

Bonfire Bash Boosts Grantham

Autumn Canal Restoration in Full Swing

Months of careful planning and preparation by British Waterways, the Grantham Canal Restoration Society and the Waterways Recovery Group, have gone into the production of the GCRS Autumn Restoration Plan. The vital and much appreciated involvement of the WRG has now resulted in the completion of the first two projects of the plan, including considerable clearance works which have been warmly received by local residents.



BEFORE THE MUDBATH!!

and top locks at Cropwell Bishop Nos. 10 and 11. The project was sub-contracted, by agreement with BW, to the WRG under Team Leader Joanne Smith. WRG provided 30 volunteers, accommodated at the Memorial Hall, Cropwell Bishop, who worked on the complete removal and rebuild of a major over-spill weir at Plungar, coupled with a canal scrub bash near Cropwell Town bridge. Heavy rain prior to 23rd Oct. created difficult ground conditions at Plungar where GCRS personnel, spent the week earlier, with the co-operation from Graham Kirk of Warren Farm, creating an access route and preparing the site of the weir for restoration.

PROJECT ONE

The objective of the first project was extensive repair to over weir at Plungar and removal of tree stumps in canal bed between middle



THE SPILLWEIR

tion. Due to the severe muddy condition, the removal of all the damaged weir sections presented problems for the digger, and Graham Kirk with his tractor was very helpful. At times it was difficult to find the volunteers, who had almost disappeared in the mud bath. As the week progressed the land dried slightly, so that an improved design, steel reinforced channel began to take shape, with the final concrete layer being floated the following weekend.

TWO DOWN

The Grantham Canal was also chosen by WRG, for their annual end-of-season get-together, and work party to support the GCRS Autumn Restoration Programme. This reunion provides the opportunity for folk who have met on camps during the summer to renew acquaintances, enjoy a Saturday night party, and generally have a good time. Usually known as a Bonfire Bash. 170 volunteers arrived on Friday evening to stay at The Dayncourt School (Radcliffe on Trent), and were quickly settled into the facilities by an efficient WRG team led by Gavin Moor. The volunteers had come from all over England and overseas. The furthest travelled was almost certainly a lady from China and there was also one chap from Germany. On Friday a WRG forestry team together with Leila Griffiths (BW environmentalist) worked on the proposed site identifying statutory requirements, and resolving environmental issues, in preparation for the main programme on Saturday. Fine weather heralded a good start on Saturday morning, so the teams quickly began clearing the canal bed from Blue Hill, and the progress continued throughout the



BONFIRE BASH FACILITIES

Continued on p.2

Don't Forget to Check Out the Website for all the Latest News, Views and Happenings on and around the Grantham Canal.

www.granthamcanal.com

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day. Sunday dawned with good weather, and despite a little pressure behind the eyeballs, from the night before, the teams resumed the attack on trees and brushwood with bonfires burning along the towpath, and trucks



CLEARANCE CONTINUES APACE AT COLSTON

removing branches for chipping. By late afternoon about half a mile had been cleared, thus bringing the last day of project 2 to a successful conclusion. The considerable efforts of Colin Bryan of GCRS, together with Waterway Recovery Group and British Waterways, had certainly boosted an Autumn Makeover of the Grantham Canal. Local residents watching from Colston Road Bridge, expressed their appreciation that at last clearance work was being carried out. However the question being asked was "Will this continue in 2005?" One resident Martin Brewster, had recently raised such queries both with British Waterways, and in a letter to the local press.

ONE TO GO

The third phase of the Autumn Programme is the removal of some fallen trees which are blocking the canal between lock 15, Woolsthorpe Middle lock at the half mile pound, and lock 16 Carpenter's Lock, near Stenwith. During the project some sections of the towpath may be closed and these closures will be publicised as prominently as possible. At the time of writing, it is intended that the works be sub-contracted by the gcrs and BW to Waterways Recovery Group under the team leadership of Barbara and Tony Hinsley. This phase will not be complete by our copy deadline so we'll have a chance to give it some coverage in our next issue. It only remains for Waterfront to add our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of those intrepid

THE LONE VOLUNTEER!!

It was terribly windy and cold in March this year as we came across our very own intrepid volunteer all alone at Casthorpe road bridge, doing his bit (as ever), this time planting hedge whips, complete with all the modern day trappings you generally find him with. (The well run in (if not out) hand truck borrowed he tells me from a friend !!). The modern thing he now carries with him these days of course is his (carefully protected from the elements) work method statements and safety sheets, which allow him and us to get on with work these



days. Next time you are walking down our canal towpath look out for the new hedge whips growing in their protective spirals, it may have been planted by our intrepid volunteer Freddy Marsh. (That's when he's not doing his usual job - painting the bridge numbers and mileposts along the canal) Oh the joys of being retired!

SOCIAL EVENTS

I.W.A.

- Dec 17th Camera on the Leicester Line – Talk by Jo Edwards followed by Xmas Social Buffet
- Jan 21st 'A Delightful Inheritance' – Derbyshire, Scotland and the Alps by Stuart Bramwell
- Feb 18th AGM Followed by a talk by John Baylis
- Mar 18th Regional AGM followed by a talk 'A Funny thing happened on the way to the Print Room' by Derek Pearson
- Apr 15th Derby beneath your feet – by Derek Palmer

All meetings take place at Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Rd, West Bridgford on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7.45pm

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARTNERSHIP.

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British Waterways



Grantham Canal Restoration Society



Grantham Navigation Association



Inland Waterways Association



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Greetings pub pickers! And welcome to the twentieth of our "close to the canal" series of features on "Pubs Along the Grantham" you can visit once restoration is complete. Leaving the Grantham Canal via the lane from Stathern Lodge under the old railway bridge will lead you to the village itself, at the foot of the Vale of Belvoir Scarp. Stathern is currently home to over 600 people and still boasts a post office, village store, butcher's shop, garage and TWO pubs. The "Plough Inn" is to be found on main street and is now identified by an imaginative pub sign showing, not the farming implement itself, but the stellar constellation above a silhouette of Belvoir Castle. Despite this rather modern addition, entering the hostelry itself will be a joy to pub purists as it retains its original entrance door with separate public bar to the left, lounge bar to the right and very much a traditional feel.

GHOST

The main part of the building dates from around 1750 and started life as cottages, but it became a public house in the early nineteenth century to quench the thirst of workers from the nearby iron ore mines - one of 26 licensed premises in Stathern at the time! Another significant moment in its history happened in the middle of the last century when a former landlady called Madge lost her life falling down the stairs a little worse for wear. Now sometimes a mist is seen in the lounge as her ghost reminds patrons she's still around - by flipping keys from hooks, knocking bottles from shelves and altering the beer thermometer settings in the cellar. But she's thought to be fairly friendly as one previous landlord even had his bed made!

REAL ALES

Generous sized rooms with beamed ceilings and real fires in winter will be a welcome sight for a thirsty mariner, with entertainment in the form of pool table, darts, & TV in the public bar, and regular theme nights, live music and a skittle alley. The comfortable lounge is a more peaceful place to enjoy three different real ales (one from the Vale of Belvoir), organic cider or another favourite tippie. Home cooked food is served every lunchtime and Monday to Saturday nights, using local produce whenever possible, with the newer rear function room being used for dining during busier periods. Resident landlord and landlady Simon & Jacqui Sjenitzer took over The Plough in January 2004 and have quickly built up a friendly rapport with locals and visitors alike. Simon used to be big in I.T. but loves his total career change. In his precious spare time he loves to take Jenna the Alsatian and Max the Springer Spaniel walking alongside the Grantham Canal and is very much in favour of recreational restoration. Given time Simon fancies a narrowboat himself! Once it's re-opened he looks forward to welcoming boaters to sample the delights of their traditional inn. But, beware, you'll be seeing stars even BEFORE the beer starts flowing!

DIGGERS & DUMPERS!

Restoration Workers Get Qualified

Four members of the GCRS / GNA working team (Colin, Charlie, Martin and Fred) have attended the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) training weekend at British waterway's training center at Hatton in Warwickshire. The purpose of the course was to obtain NPTC (formerly CITB) accredited experience in operating plant used for restoration, including 360 excavators, JCB's skid steers and dumpers.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Training was also given on loading and securing of plant, plus Chipper training. Current health safety and environmental requirements were covered in detail. WRG have been involved with the restoration on the Grantham Canal since 1990 and



will be working with us again later in the Autumn. Their website is well worth a look, photos of the training

weekend plus works on the Grantham last year are available.

AND IT'S GOODBYE! FROM HIM.....!!

Sadly, this will be my last edition as Editor of this publication. I've been doing this a year or two now and I reckon it's time for me to spend more time with my family! It's been a pleasure and a privilege to have done even this small task to further the restoration and I wish great things for my successor.

By far the greater loss will be that of Fran Bailey, Chair of the GCP. Fran has worked and campaigned tirelessly for many years and has been instrumental in some of the greatest achievements of recent years - and responsible for attracting some very key players to the cause. He's off for some well-earned rest in the sun and I'm sure he'll kill me for saying this - but he'll be VERY sorely missed by all who have the canal at heart.

Phil Holt

Walking the Grantham

The thirteenth in a series of walks in Nottinghamshire, exploring the countryside of the Grantham Canal and its surrounds - reproduced by kind permission of Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Cropwell Circular

Distance: 6 miles
Start: The Chequers Inn, Cropwell Bishop
Map ref: SK 685355
Terrain: Fairly level - heavy soil which may get muddy after wet weather

Start at the Chequers Inn, Cropwell Bishop, using the public car park nearby. With your back to the pub, turn left to a junction, then right to the edge of the village. Cross the bridge over the dry canal and turn right along the tow-path. Opinions differ as to the reason for the canal's drying out, but poor "puddling" of the clay bed of the canal is the favourite explanation. After a half a mile there is a bridge over the dry canal, and the path runs beside a hedge to Hoe Hill Wood. Cross the stile and walk through the middle of the wood, then along the foot of a grass field. Go through the gate to join a farm track and go straight on until it swings right. At this point go through the handgate on the left and along the edge of a paddock. Continue at the edge of the next field to reach a road, then turn right to the Green at Cropwell Butler. For refreshments at this point, follow Main Street to the right to the Plough Inn.

To continue the walk, turn left at the Green along Main Street as far as the signposted ginnel on right, opposite Court Cottage. Passing between houses, join a farm track which passes the Grange. The path goes straight ahead for nearly a mile: follow the farm track until it swings left, then leave it and continue along a headland. Join another farm track then, one field short of New Bank Farm, turn right on a grass track with the hedge on your right. There is now a clear view across the Vale of Belvoir to the Terrace Hills, with Belvoir Castle half-left on the skyline. At the end of the field, the

also serves Cropwell Butler. It has a curious appearance with lower courses in limestone, much of the upper parts and mullions in sandstone, and a brick tower. Inside it still has its box pews. At the end of the village there is a footbridge over the ditch on the left, a stile and signpost. The path follows the edge of a pasture and half way down the walker should watch out for the first of several electric wires. These may be temporary and disappear when not needed. In any case there is no problem as there is a plastic-covered hook at one end that can be lifted while you pass through. You are now following a farm track, negotiating another wire, and continuing to the corner of the field where a single wire fence is covered by a piece of hosepipe so that walkers can cross it without getting an electric shock.

Cross a grass track and another protected wire, then cut off the corner of the next field to a wire "stile" and a foot-bridge. The next stile is near the left-hand corner of the next field, shaded by an ash tree, and brings you out on to a narrow road. Turn right along the road as far as a signpost on your right.

The path you now follow is virtually straight across or along the edge of seven fields. It can be hard to walk in the fields with cross-field paths just after ploughing has taken place, but within a fortnight of ploughing, the farmer will redefine the line of the path. Later, as crops get high enough to become a nuisance, he will clear the path by cutting or spraying a metre-wide strip. After the first arable field there are two grass paddocks then, in the fourth field, ignore the gap ahead and aim 25 yards to the right of it to find the stile. The path is well waymarked across two more fields and along the headland of another.

At the end, beside a high hedge, turn left to head for the corner of a high fence which encloses a school playing field. Go ahead beside the fence, then across a grass field to a road. Turn right into Cropwell Bishop and right again at the church to return to your starting point

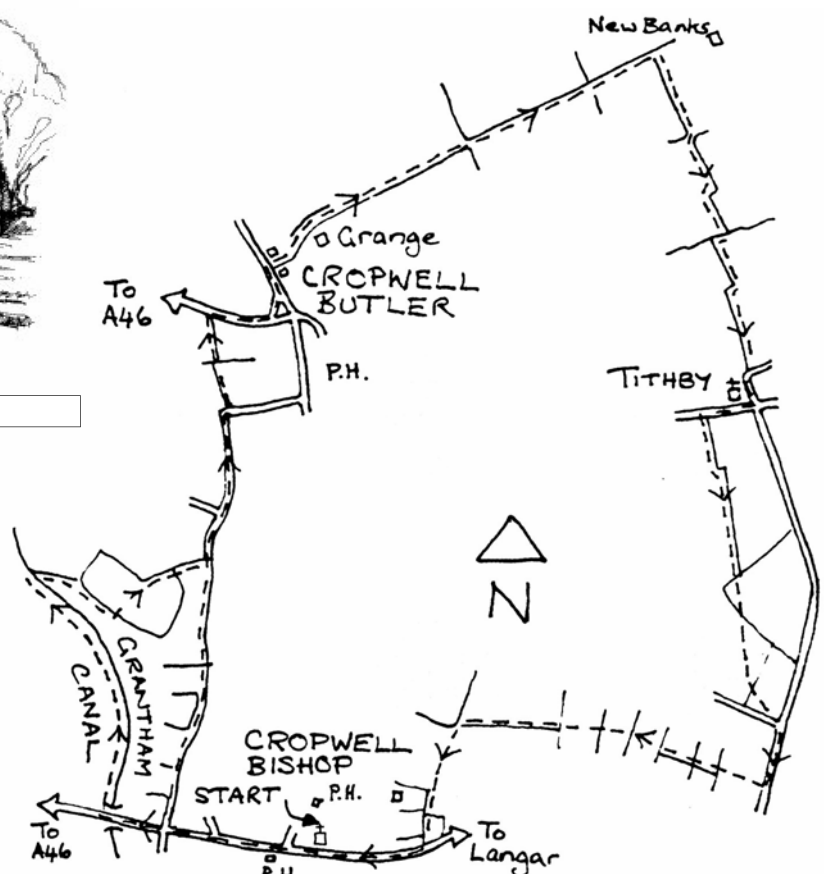


Cropwell Bishop Church

track swings right but the path continues ahead with the hedge now on your left. At the foot of the field there is a foot-bridge across a tributary of the River Smite. Cross this and turn right, then left at the corner of the field to walk beside a wind-break of willow and poplar.

Following the headland, you arrive at the tiny village of Tithby. Keep ahead past Church Farm House to a corner where an AA sign tells you that it is nine and a half miles to Nottingham, two and a half to Bingham, and a hundred and seventeen and a half to London.

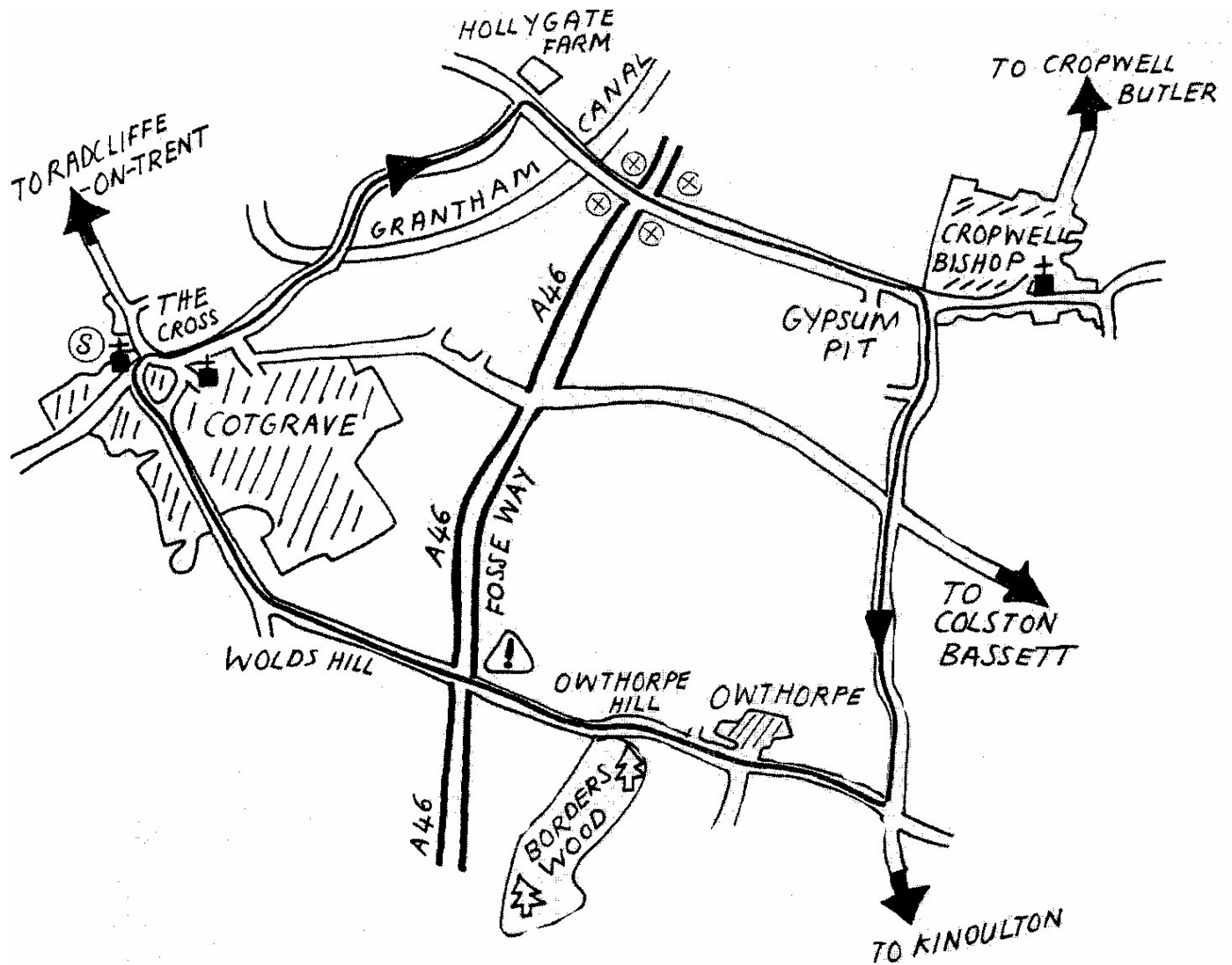
Turn right past the 13th Century church, which



Grantham Canal Cycle Route - No. 9

Cotgrave—Cropwell Bishop - Owthorpe

On Road
Distance: 7 miles
(11Km)



A steady start to get the legs going. Make a food and drink detour into Cropwell Bishop if you need to top up your energy before a steep climb up to Owthorpe Hill. Ends in a nice easy downhill run. Starting from The Cross in Cotgrave, take the road signed to Colston Bassett. While still in the village, leave the main road before it bends right, taking Hollygate Lane to Stragglethorpe. At the imposing house of Hollygate Farm, turn right, cross the Fosse Way at the traffic lights and continue to Cropwell Bishop. Refreshment can be taken at the public houses or purchased in the shops. Soon after entering Cropwell Bishop, take a right turn into Kinoulton Road. Follow this, passing the former gypsum works on your left. Climb to the crossroads and take the road opposite for Owthorpe. At



Owthorpe Church

the next crossroads, turn right, again for Owthorpe. Consider a short detour along the cul-de-sac into Owthorpe, before making the climb to cross the Fosse. There is good visibility at the crossing, but proceed with CARE before the home run to Cotgrave with a pleasant downhill finish.

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Kids Stuff

CRAZY CRESS PEOPLE!!

with Tracey



You can grow cress indoors easily and quickly.
So why not have some gardening fun and make it sprout into unusual shapes?

What you will need:

Packet of cress seeds Water
Cotton wool balls Tray
Shaped cutters:-people, animals, stars etc

1. Place a cookie cutter on the tray. Pack all the curves and edges of the cutter with cotton wool so that it completely fills the shape



2. Moisten the Cotton Wool with a little water and sprinkle a thin layer of cress seeds evenly on the top. Now leave the cress alone (on a windowsill if possible) to start growing

3. Check the cress after two days - you should see some leaves beginning to sprout. After 3 or 4 days when the cress is about 2 cm high and green, it is ready to eat. Make sure it has enough water by checking under the cookie cutter. If the cotton wool is dry, pour a little water onto the tray. The cotton wool will soak up the water that it needs to keep the cress growing.



4. When your cress is ready, you can snip it off at the top - above the cotton wool - with a pair of scissors. If you remember to keep your cress watered, it should continue to grow and grow.



5. Now all that's left to do is to eat it! Add chopped cress to salads or to egg mayonnaise or use it to sprinkle over baked potatoes

Go on Growing!!

After you've finished a boiled egg for breakfast, don't throw away the shell. Wash and dry it very carefully and fill it with cotton wool. Then draw a face on it with felt tip pens and plant some seeds on the top of the damp cotton wool. Now watch as your egg man sprouts hair!



Taking the Viking Challenge!!!

*By David Martin
Sustrans
Volunteer Ranger*

Walking along the Grantham Canal towpath on the cool morning of Sunday 3rd October 2004, you may have spotted Elvis on a bike. No - your eyes weren't tricking you, it was in fact it was one of the 1083 riders helping to raise funds by doing the Viking Challenge

SPONSORED

Riders aged from 7- 73 take the Viking Challenge, a 30 or 50km sponsored cycle ride around the Vale of Belvoir, and takes place on the first Sunday of October starting and finishing at Redmile Primary School. The ride was started 9 years ago to raise funds for the School. After the first one, a second was held it has continued to grow every year in numbers, the money raised has been split from the second event,

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We're in the Money!!

CASH BOOST FOR GRANTHAM

In October, Tony Wilkinson the Chairman of the Grantham Canal Partnership, told us that he had been talking to business colleagues to see if he could persuade them to support the Grantham. He had been very successful and he announced the results to a gathering at Paul's Restaurant in Bottesford on October 21st.

TERRIFIC NEWS

He had obtained pledges from his business colleagues that they would provide match funding for any amounts that the Partnership raised for the canal up to a total of £50,000. This is terrific news and means that when added to the funding already promised by Member Bodies of the Partnership, that there will be sufficient funding to proceed with the appointment of the new Project Manager

Restoration Boost!!

PROJECT MANAGER TO BE APPOINTED

The members of the Partnership have agreed that it is essential to fund the post of a Project Manager both to promote works in the canal corridor and to raise funds for those projects. As reported in the article opposite, initial funding is coming from the Local Authorities and British Waterways plus Match Funding from Tony Wilkinson's business colleagues. The appointment needs to be for several years so approaches will be made to EMDA and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to see if funding can be secured to enable the post to continue beyond the initial 18 month funded period. Project Manager posts have been successful in promoting the restoration of the Ashby Canal and the Chesterfield Canal so hopes are high that our Project Manager can deliver similar benefits.

Continued from p.6

with the funds of this year going to the Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Money raised can range from £15- £24,000, and all down to the

1000+ riders every year. The riders get to take in the sights off the Grantham Canal from Stenwith Bridge, riding along the grass towpath, and then onto Route 15 of The National Cycle Network, with runs along the towpath to Grantham. The riders join this section from Wills Lock up to Longmoor Bridge and then go over the bridge following the Viking Way up to Brewer's Grave and then along the ancient drover's road of Sewstern Lane. These sections are always the challenge.

In 2003 it was a good ground surface, but this year with an unsettled summer the mud was back and with a vengeance. The riders then cycle back to Redmile School to be greeted by a marquee of copious supplies of home-baked cakes and for some a long drive home as

DISCLAIMER
The G.C.P. may not agree with the ideas and opinions expressed in this journal but encourages their publication as a matter of interest. Nothing herein may be construed as a policy or official statement unless so stated.

for some riders come from as far as Scotland and the South West. If you would like to know more about the Viking Challenge and The National Cycle Network then you can go to www.vikingchallenge.org.uk (01949 843272/844292) and www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk (0845 1130065)



Like to help? - Join Now!

Families: £ 12.00 Adults: £8.00
Juniors/O.A.P.'s £3.50

I/ We apply for registration and membership of the *Grantham Canal Restoration Society* and agree, if accepted, to be bound by all the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of the society and association.

Signature

Date

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms).....

Address:

Tel No:.....

e-mail:

..... Post Code.....

Make cheques payable to Grantham Canal Restoration Society Ltd

Please return to : GCRS Membership Pasture View, The Green, Kingston on Soar, Notts., NG11 0DA

Tel 0115 9745541 e-mail nick@granthamcanal.com

PUZZLE PAGE

A little light entertainment to
test your skill - and your patience!!

£10

Prize Crossword

Clues Across

- 1 Repoint the aminos (7)
- 5 Striated hut with red tips (7)
- 9 It usually requires seating without the choir (3)
- 10 Faucet on Jupiter's moon before California - sweet? (7)
- 11 Often as a slip containing a slip (7)
- 12 Just as it comes (3)
- 13 Has help with the mess (4)
- 16 I leave a Scottish island for dead (4)
- 17 The Victorian posh would be the same to the East (7)
- 18 The fairground entertainment can he dire (4)
- 20 Falstaff ate heartily which sealed his (4)
- 21 Where did the tour go? (4)
- 22 Eak out the fancy diet with a note (4)
- 23 The ancient hidden in canefields (4)
- 25 The last letter one would expect to find here (4)
- 27 Sometimes they are each painful (7)
- 28 An American girl of high English rank (4)
- 29 The sibilant pixie knew who it was (4)
- 32 Straight before a line (3)
- 35 Space rep goes into warp drive to get cover (7)
- 36 Gave Nat a good view point (7)
- 37 There is hidden danger in tax evasion (3)
- 38 Pockmarked and right confused (7)
- 39 Its an art with the deer to follow the same path (7)

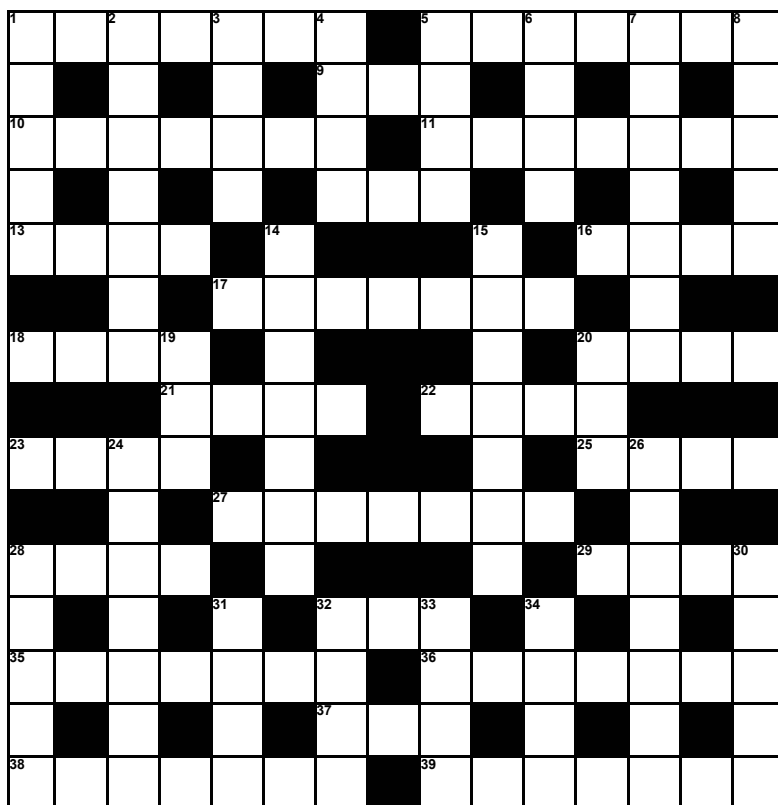
Clues Down

- 1 The copper's beat needed mending (5)
- 2 Surgery is all ready for the camera but not for you (7)
- 3 High tone education (4)
- 4 Examine art with a close look (4)
- 5 Cowboy land turns into a compact meal (4)
- 6 Camera returns unusual sight (4)
- 7 Its late pal to cap the joint. (7)
- 8 My pud consumption doesn't keep me slim (5)
- 14 Japan's airline needs a guru to go for the throat (7)
- 15 That ace is a diplomat (7)
- 19 Its a long time when the years are rolling back. (3)
- 20 Turkish wear in the safe zone (3)
- 24 British telecom mandate (7)
- 26 Eat rope in the theatre (7)
- 28 The house sounds a bit dismal (5)
- 30 Discover a real baddie around the East (5)
- 31 Stop alienating, precious (4)
- 32 Money loses a note to make a nail (4)
- 33 I believe veracity holds the long term key (4)
- 34 Sounds as if one is not terribly bright (4)

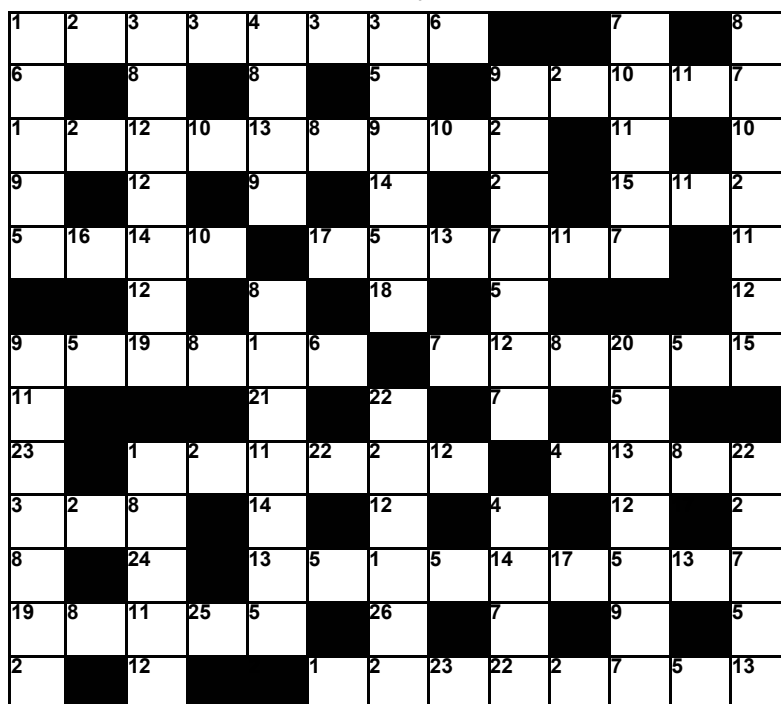
SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO:

The Editor, 17 Elm Road, Brixham,
Devon, TQ5 0DH.

The first correct entry drawn will receive *ten*
whole English £s - remember to include your



Code Word



A B C D ~~E~~ F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S ~~T~~ U V W X Y Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

T

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

D

**Well done to Issue 18 winner Simon
Johnson - a £10 cheque is on it's way**

Each number in the CodeWord grid represents a different
letter - for example 8=X - so, each time 8 occurs, fill in X.
Fill in the letters I've given you as a starter, then use your
skill to work out the letters that go in the blank squares

TIP: As you get the missing letters, complete
the mini-grid and cross the letters off the list -
you'll keep better track!!