

Special Edition  
28th April 2010

# BRIDGE

## The Three Shires



### Grantham Canal News Sheet

This special 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 one 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: [GranthamCanal.com](http://GranthamCanal.com)

## The Three Shires is here!

The first trip on the Grantham Canal with invited guests



Photo taken at Casthorpe Bridge by Mike Hallett

She arrived on schedule just before 1pm on Wednesday 28th April 2010 and after a delay whilst the correct length slings were obtained for the crane, The Three Shires was gently lowered into the Grantham Canal for the first time.

Centauri was there, along with our guests, visitors, radio reporter and TV cameraman and so, after removal of the protective window shutters and other gear that had been stowed inside for the journey north by road, invited guests boarded for the first trip from Denton to Woolsthorpe.

The launch featured on the East Midlands News before some of us had even left Woolsthorpe for our journey home!

Behind the Scenes - before the launch.



Mike Oliver & your Editor take The Three Shires & Dreamchaser from Lower Heyford to Enslow on the Oxford Canal.



With thanks to David, of Oxfordshire Narrowboat's, your Editor was allowed to sleep overnight on one of their superb hire boats. Not known for rising early but arriving before the allotted time slot, I found our boat had already been lifted onto the lorry. I was not the only one to be caught out! Our driver had arrived last and much to his surprise was loaded first. The picture, above right, shows the dayboat, Dreamchaser, which I had brought down from Lower Heyford, with The Three Shires the previous day, being lifted over the lorries en route to its new home.



Richard skilfully backs down the lane to Denton Slipway. Allsops crane arrives and The Three Shires is airborne again for the second time that day. The boat was launched in January so was quite "green" below the water line.



Most of our Guests and Visitors are watching the boat!

Now GCS has not one, but two boats on The Grantham Canal

Chairman, Mike Stone receives a generous donation from Brian White of Nottm. & Derby Branch IWA



Our special guests enjoying their trip.

Can we turn the radiator off in here please? (So we know the heating works!)

Centauri making room, and getting stuck in the silt!

Pictures courtesy of Peter Stone, Colin Bryan and Ian Wakefield.

The Grantham Canal Society is indebted to everyone who made the purchase of The Three Shires possible. In particular, our thanks to Lincolnshire County Council and Tony Wilkinson. Congratulations to Derek Bolton, who suggested the name, "The Three Shires".

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

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