Lancaster Canal Trust

Monthly Bulletin – August 2022

Work plans for August Saturday 13th

Keeping the very popular walking routes along the line of the canal open and accessible is important and so work on Saturday 13th will be centred on Hincaster - clearing paths of encroaching brambles and giving the picnic area a close strim to allow the shorter grasses to grow through.

Please bring your own secateurs, loppers and gloves if you have them along with the usual lunch and drinks.

Meet at Well Head Lane at 9.30

Work done in July

Enjoying a leisurely lunch break between moving and laying some 7 tons of wood chippings and strimming and raking the badly overgrown picnic area adjacent to the Hincaster tunnel.

Chas reports on his weekend volunteering in July …

Recently I have been involved with a lot of pleasurable canal activities at both the Well Head Lane site and at Crooklands boat trips. What makes these occasional pleasurable is the company one meets and works with. A sign of old age means I struggle remembering all their names but have lasting memories of their smiling faces. Everyone is always helpful and full of chat about the wonderful experiences on the canal and elsewhere. What is remarkable for the lad from Kent, me, is that most folk have had some connection with the south and we can share locational history.

Enough of the social chat about these days. Let's get down to the business of why we were there. On Sat 9th July, I joined the work party at Well Lane. It was a glorious day and large bags of wood chippings greeted us.

Chief Robin outlined the task of filling wheelbarrows and taking chippings to spread on the path from the lane to the tunnel. Meanwhile a fine young gent, whose name has escaped me, was strimming the picnic area and the path sides. Hours later with many aching muscles it was revealed that we had shifted 7 large bags of chippings! No mean feat. Well done to all who were there, Robin, David, Russel, Nigel and the Strimmer Dave?

Sunday, the 12th, was therefore a gentler day taking Waterwitch out with just 11 passengers good to work and glean knowledge and skills from Captain Ian, Lesley, Dave and Jo. Canal was very low on water with lots of weed. Steering was often a case of reversing to free the prop of weed.

Similar story for Sunday 17th with Richard, David B, Carol H and David H. Sunday 24th saw more activity with Julian and Jane Sims plus Ken although the weed round the prop was a constant problem. On all these 3 Sundays, I got a lot of steering practice in as a Trainee Skipper, and am very grateful for the excellent tuition from the experienced skippers I worked with.
Hoping for more fun this coming Sunday and into August. Ropes away!
Chas Matthews. 29th July 2022

Good News of the Tramway Bridge

Preston City Council have finally agreed to include the restoration of the Tramway bridge over the river Ribble in a Levelling Up bid to Government. Of course, there is no guarantee that the bid will be accepted and, given the state of flux in Westminster at the moment, a decision is not likely before the end of the year. It's a step forward though!

Coming up ….

Heritage Open Days 10th – 18th of September 2022
Lancaster Canal Trust Events

Lancaster Canal Trust is pleased to participate in the Heritage Open Days events for another year. The trust is holding "In Person" events; boat trips and guided walks. We look forward to you joining us at these events.

All our events except the morning boat trips will have to be booked. Check out the Heritage Open Days website

www.heritageopendays.org.uk for further details, information about other organisations events and how to book Lancaster Canal Trust events or email Wendy Humphreys on delwendwhm@btinternet.com
A picture from last year.

This is a summary of our events, further details are on the Heritage Open Days website.

Mornings of Saturday 10th, Wednesday 14th and Saturday 17th
Boat trips on Nb.Waterwitch at 11am, 12 noon and 1pm, no need to book, just turn up at the stables at Crooklands.

Afternoons of Saturday 10th, Wednesday 14th and Saturday 17th
Boat trips on Nb. Waterwitch to Stainton, followed by a guided walk to Hincaster Tunnel and a return boat trip to Crooklands The boat leaves from the stables at 2pm and will return at about 5pm, this event must be booked.

Sunday 11th
Gunpowder walk, from Wakefield's Wharf, near Crooklands, start at 10am, distance about 4 miles.
Walk and talk on the history of the gunpowder mills and the horse drawn tram road from Crooklands to Gatebeck,1874 to 1928. Route of the tram road and the site of the gunpowder mills. Start and finish at Crooklands Wharf – duration 3.5 hours.

There are new updated Membership/Boat leaflet now available which need circulating as widely as possible. If you could get some in your local store/pub/hotel/visitor centre let Carol know and she'll arrange to let you have a some. info@lancastercanaltrust.org.uk

PS. If you have some of the previous leaflet could you recycle them please – they contain info that is no longer correct.

Thanks

If you have any links to interesting websites or archives, please share them with us. Or if you have any stories, canal holidays or activities or experiences that might amuse (or horrify!) your fellow members do please share them. Just email to chair@lctrust.co.uk Thank you.

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