

# Lancaster Canal Trust

## Members and Volunteers News November 2017

**Work Party calendar.**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend throughout the year

**Next - November – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> & Sun 12<sup>th</sup>**  
December – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> & Sun 10<sup>th</sup>  
January – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> & Sun 14<sup>th</sup>  
February - Sat 10<sup>th</sup> & Sun 11<sup>th</sup>

### November – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> and Sun 12<sup>th</sup>

Principle tasks will be erecting temporary safety fencing and then clearing the upper quadrants at the east end of Hincaster Tunnel. Also creating a 1 metre wide clear strip along the wash walls and clearing moss from those walls.

Also during November we will pump out any remaining water between the bunds at B173, getting a digger in to clear the bed and banks of overlay, re-grouting the transition walls with lime mortar – all in preparation for a test lining.

**If you're interested, see below:**

As we move closer to restoring the First Furlong there is increasing need for more than one Work Party each month. Details of these additional tasks may not be known when this Enews has to be sent out. We have a good number of volunteers who are free and willing to join us at other times, especially on week days which suit them better. We have promised not to 'bombard' you with emails so if you'd like to 'opt-in' to an additional brief email letting you have details of these additional dates let me know – [chair@lctrust.co.uk](mailto:chair@lctrust.co.uk)

*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.**

### Coke Ovens - Update

Wed 1 Nov from 10am to 4 pm.

**Task:** Removal of soil and hawthorn tree from the top of the old stone wharf and removal of vegetation from the top and behind the oven bank at the site of the Carnforth coke ovens and spreading of wood chip on the public footpath through the site. It would be useful to know who might be able to help so let me know by email or 07721007379. Be aware that there is no car parking over canal bridge 127 so please park in Cragbank at the other side of the A6 and walk over the bridge.

Brian Crawley

### October Work Party report

The walling team did a sterling job in October on rebuilding the lower wall on the side of the Horse Path at Hincaster. A busy weekend just passed with many volunteers turning up to demolish the old stone walls and rebuild them under supervision of the Dry Stone Wallers Association. The weather was fair to good and lots of banter and good natured fun in spite of the heavy work. We all learned a lot about how dry stone walls are built and the two days passed quickly. There is still more work to be done at a later date and more stone needed.



*Well, that's the foundations done, now for the rest of it!*

### More stone collecting & sorting for the Hincaster wall

L&W Wilsons have once again offered us access to their quarry at Roan Edge (directions below) and we plan to meet there at **10am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** and select more suitable limestone. If you've got a couple of hours free you'll be very welcome.

**Directions:** Grid Ref SD 586 929 The Quarry is on the A684 Kendal to Sedbergh Road. From Kendal it is about ¾ mile before the Motorway on the right hand

side. From the motorway Junction 37, up the hill and about ¾ mile on the left hand side. It is signed Roan Edge Quarry. Please park on the wide track at the entrance to the site.

### Social Evening – January

A date for your diary! A social evening is planned for Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> January at the Longlands Hotel. As well as a chance to meet up with old friends talk canal stuff we'll have a couple of speakers one of whom will be Tony Entwistle from CRT who will bring us up to date with plans and ideas for the bicentenary. The other to be advised. More detail closer to the event but make sure it's in your diaries now.

### First Furlong Update: Installing a syphon

Draining the accumulation of water out of the First Furlong is the first step in the relining project. At present the water is too deep to get a digger in which will be needed to scrape off the overlay and re-profile the banks. A small team laid a 30mm pipe under the towpath and into the culvert adjacent to Bridge173 and the towpath then made good.



At the time of writing the siphon was only just holding its own against the rainfall!

### 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 and would like to contribute to the running of the Trust then please get in touch.

Email [chair@lctrust.co.uk](mailto:chair@lctrust.co.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.

### Hedgelaying course

On Thursday 12th Oct CRT had organised a hedgelaying course for their volunteers and invited us to join them. John L, June, John M, Alistair G, Richard T and Tom H from LCT attended, keen to learn a new skill.

We were briefed by CRT staff Anthony B and David T at CRT office and then proceeded to Glasson Branch between locks 1&2. We were issued with goggles, really heavy duty gloves and brand new tools, some were not all that sharp; billhooks, pruning saws, secateurs, loppers.

We split into 4 pairs, guided by AB & DT and set about a 10ft high hedge which had been previously laid many years ago. We took out the elder and thinned the hawthorn so that it could be laid. We did a total of approx 40m between us. Our paired teams meant that we had to arrange a seamless connection with the next pair's work rather than working continuously along the hedge. I think we all enjoyed the day's work and felt that we had learned something useful.

Richard T

### 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

Membership details are on the website –  
[www.lctrust.co.uk](http://www.lctrust.co.uk)

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