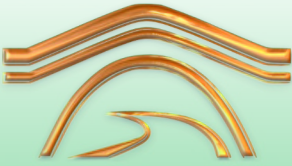


# BRIDGE



The Newsletter of the Grantham Canal Society

## SUMMER 23

### In this issue:

*The long way round?*

*An angler's view*

*The life of a Ranger*

*A new trendsetter ...*



Julie Blyth

*Published quarterly by*

The  
**Grantham Canal**  
Society

RESTORING THE NOTTINGHAM TO GRANTHAM CANAL



**HERITAGE**  
FUND



## CHAIRMAN MIKE STONE WRITES ...

As I write this, May has arrived but it is still a little early to safely 'cast a clout'. If you have sensitive plants perhaps you should keep them in the greenhouse for another week or two. The delightful photographs of the canal appearing on the media demonstrate that the natural world has embraced the recent weather and produced lush vegetation everywhere.

The dedicated GCS operational work parties are still busy repairing various parts of the waterway - nesting birds permitting - and continuing their targeted objectives to restore matters following the recent lock down period. All being well enhancements will be made to the landing stage near the A1 which may be usable again. Some of you may have noticed that exploratory work has taken place at Lock 13 to determine if restoration is within the capabilities of the GCS. As you may have seen the feeder from Knipton Reservoir has received attention from both GCS teams and from Belvoir Castle under whose land much of its length flows.

Thanks are due to all who visited Woolsthorpe Depot on 30th April and enjoyed the enhanced facilities and our catering. The next Depot Open Day will be on 28th May with a further opportunity to enjoy refreshments and to have a cruise on the Three Shires - book early to avoid disappointment!

There is much going on in our active society and like every other volunteer group we would welcome additional supporters. If you could find a little time you could spare in your busy schedule please contact us. The Open Day is a good opportunity to talk with us. If you have an interest in ecology, website design, meeting and talking to visitors, education, engineering design, cake baking, construction, communications, you may be just the person who could help us. Age is no barrier - indeed I suspect today's school pupils have great IT skills to offer!

Please enjoy the 30 miles of canal from Nottingham to Grantham and support the Grantham Canal Society.

### ADVANCE NOTICE - MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

**OPEN  
DAY**

**Sunday 28 May  
Sunday 18 June  
Sunday 27 August**

## FROM THE EDITOR

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My more astute reader (you know who you are) may notice that here in my ivory tower Spring has morphed into Summer, which has got to be a good thing! No?

So because I'm in particularly high spirits due to this seasonal change and also the fact I've escaped to sunnier climes, there will be no nagging about cajoling you to become a member or to join our ever-increasing band of loyal hard-working volunteers. Nevertheless do think about it, you know it makes sense. Hope you enjoy this issue.



Write to me at:  
[bridge@granthamcanal.org](mailto:bridge@granthamcanal.org)  
with your comments, ideas, news, submissions, articles for inclusion, etc.

Brian Cantwell (Editor)

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS**

### OBITUARY

It was with great sadness that we announced the death of Michael Rowen DL (ON 1952-1960 and Former Governor of Nottingham High School 2002-2008) on the 15 March 2023. He died peacefully at home with his family.



Nottingham born & raised, Michael joined Nottingham High School Prep School in 1952 and the Senior School in 1955. He was in Maples' House and during his time at the School was involved in Cricket, Swimming and CCF (Naval Section). He was a keen sportsman enjoying both hockey and golf. He was Patron of Beeston Hockey Club; Captain of the ON Golfing Society (2002 to 2004) and was elected as Life President in 2005, serving for 18 years.

He enjoyed a very successful career in the construction industry, becoming a Director and Chairman of J N Rowen Limited.

Michael was the High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire from 2009-2010 and during his tenure he supported local charity 'Framework'. He was former Chairman of the Nottingham University Samworth Academy, and a former Chairman of The Prince's Trust for Nottinghamshire.

Michael succeeded Tony Wilkinson as Chairman of The Grantham Canal Partnership in 2011.

## THREE SHIRES TRIP BOAT

Liz Bland

We have had an excellent start to the season, and unlike most of last season we are happy to see high levels of water in the canal although there have been a few trips where our crew members have taken a soaking from the relentless downpours experienced on a few trips!

Our short trip days, on which we run eight 30-minute trips, and have sold well this season. We have around three of these days per month, planned for weekends and Bank Holidays, through to the end of September. These trips go from Lock 18 to Bridge 62 – just far enough to give a taste of life on the canal – after which we hope passengers will be encouraged to take one of our longer cruises.

Our two, three and four hour cruises are also proving popular, and so far this season we have raised almost £4,500 through these bookings. The longer trips provide the opportunity to relax and enjoy the tranquility of the canal in addition to spotting wildlife along the way. Passengers are welcome to bring their own refreshments to enjoy as they cruise. A longer cruise is perfect for a birthday party or anniversary celebration with a difference – and the crew often get a slice of cake too!

We are always looking for volunteer crew members and have recently trained 11 new crew members. The training consists of one theory session (held by a Zoom meeting) and half a day practical training on the boat. After this, new crew members can be added to the booking sheet and immediately become working members of the team. If you would like to join us, please email [boatmaster@granthamcanal.org](mailto:boatmaster@granthamcanal.org).



Photo: Jan Dadford



Log on to the GCS page on the Co-op website at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/70006> to nominate GCS as your chosen charity when shopping at a Co-op Food store – you can also nominate us by calling Co-op Customer Services on 0800 0686 727 quoting our reference number 70006. If you are not local to the Bottesford store, it is only possible to choose us over the Internet by using the link above.



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 website [giveasyoulive.com](http://giveasyoulive.com) 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 donate funds via your online shopping is to use [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)



with easyfundraising, you shop, brands donate to us, it won't cost you anything extra!

- 1 Sign up at: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)
- 2 Search for (The Grantham Canal Society)
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to GCS

7,000+ online brands



Get the App ...



## Reading this but not member of The Grantham Canal Society?

Every member we have adds to the likelihood of us gaining grant funding, membership numbers are a great way of demonstrating the amount of our support, so why not join us and help make a difference to our canal and preserve our heritage? Only a small proportion of members are active volunteers, the remainder help us just by being members. It doesn't matter if you live miles (or in some cases continents) away, you will still be supporting our efforts.

The cost is modest, annual subscription rates are:

Single Adult: £20

Family: £30.00 (Family membership covers two adults plus children living at the same address)

Under 16s / Concessions: £15

And, if you would prefer not to have to renew every year: Life Membership: £150

## WORKPARTY & CONSTRUCTION UPDATE *General Manager Tony Osbond*

It has been a busy time operationally for our volunteers carrying out canal maintenance work and construction activities

The Construction Team have now installed a pair of doors in the Workshop to enable larger machinery to enter for maintenance and the mezzanine floor has been extended to cover the whole area creating extra storage space. The electrics are being upgraded in the workshop and the Depot area is now taking shape as a marketing area.



*Open Day at the very tidy-looking Woolsthorpe Depot on 1 May*

Additional floor painting has been applied to the concrete floor throughout to cut down on concrete dust. Jane Grylls and Rosemary Gibson have contributed financially to the purchase of the floor paint and Kevin Weston donated a tin.

Both *Centauri* our maintenance boat and *Three Shires* our trip boat have been hauled out onto the slipway for maintenance with *Centauri* benefitting from the covered area of the slipway for painting of the hull and the internal hold area.

The Knipton Team led by Colin Bryan have carried out a major clearance of the Knipton feeder through the Belvoir Castle Estate. With the help of Antony Haslam, Estates Manager, access to carry out the work was made a lot easier and a trial flow of water from the newly renovated supply system has enhanced the flow of water into the canal especially after leakages from the feeder were exposed. Work continues to complete sections of the feeder that are buried underground.



*Newly-painted floor in the events display area*



*Clearance work on the Knipton feeder showing good results*

Preliminary work is ongoing in respect of preparations towards the enabling works for Lock 13. Neil Truscott who is project managing the scheme; clearance of the offside vegetation has been carried out by Jim Freeman and his team and the brick counterforts (pillars of brickwork that support the lock chamber walls) have been exposed to establish their structural stability. GCS have submitted a proposal document to CRT to enable further discussions to take place so that in the Autumn we can move forward with a package of enabling works which will eventually determine the structural viability at the bottom of the lock chamber. Until the chamber is pumped out and silt removed we cannot be 100% sure of its stability.



Digging commences at Lock 13 – with exposed buttresses seem to be connected to the lock wall ...

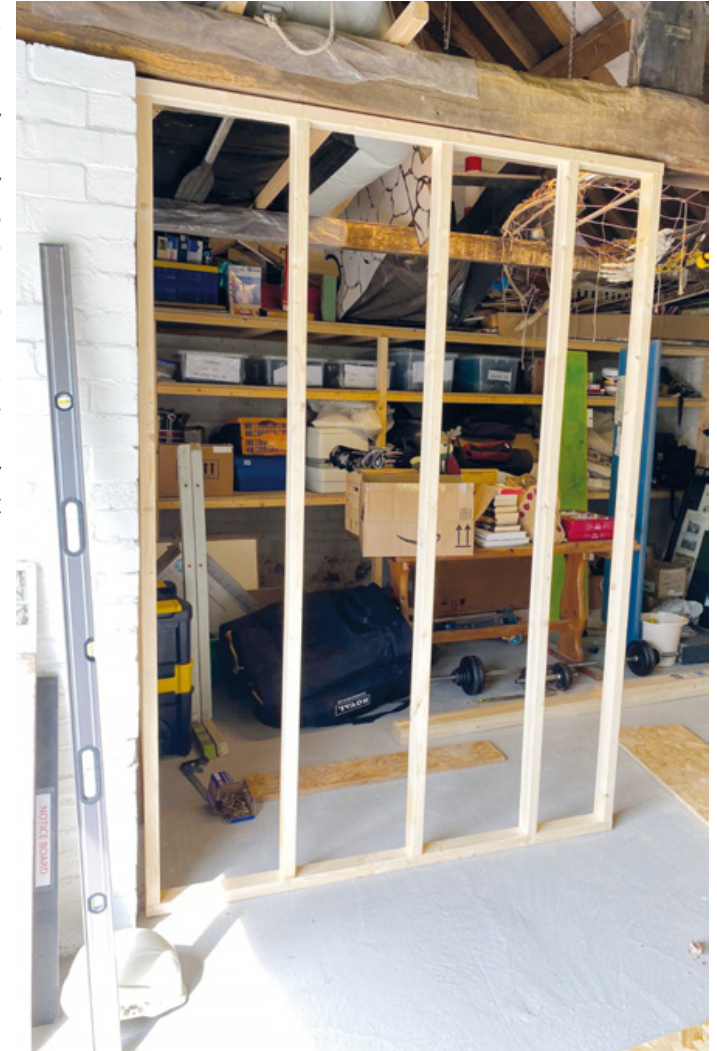
Vegetation clearance has been carried out on Locks 9,10 and 11 to enable CRT engineers to inspect and a further canal bank leak has been dealt with at Culvert 39 in Kinoulton. Work in Lady Bay and the Environment Agency has temporarily halted as we are in the bird nesting season so vegetation clearance is on hold.

We are now looking at the possibility of carrying out a permanent repair to Culvert 45 at Fishponds Cottage a major source of water leakage into a dyke that eventually feeds in the River Smite.

The maintenance teams are now planning repair work to the pontoon at the A1 end of the canal and are also looking to employ *Mudlark* in that area to carry out some silt removal. On-going weed clearance will be carried out during the summer period with weed boat *Otter* so that the paying public when enjoying a trip on *Three Shires* have a pleasant experience of hopefully a weed-free canal.

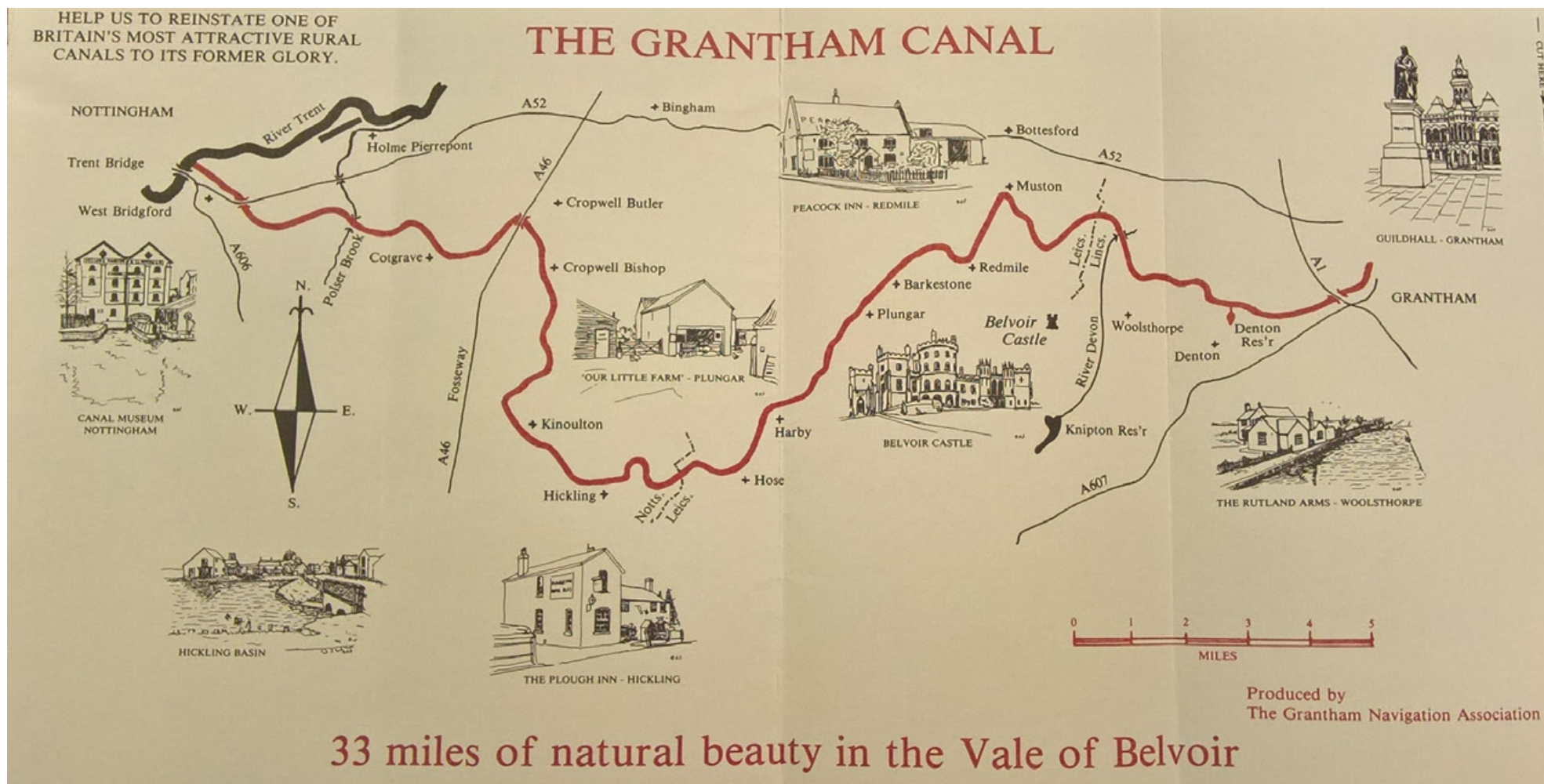
Plans are also being looked at to carry out maintenance to the gates on Locks 18-16. Work to paddle gear and cills will be needed with lock stop planks to be put in place to drain the locks.

So a busy time as always operationally, and going forward always a lot to do. My thanks as always to the Friday, Saturday and Monday crews and indeed the Construction Team for what they do. We have a dedicated team of volunteers that turn up whatever the weather and fortified with Mary Noble's cake get out and do their stuff.



Partition going up in the Depot

## NOTTINGHAM TO GRANTHAM ... the circuitous route



Road, rail and canal tend to travel around the country joined at the hip, each vying for the same piece of our landscape looking for a level route. The M1, West Coast Main Line and Grand Union Canal cosy up to squeeze through the gap in the hills near the village of Watford in Northamptonshire being just one example.

Sometimes the Grantham Canal is mistakenly thought to date from the early years of canal building, when in fact it was built towards the end of the 'Canal Mania' years.

This misconception arises because early canals - those of the James Brindley era - tended to wiggle about all over the place, avoiding the necessity of building large aqueducts, flights of locks and tunnels as much as possible - the engineering of these was still in its infancy; fraught with difficulties - sometimes disastrously so.

Canals of this early modern canal era of the mid 18th Century, are termed 'contour canals'. The design engineer found a contour going his way, adhering to it like a limpet, no matter how it twisted and turned in an attempt to shake him off.

William Jessop, engineer of the Grantham Canal, wasn't a great fan of aqueducts or tunnels, but this wasn't why he designed us a contour canal. So why didn't he follow a straight route between Nottingham and Grantham? Choosing instead to wander around the Vale of Belvoir like a drunken sot, adding another 10 miles to the journey.



A couple things were set in stone: the canal needed to join the River Trent near Nottingham, in order to tap into the canal network leading to the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire coalfields, i.e. the Erewash and Nottingham Canals. It also needed to go to Grantham; the largest market for the coal and the purpose of the exercise.

I'd also suggest, the largest investor in the canal, the Duke of Rutland (more particularly his agent, William King), would have insisted the canal came as close to his castle as possible. Likewise, the Gregories at Harlaxton Manor, also major investors.

If you approach the River Trent at Gunthorpe from the east, you'll go down a steep hill. This cliff edge runs along the river for some miles. Farther south, the river is bordered by the Nottinghamshire Wolds.

Jessop had one option open to him – this was the relative gap in the hills near Cotgrave. Even this entailed a steady climb out of the Trent Valley through 11 locks, reaching the 150 foot contour.

He couldn't then stride off in a straight line to Grantham as he may have wished, because, almost immediately, the landscape drops again - he would have needed another flight of locks and a reservoir with a supply of water and/or a steam driven pump adding immensely to the build and running costs. Canals don't do going up and down through the landscape. Our canal for example runs downhill from Grantham – the majority of the water being fed into the canal at or near the summit at Grantham.

So Jessop hugged this 150 foot contour like his life depended upon it – his professional life probably did. This contour took him south, almost heading back the way he came at one point. At another, it turned northwards, occasionally, remembering its aim in reaching Grantham to the east.

The railway has the advantage of not starting from river level near Radcliffe on Trent; crossing the river on a high viaduct, it then heads for Grantham through a series of cuttings and embankments – before a tunnel was required to access the town. The A52, having taken a parallel course with the railway climbs

Barrowby Hill before descending into the town. Grantham has always been challenging for transport links, its steep hills requiring tunnels and cuttings to gain access to the town.

Spare a thought for Mr. Hodgkinson, surveyor of the canal line towards Grantham - when he reported to the canal company the requirement for a deep cutting at Harlaxton - he was promptly fired! This must have been really annoying for Mr. Hodgkinson - because he was proved to be correct.

This circuitous route of the canal has its advantages, not only does the route pick up twice as many villages; their wharves feeding into the economy of the canal - but this idyllic meander is now seen as part of its attraction. This 20 mile pound also holds a lot more water - useful for helping in supplying the first 11 locks.

All good things come to an end. After this delightful 20 miles following the 150 foot contour, we hit the buffers near Woolsthorpe - where another climb through seven locks was required to raise the canal another 50 feet before plain sailing into Grantham - only it wasn't – as surveyor Hodgkinson had previously reported. A cutting of the depth of that at Harlaxton was a major undertaking in the 18th century. So much so, it was only made one boat wide initially.

*Tony Jackson*



*Harlaxton Manor*

## MARK POYSER – AN ANGLER AND A VOLUNTEER

I have been an angler for over 40 years and the pastime is something that I have always enjoyed. The pastime is called 'Fishing' and not 'catching' and whilst it is great when you do catch, it is not always necessary. Sometimes it is just about being there. I have fished the Grantham Canal since the early 90s after being introduced to it by an old friend. The first place I fished was at Muston between Locks 13 and 12. Aptly known as the 'carp stretch', due to the number of large carp present. We then started to explore further to above Lock 13 to fish the small pound between Locks 14 and 13. This is where my obsession with the place began and I have never looked back. It wasn't just about the fishing, but more about the environment. It just had everything, wildlife, birds, insects even the odd grass snake. But it retained a feel of being untouched. The fishing was also fantastic, but always had an air of the unknown and mystery because you did not know what was beneath the surface.

Over the years I investigated further pounds, such as Muston Meadows, Longore Bridge and the fruit farms area. Redmile was also just fantastic, again another 'escape' with an abundance of nature.



A fine specimen of carp

There are several angling club that lease stretches of the canal: Grantham Anglers Association, Bottesford and District Angling Association and Parkside Angling Club. Nottingham Anglers Association have since ceased their lease after many years of running the Cotgrave to Bassingfield sections.

As a former season ticket holder, I know that Bottesford and District Angling Association are very active on the stretches that they lease. Particularly the 'Half Mile' pound and right down to Muston Bridge. Activities include such as bank vegetation clearance, bank improvements, laying slabs for fishing spots and weed clearance from the canal. They hold regular work parties to undertake such activities and the benefits of these efforts are welcomed by the anglers that fish the waters. The club also work in partnership with the EA to conduct a stocking program of fish into various areas.

Over the years of fishing this fantastic waterway, I have seen the ups and downs. I have seen some of the areas that I used to fish now become 'unfishable' for various reasons such as depleted stocks due to predation, low water levels and sadly alleged reports of fish being taken. Other areas have silted up to within a few inches of the surface. It is really sad to see such a decline.

However, the one positive constant through all the years that I have been sat beside this lovely waterway is the Grantham Canal Society. This seemingly unstoppable and unrelenting team of volunteers have continued to battle to keep the waterway open. Yes, the angling clubs contribute greatly, but without the Grantham Canal Society there would be no Grantham Canal and therefore no angling opportunities. The volunteers seem to see no bounds, with some very talented individuals amongst its ranks from a varied range of backgrounds.

Slowly but surely, the team are progressing towards the goal of getting the whole canal back 'in water' and joined up to the Trent, whilst consistently maintaining what has already been restored.

I recently joined the GCS with my son and have really enjoyed getting stuck into some of the volunteer days of vegetation clearance to support lock inspections for future restoration projects. It is a really good feeling to be able to contribute to such a great charity and cause that will actually benefit my own pastime of angling. I certainly see a positive outlook for the canal, with 'only' two more locks to restore before we hit the long run of canal without any further locks for miles.

As I have already highlighted. Without the GCS, there will be no canal and I believe it would be left to dry up or just be filled in.



## A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GRANTHAM CANAL RANGER

A cold murky winter morning is not exactly the sort of day a Ranger would choose to take a wander along the canal towpath. However, it's time to check that all is OK with the flora, fauna and the various items of ancient technology that keep the water in the canal flowing. With a backpack full of GCS leaflets, camera or smart phone (fully charged), secateurs, poo spray, a bag for any litter found and a drink of water or hot tea, the Ranger sets off.

Of course it's the force of gravity that keeps the water flowing. Along with many other similar waterways, the Grantham Canal is therefore the epitome of sustainability (as long as it rains).

To help maintain the flow of water along the canal throughout the year, water is stored in two reservoirs in the hills on the west side of Grantham. These were purpose-built in the late 1790s at the same time as the canal.

On reaching the canal this morning the Ranger sees a thin crust of ice on the surface and water fowl are walking on it. Further along there's a lock with water flowing over the top of the timber gates. Some of the water fowl have moved here to wallow in this semi frozen area.

There's no boat traffic through the lock this morning. In the distance a faint cold mist still lingers over the frozen surface of the water doing its utmost to prevent the warm rays of the sun passing through. Tall dark leafless trees stand guard over the scene to further filter out even more of the free supply of energy. The Ranger takes a camera out from the backpack and a photograph captures the frigid but beautiful vista. It's necessary to get moving again to generate some internal warmth.

After a short time there's some movement in the distance which stirs the mist slightly. A couple of walkers approach. They are walking another section of the canal which they started early this morning. As they meet the Ranger greets them and a gentle conversation ensues. The hikers mention they had to carefully manoeuvre their way around a fallen tree a little way back. Following further discussion about the canal the Ranger moves on having left the hikers with a couple of leaflets and the undaunted belief that the canal will one day be fully navigable.

On reaching the fallen tree and with the help of other passers by, the Ranger is able to safely move it to create more space between the towpath and the canal. With more photographs taken and the *what3words* location noted the Ranger continues the survey of the canal.

At the next road bridge there's a scattering of litter at the car park. Someone would rather leave their food wrappings and drinks cans for others to dispose of. A litter bin lies only 10 metres away. Wearing gloves, the Ranger gathers the non-recyclable litter and places it in the rubbish bin. The Ranger carries a disposable bag to put litter in but uses a nearby bin where provided. The cans are put into the disposable bag and taken home to be recycled.

The Ranger has now reached the end of the section and it's time to start the return journey. The sun has managed to break through the shroud of mist providing much better visibility. It is now possible to see into the water and a few dog poos are clearly visible now. These are sprayed to highlight for other towpath users to stay clear of this. The hope is that having their laziness highlighted in this way it will deter the careless dog owners from leaving it on the ground. Apparently, all dog owners are now required by law, to carry at least two bags to pick up their dog's mess and if they are found not to have these they can be fined.

On returning home the Ranger can have a well earned rest, refreshment and a warm-through. This isn't the end of the Ranger's work though, it's now necessary to fill in a time sheet. This is a very important part of the Ranger's work. The number of hours spent by all volunteers are a valuable "currency" when dealing with prospective supporters of our organisation. So, the Ranger's time sheet is completed each month and forms a record of all time spent on Ranger and any other volunteer work carried out for the GCS such as helping at GCS organised events, GCS Ranger meetings etc.

The time sheet also contains a report of relevant observations made during the Ranger's survey of the section. These would include water level, quality and any leakage, flora and fauna (including any invasive species) condition of towpath, bridges, gates, benches, culverts, spill weirs, information boards, litter (including fly-tipped), any dog poos sprayed, interaction with the general public and any leaflets handed out or new members signed up. Now that's quite a list but Rangers take it in their stride, or should that be strides.


For items needing more immediate attention, such as the fallen tree, the Ranger will inform the CRT and GCS who can deal with it asap.


In this way the feedback provided by the Rangers helps the CRT and the GCS volunteer Work Teams maintain the canal in as practicable condition as possible. They also contribute to new ideas, some of which may even be really useful – in the fullness of time.


*Ranger Rob, May 2023*

# #Trending

with Nikyla Manners

 @granthamcanalsociety

 @granthamcanal

 @granthamcanalsociety



Spring has sprung, and we have lots of new members of the Grantham Canal family to welcome. Eager-eyed cygnet-spotters have been pacing the canal in anticipation of a glimpse and lately they haven't been disappointed! Thank you to all who have been monitoring the nests and sending updates and photos.

There have also been sightings of an unusual new breed the 'woolly duckies'. They have been spotted up and down the canal,

and are believed to have originated from the tombola stand at the Depot Open day. Please share any photos of any further sightings, we are very keen to monitor them.

We lined the towpath with gold to mark King Charles III's Coronation, and also welcomed lots of you on board the Three Shires, our trip boat. Thank you to all who joined us and shared your experiences on social media; this really helps us to spread the word and is much appreciated. You can find more information on our private (and very fairly priced) boat trips here: [www.tickettailor.com/events/threshires](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/threshires)

New member of the Facebook Community Group, Zoe, took to the canal in her kayak. Whilst enjoying the peace and scenery, she bumped into our very own TJ and was promptly talked into following us on social media and becoming a volunteer! You can of course do the same (with or without the kayak) by emailing [volunteer@granthamcanal.org](mailto:volunteer@granthamcanal.org) We have roles for everyone so why not give it a go?

The hot debate recently has been whether the bluebells springing up along the towpath are of the Spanish or English variety. If you have any expertise (or unqualified opinions like the rest of us), please weigh in!

We are now also on Instagram so follow us @granthamcanalsociety and tag us in your canal posts! We love seeing your photographs and hearing about your experiences.



## THE MIKRON THEATRE RETURNS

We are delighted to announce that after the success of their performance of "Raising Agents" last year, Mikron are coming back to Hickling.

This year they will be performing a brand new play with original songs called "Twitchers" by Poppy Hollman, celebrating all things birds, birders and the RSPB.

*Springwatch* is coming to RSPB Shrikewing nature reserve. As we meet raucous rooks, booming bitterns and plenty of tits, we realise the birds of Shrikewing are its real stars.

Can Jess take inspiration from the RSPB's tenacious female founders and draw on its history of campaigning to save them? Can she find her own voice to raise a rallying cry for nature?

Playwright Poppy Hollman said: "It's a joy to write for Mikron and I'm delighted to be part of their 51st year of touring. 'Twitchers' is about the RSPB, Europe's largest conservation charity, and their struggles to protect birds and wildlife since 1889. The play offers a fun swoop into the colourful world of birds and birdwatching. Our feathered friends are the real stars of the show; you'll see them flirting, bickering and making their own indelible impression on the plot."

Audiences will be flocking to Mikron's 51st season of touring. You'll be able to Nest(le) down with Mikron in this flight through birdwatching history, feathered with birdsong and laughter. You'll be giggling from heron in and you won't 'egret coming!

The performance will be at the Plough Inn, Main Street, Hickling, Melton Mowbray on **6 June at 7pm**.

No tickets are required – a pay what you feel collection will be taken after the show. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Don't miss out!



*Chris Hassall of the Rolle Canal & Northern Devon Waterways Society has written in again – thanks Chris ... I may well expect a submission for every issue now! Ed.*

I note the Chairman's request for increased membership to boost the society's influence with grant-funding bodies.

Having been a life member for some 50 years, I can't help in that respect, but it has inspired me to 'renew' my life membership which I took out when it cost the princely sum of £30. Mind you, at that time I had just bought myself a cottage beside the canal at Redmile for the sum of £1,100 (that's one thousand and one hundred pounds!) Yes, in those days the pound in your pocket was really worth something and I could fill up my Ford van with 'Jet' petrol at the special offer of five gallons for £1.

So I feel I've had my money's worth from the £30 life membership and I'm sending GCS a bank transfer for £150 new life membership which, at age 83, I reckon should see me out !

I look forward to reading about the restoration progress in every edition of BRIDGE and am always impressed at the work achieved. I used to navigate my canoe between Redmile and the A1 so it will be great when Three Shires can do it, without 'portaging'.

I also remember clearing fallen trees in the Harlaxton cutting and working alone with a chain saw from my small boat would be against all the H&S rules these days!

*Rod Heaton* wins the 'wittiest caption award' for:

*The leaf count is up to 1,753,232. Sorry 3, no 4!*

and one of our regular entrants, *Michael Hibbert* a close runner-up with: *Sid ... where's that Hedgehog again??*

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**CAPTION THIS!**

