

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members & Volunteers - *a Brief* - Newsletter - November 2018

November weekend work party *PLUS*

Meet at STAINTON at 9.30 each day

Dates: Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th (sorry for very short notice!!!)

We will be finishing off block laying on section 5 and earth filling the tops of the bank. Some 'tidying' up at Stainton and the welfare trailer is also necessary.

Two new submersible electric pumps have been bought and will ensure the work area is dry ('ish) Our neighbours in the stables that abut the FF have kindly agreed to allow us to connect to their mains supply so that we can run these pumps etc. without the generator. Apart from fuel saving (we have spent over £250 on pump fuel this year so far and mains power will be about 10% of that) this will allow us to run pumps overnight and all day with far less supervision.

The connecting cables and transformer have been installed and tested with satisfying results.

We will once again have the help of the British Gas team for a midweek work party towards the end of the month. Unfortunately we're not able at this time to confirm a date so will email directly those volunteers who are on the midweek list.

As usual we will arrange delivery of the blocks a few days prior to that date and our telehandler/pallet mover crew will have everything needed in place on the bed in readiness.

If you'd like to join the midweek team simply email chair@lctrust.co.uk.

A reminder that Beryl and Wendy have organised a small group to clear and start maintaining the Stables area which we hope to promote next season as an attractive picnic and barbeque area. They will be meeting at **10.30 on Saturday 1st December**. If you enjoy gardening and have a little spare time they'd love you to join them.

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome. We will provide whatever protective clothing is required for the job in hand (hard hats, hi-vis jackets and work gloves) if you don't have your own. We advise that you bring warm clothes, waterproofs, sturdy boots or wellies and a packed lunch with drinks

PLEASE let me know if you can attend - this is important in case details change, a quick email to chair@lctrust.co.uk is all that's needed.

October report

Break-in at Stainton. On Sunday or Monday 1st October the trailer at Stainton was broken into and pretty well all of the equipment stored there was stolen. Entry was made by cutting a high security rated hasp and the heavy duty security chain of the external items. All has been replaced now but it does mean that equipment will now need to be stored off site which will waste valuable time.

An extended working party had been planned for the weekend of 13/14th October starting with receipt of blocks on the preceding Wednesday.

In order to make the area accessible a lot of water had to be removed from the bed and this was planned to start on Monday 1st. Theft of the pump delayed this start. A replacement pump was organised and setup during the week but a number of other factors including leaf blockages and site attendance meant that by the Thursday pumping progress was not good and it was decided that there was not much chance of pumping out a considerable depth of water in time for the start of WP. Plant hire had to be cancelled and the block deliveries postponed, otherwise money would have been wasted. As it happened the storm on the 12/13th was such that a lot more rainwater got into the bed and work would not have been possible.

A reduced workparty was non-the-less carried out over the weekend with 4 stalwarts braving the elements. All extraneous equipment, materials etc. that had been left along the length were brought back to the car park. Only stacks of unlaidd blocks remained on the canal bed. The Millness yard was also given a complete 'blitz' and looks very much better for it.

Virtually all the equipment, from the site and the welfare hut was taken to Millness. Materials only useful to LCT were left in the trailer which now needs to be sorted out. Only one (old) wheelbarrow was left.

There are stacks of pallets in the car park that should be sufficient for the next block moving session. Most of the rubbish was taken away by skip but some remains.

Partner Organisations – News and Updates

Canal & River Trust:

Work on repairing the Stainton Aqueduct is progressing well though they have also been affected by the weather. Keir's, the national civil engineering company charged with the work, have opened a Facebook page that keeps up to date with that progress. This is the link:

<<https://www.facebook.com/groups/470826920099267/>><https://www.facebook.com/groups/470826920099267/>

No information about CRT work parties this month.

The e-newsletter will be back to normal next month!

LCT Site Locations:

First Furlong – Stainton, Viver Lane, LA8 0LG

<https://www.lctrust.co.uk/activities/stainton-car-park/view-map?tmpl=component...>

Hincaster Tunnel – Well Head Lane (by bridge under A590) Grid Reference SD 5139 8510

Millness Depot – A65 Crooklands (by bridge under M6) Grid Reference SD 5371 8303

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