



ISSUE 46

BRIDGE

October - December



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 Society" page on our website: www.granthamcanal.org

Dear Reader. This, as you can probably guess, is the issue you were supposed to receive before Christmas. I've tried to sack the Editor but he says that he will not transfer any more photographs across if I do that! So for the time being we are going to have to put up with him. Personally I think he is getting too old and slow to keep up with the Grantham Canal, which seems to be developing a life of its own all of a sudden. Exciting times on the horizon? Maybe! Ed

1. GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



There have been some major positive developments following the extra efforts being made by CRT to ensure the success of the stage two bid, which is to be submitted later this month (February) The HLF have also been extremely helpful and supportive and have asked for the bid to have a higher Volunteer input and not rely solely on outside contractors. This has been welcomed by GCS and it is hoped that the bid to restore locks 12 to 15 will be successful. We should know something in the next few months. Keep everything crossed and we will let you know, as soon as we have some news. (John Brydon).

2. Message from our Chairman, Mike Stone.

(Mike commented to me recently how disappointed he was that his eagerly awaited Christmas Message was not broadcast to the nation! To keep him happy, 'cos he is a good chap, I've included it anyway! Apart from that, does anybody know where Christmas and the last four weeks went? Ed)

Christmas is a time of Good Cheer! The support the Grantham Canal Society has received from Members, Supporters, Stakeholders and Sponsors during 2013 has been most welcome and cheering to your Committee and your Chairman. We greatly appreciate the commitment of the active volunteers without whom the society would make little progress.

May we reciprocate by wishing you and your families a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Best wishes to you all.

Mike



3. LLOYDS BANK COMMUNITY FUND

A BIG thank you to everyone who voted for GCS We had the second highest number of votes and so were awarded £3,000 from the Lloyds Bank Community Fund Grant. The money will be spent on training our volunteers in the use of plant and machinery such as chainsaws, boat skipper, dredger operation etc. We look to have some exciting times ahead where more of the volunteers will require industry recognised 'Tickets' to work on the canal. These training courses don't come cheap, so every little helps. We thank Lloyds for this very generous and welcome award.

4. Boat Skipper training



Dave Cross at the helm, trying not to scratch the boat. Did he pass?



I've got my certificate!
John Trigg

Whilst on the subject of training, congratulations go to the following obtaining their RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Inland Waterways Helmsman's Certificate: Ralph Poore, Dave Cross, Tony Kirkland, John Trigg, Terry Davis, Dave Walker & Yours truly. Ed.



I've got mine I but I'm busy!
Dave Walker

Of course I passed! it's just that they won't let me on the tiller.
Dave Cross (Right)



This boating lark is easy! A very relaxed
Tony Kirkland



These courses have cost well in excess of £100 each and we thank all of the above, who contributed to the cost of their course out of their own pocket. The remainder of the cost has come from donations.

A further six workparty members, including Joe, our student from Brooksby College, who is the youngest member of our team (by about 40 years!), will be taking their training in March.

5. LOUGHBROUGH STUDENTS RETURN TO THE GRANTHAM CANAL

Wayne Ball (CRT Volunteer Co-ordinator) is preparing for the students from Loughbrough University to return to the Canal on regular monthly basis to continue trimming back some of the grass which has encroached onto the towpath and also attack the growth in the canal bed from Town Bridge towards Blue Hill at Cropwell Bishop. This is a combined GCS & CRT operation. The Cropwell Bishop Parish Council will be involved and hopefully the local villagers too.



Loughbrough Students working hard at Cropwell Lock 11 during fresher's week. (Left)



Hijacking their own bus to invade the local garage for refreshments (right)

6. BROOKSBY COLLEGE

19 December 2013

COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SUCCESS AT GREAT FARM CHALLENGE

Level 3 Countryside Management students **Joe Cutler** and Jack Robertshaw came second in the inter-college Great Farm Challenge competition held at the prestigious Royal Agricultural Society (RAS), Stoneleigh in Warwickshire on 11th December. This award marks a first for countryside management as competitions of this nature are rare in the sector.

The competition was organised by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water and students had to assess a farm's potential impact on the water environment looking at issues such as water management, soils, pesticide use, and nutrient management. Students had to assess two farms, identifying issues relating to their current environmental management and then make recommendations for improvement, give advice on funding and legislation, and give advice on improving the performance of one farm. Students from agriculture and countryside management took part in the farm visit and preliminary review, with the conservationists deciding to partake in the competition.



Joe, seated front right

Students gave presentations to the judges against finalists from three other colleges. BMC's students were commended on their technical knowledge and presentation skills and achieved second place winning £150 of Amazon vouchers and the Great Farm Challenge shield from the Vice President of the National Farmers Union, Adam Quinney.

The students have been invited back to the RAS for a bespoke day with a tour and presentations from top speakers from the National Farmers Union.

Kate Hiseman, Lecturer in Countryside Management said of the award 'it is a credit to the students and staff who have given their time and support to enable the students to take part and achieve

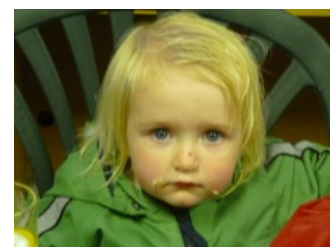
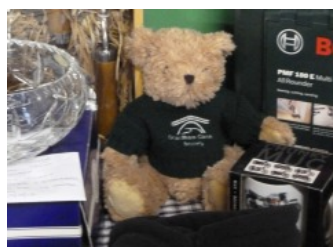
Thanks to Brooksbury College for the above article

[Congratulations from us all at GCS to Joe and Jack for their achieving their award.](#)

Joe has been with us on workparties for over a year now, as part of his College Course. He has 'thrown himself' into everything we have done, from painting boats, launching boats, removing rubbish from the canal, removing fallen trees and branches to clearing overgrown lock tops. His energy, agility and growing confidence, has made him a valuable member of the team. He fits in well and is happy to join in with the banter that flies about when we are working. Well done Joe. Ed.

7. DISCOVERY DAY

Discovery Day was once again a roaring success thanks to Rosemary, Tony and the team. The Depot, at Woolsthorpe comes alive with activity not just on the day but during the previous week as preparations are made for the event. This year, we knew that the marquee, kindly donated last year by Bob Taylor (mine host of the Dirty Duck) needed a few repairs to keep the rain out! All the talented needleworkers appeared with thimbles at the ready. Thanks to everybody's effort and it didn't rain too much on the day but it was cold!



Photographs of some of the people and events leading up to and then during the day. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the day such good fun including Local Radio Presenter - Graham Wright, the crews of the Narrowboat and Canoe trips, Our Speakers, The Roses and Castles Painting Demonstration, The Melstrum Ukulele Orchestra, IWA, The Sleaford Navigation Society, The Maids of Clifton Clog Dancers and our own sensational Butty Boys and all our stallholders. Thanks too for the generous raffle prizes.

8. A NEW ERA WITH CRT

Staff team up with volunteers to repair heritage bridge

Significant repairs are being made to an East Midlands bridge thanks to a joint approach by the construction team and volunteers.

Longore Bridge is an accommodation bridge on the Grantham Canal and a D Grade asset that has suffered from considerable rebuilding in cement and modern brick in the past.

Construction supervisor Mark Owen said: "As there is a lot of handtool work to be done, we called upon the Grantham Canal Society and they were only too pleased to help us. It's been a positive experience all round."

Defective bricks are being cut out and replaced and repairs to the masonry using lime mortar will integrate new with old, and provide for more expansion and contraction in the structure through the seasons. Parts of the bridge where the voussoirs* have partially separated from the main barrel of the bridge will also be pinned and tied.

Ian Wakefield from the canal society added:

"This is the first time we have got involved in actual construction work and everyone enjoyed it. It's been brilliant working alongside the East Mids lads."

**Voussoirs are the blocks found in the arch of a bridge where the upper edge is wider than the lower edge.*

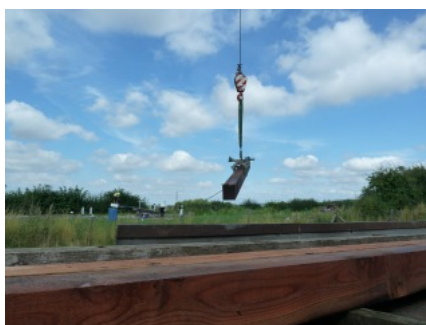
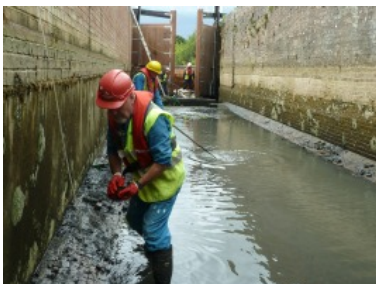


(l to r) Volunteer leader Amanda Morgan, waterway operative Paul Kenny, joiner Jack Havron, waterway supervisor Mark Owen, bricklaying apprentice Beau Foulds, senior plant operatives Will Lamb and Bobby Knight and Ian Wakefield (Grantham Canal Society). Not pictured: Mark Statham, Graham Mitchell and Phil Moseley

Things, they are a changing! It is so refreshing to be able to report the overwhelming change in relations between CRT and ourselves. We have had an incredible amount of time allocated to us from CRT staff in all sorts of areas and we have tried to respond in positive and cost saving ways i.e. clearing fallen trees from the towpath in areas where we do not normally work and removing trees that have fallen into the canal during the recent gales. As you will have read (above) some GCS members spent several days working with the CRT Construction Team on Longore Bridge, near Muston. The experience was rewarding from everybody's point of view. Hopefully there will be even more joint events in the future.

9. LOCK 18 BOTTOM GATES

More pictures as promised



10. WRG Bit in the Middle (BitM)



Michael Rowen came along and had a chat to Simon & Dave from BITM



How can a flat bottom boat be so unstable? Sit down chaps!



The water 'above' the boxes is only a dyke. The canal is beyond the trees



June cooked a beautiful Christmas meal on the Saturday and as always we were made very welcome.



There is the canal. Before, it was almost hidden by overhanging trees.



Firewood anyone? Sincere thanks to Steve Mellors for access through his field.

BitM were with us again just before Christmas. Instead of being in the bed of the canal, this year we worked from the offside bank to remove trees that were leaning into and across the water. Fortunately, the field from which we were working is no longer used for crops and has been planted with hundreds and hundreds of saplings. Despite previous days of rain, the ground, being on a slight slope was solid enough for WRG's Red Transit van and all the other vehicles to be parked within sight, off the road. Before the weekend CRT's Richard Bennett had marked the trees he preferred to be left standing, in case there were bats living there. Richard returned on the Saturday morning and express to me how well organised BitM were and how well they had progressed with the clearance in just an hour or so. He left a happy man, especially as a couple of us also tidied up the towpath. After being well fed and having a good nights sleep we returned the next day to continue the work. Michael Rowen (Grantham Canal Partnership Chairman) just 'happened' to be passing on the towpath with his wife whilst walking their dogs. Michael came across the field to thank everybody for their effort and handed out the most beautifully moist pieces cake you could wish for. Our sincere thanks to Mrs Rowen. The weather was kind to us both days and all in all it was, as always a very successful weekend. Many thanks to the Guys and Girls who make up the BitM team and of course to our own workparty stalwarts.

11. WORKPARTY REPORT



That was totally clear last year!

Apart from the weekend above, the workparty team revisited the Stenwith Flight of locks to cut the growth that had shot up on the lock tops during the summer. We have also been out on our workboat, Centauri, clearing debris from the water. More next time.



Photos
Chris
Leach

12. COTGRAVE



Nicola Wright kindly sent this photo (left) of a fallen tree at Cotgrave on 29th December. Wayne Ball from CRT supplied the necessary paperwork and the removal was completed on the 2nd January by Dave Booth, Ralph Bellamy and myself. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Ed



Now you see it.



Now you don't.

13. BINGHAM CUBS



Scott Miller from CRT and I took some 20 very excited Cubs and their Leaders (no, the Leader's were not excited but they did enjoy the walk) for a gentle 2 hour stroll along the Towpath between Harby Depot and Harby Mill. Scott came up with the brilliant idea of a photographic competition and the boys were there snapping everything they could find, from slugs to sunsets. Being late September, it got dark quite quickly but there were some interesting shots. A couple of the lads didn't have cameras so they borrowed mine (and I got it back in one piece). There are quite a few movie shots of feet. Someone was fiddling! I promised the winner a boat trip, so more of that in the summer. Well done to all the Cubs.

14. IWA



The Inland
Waterways
Association

NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

The Notts and Derby branch of the IWA is organising a series of public meetings. We are hoping to attract lots of new faces to the meetings and have arranged a very interesting and varied group of speakers. Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

- We meet on the third Friday of the month throughout most of the year.
- Meetings are held at 7.45 pm at Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2-7HY, about 20 minutes from M1 Junction 24 up the A453.

Friday, January 17th 2014 "Canal Reservoirs" an illustrated talk by David Brown (Principal Reservoir Engineer, Canal and River Trust) concerning the history and engineering behind some of the reservoirs supplying local canals.

Friday, February 21st 2014 Annual General Meeting. Followed by an illustrated talk with slides covering the latest developments along the Grantham canal (by Grantham Canal Society).

Friday, March 21st 2014 Talk with slides covering the latest developments of the Ashby canal, by Geoff Pursglove. (Ashby Canal Society)

Friday, April 11th 2014.....note the change of date owing to Easter holiday

Illustrated talk looking back to 1960 and a barge trip encompassing parts of the UK and Europe by Mike Stone.

Further information about meetings can be obtained by email :- nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

15. DONATIONS

During the last few months we have some very welcome donations from organisations outside the normal canal circles. Next issue will contain photographs and some more information about the donors and our plans for the gifts they have chosen to give to the Society.

16. CANAL and RIVER TRUST

I think it only fitting that with my other hat on, as Workparty Leader, I take this opportunity to thank Shaun and all the Staff from CRT for their help and assistance during the last few months. We are delighted with the many different avenues opening up to us and it is a pleasure to work with you all. Ed.

17. ODDS AND ENDS



Please don't open that paddle just yet. I've only got a bucket. Mike (Left)

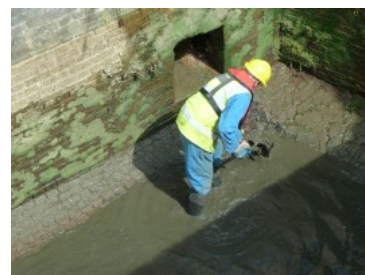
It's a hard life driving a crane (right)



I like these new gates!



I can see you. Can you see me?



I cleared this once before in 1994



Did someone mention a Duck race?



Excellent Bi-Monthly meetings with Mike, Ian (behind the camera) (GCS) and centre left to right Stuart, Amanda & Scott from (CRT) *



This flower is in fact a Lilly, not an orchid. Thanks to Tony for correcting me. Ed

* Since this picture was taken Amanda has moved on to another job within CRT. We thank her for her enthusiasm and help and wish her well for the future.

Please let me know if you are happy with the balance of content in 'Bridge' and also if there is anything you wish me to include. Ed

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.org