

ISSUE 4

# BRIDGE

JANUARY 2010



## GCS News Sheet

This issue of the Society Electronic News Sheet is for anyone who would like to be kept updated on the activities and progress towards restoration of the Grantham Canal. 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. Thank you.

## **Latest News**

**1. Battle for Mann's Bridge:** We would like to thank very many supporters from throughout the country for their support and assistance. So far we have not achieved a meeting with the Under Secretary of State for Transport. It has not been through lack of effort! He, or his boss Lord Adonis, are, we are repeatedly told, the only persons who can authorise any change in the A46 plans! We now have a design for a bridge and the associated road works which has been agreed in principle by Notts. County Council, Scott Wilson (the designers of the A46 scheme) and the society engineer. A Supplementary Inquiry concerning various areas within the A46 scheme is being held at Cotgrave, week commencing 11th January. It has allowed us to put our case before the Inspector.

## **\*Update\***

Peter Stone, Honorary Secretary of The Grantham Canal Partnership was allowed to present our case for nearly two hours to the Inspector, Mr William Wadrup, a Civil Engineer by profession, on Thursday 14th January.

Peter was supported by fellow speakers:- Phil Walker, Associate Director of Civil Engineering & Highways at OPUS, Consulting Engineers, Cllr. Neil Clarke, Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council and Tony Harvey, Head of Regeneration, British Waterways Midlands.

Also in the hall were a team from the Highways Agency (whose representation is led by Geoff Bethel, Project Leader, Major Projects National - the HA person responsible for the whole of the A46 programme), their legal team and Scott Wilson, the designers of the A46 Improvement scheme. They were not required to speak at this meeting but a site visit is scheduled for Tuesday 9th February and we will then be cross-examined on Thursday 11th or Friday 12th February.

Thanks to everyone for supporting our cause. We have received many letters and phone calls and about 30 people attended the hearing by the Planning Inspector even though it had to be postponed by six hours.

## **MANN'S BRIDGE PUBLICITY PHOTOSHOOT SAT 23 JAN**

We need as many GCS volunteers as possible for a short period 0920 - 1000 on Sat 23 Jan at Mann's Bridge, Stragglethorpe Road just off the A46. A photoshoot is being organised to publicise the possible plight of the bridge over the canal - Mann's Bridge - as a result of the A46 dualling work. We hope to carry the pictures and story to both the local press and National dailies. We need lots of volunteers in the picture, and we are sure that your time will not be wasted. Thanking you in anticipation.

**GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY**

**!!!PLEASE HELP!!!**

**SUPPORT REBUILDING  
J MANN'S BRIDGE [16]**

**BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE**

**CONTACT  
[www.granthamcanal.com](http://www.granthamcanal.com)**

**!!!URGENT!!!**

**2. The Trip-boat:** All the steelwork was completed last month and the craft was moved onto the Oxford Canal on 4<sup>th</sup> January. It now needs towing the four miles to the fitting out berth but unfortunately the canal is frozen solid. No surprise there then! We have been most fortunate and received significant sponsorship to pay for the boat. In addition to the appeal which has raised a [fantastic £2,735](#). We have received a sum in excess of £11,000 from Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership and a similar personal donation from Tony Wilkinson, Chairman of the Grantham Canal Partnership. We are most grateful for their generous funding of this project.

**3. The Work-boat:** Thanks to the efforts of the Grantham Canal Partnership and British Waterways we were able to receive a redundant work-boat from BW. This has been renovated in the Vale of Belvoir and is almost ready to be 'launched' onto the canal. Only a few matters require attention including the final coat of paint. This latter item will have to await the return of better weather before it can be completed. The craft will be used to help improve the canal between Lock 18 and the A1 and particularly remove foliage and branches that have fallen from the off-side bank. If you wish to assist with this work please use the contact on our website [www.granthamcanal.com](http://www.granthamcanal.com). We are looking to build a team to maintain this length of canal in good condition throughout the coming years.

**5. Working Party:** The next working party dates are: Thu 28th & Fri 30th Jan. Meeting at 9am at Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall car park, on the left as you enter the village from the traffic lights on the A46. The dates for **next** month are a complete weekend, the 20/21 Feb, working with WRG Bitm group to continue their tree clearance work from Mann's Bridge towards Cotgrave. Anyone who is free, please make a note of the date in your new diary! Details on the website or ring Leigh Hood on 01400 281 648 (Mob. 07919 888 024) or Ian Wakefield on 0115 989 2128 (Mob. 07789 383 266).



Sorry, no pictures of snow, this month! Just a period view from Hoe Hill, approaching Cropwell Bishop.  
Thanks to everyone for their support and belated Happy New Year.