

Lancaster Canal Trust

Members and Volunteers News September 2017

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

September - Sun 10th
October – Sat 7th & Sun 8th
November – Sat 11th & Sun 12th
December – Sat 9th & Sun 10th

September work party

There is still a lot of useful work to be done at Hincaster this month, keeping the stonework and steps clear of vegetation, strimming the viewing area and paths and making a start at clearing the bed of the accumulated roots and plant material.

On **Monday 18th**, as a mid-week job we will be raising the tethering stone at the Wakefield Wharf to its proper height. This will involve digging round it and lifting it out with a block and tackle, filling the void below it with aggregate and then bedding it back in.

Westmorland County Show – Thursday 14th Sept.



Our stand at the County Show will once again be a bustling place to be and it will be great if you could join us. Also, if you have a couple of hours spare to help out that will be great too, it's always a good 'crack' and Pat & Gordon make sure we are never in want of a cup of tea or coffee!

We have been donated a good number of canal books by the family of the late Tony Hutt, a long time active member and avid reader and we thank them for this contribution. They will be on sale at our stand, all the proceeds going towards restoration.

October – Sat 7th and Sun 8th

We held an additional work party last week selecting and bagging the additional stone needed to rebuild the lower wall on the Horse Path. Thanks to L & W Wilson for giving us access to their mountain of limestone!



Working with the expert wallers of the Dry Stone Wallers Assoc this is an opportunity to learn walling or hone your 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 and at the Stables.

If you can join us on any of these you will be very welcome. Meet at 9.30am at Millness depot or at 10am at Hincaster (Wellhead Lane)

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.

First Furlong News

We're getting on well with plans for relining the First Furlong at Stainton. A lot of research and consultations with other restoration projects around the country had identified two suitable lining materials and the decision to use EPDM (Enhanced Butyl Rubber) based on its durability, flexibility and price has now been taken.

We have put in a bid for a WRG (Waterways Restoration Group) work camp to join us early next year and, together with our own stalwarts, we could see the First Furlong back in water by the middle of the year.

In the meantime, we have the job of preparing the ground, pumping out the water that accumulates and stripping of the vegetation down to the original clay. The sides and bed will then be lined with a Geotextile to protect the Butyl which is laid on top followed by a further layer of Geotextile. The whole is then covered in concrete blocks. More detail later.

Relining this section of the canal will be a major step forward and keep us volunteers busy for many months!

Members Social Events

Beryl Bowcott, long serving member who has just join us as a trustee, is hoping to generate interest in social activities. She would especially like to hear from members along the length of the canal with suggestions and ideas for events we can arrange for members and the public and that you would like to get involved in perhaps nearer to the your own area. Events such as Guided Walks, Coffee Mornings, Afternoon Teas, Evening Events – for example music in a local pub, Talks, etc. I am sure you may have your own ideas and thoughts for venues in your area. Maybe you would also have ideas that would be attractive to children. Please get in touch with your thoughts.

Publicity

We distribute leaflets from a variety of locations scattered along the length of the canal, in places like marinas, pubs and shops. We are looking for more spots that the Trust can display leaflets (post offices, caravan sites, hotels, etc.) If you know of anywhere please let us know.

We also need volunteers to deliver the leaflets to these sites - particularly Bilsborrow, Longlands Hotel, Carnforth, Kendal and Holme. If you can help please let us know.

Waterwitch



The ever popular Waterwitch continues to run on Sundays until the end of the month. It's also available for private charters. John Acres will be repeating his walk at the Gunpowder Trail for the Heritage Weekend at 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 9th September from Crooklands so why not combine a trip on the canal with a guided walk to the Gatebeck gunpowder works?

Finally, can we ask those of you who are receiving the 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

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.

A reminder that the thoroughly revised 6th Edition of the Guidebook is available via our website.

