

ISSUE 3



BRIDGE

DECEMBER 2009



GCS News Sheet

This is the third 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 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.

Latest News

1. Mann's Bridge

Battle for Manns Bridge: The fight is on to persuade the Minister of Transport that the time to raise Stragglethorpe Road and install a navigable culvert is **NOW!** The Highways Agency team is sympathetic to our needs but the Minister of Transport is apparently the only person who can authorize the Highways Agency to change their current plans. **Please write** to Lord Adonis or Chris Mole MP and emphasise that to do this work now would be a low cost alternative to reconstructing the road at a later date when the cost will be much greater and so will the traffic flow. We have received significant professional help with this project and wish to record our appreciation to those voluntary contributions to our cause.

Urgent. Please take a look at our website for more detailed information.



Whilst on the subject of Mann's Bridge, our friends from BITM, pictured above, working hard as always on 21/22 Nov, have kindly asked to come back for the weekend of 20/21Feb 2010 to continue their excellent tree clearance work towards Cotgrave. Anyone who is free, please make a note of the date in your new diary when you get it!

2. Langar Bridge at Harby.



Photos taken
on 15th Dec



The new bridge at Harby should be completed shortly by Leicestershire County Council. The existing piers have been renovated and a new concrete platform cast in situ. When boats start using that length of canal the current static this platform will, by adding a hydraulic ram at each corner, convert to a lift-bridge. Have a look at pictures of a similar bridge installed on the Rochelle Canal when that reopened in 2002.

<http://www.penninewaterways.co.uk/rochdale/rc58.htm>

3. NB Centauri We hope to have our restored maintenance craft on the canal in January. It will, of course, depend on the weather as canal water is very prone to freezing. If you wish to help with the maintenance of the canal between Woolsthorpe and the A1 please let us know.

4. Trip Boat We placed an order for a new trip-boat in November. Construction of the steel-work has progressed quickly and it was inspected by the GCS on Monday. If all is well the boat will be moved to the fitting-out site early in January. **Choose the name competition:** - We need an appropriate name for the craft so your ideas would be most welcome. It only costs **£1 per suggestion** so send your preferred name with a £1 to: Chairman, Grantham Canal Society, 7 Crow Park Drive, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5AS. You can put forward as many names as you wish as long as you include a pound for each one. There will be a very special prize for the individual whose name is selected by the committee.

Your response to our appeal for funds to ensure that all the costs of the trip-boat are covered has been terrific. A very big **Thank You** from us all. So far you have contributed over **£2,500!**

5. National Tree Week On 5th Dec a group of 10 members, with Jenny Histed from BW spent a crisp but sunny morning planting trees, which is exactly the opposite of what we normally do. It was all part of National Tree Week and Bw had asked us to do our bit and plant 100 whips between 11.00am and 12 midday. We had originally been told that a BBC Camera team would attend but we arrived knowing that was a non starter. It was quite surprised however when an outside broadcast van, complete with satellite dish, arrived and before long both Leigh and Jenny were deep in conversation with the reporter from BBC Radio Lincolnshire. As a practice run, we dug 100 holes and then decided they were in the wrong place so we dug another 100 and had planted all the trees in about 30 minutes. Hardly surprising as it worked out at less than 10 each. Thanks to all who attended, including some very welcome new faces.



6. Quiz Night. A Quiz Night at Harlaxton at the end of November raised over £400 towards phase two of the restoration of Harlaxton Wharf. We are most appreciative of those who donated raffle prizes and helped organise the evening and of the seventy, or so, participants whose 'little grey cells' had to work overtime!

7. British Waterways to become a mutual

Sunday, 06 December 2009. The shock news given by Liam Byrne, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in an interview, has confirmed that the status of British Waterways will be changed to a mutual. He outlined a five-point plan to be unveiled that includes the information that BW will lose its present status, and become a mutual—a complete re-organisation into a 'third sector' kind of trust.

The full article can be found on the Narrowboat World website: www.narrowboatworld.com

8. Workparty Dates Next workparty dates are Thurs 28th and Sat 30th Jan 2010. We have plenty of material cut and ready to burn plus about another 150 metres of 'forest' to clear at Oddhouse Farm. The canal there has about 200mm of water in it, so lighting fires takes a skill that we have not yet mastered! We may pull in an extra day or two after the festivities if the weather is kind to us. Please keep an eye on the website.

Pictures below - good progress at Owthorpe over 2 days with a workparty of 6. Only another 130 metres of forest left!



Photos: Thanks to Kevin Driver, Martin Day & Ian Wakefield

After many years of restrictions the society is moving forward at an almost breathtaking pace. If you wish to get involved please get in touch with Mike Stone and he will point you in the right direction. There are exciting times ahead!

Christmas Greetings to everyone from the Committee and thank you all so much for all your valuable help and support.