

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members and Volunteers News December 2017

Work Party calendar.
Every month, 2nd weekend throughout the year

Next - December – Sat 9th & Sun 10th

January – Sat 13th & Sun 14th

February - Sat 10th & Sun 11th

March – Sat 14th & Sun 15th

December – Sat 9th and Sun 10th

Saturday will see us liberating the young saplings we planted along the Horse path a couple of years ago that have been overgrown by brambles and a host of other vegetation (weeds?) Once given a chance to grow unhindered these hedge rows will form an attractive border to this historic pathway and make an important contribution to a greater biodiversity.



Sunday will be another walling day to finish the lower wall at Hincaster. A few vols will have moved more walling stone from the Roan Quarry up to the site during the previous week in readiness. Great experience, working within the setting of a Grade II listed structure. If we don't get to it finished then there's an opportunity to do a bit more on the following Tuesday.

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 note that there are no facilities on our sites.

Please let me know if you can attend - this is important in case details change.

November Work Party report

Pumping out water from FF was the main task this weekend using our 3" pump and whilst the pump was working away, re-grouting the transition walls between the two bunds under Bridge 173 was in progress.

Previously, over half the bed between the bunds had been cleared by Steve G with his digger, revealing the old wrinkled terraseal lining. It was decided to remove this and it was cut up into manageable pieces and put aside for later removal by barrow or dumper. Remnants of spoil were cleared to leave a fairly flat bed with a shallow layer of pooled water. Further clearance will be needed which could be done by machine or hand to make it smoother. The water levels seems to indicate that the bed itself is not leaking but around the edges. When the full area has been cleared it will be useful to do a leak test by pumping in a small amount of water. It is planned to use this area as a test exercise for preparing and laying the EDPM liner, planned to be installed in the rest of the FF in the new year – see below.

Clearing the bed revealed some features that will also need to be taken into account when fitting the lining:

- At the bottom of each side wall there is a foundation layer of stones that jut into the bed by 100mm and are about 80mm deep
- The full profile at the transition walls could be seen. On each side a large fillet of clay extends into the bed. It is likely that the lining will be lapped under them. When SG continues his work we will see if he can remove the relevant parts of the fillets so that the lining can be laid.

All exciting stuff! Re-watering FF is moving along at a pace!

Photos on our website at www.lancastercanaltrust.org.uk.

Also this weekend our dedicated Hincaster tunnel volunteers continued to work wonders clearing vegetation, working on the Horse Path and working towards revealing this superb structure ready for the bicentenary celebrations in 2019.

Partner Organisations News and Updates

Canal & River Trust – Volunteering

Just so we don't forget, there is a lot of our canal below Tewitfield!

C&RT hold regular work parties all along the length of the Canal and we are more than happy to encourage our members/volunteers who live further south to get involved. We'll publish their work party events as a regular feature:

Lune Nature site (Lune Aquaduct Lancaster) volunteer days

Wednesday 6th December 10am - 3pm – Removing unwanted vegetation and tidying up grassed area

Wednesday 20th December 10am - 3pm – Clearance of ponds and redistribution of plants

Free parking is available next to the site located on Caton Rd, Lancaster LA1 3PE. All equipment is provided but if you can ensure that you have weather appropriate clothing and wear sturdy footwear. Tea and coffee will be provided but please ensure you bring along your own lunch and a drink. If you are able to attend either or both of these dates for all or part of the day please let me know. Contact:

Alice Kay - Canal and River Trust

Email: Alice.Kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Mobile: 07825 196 365

Friends of Carnforth Coke Ovens

The next **Annual General Meeting of the Friends** will take place at **The Canal Turn in Carnforth on Thursday 30 November starting at 7.30pm.**

The Friends are currently discussing with the Canal & River Trust (owners of the site) the removal of the soil infill from one of the five ovens.

This is one of many related subjects which can be discussed at the AGM.

Please contact Brian on 07721 007379 if you have any queries.

First Furlong Update:

As you will no doubt have expected the recent heavy rain has put a huge amount of water back into the First Furlong, back in fact to where it was on 23rd October when last reported. There is now no immediate prospect of getting a digger in to do clearance until we can drop that level again. There has been something around 6½" of rain over the last week.

We will be installing a second syphon pipe therefore in the next week to help us recover and maintain the situation (except for extreme events).

Another effect of the rain has been to fill the 'leaking' area at B173, that which was recently cleared, to a depth of about 300mm. If it doesn't drain naturally it will have to be pumped or syphoned out. Fortunately it gives us the chance to check the leakage which seemed very low after the clearance work. A reference peg has been installed for monitoring.

We are delighted to learn that the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) have accepted our invitation to run a fortnight work camp at Easter next year. So it gives us a target date because by that time we need to have completed all the preparatory work, clearing the bed, re-profiling the banks, materials ordered and delivered to site, heavy equipment ready to start work and so on. Exciting times and, from what we hear, our own volunteers are raring to go!

Keep up to date with this E-newsletter – now also on our website.

Other Volunteering opportunities

In addition to the physical work of maintenance and restoration there are a host of other tasks necessary to keep the Trust running and developing and that don't involve getting dirty or being on a committee. Fund raising, publicity, attending events, crewing on the trip boat Waterwitch as examples. If you have a little spare time, some skills and would like to contribute to the running of the Trust then please get in touch.

Email chair@lancastercanalrust.org.uk **if you'd like more info.**

Do you know of, or perhaps are a member of, another group or society that would like an illustrated talk about the canal, its history, architecture and future? Get in touch via the website.

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@lancastercanaltrust.org.uk with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.