident as you passed along Radcliffe Road. It was sad to see it disappear when road improvements were made.



This photo shows Cropwell Wharf alongside Lock 11 as it was originally. It had a cottage, gardens, stables for tow horses and workshops for maintenance staff. We think the lock could also be used as a partial dry dock to repair damaged barges etc. BWW allowed us the use of the wharf, after all the buildings had been demolished , for our worksite until we moved to Woolsthorpe.

An early worksite showing undergrowth being cleared and burnt.

Can you guess where it is?
The bridge should give it away.



What else is happening within the GCS?



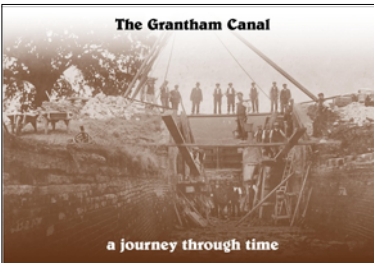
Training is regularly given.
Above John is instructed on cutting with an abrasive hand wheel at Harby along with 5 other volunteers from GCS.



Engineering skills are necessary in order to maintain, and repair, our powered workboats, **Otter**, **Centaury** and **Mudlark**.





The constant task of weed clearing is carried out by **Otter** and her team of operators. **Centaury** patrols the waterway ensuring larger debris is cleared allowing a clear passage for our trip boat, **The Three Shires**, to operate.



Whilst not working on the cut others are producing a history of the Grantham Canal charting events from 1792 to 1969.

#Trending

By *Tony Jackson*

 @granthamcanalsociety
 @granthamcanal

Joanne went in search of pollinators along the canal towpath and wasn't disappointed, posting her pictures on twitter. Her series of pictures included a cute little weevil (I've got a soft spot for 'em) going about its business oblivious of having its picture taken and this Six Spot Burnett Moth.



Over on Facebook, Debbie, captured a picture of Alick, making his way to the summit level to spend the day in one of his fabulous handmade wooden canoes. If you want to treat yourself or simply drool over the craftsmanship: woodencanoes.uk



I don't think the weed on the canal was as much of a challenge as that ridiculous wooden kissing gate at Woolsthorpe, making life interesting, if not impossible for some wishing to gain access to the towpath. We really do need to try and find a solution to this.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN "GIVE AS YOU LIVE" AND DONATE TO THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY BY DOING... NOTHING MUCH? YOU SIMPLY BUY YOUR GOODS THROUGH THE GIVE AS YOU LIVE WEBSITE OR APP AND SIT BACK AND LET GOOD THINGS HAPPEN! A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED THIS WAY FOR THE GCS!



ANOTHER WAY TO HELP IS BY USING AMAZON'S SMILE OPTION: SHOP AT SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK AND AMAZON WILL DONATE 0.5% OF THE PRICE OF ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITABLE ORGANISATION, **AT NO COST TO YOU.**

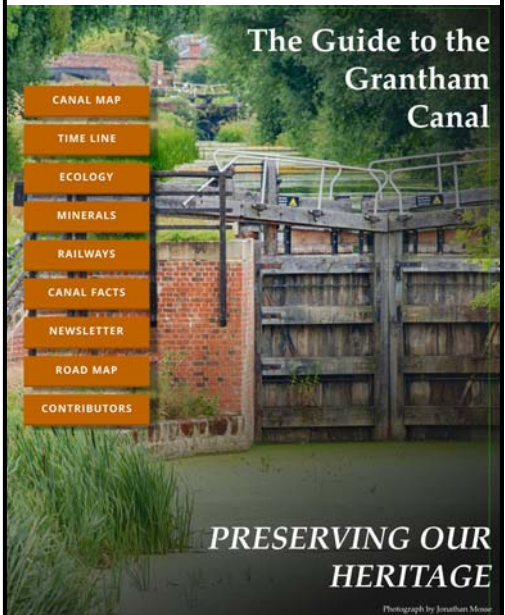
SO WHEN SHOPPING ON LINE, PERHAPS THE GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY COULD BENEFIT A LITTLE TOO...

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR DIFFICULTIES, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

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.

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

SUMMER

The
Grantham Canal
Society

2021

**WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING
NEW MEMBERS**

Mr T P Browne, Mr D Fowler, Mrs D Ball, Mr J Wiczkowski, Mr I F Rumbold
Mr G Watmore, Mrs N Smith, Ms J Morrison, Mr B Morrison, Mr K Gale
Mr D Allsop, Mrs P Weston, Mr M Bell, Ms N Manners, Dr A Gleed
Mr M Mackenzie, Mr A Mayer, Mrs C A Lloyd, Mr G Jowett,
Mr A J Richardson & Mr D J Wills

**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
Society

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

Margaret Leighton, John Sentence
Stephen Pownall, John Clark,
John Dodwell, Tony Osbond
Friends of Charnwood Museum
Tony Binch, Anonymous, Brian Creighton
Jeremy Lee, J N Green,
Crowd funding - Van,
Jo & Tim Altham, Peggy O'Callaghan,
Michael Scorrer, 70@Seventy