

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members & Volunteers Newsletter - March 2018

March work party details

Dates - four days (there's a lot to do!) Friday 9th to Monday 12th

Meet at Stainton Cross, directions below, at 9.30 each day.

There are three main tasks for this long weekend:

The first, started last month, is to continue stripping the soil and geoweb from the bank sides in readiness for laying the waterproof membrane and blocks at the big WRG work party at Easter. This material scrapped off will be moved to under Br 172 and compacted to form a new access ramp down to the canal bed.



Whilst this is going on another group will be relining the short stretch beneath Sellet Hall bridge (Br 173) which will allow us to identify any problems with the materials and our handling of them.

Getting familiar with moving the material on to site using a telehandler will ensure there are no 'hitches' when this is being done in earnest at Easter.

The third job is pointing the transition walls on either side of Br 173 with a waterproof lime mortar.

We're delighted that Waterways Recovery Group Northwest are spending the weekend with us, bring their enthusiasm and expertise. A couple of their members are qualified WRG trainers giving us an opportunity to expand our growing list of volunteers who can use diggers, dumpers and a telehandler.

Prior to the weekend we will have moved the Trust's welfare trailer on to the car park, erected Haris fencing round the site, completed the clearance of material from under Br 173 (thanks to Steve Gibson and his trusty minidigger) and been pumping water out of the bed so we don't have to work in thick mud as per Feb workparty (see photo above!)

It will be really very useful to know who's going to be joining us and on what days – knowing numbers will allow us to plan the tasks more efficiently so please let me know via chair@lancastercanaltrust.org. Thank you.

Report on February work party

a total of 19 volunteer days by 10 volunteers

As part of the preliminary works a 40m of length of old lining was stripped from the towpath bank and most of the material moved to under bridge 172 to start the build up of a new access ramp. Despite all the effort put in by volunteers that the result fell short of expectations was due to a number of issues – personnel and equipment. The equipment work fine apart from some difficulties with changing buckets with the 'auto hitch' though it was delayed being delivered to site due to the road closure by Sellet Lodge.

Particular thanks to Paul Shaw who attended Sat/Sun and provided training for our volunteers as well as other valuable assistance. Excavator training was given to one volunteer and three volunteers were trained on handling a dumper. Although training does not get the job done as quickly it provides a more solid basis for future work. (once you've cracked the basics of handling a digger it's just a matter of lots of practice to become really proficient, or so David J keeps telling me! Ed)

During the prior week pumping managed to get the water down to a very low level. Unfortunately heavy rain in the couple of days before and one day into WP the set things back. Compounded by a seizure of the pump on the first day left a lot of water in the work area resulting in moved material being much wetter than desired.

Those not involved with operations in the canal worked hard:

- the cleaning the stonework of Br 173 was finished.

- the remainder of the hedge along the southern boundary was cut, though not as drastically as the previous section, the barbed wire fence removed and a good start made on cutting up the felled material.
- It was agreed that for the present this would be left alongside the towpath to decompose and make a contribution to biodiversity rather than to have to double handle it to a burning place in F2.
- a gap was kept between it and the fence to allow the laying of the hedge to take place in future. Some may have to be moved to make more room on the towpath.

Lessons learnt:

- We should have a register of volunteer skills, the more who are trained the better
- Before a work party we should have specific attendance commitments from trained volunteers.
- If possible we should arrange a rota of volunteers to keep plant in operation, including an 'early shift' to get things started
- It is difficult to account for weather but a more specific pumping regime could help
- The new screen on the pump inlet hose was not up to the job. Being plastic it broke and let in a couple of large stones that jammed the pump. Alternative solution: small supermarket wire basket!
- We will not park dumpers or leave buckets along the towpath, in fact we should avoid plant along the towpath at all if possible. It leaves a great mess, particularly with the wet weather.



Partner Organisations – News and Updates

Canal & River Trust:

We are continuing with the restoration work at the Lune aqueduct nature site as there is lots to do before spring starts the dates are every week. **Please let me know if you are planning to come along so we can plan the work effeciently.**

It is advisable to wear wellies as upcoming work involves some coppicing in quite a waterlogged area & please ensure that you dress warmly and in weather appropriate clothing.

Meeting Location: Lune Aqueduct car park, Caton rd, Lancaster, LA1 3PE	Meeting Location: Lune Aqueduct car park, Caton rd, Lancaster, LA1 3PE	Meeting Location: Lune Aqueduct car park, Caton rd, Lancaster, LA1 3PE
Taskforce Date: Thursday 01.03.2018	Taskforce Date: Wednesday 14.03.2018	Taskforce Date: Thursday 29.03.2018
If you can let me know if you are planning to attend that would be great – alice.kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk	If you can let me know if you are planning to attend that would be great – alice.kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk	If you can let me know if you are planning to attend that would be great – alice.kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk
Taskforce Contact: Alice Kay- 07825196365	Taskforce Contact: Alice Kay- 07825196365	Taskforce Contact: Alice Kay- 07825196365
Start / Finish: 1000 to 1500	Start / Finish: 1000 to 1500	Start / Finish: 1000 to 1500
Task: Vegetation clearance	Task: Vegetation clearance	Task: Vegetation clearance

Towpath Taskforce Preston

Meeting Location: Cadley service block off Woodplumpton Rd, Preston, PR2 2LH
Taskforce Date: Wednesday 14.03.2018
Taskforce Contact: Anthony Bush - 07889183230
Start / Finish: 10.00 to 14.00
Task: Litter sweep into canal basin continued from last month

Lancaster Canal Coke Ovens

A couple of recent work parties at the Lancaster coke ovens on the Lansil golf course have hugely improved the view of the ovens from the canal and from the towpath. It may also now be possible to do a temporary mooring at the old coal unloading wharf. Some more work would now be useful, with the required approval, to clear some of the infill in the ovens and remove the trees that are potentially causing damage to the structure.



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

As we start on the long haul of restoring our canal to it's full length it's worth a glimpse at the past. Thanks to Daryl Scott for this



My parents bought a boat, Patricia, on the Lancaster Canal & it was moored at Salwick in the late fifties. Not long after that the Preston Civil Defence decided to see if they could evacuate wounded people by canal. They bandaged people up & laid them on the decks of boats & daubed the bandages with red paint. The fishermen got rather worried seeing all the wounded people, until what was happening was explained to them. A few years later we took a mooring at Galgate, in the days when Sam Sherry ran the boat yard.

When I was 18 we knew about the plans to build the M6 across the canal, so a rally was organised in Tewitfield below the locks. One of the Lancaster Canal Boat Club, committee members, Ronnie Bebbington, invited M.P. Barbara Castle on his boat, the Emperor, for the day & she said she would support our cause to keep the canal open. Ronnie was determined to influence local public opinion in support of the canal staying open to the north & he asked me to take him in my 2 seater canoe, starting as far north as was navigable, south to Tewitfield. One section was shut off between bridges & the canal water went through a pipe. He took photos of various sections of the canal, which he was able to show on a screen, at presentations to different organisations, e.g. Rotary & WI groups.

And so the campaign to save our canal began

Many thanks to our member Daryl Scott, now of Dover, for this interesting and valuable contribution.

We know there are other members who must have fascinating stories to share about their experiences of the Owd Lanky and its history – do, please, get in touch.

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

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

Date for your diaries:

IWA North West Region Social Event on Saturday 7th April 2018

Venue:- Fidlers Ferry Sailing Club The Lock (off Station Rd), Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2UJ

Time:- 10.30am for 11.00pm start. **Finish**:- 3.00pmish

Buffet lunch at £10.00 per Head

To book a place at the event contact:- Jim Mole

Email 16-elizabeth@tiscali.co.uk

Tel. 01606 40955 Mobile. 07580 162355

Brief order of the day

Arrive 10.30am for Tea, Coffee and Biscuits

11.00am Start of proceeding with Welcome from Chairman Sir Robert Atkins.

11.15am. Presentation From the Sankey Canal Restoration Society and or reports from the branches.

Very important – are we going to be able to send you this e-newsletter after May this year?

Due to new data protection regulations we cannot send you emails after May without your express permission.

If you are a member you are deemed to have given your permission because you have made a commitment to the Trust by being a member.

If you are not a member, and we have details of some people who are interested but are not members, we have to get your permission to communicate with you. Up to May we can do this by email and you can reply by email and we can record your consent. If we don't hear from you then, sadly, we cannot any longer contact you and you will get no further correspondence from us.

Be aware please that we will never send you anything that does not relate to the Trust, definitely no advertising and we don't share your information with any third parties.

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.