

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 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: www.granthamcanal.com

1. The A46 Road Improvements

Battle for Mann's Bridge

In view of the importance to our future plans of Bridge 16, supporters of the Partnership and Society felt it worthwhile to seek legal advice as to whether the Minister's ruling could realistically be challenged and/or whether some compensation could be gained for the significant increase in Canal restoration costs that will result directly from the HA's work. Counsel's opinion is that this would not be worthwhile and we are now focusing our attention on the alternative bridge options open to us. Watch this space



An interesting view from the original Fosse Bridge (no.18) looking west, towards Nottingham. The 'cylinders' have been cast in recent weeks as foundations for the new Bridge, 17a. Hollow piles were driven into the ground and then filled with concrete.

Photo: Colin Bryan

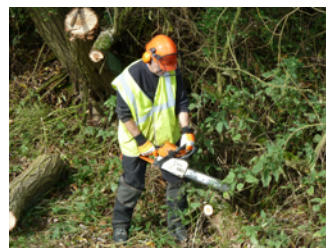
2. The Trip-boat:

It has been an excellent summer with over 50 cruises run. Eleven trips were made in September and we already have bookings for more during the autumn. Please telephone **01949 850 999** to book.

3. Workparties



Our sincere thanks go to Mr B Jefferies of Wartnaby who, on hearing that Ian Goodson had obtained his chainsaw certificate recently, donated this almost new McCulloch chainsaw to GCS.



Ian demonstrating his new found skills.

BITM were back with us at Mann's Bridge, Cotgrave for a working weekend, removing trees and undergrowth on 16th and 17th October. Removing some of the huge tree stumps took some extreme winching power whilst the advance guard, made up of six GCS members on the Saturday and four on the Sunday, ploughed into the rather lighter trees and branches that were overhanging the towpath. Two ladies from Bitm kept the bonfires going and we all felt very pleased with the progress made. Normally we have just one chainsaw on site but this time we had three so all the cut branches were of a manageable size. As most of us 'are getting on a bit' we needed the extra help! If you stand at Mann's Bridge you will see that we are nearly at the end of the long straight. The next stage becomes a bit soggy so we may have to think about using the aluminium boat. Sincere thanks to Tony, Barbara and the team for all their hard work and to Peter Gadd, for once again allowing us the use of his farm track as a car park.



Bitm doing what they do best on a really beautiful October morning.



Everybody has to rest sometime!



Time for a bit of discussion!

Workparties - continued

Bob Terry, Ralph Poore and Yours Truly attended 2 x 1 day training courses on power hedgecutters and strimmers at the end of September. These courses were run by BW and involved no cost to GCS. It was a very interesting and rewarding experience and we all learnt a lot. The courses were held at Hazleford Lock which is normally only accessible to river users and is a haven of tranquility. Well it was, until we got there! We did our bit to tidy the bushes with power hedgecutters on the lock top as part of our assesment and hopefully mine will have recovered and grown straighter by the next time I see it! The strimming course was equally good and amongst other things we now know why it is not a good idea to wear a mesh face mask when using this piece of kit. The answer has something to do with dogs but I won't go into details as you may be eating your dinner whilst reading this!! Our sincere thanks to BW's Simon Gent for inviting us to attend the courses, to BW employees John Cottingham and Steve Collyer who, although they were also on the hedgecutter course, really helped to look after us, the lockkeeper, James Warner who, amongst other things, gave up his canteen for us and last but not least Denis Gartmel, our brilliant instructor for the two days. He put so much fun, effort and enthusiasm into the course, a job he obviously enjoys very much. It's a pity he doesn't live nearer for he would be press ganged onto our workparties.



Bob and Ralph enjoying themselves in the rain.



Denis assessing his pupils!



4. Towpaths. Lots of people have commented on the narrowness of the towpath in places because of the infrequent cutting of the grass. As this work is contracted out by BW, it appears to be a deliberate policy to keep costs down.



Bob Terry took this picture of the towpath, looking almost tidy, between Plungar and Harby in mid September. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to see the water's edge though?

A mystery solved! In the July issue of Bridge I showed a picture of an object pulled out of the canal at Harlaxton. Well, after a bit of 'digging', if you will excuse the pun, I can show you exactly what it is. But, you will have to wait until next month! Ed.

5. COMPETITION. **Derek Bolton** has very kindly sponsored a competition to identify correctly, the subjects in his 12 photographs on the last two pages of this issue of 'Bridge'. **The winner will receive a £5 Boots Gift Voucher.** Entry details can be found at the bottom of page 4. Closing date is 30th November 2010.

6. BW. It looks as though British Waterways is about to achieve Charitable Status in the latest round of Government changes. BW seems to be very pleased with this news and initial reaction can be found on their website <http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/twentytwenty/> which includes a link to a letter from their Chairman, Tony Hales.

7. From the Chairman.

Active volunteers required: As we are moving into autumn and winter this is the time when the society can tackle vegetation control. We have to manage growth to prevent the canal being overgrown by bushes and trees. If you would enjoy this type of work please contact Leigh Hood on 01400 281648 or Ian Wakefield on 0115 9892128 for details. Come on! Get out into the fresh air and work off a few calories. Everyone is welcome but you do have to be a member of GCS OR IWA for insurance purposes. **Next workparty dates are 25th & 27th November 2010.**

Top gates for Lock 18: As many of you will have seen, the top gates of Lock 18 are deteriorating rapidly. We need to purchase new gates if we are to return the lock to working order. Quotations have been obtained and a target of **£20,000** should permit us to buy and install a new pair. We will be launching an appeal but if you wish to start the fund with a donation that will be most welcome. Please send it to: The Lock Gate Appeal c/o 31 Westgate, Southwell NG25 0JN



Photo: Mike Stone

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held at Cropwell Bishop Methodist Church Hall, Nottingham Road, Cropwell Bishop. NG12 3BP (opposite the white painted Creamery building) at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 10th November.

Photos : Ian Wakefield unless credited otherwise

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

SUMMER ALONG THE CANAL

IDENTIFY THE FLOWER / INSECT / FISH ETC. IN THE CENTRE OF EACH OF THE 12 PICTURES CORRECTLY TO HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING A £5 BOOTS GIFT TOKEN.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

Please enter the competition by sending the editor an email listing the photographs, 1 to 12, with their correct name. A telephone number would help, should you win! Please put **Bridge Competition** in the Subject box of your email.

If you prefer to post your entry, please list the photographs 1 to 12 on a piece of paper, with their correct name and don't forget to include your name and address. Again, a telephone number would help.

Send to: **Bridge Competition, 23 Brownhill Close, Cropwell Bishop, Nottingham. NG12 3DN**

The closing date for all entries will be the 30th November 2010 and the draw will take place the following day. The name of the winner (hopefully) will be announced in the December issue of 'Bridge'.

Good Luck!