



### 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: [www.granthamcanal.com](http://www.granthamcanal.com)

### 1. Apologies

In my rush to complete last month's issue I left out the acknowledgement for the article about Red Diesel on page 2.

Those of you that look at the excellent website called [www.narrowboatworld.org](http://www.narrowboatworld.org) will realise where the article came from. My apologies to narrowboatworld Editor, Tom Crossley and Pam Picket who wrote the article. Tom has generously allowed me to post a link to Pam's update concerning red diesel.

### 2. The Trip-boat:

The engineer from Oxfordshire Narrowboats has made a further visit to fit modifications to **Three Shires** but unfortunately was still unable to complete the work so will be returning shortly. We already have trips booked for April and the workparty have been doing an excellent job in their efforts to prepare and tidy the top length of the Canal for the 2011 season. If you are interested in Skipper and Crew training, please email Mike Oliver - michaeloliver31@aol.com or if you prefer please ring him on 0163 681 4348.

Please telephone **01949 850 999** to book trips.

### 3. Inland Waterways Association's National Festival 2011

Many of you will know this years IWA Festival is once again at Burton -on-Trent from 29th - 31st July.

[http://www.waterways.org.uk/events\\_festivals/national\\_festival/home](http://www.waterways.org.uk/events_festivals/national_festival/home)

GCS hope to have our stand there but that is dependent on sufficient volunteers to help out over the 3 days. If you have some free time and would like to come along you would be more than welcome. Please contact Rosemary (see item 7)

### 4. Workparties

Our new Power Pole Pruner has helped us to make real progress in our tidy up campaign. After the prolonged spell of bad weather stopped us working, we began to think the bird nesting season would be upon us before we could do anything about removing the small trees growing at the water's edge alongside the towpath. However a beautiful spring like day on the on 24th Feb. drew out the troops. We are making excellent progress. It's amazing how a machine can make such a difference. Lying on your stomach, with you nose almost in the water whilst surrounded by the sweet aroma of dog poo, as you try to cut an un-cooperative branch with a bow saw, is not our idea of fun anymore. Standing on the towpath with a piece of gently vibrating machinery is much better for us oldies. (you thought it, not me!)

The large tree that had fallen across the canal at Harlaxton has been removed as has the second one that fell, near Vincent's Bridge, during the recent high winds. Again, being able to use the society's chainsaw and polesaw has made these jobs achievable at very little cost to ourselves and at **NO COST to BW.**

NB. Next official workparty dates are Thursday 24th and Saturday 26th March, plus a few odd dates in between, weather permitting, then Thurs 28th Apr & Sat 30th Apr. 2011. If you are interested in helping, please give the Editor a ring or send an email and if you wish I will put you on the workparty emailing list. If you have previously contacted Leigh Hood or myself and had no response please contact me and not Leigh, because as you may know, from last month's 'Bridge', he has other priorities, so please don't contact him on GCS workparty matters. Stop press: Thurs 10th March - workparty using the workboat to clear debris. Ring or email Ian for details



Clearing the 1st tree for the Canoes



Removal of the 2nd fallen tree



Ralph with the polesaw

## 5. Chairman's observations

I attach a fact sheet showing comparisons between National Trust, RSPB and British Waterways income sources and a few other facts

BW, in their quest to become a charity, have made comparisons with NT and specifically state that as a charity they will open new funding streams – legacies, grants, etc..

This is correct but BW only paints one half of the picture.

Both NT and RSPB (and other like bodies) are membership organisations of long standing. Both have invested heavily in individual supporter contact over many years and have gained the trust of their members. Members feel they have, and to a certain extent are correct, a say, in the policies and running of the charity.

For BW to achieve their aspirations they will need to invest in fund-raising teams and develop a marketing structure that focuses on individuals. Nowhere has this been mentioned in their plans to date.

To receive significant legacy income BW management will need work hard to gain the confidence of their supporters and 'value' individuals.

Unlike NT or RSPB where access is free only to members (everyone else pays) currently BW properties are open to all. It may prove difficult to encourage benefactors that any gifts will be used appropriately within, what is perceived to be, a national asset – charity or not – unless BW establish close supporter links. Under the current structure (and management) this may be hard to achieve.

The BW's negative attitude to volunteers is slowly changing, at least publically, but management appear unable to recognise that the skills volunteers bring can fulfil a complete cross-section of an organisation structure and are not just limited to low-level litter-pickers. Furthermore BW must not be permitted to use its authority to reduce the role of voluntary society activity in order to strengthen its own volunteer base.

I hope this helps your understanding of the problems facing a change of this magnitude.

Sources: Annual Reports of each organisation.

### Charity Data – A Few Facts from Annual Reports

#### 1. Engagement with Volunteers:

a.	National Trust volunteers	55,000	Employees 4,964 – 11 volunteers per employee
b.	RSPB volunteers	14,900	Employees 1,967 – 7.5 volunteers per employee
c.	BW volunteers	0	Employees 1,898

#### 2. Income sources:

a.	Membership:		
	i. National Trust	£125.2m	30.8% of total income
	ii. RSPB	£37.0m	30% of total income
	iii. BW	£0	
b.	Legacies:		
	i. National Trust	£50.3m	12.4% of total income
	ii. RSPB	£27.9m	22.9% of total income
	iii. BW	£0	
c.	Grants, etc.:		
	i. National Trust	£24.4m	6% of total income
	ii. RSPB	£31.8m	26% of total income
	iii. BW (Third Pty funds)	£15.9m	8% of total income
d.	Trading:		
	i. National Trust	£54.7m	13.5% of total income
	ii. RSPB	£19.6m	16% of total income
	iii. BW (boats, ret, water)	£32.7m	16.6% of total income

#### Total income (all sources):

iv. National Trust	£406.1m
v. RSPB	£121.9m
vi. British Waterways	£196.8m

#### 3. Membership numbers:

- a. National Trust 3.7 million
- b. RSPB 1.1 million - but 2.5 million identifiable supporters
- c. Membership delivers about **£33.75** per member per year for both charities
- d. RSPB attributes almost **70%** of total income to individuals

**BUT** - Members enjoy benefit of free access – everyone else pays entry charges

#### 4. Membership Communication & Fund Raising:

- a. National Trust – employee numbers not known; costs exceed £50m
- b. RSPB – over 150 full-time staff; costs exceed £10m

## 6. Volunteer Vacancies - Grantham Canal Partnership

The GCP is the 'umbrella' organisation responsible for promoting and coordinating the restoration of the Grantham Canal. Its membership consists of British Waterways, the six local authorities through which the canal flows, Natural England, the Inland Waterways Association and the Grantham Canal Society. The GCP is chaired by Michael Rowen and its Executive meets quarterly.

The GCP currently has two important Volunteer Vacancies:

### Meeting / Minutes Secretary

to assist the Honorary Secretary, Peter Stone, with the arranging of the Executive's meetings and recording of them. The role is interesting rather than onerous - but does call for a tidy mind and basic administrative (IT) capabilities.

### Heritage Boat Restorers

70-foot narrowboat 'Corvus' was built as a butty in 1935 by Yarwoods of Northwich for the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company. She was rebuilt in the mid-1980s by British Waterways as a powered maintenance vessel and operated in the East Midlands until 2006.

She is currently on dry land at Woolsthorpe Depot and in urgent need of conservation, leading to restoration and possible conversion.

Volunteers are required to form a team to undertake this work - and also for someone to take responsibility for it. Previous experience would be a great help but is not essential. This is a rare opportunity to join or lead a heritage boat project 'from scratch'.

If you are interested in either of the above vacancies, please contact **Peter Stone** on **0115 9232046** or at [peter.r.stone@ntlworld.com](mailto:peter.r.stone@ntlworld.com)

*If you have watched Alan Hurd's series, "Narrowboat" on Discovery or Quest, you will know what's involved! Ed.*

## 7. GCS Event Stand

*Report from Tony Jackson. (he's the one not wearing a dress in the photo)*

February? Did Rosemary say February? I had serious misgivings when I heard we were booked in to attend the 'Boat Jumble' event at The Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. There was snow on the ground this time last year! This was the first 'outing' of the year for the Grantham Canal Society publicity stand.

Things have a habit of not being as bad as you fear. Fortunately, this was one of those occasions. The snow was absent, which was a good omen, and Rosemary had 'engineered' us a stand pitch indoors....well, as indoors as a huge agricultural implement shed gets, but compared with how I imagined us to be, this was heaven! Even the hot drinks caravan and the loos were close at hand. We were able to get the campervan to the stall position for ease of unloading, and the security people on the site were friendly and helpful too!

I began to get a good feeling about the day, as we busied ourselves arranging the stand. Throughout the previous week, Rosemary had been updating and refreshing the information on the display boards, and even before we were quite ready, the public started to pile in. We were soon to be joined on the stand, by fellow member Ralph, thanks Ralph! We're always pleased to have a little help at shows. It gives us chance to stretch our legs, grab a sandwich or even have a sit down for a few minutes!

We had many interesting conversations with so many people, and felt it had been a very worthwhile day. A few more people now know about this wonderful canal of ours, and hopefully, an insight into all that the society and its partners are doing towards the eventual full restoration of the waterway. Some even went home minus their loose change! I think we'll be back there again next year, if they'll have us.

On the subject of loose change, we are always in need of secondhand books to sell on the stand. These are very popular, and a useful source of income for the society. Perhaps it's time to spring clean your bookshelves?

Rosemary is busily booking shows for the coming year. As usual, we'll be attending many village/town/city events, and in addition, we have the 'biggie' in our part of the world this year. This is the three day Inland Waterways Association, National Festival, to be held near Burton upon Trent. This is our chance to show off the Grantham Canal to the nation.

If you would like to come along to any of the events to help out, even for an hour, your help would be so much appreciated. No one gets thrown in at the deep end. You won't be left manning the stand on your own or anything. Contact Rosemary for details: 01636 525526, mobile 07971173069, email: [RhuMaere@aol.com](mailto:RhuMaere@aol.com)

Photo; Ralph Poore





## 8. Not really an advert

As many of you will know, we use "Chris Allsop Cranes" to load & unload our boats etc. We received this email from Georgina and I thought you might be interested to see the chimney come down if you are anywhere near Nottingham on the 12th March and maybe contribute to the Charity, Troop Aid" too. Details are on the poster (right).

Dear Sirs,

**In just over 2 weeks Chris Allsop Demolition will blow up the Midland's last standing industrial chimney! To mark this momentous occasion we are seeking support from all our colleagues, clients, suppliers and friends to help us raise funds for our nominated charity Troop Aid (supporting our injured troops).**

Attached to this email you will find a poster which incorporates all the necessary details of the **BIG BANG** which will take place on **Saturday 12th March at 2pm**, plus details of how to donate to this worthy cause. Each person that donates will be entered into a draw and a winning supporter will be selected and invited to press the button which is attracting a huge amount of press!

**Please help us to raise funds for Troop Aid by donating now and forwarding this email to all of your colleagues, clients, suppliers and friends - together we can make a real difference!**

Should you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of Chris Allsop Holdings we would like to thank you sincerely for your generosity and kind support.

Kind Regards

Georgina Allsop

**Chris Allsop**  
CRANE HIRE | SCRAP METAL | DEMOLITION | MACHINERY REMOVAL | SITE CLEARANCE | PROPERTY

**THE BIG BANG!**  
CHRIS ALLSOP DEMOLITION TO BLOW UP THE MIDLAND'S LAST BIG CHIMNEY!  
**12th March 2011 2pm**

PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT OUR INJURED TROOPS DONATE NOW!  
*Thank you!*

For further information contact  
Chris Allsop Holdings  
Chris Allsop Industrial Park,  
Private Road No.2, Colwick,  
Nottingham NG4 2JR  
Telephone: 0115 961 3775  
Email: enquiries@chrisallsop.co.uk

On Saturday 12th March 2011 at 2pm Chris Allsop Demolition will blow up the massive 150ft chimney that towers over the old sugar beat site and surrounding industrial estates in Colwick, Nottingham. Attempted many times in the past to no avail, this imposing structure will finally implode following the BIG BANG that is drawing all manner of media attention from TV and radio to local press.

As keen supporters of the charity Troop Aid in support of our injured troops, Chris Allsop Holdings is running a competition to raise funds for this worthy cause and taking donations via the charity - each person that donates will be placed into a draw and a lucky winning supporter will be selected and invited to push the button for the BIG BANG to mark this momentous occasion.

Please help us support this worthy cause  
NOW by phoning Troop Aid with your  
donation: CALL 07906 123 016

**TROOPAID**  
supporting our injured troops

## 9. Information from readers

It's always nice to hear from old friends and now I know that there are at least 6 readers of 'Bridge'!

Thanks to Mike Ledgard, who moved to Stratford from Cropwell Bishop. He emailed the text below earlier this month. I hear that copies of 'The Railway Magazine', are still in the shops.

"I have just read and fancy you will be interested in an article on the Belvoir Castle Railway. The chances are that you have already been told of it but there again you may not!

It tells of the history of said waggonway from Muston Gorse Wharf on the Grantham canal up to Belvoir Castle and can be found in the March edition 2011(just published) of 'The Railway Magazine'. (available at all good newsagents!)

It adds to interesting information of and about the dear Grantham canal.

Thanks for regular newsletters, I have to put up with the Stratford-upon-Avon canal!

Hope you are all well in Cropwell."

## 10. More from the Chairman

Three Shires cruises:-

Do you know somebody who would enjoy a relaxing cruise along the canal? This is a chance for several family members or friends to get together away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. See nature at its Spring-time best whilst cruising gently along the water. Just look at the availability calendar, choose your day and cruise duration, then call 01949 850999 to discuss your requirements and book your private cruise. It's so easy!

**Mothering Sunday** – 3<sup>rd</sup> April - has been a particularly special occasion for hundreds of years – long before canals were built. Now you can enjoy a cruise along the canal on this day ... but book quickly whilst the boat is still available.

**Easter Holidays** and nothing to do! *The Three Shires* will be cruising along the Grantham Canal and what better way to enjoy the beauty of the Vale of Belvoir but from a boat! Already the 'early birds' are booking their cruises so don't get left behind. We would love to have you on board and on the water this Easter.

Recruits required!

The society's team that runs our stall at local village events urgently requires some recruits. The stall promotes the Grantham Canal at many shows, small & large, and also raises money through sales and competitions. If you like talking to people and could spare some time, usually at weekends, to assist in this very enjoyable activity we would love to hear from you. In particular, Rosemary is looking for someone willing to take the stand to Denton Street Market on Monday 2nd May. Please email [RhuMaere@aol.com](mailto:RhuMaere@aol.com) or call on 07971 173 069



## 11. More photos

Those of us who live in Cropwell Bishop and walk the towpath towards the A46 will have noticed a distinct change over the last few weeks. The Community Payback Scheme, operated by the probation Service have had groups of up to 24, out in the bed of the canal, seven days a week, doing a magnificent job clearing the trees and brambles etc. For obvious reasons we can't show the workers but the before and after photos below speak for themselves. We would like to thank everyone involved for making such a difference.



### BEFORE - ABOVE and AFTER - BELOW



### THE SECOND FALLEN TREE NEAR HARLAXTON GETS THE GCS TREATMENT



A rest from clearance work at the Bridle Bridge



Right! Anyone missing?



Now whose bright idea was that?



Remember to keep the window closed when crossing a muddy field in your nice clean car!



Pictures left: Trial run for the Three Shires after the winter. Spot the extra non paying passenger (far left)

Photos : Ralph Poore, Bob Terry, Rosemary Gibson and Ian Wakefield

*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)