



December 2010

## Grantham Canal News Sheet

This latest issue of the Electronic News Sheet is for **anyone** who would like to be updated on GCS activities and progress. If this is the first issue you have received and you would like future monthly issues, please send an email to: [Membership@granthamcanal.com](mailto:Membership@granthamcanal.com) stating your name, confirming your e-mail address and indicating that you wish to receive the News Sheet. Future copies will not be sent without your permission. You do not have to be a member but please consider joining. Details on the "Contact Us" page on our website: [www.granthamcanal.com](http://www.granthamcanal.com)

**Grantham Canal Partnership (GCP) Chairman:** My thanks to Peter Stone for last months article on Tony Wilkinson and Michael Rowen.



### 1. Workparties

The bad weather has prevented us from moving Centauri over the last few weeks and as you will see from the picture (left) the majority of the large tree that fell into the cut at Harlaxton is still there. We managed to use grappling hooks to drag some of the loose branches onto the bank (far left) with the intention of sawing them up with our 'new' chainsaw but the conditions are too dangerous at the moment. At least there is just room for a boat to pass when the ice has thawed.

NB. Next workparty dates are: 27th & 29th January 2011.

### 2. Photographic Competition.

The answers to October's photographic competition are as follows:

1) Hogweed. 2) Tench. 3) Purple Loosestrife. 4) Filipendula or Meadow Sweet. 5) Flowering Rush. 6) Buff-Tip Moth Caterpillars. 7) Robin's Pin-Cushion. 8) Arrowhead. 9) Hemp-Agrimony. 10) Comma Butterfly 11) Two Gatekeepers [Hedge Brown and Female Common Blue]. 12) Common Fleabane.

The £5 Boots voucher goes to the **ONLY** entrant, **Tony Jackson** who recognised 8 of the subjects correctly. Well done Tony and thank you for taking the time to enter.

Our thanks go to **Derek Bolton** for his generosity in not only providing the photographs but also the prize.



Mike Stone presenting Tony (right) with his voucher

### 3. Who do you know?



I'm sure many of you will recognise the smiling face in the picture (left) as **Alan Herd**, presenter of Narrowboat Afloat, which is presently being shown at odd times on 'Quest' (Freeview TV channel 38). What you probably won't know is that Alan lives in the Vale of Belvoir and has been around the Grantham Canal all his life. I met him quite by accident a few months ago doing his 'proper job' and have got to know him as a good friend. He is just as you see him on television, He's very funny, has a wicked sense of humour but is a very clever and talented craftsman. Look out for more on Alan next month. Ed

Whilst in name dropping mode I understand that the **Duke of Rutland** has asked to receive a regular copy of 'Bridge'.

As I don't have a picture of the Duke you will have to make do with his Castle, which looks as if it has been badly superimposed on another hill but I can assure you was taken by me on the first day of the snow, 27th November 2010



#### **4. Lottery Bid.**

*Whilst we await sufficient funds to replace the top gates on lock 18, plans are in hand to restore locks 14 and 15, further down the Woolsthorpe flight. A bid has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund but of course we have to demonstrate our ability to raise capital in the form of sponsorship. Below is a copy of the Company Sponsorship Proposal sent to me by David Lynham-Brown. If you have any questions, please contact David or Kevin Mann directly.*

Grantham Canal Heritage Lottery Bid

Woolsthorpe Lock Restoration Initiative

#### **Company Sponsorship Proposal**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2010

#### **Background**

The Grantham Canal which meanders through the beautiful Vale of Belvoir is arguably one of the most attractive canals in the East Midlands if not the Country.

Since the early 70's the Grantham Canal Society has had a dedicated team of volunteers who have campaigned for its protection and undertaken a regular programme of volunteer restoration. In the late 1990's additional strength was added to the canal's restoration with the formation of the Grantham Canal Partnership as a strategic body to involve key public bodies.

A milestone was reached this year (Spring 2010) with a 4 mile length of canal between Grantham (to the West of the A1) and Woolsthorpe restored to a full navigable standard. British Waterways have now allowed this length of canal to be managed by the Grantham Canal Society. Restoring this length of canal has been an outstanding achievement, with 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> of silt removed, three new mooring wharves / pontoons constructed and funding secured for purchasing a purpose made trip boat the 'Three Shires' and securing the loan of a steel maintenance boat.

The next challenge is to extend this navigable length of canal through to Leicestershire by restoring the four derelict locks (Locks 12, 13, 14, 15) to the north west of Woolsthorpe. Not only would their restoration enable boats to navigate in Leicestershire for the first time since the canal closed in 1929 but would also open up the opportunity of creating a meaningful navigation through to Redmile. This would create to the west of Grantham a total navigable length of 9.5 miles.

#### **Heritage Lottery Application Proposal**

The Grantham Canal Partnership supported by the Grantham Canal Society has submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to restore locks 14 and 15. The emphasis of the bid is to undertake the lock restoration using volunteers as part of a waterway skill training programme with an emphasis on heritage construction skills. Although we are only applying for funding for the restoration of these two adjoining locks, we are confident that the skills learnt will enable the remaining two locks on this flight and indeed others elsewhere to be restored.

In addition to the restoration of the locks we are also proposing to work with local communities to research and install bespoke interpretation panels along the full 33 miles of the canal.

The overall estimated cost of the proposed works is £535,000. Our application to the HLF is for £319,000, with the remaining £216,000 being secured through other grant funding bodies, gifts in kind and company sponsorship.

We will be submitting our application on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Although it isn't necessary at this stage to have match funding secured, it does help if we can demonstrate, by having some secured, that our targets are achievable.

#### **Sponsorship Proposal**

One of our ways to reach our funding target will be through company sponsorship. We are looking for 8 companies to sponsor each of the 8 lock gates required. The amount we are looking to secure is for a minimum of £10,000 per gate or materials equivalent to that value per gate. Companies who offer sponsorship will have a dedicated plaque fixed to each lock gate. In addition each company will receive local and national publicity as part of the required HLF project publicity.

If you would like any further information do please contact.

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or

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## 5. BW Facts

### Did you know?

- British Waterways looks after 2,200 miles of historic canals and rivers
- Over 13 million adults visit British Waterways' canals and rivers each year
- Half the population of the UK lives within five miles of a British Waterways waterway

### British Waterways' network includes:

- 1,000 wildlife conservation sites
- 60 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 2,756 Listed Buildings – 3rd largest owner in the UK
- 99 Scheduled Monuments

### How many locks, bridges, tunnels...

- 1,650 locks
- 55 tunnels
- 3,095 bridges
- 413 aqueducts
- 97 reservoirs

### Funding in 2008/09 as pence per £1

- Commercial income (excluding boating income) – 38p
- Government – 33p
- Third party – 16p
- Boating – 13p

<http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/home>

## 6. Editors Photo Gallery

A few of my own pictures which I hope you will enjoy. Those on page 4 were taken on the first day of snow in November at Woolsthorpe and Harlaxton. Little did I know we would still be shivering on Christmas day and beyond.



A picture that I'm particularly pleased with, is this one taken from The Three Shires on her maiden trip in April of this year. In over 36 year's of boating this is the first time I have seen a Heron with a fish this size.





It's too late to wish you all a Happy Christmas but best wishes for a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year from all of us at GCS.

Photos : Ian Wakefield unless credited otherwise

*If you spot anything new or unusual on the Grantham, please contact the editor with photos if possible. Any questions and I will try to find answers.*

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