

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members and Volunteers News January 2018

Happy New Year One And All

Many, many thanks to all those who put so much time and effort, enthusiasm and cheerful banter into the Trust in 2017. Together we contributed some 1800 hours into work parties, the trip boat and a variety of other tasks over the course of the year and achieved so much. Once again, a huge

THANK YOU and here's looking forward to a landmark year 2018

Work Party calendar.

January - 4 days – Friday 12th, Sat 13th, Sun 14th
& Monday 15th

February - Sat 10th & Sun 11th

March – Sat 14th & Sun 15th

March 31st to 15th April – Waterways Recovery
Group work camp. More detail later.

On Friday 12th Jan we will be making a start on clearing vegetation and top soil from the sides and bed of FF working our way up from Bridge 172 at Stainton. We will have on site an 8-tonne digger and will be piling the 'spoils' against the existing bund. When this dries, the aim is to compact it and form a new ramp giving access to the bed in readiness for moving the lining materials on to site.

At the moment we only have two experienced digger drivers, Richard Trevitt and David Joyner, and given the restoration plans over the next few years we are keen to have more. David is a WRG trainer and is willing to 'train up' others, so if you've ever watched a digger at work and thought you'd like to have a go at that - now's your chance! Seriously, this is a great opportunity

to learn a new skill and make a useful contribution to the restoration work.



Other tasks over the four days include constructing a low bund some 50 meters from bridge 173. Additionally, there is more work to be done at Hincaster, including the construction of a handrail alongside the steps.

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.

December Work Party report



Started with ..

And finished with ...



We had 4 days of work in December which took place on 7th, 9th & 10th and the 12th December and over the four working days we transferred all the stone we had collected from Wilsons from Wellheads Lane to the tunnel area. Upper and lower paths.

We cleared another 10m on both sides of the upper horsepath and cleared the soil from most of the length of the lower wall and removed two large roots from the dead stump which would have impeded the wall.

As the photo above shows we completed about 40% of the wall to the correct height and made a good start on most of the rest. Some soil still needs digging out near the steps.

We've run out of good stone at the lower level so will not do any further work until the professional waller, Andrew Mason, has completed the upper wall when we will be able to move the stone he doesn't use to the lower level and complete the lower wall. The estimate is that this will give us enough stone to complete the job. A job for the next work party will be to inspect the section of wall between the steps and the quadrant base. This seems to be in better order but we will not know until we clean the vegetation off the stone.

Photos will soon be on our website at www.lancastercanaltrust.org.uk.

Partner Organisations News and Updates

Canal & River Trust – Volunteering

Wednesday 17th, 24th and 31st January. Meet at the Lune Aqueduct car park on Caton Road, Lancaster at 10am. Please let Alice know if you can attend.

Email: Alice.Kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Mobile: 07825 196 365

Friends of Carnforth Coke Ovens

For information of their work programme for 2018n please contact Brian Crawley on 07721 007379.

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.

Members & Guests evening January

A reminder of the social evening on Wednesday 17th January at the Longlands Hotel, 7pm for a 7.30 start.

I hope you will be able to join us for a social evening that promises to be both interesting and entertaining.

Preparatory work will have already started on relining the First Furlong so this is an opportunity to share with you the ongoing plans.

There will also be a presentation from Tony Entwistle, Canal and River Trust, Development and Engagement Manager who will be telling us about the emerging plans for the celebrations in 2019 of the 200th anniversary of the opening of our canal.

In addition, Dr Andrew Churchill from University of Central Lancashire and a colleague will show a short film of his efforts to follow the path of the canal from its current terminus in Preston to the former basin, including walking through car dealership, play areas, brambles and the university buildings. He also has a short presentation of a photo project he has undertaken.

And of course there will also be an opportunity to catch up on news and chat to other members. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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