

## GCS News Sheet

This is the second issue of the Society electronic News Sheet for those members who would like to be updated on its activities and progress. This issue is being sent to you with a request that, unless you have already done so, **you reply**, indicating your wish to receive further copies. Future copies will not be sent without your permission.

**Please send your reply to:** [Membership@granthamcanal.com](mailto:Membership@granthamcanal.com) stating your name, confirming your e-mail address and that you wish to receive the News Sheet. This will keep you better informed of society projects.

## Forthcoming Events

**1. As part of National Tree Week**, BW have asked us to participate in tree / hedge planting at Stenwith on **Sat 5th December from 9.00 to 12.00 midday**. A BBC film crew will be there so please come along and help. We need as many volunteers as possible, even if you don't usually attend workparties. Details added to the website as available.

**2. Workparties: Thurs. 10th & Sat 12th Dec** - clearing trees from the bed of the canal at Oddhouse Farm. Please note that there will be no workparties at the end of December. More details on the website or ring Leigh Hood on 01400 281648 (Mob. 07919 888024) or Ian Wakefield on 0115 9892128 (Mob. 07789 383266)

**3. BBC TV:** If you watch *East Midlands Today* on Tuesdays you may have seen reports on local canals. Hopefully, the Grantham Team will be there on **Tuesday 1st December**.



John Holmes and the BBC film crew in action with the workparty team on 24th September at Woolsthorpe.

## Latest News

### **4. Langer Bridge**



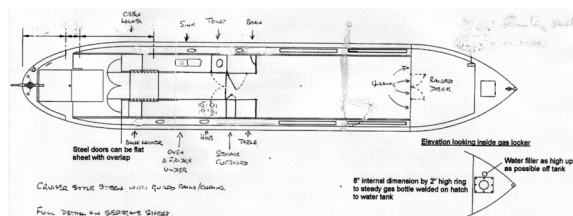
Work continues on the deck replacement on Langer Bridge at Harby. Does anyone know what will happen to the 3 large service pipes?



**5. Lock 18:** The contractors have carried out remedial works during October but some leaks are still occurring. Morrison Construction is being recalled to complete the task.

## 6. Trip Boat Appeal

1. **Trip-boat:** The society has ordered a brand new craft instead of purchasing a 'previously used' boat. If all plans are delivered it should have seating for 12 passengers together with a kitchen area and a toilet. We hope that it will be delivered before next Easter and that we will be able to offer cruises between Woolsthorpe and the A1.
2. **Trip-boat Appeal:** We are most grateful for the support we are receiving and as this newsletter goes out the appeal has reached a magnificent total of **£2,325.00!** Our thanks to all who have donated and a gentle 'nudge' to those who plan to do so but haven't yet done so. We are still short of our target!



**7. Mann's Bridge:** We have a detailed design for both the new bridge and the approach road thanks to a major voluntary contribution by a friendly engineer. We have been trying, unsuccessfully so far, to have a meeting with Chris Mole MP who is the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Transport whom, we are informed, has the ability to vary the terms of reference of the Highways Agency on the A46 project. Time for doing this is fast evaporating due to the speed of construction works. If no reply is received we will be starting a publicity campaign focusing on the failure of the Highways Agency to follow planning guidelines with regard to the canal at Stragglethorpe Road.

**8. NB Centauri:** We will be taking over an old craft that originally was a 70' long Grand Union Canal Carrying Co. 'Star class' motor - Small Woolwich variant - built in 1935. After she was removed from the South Eastern Division carrying fleet she was cut down to 45' long in the 1960's and served as a maintenance boat. The craft is on long-term loan from British Waterways. She is being renovated and will assume the role of a maintenance boat on the Grantham Canal which will enable us to ensure that the length from Woolsthorpe to the A1 is kept in good condition.

## 9. Presentation of Volunteer Recognition Award

On 30th October, British Waterways presented the Grantham Canal Society with the East Midlands Region Volunteer Award for 2009 at the Rutland Alms, Woolsthorpe. This prestigious award is the result of many, many hours of time and effort by the GCS Committee, ordinary members and BW Staff. On behalf of the GCS, our sincere thanks to all involved.



Mike Stone accepts the Volunteers Award from Sean McGinley BW's Waterways Manager for the East Midlands Area (Left)



The Award. (Left).



Representatives from BW and GCS at the presentation. (Right).

**10. Working Party:** Once again the WRG Bit-in-the-Middle Team (BITM) generously gave their time to the Grantham Canal. During the weekend of 21st / 22nd November they were working with our team between Mann's Bridge and Hollygate Lane. The work involved the removal of vegetation, overhanging trees and the construction of wildlife habitats. 9 GCS members signed in, as did 14 of our friends from BITM. Photos in Dec edition.



Denton Bridge under repair at last



Stenwith Bridge looking good once again

Photographs courtesy of Peter Stone, Tony Pitman & Ian Wakefield.