



Mick's Musings

Is It Me?

This is a phrase that was often repeated by that master of the airwaves, the late Sir Terry Wogan. Now, despite outward appearances and quiet demeanour, it may surprise some of you to learn that as time has gone on, I have turned into a Sir Tel clone, ie, a grumpy old man!

Is it me, or does everyone wait in all day for a tradesman or parcel delivery, only to receive a phone call at 4.55pm saying they cannot make it and can we repeat this farce again tomorrow?

Is it me, or have you bought a four pack of underpants only to get home and discover three are large and one is small? What's all that about? Is this for my think thin days? What's wrong with people?

Is it me, or are you psychic too, so when somebody on the other end of the telephone promises to "ring me back" somehow, I know they are lying? Let's call it a life skill!

Is it me, or have you ever received an online refund for a pair of items that are out of stock and, even before finishing reading the explanatory e-mail, the doorbell rings and **one** of the supposedly out of stock items is delivered? Weird or what? Why is nothing ever straightforward?

So, to finally get to the point of this discussion, or possibly rant (... you decide). Sorry to keep banging on about this, but the new dock build, and the very protracted two-year lead up to it, really brings out my inner grumpy old man! Why, and I repeat, is nothing ever straightforward? The situation at the moment is one of Health and Safety and Political Correctness gone mad! I don't mean to be disrespectful to those who make the rules (honestly), but when you have to get yet another damn crayfish survey and EAs permission before you blow you nose on site well, if we don't get started soon, I'm gonna' explode for sure.

Time to take my medicine and lie down in a dark room ...

Mick

Mick Clowes

Mucky by Name ...

Dave, our Secretary, sent us this photo of Mucky Lane looking down to the station approach road. He says he has a sketchy memory of walking along here (very scary, as he remembers) with his dad to an allotment that he had in the park, just about where the skate park is now. He said that the road surface remained the same for many years after the canal was filled in.

This building was a canal transshipment warehouse and goods were lowered into the boats from the large doorways.



We agree with you Dave ... you can definitely see why it was called Mucky Lane.



Dave also told us that the bridge we featured in last Spring's newsletter (see left) carried Burton Street over the canal.

The Power of Nature

During our refurbishment of the Grove School landing stage, this tree (pictured) came to our attention.



As it has grown, it has completely enveloped the metal railings between it and the river. Extraordinary!!

Donations, Donations, Donations ...

Donation from Richard Barnes Funeral Directors

A few months ago we had a phone call from a lady called Jenny Barnes of the local funeral directors, Richard Barnes, who said she wished to nominate the society for a donation from the Eastern Membership & Community Council of the Central England Co-operative Limited. In January we received the good news from Karen Bevan, Member and Community Relations Officer, that we had been awarded £100.

We would like to convey our thanks, firstly to Jenny, who put our society forward for the award, and to Karen and the Community Council.

At our latest committee meeting, the committee agreed that the money would be spent on much needed equipment for the society.

Tool Appeal

Further to our appeal for tools in the previous newsletter, we have had more donations of equipment from our members. Our thanks go to Melton In Bloom for their kind gift of spades, forks, loppers and rakes. Also, thanks to Jim Evans (IWA Leicestershire Branch) for donating an eclectic mix of equipment, including a pair of ancient studded waterman's boots! We will make much use of everything during our work parties.

Welcome to our Newest Recruits ... Footpath Rangers



Committee member, Paul Dadford, has been busy recruiting new people to be our Footpath Rangers.

They currently number eight, but if you (or a family member, friend, neighbour) thinks they would like to become a Ranger, please contact Paul, e-mail pdadford@yahoo.co.uk.

So, we welcome our Rangers ...

Rod, Lynn, Roy, David A, Hazel, Lorrie, David D and Mike.

Each Ranger is responsible for a short distance of footpath along the route of the Wreake Valley Way that closely follows the route of the old Melton Mowbray Navigation. They will report to Paul if there is anything amiss. The Rangers are currently carrying out a detailed survey of the footpaths. They will also be helping Paul in identifying and preserving some of the original navigation infrastructure.

What could be lovelier than a river walk, which is not only healthy for you, but is good for the soul too!



Stumped!

Last Sunday's work party (8 April). Objective: To clear the new dock site but we have been well and truly stumped by this stump. Even after excavation, cutting through the main roots and putting approx 2 ton on the winch, it was still no go! The shear pin eventually did its job and sheared off, saving damage to the winch block.

Looks like we may have to leave this to the JCB during the main excavations.



Dates For Your Diary ...

SATURDAY 3 AND SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2017


Leicester Riverside Festival. Bede Park, Mile Straight, Western Boulevard & Castle Gardens. This FREE festival is a lively family weekend of activities, including boat trips, live music, displays and many food stalls spread across Bede Park, Mile Straight, Western Boulevard and Castle Gardens.

SATURDAY 23 AND SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018

Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally. This is the 15th Rally & Canal Festival at Braunston Marina in Northamptonshire. There will be over 80 historic boats.

2018 Membership Subscription Renewals

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their memberships this year. A special thank you to those who also donated a little extra along with their subscription.



Just a reminder to those who still owe their subscriptions for 2018. Please send your cheques or, if you have online banking, you can pay by bank transfer.

f lippin' eck, we're now on
facebook

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Welcome to new members ...

Hazel Andrews
David Andrews
Rod Axon
David Davies
Lorraine Forman

Paul Goodman
James Hardwick
Roy Loveday
Lynn Morgan
Mike Patterson