

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members & Volunteers Newsletter - April 2019

April work party – another 3 day job!

First Furlong

Dates: Friday 12th, Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th - Meet at STAINTON at 9.30 each day

In preparation, on Thursday and Friday, 4th / 5th, the last (wow!) of the blocks will be delivered and a small group will move these two lorry loads onto section 6 using a telehandler and pallet truck as before. This means that the last section will now be free to be lined with the blocks in place.

There is a problem however with the offbank on this section in that the large amount of water that drains from the adjacent fields, a specially from the recent bad weather, has caused a small section to collapse. It may be that we have to dig out this section and install gambions to support the bank but this is still under investigation.

In the meantime bringing the liner up to the correct height along the banks and sealing it then back filling the profiled lengths along the towpath side with the help of a small excavator are the main jobs.

Hincaster Walling

Sufficient stone is now in place to complete the low dry-stone wall by the tunnel entrance. Brian Jones of the Dry Stone Walling Assoc is available to help on the following days: **April – 23rd, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th**

Could aspirant wallers please let David Gibson, damakeep65@gmail.com, know if which day you'd be available.

Crooklands – Paddock gardening

The 'gardening' group will be working on the old paddock next to the Stable at Crooklands on Friday 10th May starting at 10am. You're welcome to join them, just turn up.

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.

HINCASTER MIDWEEK SUMMER WORK PARTIES

As this is the bicentenary of the opening of the Lancaster Canal (LC200) we are doing additional work during the summer to improve the Hincaster area for visitors. A team has already improved the steps up to the horsepath and to the lower viewing platform.

The main work from now on will be strimming the paths at 6 weekly intervals and cutting back vegetation growth where necessary. The steps will also be kept clean and free of vegetation. Work will take place at both ends of the tunnel.

If you are interested in helping please email David Gibson at damakeep65@gmail.com.

The proposed dates are set out below. It should be possible for all the work required to be completed within a day by two people. The trust can supply a strimmer but it can only be used by members who have completed a course organised by the Trust or hold a certificate confirming they have completed a similar course. This is a requirement of CRT on whose land we are working. There will be plenty of clearance and other work if you are not able to use the strimmer.

When replying please indicate which weeks you are available and your preferred days and whether you are certified to use a strimmer. Also if you can bring your own strimmer. I will then draw up a rota and circulate it.

It will be good to have an indication from those members who prefer mid-week working (and the less muddy aspects of the works we do!) of interest in these tasks. I look forward to hearing from you.

Timetable Weeks commencing Mondays 15 April, 27 May, 8 July, 19 August, 30 September

Partner Organisations – News and Updates

Last call for the - *IWA North West Region Annual Social Event* *2019*

This will be held at St Chad's Parish Centre on Saturday April 6th 2019

The programme of events is as follows;

11.00am	Doors open
11.30	Welcome and short update on the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership and the Lancaster Canal bicentenary celebrations by Audrey Smith OBE.
12.00	Buffet lunch
1.00	Region Chairman Sir Robert Atkins and awarding of the Region Prizes. Presentation on the history of the Lancaster Canal by Bill Froggatt (Bill is CRT's Heritage Officer and has a wealth of fascinating knowledge about our canal)
2.00 – 3.00	A chance to walk along the disused length of the Lancaster Canal where it separates from the Leeds & Liverpool near Johnsons Hillock. This walk will be led by Bill Froggatt, C&RT Heritage Advisor and includes a tunnel so boots and a torch are suggested.
3.30	Finish, (the hall will be available for a comfort break up to 3.30)

Cost £10.00 per person to include lunch and a hot drink with lunch, money will be collected on the door. Email Alan Platt, Region Secretary, alan.platt@waterways.org.uk

Directions:

St Chads is at 235 Town Lane, Whittle le Woods, near Chorley, **PR6 8AJ**. It is behind the former Red Cat Pub, easily accessible from junction 8 of the M61; (take the first left turn for Wheelton off the A674, then first left); or from junction 3 of the M65 take the A674 for Wheelton then the second right turn for Wheelton and the first left, there is ample parking at St Chads.

Kingfisher Boat Trip

As everyone must know by now, 2019 is the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Lancaster Canal. One event IWA and LCT have organised is a boat trip on the Lancaster Canal from Aldcliffe Wharf to Hasty Brow and return. This will be on **Monday 17th of June** and the trip boat will be the Kingfisher. The boat will leave Aldcliffe Wharf at 10am but we are asked to meet at 9.45, the trip will take about two and a half to three hours and will include a half an hour stop at the Lune Aqueduct to allow for a look around.

We are fortunate to have William Froggatt, Heritage Advisor for Canal and River Trust, on board and he will talk to us about the Lancaster Canal and the Aqueduct.

Kingfisher has light refreshments on board but you are welcome to bring a picnic if you wish.

The cost of the trip will be £12 per person.

We hope you'll want to join us on what will be a really enjoyable day. Get in touch with Wendy by email on delwendwhm@btinternet.com or by phone on 07763 561572.

Bicentenary programme as now:

Sat 4th May 10.30am First Waterwitch trip

Friday 31st May LCT event/IWA Boats arrive for Trailboat Festival and event for boaters. See the Inland Waterways Association website for details

Sat 1st June Trailboat Festival at Country Fest IWA Event See the Inland Waterways Association website for details

Sun 2nd June Trailboat Festival at Country Fest IWA Event See the Inland Waterways Association website for detail.

Mon 3rd June VIP and awards at the Trailboat Festival. IWA Event See the Inland Waterways Association website for details.

Sat 15th June Balsam Bash at Haslam Park Joint IWA/LCT event with Friends of Haslam Park Meet at 10am at the Friends Hut

Monday 17th June Boat trip on Kingfisher start at 10am Arrive at 9.45 from Aldcliffe Wharf to Hasty Brow and return, Bill Froggatt will be guide, cost £12 Joint IWA/LCT event

July 16th LCT AGM, speaker Andrea Barrett from Canal and River Trust LCT event 7 for a 7.30 start, Longlands Hotel, Tewitfield

July 23rd Meet at UCLAN sports Ground and walk around Ribble Link, then afternoon tea at the café. Cost £5.00 Joint IWA/LCT event Meet at 1pm at the café at the sports ground

July 27th Kennet will be at Johnson's Hillock. Hope to make this a joint event with Friends of Kennet IWA/LCT Kennet will be open to the public, possibly a walk led by Mike Clarke

Sept 12th Westmorland County Show – LCT & IWA will have their Stands as usual – offers of help very welcome

Sept 13th Kendal Torchlight procession LCT will be pulling a boat

Sept 13th to 22nd Heritage Open Days LCT Event Walks and Boat trips planned dates will be on HOD site

Nov 13th Celebration music event Joint IWA/LCT event At the Lansil Club, Lancaster, doors open at 7 for 7.30 event finish at 10.30 "Tacklers Tales" will lead a Lancashire evening themed on the Lancaster Canal

Oct Public open meeting LCT event Further details later

For details as these events are developed keep an eye on the Lancaster Canal Trust website and the Canal and River Trust website.

Some other events in the planning stage:

- Laying of milestones
- Opening of Stainton
- Dinghy rally when First Furlong is open? Walks to Kendal

For further details and offers of help about any of the events please contact Wendy Humphreys, delwendwhm@btinternet.com

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

If you no longer want to receive this e-newsletter simply email chair@lctrust.co.uk with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.