

Operations Report November 2019

Volunteer safety

Another wet and muddy work party. Many slips and slides were seen but thankfully with no injuries. Just to show you how muddy it was and what the mud can do: -



The suction from the mud held fast to this welly.
Who has one wet foot?

The week's events

It had been raining yet again and the first job was to pump the water away.



Much too cold for a swim!

Pumping out generally goes well if the water has not been disturbed. The trouble starts when trying to shift the last 6mm or so of water because it starts to carry soil and organic debris that blocks the pump filter very quickly.

Once most of the water was pumped away fresh spoil was brought from the banks on the other side of bridge 4. This spoil was placed into the remaining water in order to "sponge" it up. The resulting sludge was scraped up and placed over the bed mat roll onto the bed.

Once everything was dry enough some Bentonite powder could be placed on the bank Bentomat to form a seal and the roll was rolled out by the excavator. This process was repeated over and over because the water in the spoil on the bed continued to flow round the bed Bentomat roll.

With enough bed mat rolled out it was possible to assemble the formwork for the next reinforced concrete “policeman”.



The formwork ready for concrete to be poured in. Note the two reinforcing rods carried by “stand offs” on the bed mat. The third rod is suspended from the wooden battens by thin wires. Note also the vibrating poker on standby to de-aerate the concrete.



Concrete being carried in the “back to front” bucket and poured into the form work

The whole process was repeated over successive days to end up with 6 of the 7 “policemen” being finished. (they are 7.6m apart)



Each yellow stripe denotes a “policeman” position. The last one is yet to be done.

Here is the view from Bridge 4 at the end of the week.



The bed mat has been rolled out as far as the mooring wall Bentomat extends to. The helpful person is pointing to a buried “policeman”.

Note also the water between the piles of spoil and the Mooring wall blocks.

Notice that the Mooring wall top and the blocks have been cleared for the work next month to finish both sides up to the Bridge. The background tasks were hard work with much of the equipment and blocks etc. out of reach of an excavator meaning everything had to be

carried by hand/wheelbarrow. The heaviest items turned out to be the black plastic sheeting which had got covered by mud. It was heavy enough to counterbalance the plastic tubes in the dumper!



Here is the “one wet foot” person!



At least he is still smiling!
Hopefully some kind
person retrieved the
missing welly.

Tidy Friday

On Friday(!) the Tidy Friday group worked on the offside bank above the Mooring wall to finish off pulling the stumps of old elder trees and generally tidying up the area.

I arrived at break time: -



They assured me they don't just sit in the shelter all day!

And, as is also usual, a bonfire was nearby: -



Family Camp 25 to 27th October

Inland Waterways support the Wendover Arm Trust

Waterways Recovery Group Family Camp

Coloured Cane Toppers adorn the Wendover Pocket Park

The idea of the Family Camps is to encourage the youngsters to enjoy the outdoor life and get satisfaction by learning new skills through conserving our heritage waterways. We can hope that they may join WAT or another restoration group later in life.

Thirteen children and guardians arrived on Friday evening at Green Park with the purpose of beautifying the new parkland alongside Whitehouses. First task was to produce some model clay toppers for the bamboo canes, this was enthusiastically done, with the resulting multi-coloured models of – animals, boats, flowers and many other cartoon characters coming to life.

Next morning the weather was not looking good, but nevertheless the planting of the 2000 snowdrop bulbs started. Meanwhile the bonfire was lit to consume the branches left from the recent adult work party.

At one pm we made a hasty retreat by minibus back to Green Park our accommodation base. Included in our facilities was a large bubble room which we used to assemble the bird boxes/bug houses. As a granny, this is not an easy task, so I left the instruction on sawing and nailing to Alex (IWA) and any other parents willing to help.

Sunday proved sunny so the rest of the snowdrop bulbs were planted, and an enormous bonfire built which enabled marsh mellows to be toasted. All six bird/bug boxes were nailed to available trees to encourage more wildlife in future. In the afternoon the scrubland along the towpath was cut or sawed back to give more room for passing. Many walkers paused to thank us and enquire which group we were from. All this gives good publicity to the Trust and the IWA.

The Family Camp is led by Alex Melson (Volunteer Co-ordinator WRG) and sponsored by the Inland Waterways Association.

Jenny Brice WAT Events Team



Cane
toppers!



Someone seems to be enjoying themselves!



There is nothing so satisfying as a Bonfire on a cold day!

Another productive month!



Updated Emergency Information

This was issued last month but has now been updated with information that should be used when reporting to the Emergency Services, especially if there is an immobile casualty on the bed of the canal.

The update has been produced after some research and discussion with the Emergency services.

We will be looking for a way to get laminated copies of this to all who need one.

Nearest access points for emergency services																														
Wendover Arm Trust																														
<p>Drayton Beauchamp Bridge Just Outside Drayton Beauchamp village, along The Holloway between B488 and B489 Map reference SP 903 119 Post Code HP22 5LT "What3Words" location: \\relishing.perused.dishes</p>	<p>Little Tring Car Park Entrance Driving from B488 along Little Tring Road, on left, 100m beyond Little Tring village Map reference SP 916 129 Post code HP23 4NR "What 3 Words" location: \\unwind.excavate.supreme</p>																													
<p><u>WAT First aid Volunteers</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Home</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Mobile</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tony Bardwell</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01296 634973</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07798 640675</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Lockett</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01296 622419</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07510 522517</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Catlin</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01296 696110</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07938 552364</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Bird</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01844 275331</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07874 077042</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Reynolds</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01582 318313</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07787 355515</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Wright</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07789 983484</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philip Strangeway</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01908 670523</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07964 778812</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Home	Mobile	Tony Bardwell	01296 634973	07798 640675	Peter Lockett	01296 622419	07510 522517	Mike Catlin	01296 696110	07938 552364	Peter Bird	01844 275331	07874 077042	John Reynolds	01582 318313	07787 355515	Mike Wright	N/A	07789 983484	Philip Strangeway	01908 670523	07964 778812	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">999</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Emergency</i></p> </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; margin: 0;">111</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>national non-emergency medical number</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">112</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Emergency number. 112 will work on any mobile phone anywhere in the world.</i></p> </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; margin: 0;">101</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>non-emergency number for the police</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">999</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Emergency</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; margin: 0;">111</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>national non-emergency medical number</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">112</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Emergency number. 112 will work on any mobile phone anywhere in the world.</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; margin: 0;">101</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>non-emergency number for the police</i></p>
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Information to be given to the emergency services operator

- Access to the towpath is (See over)
- Access to the casualty is restricted by the width of the towpath (check the minimum width).
- The casualty is ???m (put approximate correct distance here) from the access gate along the towpath. The distance from the gate in Little Tring Road to Bridge 4 is 640m and the distance to Whitehouses is 820m.
From Drayton Beauchamp bridge to Whitehouses, the distance is 1080m.
- The casualty is on the bed of the canal (if he or she is) and will need to be lifted to the towpath.
- The canal bank slopes at 45°, therefore, it is not (usually) possible to use a vertical lift.
- The ground level drops on both sides of the towpath by about 3m and the width of the canal is limited i.e. access by air ambulance is difficult.

Tony Bardwell

WAT Operations Director