

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members and Volunteers News October 2017

**Work Party calendar.
Every 2nd weekend throughout the year**

**Next - October – Sat 7th & Sun 8th
November – Sat 11th & Sun 12th
December – Sat 9th & Sun 10th
January – 13th & Sun 14th**

October – Sat 7th and Sun 8th



Working with the expert wallers of the Dry Stone Wallers Assoc this is an opportunity to learn walling or hone existing skills and will be this month's principal task. For those not keen on walling there is much needed maintenance work to be done both at the approaches to the tunnel.

Additionally, there is a 'drain' to be installed beneath the towpath along the First Furlong. After a very wet summer the depth of water in the FF is steady at 600mm. This is far too deep to work in, manually or with equipment and there is an urgent need to get the water down to a manageable level so it is proposed to install a protected culvert pipe under the towpath.

This task will require a couple of active volunteers and will be scheduled for one day of the October WP or, if this isn't possible, as a separate exercise later in

the month. This will allow us to start clearance work in November (i.e get a digger into the bed for you all to play with), we need to move this forward if WRG can come at Easter. The work will include restoration of the bit of the towpath that we have damaged.

November Sat 11th & Sun 12th

Likely to be further work on the First Furlong – see above. More detail in the next E-newsletter.

If you can join us on any of these days you will be very welcome. Meet at 9.30am at Millness depot. We will collect tools there and share transport to whichever work site has been chosen.

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 (the forecast is good, but this is Cumbria!) gloves, 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.

Westmorland County Show

Despite the weather, wellies and waterproofs *de rigueur*, another successful show with lots of interest in our stand.



Waterwitch was as popular as ever.....



Mind you, getting the stands up the previous day was a challenge!



Raising the valve post – Wakefield Wharf

Over the years this valve post had sunk deep into the towpath so it was barely visible.



Having dug around the post a tripod hoist was used to straighten and lift it back into its original position.



And a job well done! Another significant bit of canal heritage restored



IWA Social – Thursday 28th September

Members and Volunteers are invited to join Inland Waterways Assoc members at their first social meeting of the 2017/18 season when the speaker will be our own Richard Trevitt. He will be talking about the work of the Trust and the exciting plans which are developing for the bicentenary in 2019. It's also a chance to find out what the Cumbria & Lancashire branch of IWA has been doing in the summer months and chat to fellow members and guests.

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.

The Trust's magazine, *Waterwitch* is out soon but there is still time to get your ideas/articles in print providing we have them by the 26th September. Use the contact on the 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 and would like to contribute to the running of the Trust then please get in touch.

Email chair@lctrust.co.uk if you have any queries.

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.

Finally, can we ask those of you who are receiving this Members & Volunteers email and who are not already members of the Trust to join. It's not expensive and is another way you can make a worthwhile contribution to the work of the Trust.

Membership details are on the website –

www.lctrust.co.uk

If you no longer want to receive this E-newsletter email chair@lctrust.co.uk with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.