

Lancaster Canal Trust

Monthly Bulletin – April 2022

Plans for April:

- Saturday 9th Dave Haigh will be leading a group to finish off the low wall by Hincaster Tunnel and clear overgrowing vegetation.
Meet at Well Head Lane at 9.30.



- Nb Waterwitch - All the crew members will be attending their annual training refresher on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd April as required for our MCA licence conditions and to ensure we provide a safe, professional service to our guests on Waterwitch.
- There will be a site visit to the FF by CRT engineers to discuss the best way to identify the source of the leakage. It appears that the leakage rate may be slowing as the water levels drops which would suggest the area of concern is higher up the bank – but this is mere speculation.

Activities during March



The Stables

Following on from our work rebuilding the steps last year Richard has now replaced the rotten lower rail and given it all two coats of timber treatment. There is a rotten bit in the lower section of the top rail which needs some further work.

The site is now looking very smart – ready for the new boat trip season.

The **Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership** held a Development Day at the Crooklands Hotel early in the month, an event that brought together all the partner organisations with the aim of mapping out the future of LCRP. Discussions included the next stages of the Towpath Trail and closer engagement with the business communities along the canal. A full report will be issued in due course.



At Millness

CRT staff clearing and tidying the area in readiness for the areas use as a Kayaking and Canoeing centre over the Spring and Summer. This is an experimental joint venture between CRT and the Lake District National Park and, if judged to be successful, will see the whole site developed as a permanent water based activity centre.



Guided heritage walk on Sunday march 6th

Started and finished at Haslam Park in Preston. We had a nice, sunny spring day which made a welcome change from the storms we had been seen the previous month.

9 people attended and a short path through Haslam park gets you onto the canal, opposite Cadley Wharf, with its stone built 'Savick House 1838' on the gable end. Very little duck weed here at this time of year but can be a problem in summer.

We headed out towards the Ribble link junction and a walk down the staircase locks, with a summary of how they work before getting across and onto the links path taking us ‘down’ the canalised Savick Brook (Ribble Link), first opened in 2002. We stopped at a couple of the locks for short talks and then moved on to our short lunch stop at lock 7 before crossing over a footbridge and on a public footpath through Lea golf course. This connects us with Darkinson Lane and over the railway until we got to Quakers Bridge and back on to the Lancaster Canal Towpath. Some improvements have been made to the towpath surface since my last walk here in May 2021.

A short stop at the Uclan sports ground for facilities and the final whistle café which is now back open but short staffed when we were there. We retraced our towpath route back to Haslam Park and a good walk was had by all. Thanks to Wendy Humphreys for helping to organise and as walk assistant with me.

Nigel Hardacre

Photo courtesy of Charles Turner

N.B Waterwitch - 2022 Cruising Season starts on Sunday 1st May



Following a shortened season in 2021 due to the pandemic we are really excited about the new season, and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new to a scenic trip on the Northern Reaches of the Lancaster Canal on our traditional narrowboat Waterwitch. The crew have been busy getting the boat out of her winter covers and sprucing up the paintwork, plus we have finally managed to source a replacement stern button (fender) to replace the one removed in 2017 (see picture)

Engineer Neil McGarry has serviced the trusty Lister engine to his usual high standard to ensure smooth sailing during the summer, thank you Neil

The boat will be available for trips on all the Sundays and Bank Holidays May – September as usual and we will be welcoming new crew members following a successful training and recruitment program started last year despite the Covid-19 issues experienced in the early part of the year which led to some frantic rescheduling of training days. We will of course be running additional trips to coincide with the Country Fest on the weekend of 28th and 29th May and the Westmorland Show on the 7th and 8th September, all from the Westmorland Showground landing stage

The Carnforth Coke Ovens

The photo is a composite of 2 views of the remains of the coke oven at Bolton le Sands next to Bridge 125 which has taken 6 years to reveal. The first third was revealed in 2018 but refilled with rubble from the excavation for safety reasons before starting on the next two thirds, completed last month. We are hoping to have an open day soon before backfilling with the new rubble and possibly starting to dig the next oven!



Brian Crawley

Coming up ...

Country Fest – 28th and 29th May

It is hoped to have the Gazebo in place for this popular event that attracts a lot of interest in the canal. Please get in touch if you are able offer help on either day. More details in the next Bulletin

IWA News

On the 30th of March 7.30pm we are having a social meeting at Primrose Gardens, Chorley, Alison Smedley, IWA's Campaigns Manager will be talking about IWA campaigns. As ever LCT members are very welcome.

Details are on the Inland Waterways Association website www.waterways.org.uk on the Lancashire and Cumbria branch pages, but I have copied the registration link below. Feel free to share the link with other interested parties.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UVA-CXiAQqewoNH8eiNTmg

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_ROBJ6rpm_41BSmu-Glf2Q

Waterwitch Magazine

The copy date is 30th of April. Please send any articles/reports/pictures/stories etc for inclusion in the magazine to Wendy at delwendwhm@btinternet.com