

# Lancaster Canal Trust

## Members & Volunteers Newsletter

February 2018

### Work Party Dates & Tasks

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>  
February**

#### **Construction of Access Ramp under Bridge 172**

A very coarse estimate is that there is enough surplus material along the length and at B173 to form a ramp from the bund to the canal bed. This will allow access directly from the car park for machinery that will be used later.

Old lining material from the bed will be used as a protective cover for the area around the base of the stop planks. Further material in the fill will help stabilise it. We need to aim for a gradient of 20% which means a length of 10m from the top of the bund. There must be a minimum of 300mm over the stop plank area. Prior to the weekend PJ & RY and others will have been running the 3in pump and clearing channels through the remaining mud along the bed to ensure the bed is as 'dry' as possible. We will have on site the 5tonne excavator and two small dumpers.

#### **Removal of Old Lining from the Banks**

The old lining on the first 50 metres of bank consists of Terraseal sheets covered with earth and stabilised with GeoGrid honeycomb. The GeoGrid is hung on tendons anchored at the top.

After seeing the work at B173 where the dam was similarly lined it will be a matter of pulling it off with a digger, tearing the Geogrid. It may be necessary to cut the tendons when they are revealed.

There will be surplus material to be moved to the B172 ramp. There is 50m of lining on the towpath side and about 10m on the off bank at the culvert entry point. The GeoGrid pieces should fold flat for disposal.

**March Workparty – Sat 10<sup>th</sup> & Sun 11<sup>th</sup>  
(possibly with extra days)**

We will be welcoming the North West group of WRG who will help with the relining and testing the area under B173. The transition walls here are known to leak and discussions are taking place with CRT and others as to how best to permanently seal them. It is hoped that this weekend will see completion of all the preparation work ready for the full WRG camp at Easter.

*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 and helps plan out the work.***

### Report on January work party

The digger was fully employed over the four days clearing the bed of accumulated sludge and spreading it along the banks to dry out. This will be used to build the ramp at the Feb work party



In addition, others worked at trimming back the overgrown hedge.....



and stripping B173 of ivy and brambles whose roots get deep into the cracks between the stones and eventually cause tremendous damage. It is in need of repointing but that's a job that's going to have to wait!



## Partner Organisations – News & Updates

**IWA Branch** are holding their AGM on the 22nd Feb. Sir Robert Atkins, chair of IWA Northwest, is the speaker. The venue is, St Chad's Parish Centre, 235 Town Lane, Whittle-le-Woods, PR6 8AJ. The centre will be open from 7pm for socialising and the meeting will start at 7.30pm [wendy.humphreys@waterways.org.uk](mailto:wendy.humphreys@waterways.org.uk) for more information.

### Canal & Rivers Trust – Volunteering

Meeting Location: **Cadley service block off Woodplumpton Rd, Preston, PR2 2LH**

Taskforce Date: **Wednesday 14.02.2018**

Taskforce Contact: **Anthony Bush - 07889183230**

Start / Finish: **10.00 to 14.00**

Task: **Litter sweep into canal basin**

### Friends of Carnforth Coke Ovens

For information of their work programme for 2018 please contact Brian Crawley on 07721 007379. or email - [charcopse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charcopse@yahoo.co.uk)

## January social at the Longlands Hotel



30+ members and guests had an enjoyable evening watching a short film of a trek through the back streets of Preston following the line of the old canal, a selection of 'photo art' and Tony Entwistle brought everyone up to date on plans for the bicenary celebrations in 2019. After a break to refresh glasses etc Peter Jones gave a fascinating presentation, a gallop through 200 years of history bringing us up to the present restoration project. Unanimous agreement that we should 'do it again'. Full

marks to Beryl and Wendy for organising it and they are now looking for some volunteers to help organise the next, perhaps further south down the canal? Get in touch please if you would like to help and/or have ideas for a venue and speakers etc.

## The 100 Club

The draw produces winners each and every month – do YOU have a number? You don't have to be a member to hold a number so tell your family and friends. There are still a few left so get in touch with Cath Davenport at: [nookcotts@ktdbroadband.com](mailto:nookcotts@ktdbroadband.com)

Numbers are £12 per year and other than the prize money, all goes into restoration of our canal's Northern Reaches.

## AOB

Do you have a First Aid certificate or would you like to be trained? The Trust will pay the costs of the course and your commitment would be to be available at some work parties. Please get in touch if either are the case.

Wendy is preparing the Spring/Summer edition of our magazine Waterwitch and, as always, is seeking interesting articles, comments, and so on for inclusion. There is thought of a feature on a member – why did you join the trust, what is your interest in the canal, how do you see the future, do you go boating, fishing, walking etc.

Please get in touch with her if you're interested in contributing [wendy.humphreys@waterways.org.uk](mailto:wendy.humphreys@waterways.org.uk)

### 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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