

# BRIDGE

June 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: [GranthamCanal.com](http://GranthamCanal.com)

### 1. Battle for Mann's Bridge:

Nothing new to report at present but please continue to lobby your MP to keep reminding them of the situation.

### 2 The Trip-boat:



There have been at least 7 member's trips on the [The Three Shires](#) in little over a week. The response has been very positive and by all accounts everyone, including the various skippers and crew have enjoyed the experience. (Don't think our Chairman enjoyed his encounter with a cow pat in the dark though!) Progress between Casthorpe and Denton was slow because of the large amount of blanket weed that wrapped itself around the propeller but a quick burst in reverse usually cleared it. This weed is always a nuisance at this time of year but soon dies off and sinks to the bottom.

The success of these trips and enquiries that we have received mean that we need more skippers and crew for [The Three Shires](#). If you wish to offer your services please contact Michael Oliver by email [secretary@granthamcanal.com](mailto:secretary@granthamcanal.com) or ring him on 01623 814348

Our website now has a page which shows the dates [The Three Shires](#) is available for bookings. Just go to [www.granthamcanal.com/boattrips/availability](http://www.granthamcanal.com/boattrips/availability).

If you missed the launch and first trip of [The Three Shires](#) on the 28th April, a professionally produced 14 minute DVD is available for a donation towards new lifejackets for the skipper and crew. Please contact the editor.

### 3. Workparties



**Centauri** is now looking really good with a new top coat of paint and some of the windows have now been fitted although they are hidden behind protective screens. There is still plenty of work to be done on the canal edges, some only accessible from the boat. The other project was to take the aluminium workboat to the A1 end of the canal to survey the depth of water where the trip boat will turn. This has now been done so we can plan the necessary work.

### 4. Harlaxton Wharf

The official opening of the Restored Harlaxton Wharf by Tony Wilkinson will be at 11.45 on Sunday 4th July 2010. There will be Boat Trips and a free BBQ. (Enter NG32 1AE in your Sat Nav) The restoration was made possible by a Grant from the Community Spaces Programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund and WREN. Do come along and join in the fun. More details from Peter Hawkins [p.jhawks@talktalk.net](mailto:p.jhawks@talktalk.net).



Harlaxton Wharf around 1990

see over for further details



Harlaxton Wharf 2010

## 5. GCS at the Shows and Events

Lots of visitors and plenty of interest at the shows. Sincere thanks to Rosemary and Tony and all the crew who have helped on the stand at the various locations. It is always surprising that some people remember so much about the canal from their youth. The recurring theme is skating on the ice, often into Nottingham from the surrounding villages.



GCS stand at  
Belvoir Steam  
Festival  
22nd/23rd May

## 6. Support the Grantham Canal Rangers

The Grantham Canal Society has been awarded a £10,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish a team of twenty Grantham Canal Rangers, an initiative supported by British Waterways in their new-found enthusiasm for working with volunteers and local communities. The GCCLG (Grantham Canal Community Liaison Group) and the six local authorities are all actively supportive.

Our objective is to engage with the wider canal corridor community, people who are interested in the canal but not necessarily in 'hands on' physical restoration and maintenance work as currently undertaken by the existing Grantham Canal Society.

The kind of activities the wardens would be involved in include:

1. Scheduled patrols of each section of canal, checking state and condition
2. Reporting concerns and issues to BW and GC maintenance teams
3. Dissemination of information to towpath users and local community
4. Recruitment of new/ active members to the GCS
5. Fund raising - for sustainability of the Wardens initiative and other canal activity
6. Litter picking, incidental repairs and maintenance
7. Educational - schools and youth clubs close to the canal will be encouraged to visit under the close supervision of their carers/ responsible adults
8. Co-organisation and support of canalside events with the local communities and to draw visitors into the canal corridor

The Grantham Canal Society, under whose auspices the Canal Rangers will operate, will assist with training the volunteers, as will British Waterways. They will specifically provide training in Risk Assessment, First Aid and water safety. Training by all parties will be provided to British Waterways' standards and approval.

Local, village-based workshops, talks and guided walks will be undertaken to raise people's awareness of the canal's historical, conservation and recreational value.

We already have eight volunteers and please publicise this initiative to others, asking them to contact David Lyneham-Brown on 07970 858458 or email at [david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.com](mailto:david.lyneham-brown@granthamcanal.com)

## 7. Plea from the Chairman

The society requires a volunteer to take over the role of **Hon. Treasurer** as Jim Barker has signified his wish to hand over to a younger person. The post requires the holder to have some financial expertise, an orderly mind used to dealing with figures, honesty and to be computer literate. Please contact the Chairman if you have any questions or wish to be considered.

*David T Bellamy kindly sent me the following email*

"Yesterday was such a beautiful day that my wife and I walked another section of the Grantham Canal. At about 150 meters on the Grantham side where your two boats are moored at Woolsthorpe, I saw something in the water swimming that I cannot identify?

It had a shell size of about 8- 9 inches in length. The shell was a uniform brownie/ grey colour. I did not see any stripes on it's back. You would have thought that it was a tortoise swimming and diving in the water? I thought a Terrapin was yellowish and black stripes? It appeared quite contented swimming near your boats location, then dived out of sight?

Any ideas or thoughts about what it really was that I saw, I'm just curious."

*Ed. I asked John Moulsher who's farm land runs down to the canal and he confirmed that he had also seen what is probably a Terrapin and that it had been in the area for a couple of years. Apparently they were once native to the UK but can again be found in the wild, having been bought as pets and then released from captivity. Some are grey in colour and are not the more colourful red-eared variety that most of us expect. Well spotted David and thank you for letting us know. Now, where is the camera?*

*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.*

The editor can be contacted at: [ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.com](mailto:ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.com)

## PHOTO GALLERY



Langar Bridge at Harby clearly showing the split section for lifting.

Photo from Tony Pitman

Pictures (right & below) taken at various locations on the Grantham Canal by David Bolton.



*Thanks to Phil Reesby for forwarding David's superb pictures.*

(Above) The cleverly merged picture from David is of water horsetail as seen in April and (on the right) a month later.

