



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 97

June 2013

May Working Party



Roger Leishman

HOT SUN AT THE MAY WORKING PARTY

This photograph demonstrates the method of working that has now been agreed as a standard for re-lining work. To start with the lining has been laid 25 metres ahead of the completed work. As can be seen in the photo, the spoil on the top of the bank is being placed and this continues until all 25 metres of both banks is completed.

Next a 20 metres roll of Bentomat is laid on the bed with an overlap over the previous roll and the joint is covered with a concrete 'sleeping policeman' as protection against damage from future dredging and also acts as a strut between the concrete block lining on the banks. You can see the mixer in position ready for action. The Bentomat is then covered with 300mm of spoil as it is unrolled.

There is now 5 metres left for storing the mixer and materials ready for the next repeat operation that will be extending the bank lining by 20 metres and laying another 20 metres of bed lining, still leaving a 5 metre storage area.

You will also see that the use of mechanical plant is being kept to a minimum as the excavator in the background is profiling the next 20 metres of banks while only one dumper is required to move the spoil along to the excavator covering the lining with spoil.

Unfortunately disaster struck us at the May working party when KESCRG came to continue their good work at Whitehouses. In recent weeks we had noticed the weak state of the lime mortar and thought it was due to frost damage similar to that found on Little Tring Bridge but less than 24 hours before the working party started we received a report from CRT's contractors for the CRT work at Whitehouses that the mortar had failed. This baffled us until Saturday morning when Roy Sutton, a former honorary consulting civil engineer to the IWA who was working with KESCRG, identified the problem. The wrong type of lime had been used and any new brickwork repairs will have to be rebuilt. Some of us are now a lot wiser on the use of lime mortar! Very disappointing but KESCRG have made a good start with the footpath/nature trail from Bridge 4 to Whitehouses that winds through the wooded area alongside the canal.



Ray Orth

THE NATURE TRAIL/FOOTPATH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The WRG Forestry Team was also in attendance on the Saturday and felled the three trees at the bottom of the old council tip adjacent to the canal near Bridge 4A. This will give us extra tipping space as well as stabilising the base of the very high tip face. Many thanks to Herts County Council and their tenant farmer, Keith Slade, on whose land we are carrying out these works.

June Working Party

With good weather, apart from some heavy rain on the Friday night, work progressed for another 20 metres so this year we have now completed 80 metres since relining started up again in March.

Sunday saw the first of the open days when visitors were welcomed at St Mary's Church Drayton Beauchamp where teas, cakes etc. were sold and entertainment provided by the Barber's Shop choir. Most importantly the visitors could join visits to site at regular intervals where they were given details of the restoration and see the work in progress on the relining.

July/August Working Parties

July promises to be a busy week as KESCRG will be with us all week working again on Whitehouses and hopefully the WAT team will make further good progress on relining.

In August we have our annual nine day working party and it would be a great step forward if we could complete relining Stage 2 by then leaving us 100 metres of Stage 3 to reach Bridge 4A and the end of the next re-watering. KESCRG will also be with us for the first two days continuing their good work at Whitehouses.

IWA Chiltern Branch weekend away

Every year the Chiltern Branch arranges a weekend visiting an area of the country with waterway interests and sometimes include a restored railway trip.

This year the area is East Anglia where we will visit navigable rivers including river trips, one on a Thames sailing barge. I have already emailed details to restoration team members who are on the internet but, for the benefit of those who have not already received details, I attach them with a booking form. About half of our volunteers are Chiltern Branch members, most of who go on these weekends away with their wives as well as quite a few who are not IWA members as these visits are open to anyone with waterway interests. If you come on the weekend you will find yourself among friends and it is very much a social occasion enjoyed by all and somewhat more relaxing than relining our canal or helping at an event. If you cannot book before 15th June, give Colin Bird a ring to see if he can still book you in.

Tree planting

Phill Cardy recently brought us five small trees for planting, three oaks, a whitethorn and a plum. They are presently under the tender care of our resident horticulturist, Margaret Leishman, but the intention is to place them alongside the hedge that Ken Graves planted across the tip site at the winding hole.



Roger Leishman

As you can see they are all flourishing but need to be larger to survive at the winding hole.

There is disappointment in that Margaret's attempts to take hardwood cuttings from the prunus tree at Whitehouses do not seem to be successful despite two separate attempts over two years and expert advice from the RHS of which Margaret is a member.

Ron's Tools

Ron Pittaway, who sadly died last year, had a large collection of tools etc. and his widow Enid has asked the Trust to help in disposing of them with any monies arising going to the Trust Restoration .

Tony Bardwell (Phone 01296 634973) has the following items in his keeping and would like to hear from anyone who would like to purchase any of them:

Triton Router table top	£25
Arc/stick welder 100amp	£30
Wet and dry vacuum	£10
Bosch Router POF 500A	£45
Performance power circular saw	£15
Triton materials stand	£20
Stanley Tripod LED torch	£12
Small compressor	£35
Bosch PST54e jigsaw	£15
Pipe bender 15mm & 22mm	£20

General Notes

We operate as a self-supervising group under CRT and all volunteers receive and sign for the Trust's Restoration Handbook that includes full Health and Safety requirements for the restoration works.

The handbook is the property of the Trust; if you leave the working parties for any reason, please return your Handbook to either Ray Orth or myself.

Hard hats for use at all times and high visibility jackets to be worn on sites with mobile plant in use are kept in the store at Tringford and must be drawn/returned there.

One first aid kit is kept in the store and one in the Nissan Cabstar and each qualified first-aider will have their own kit with him/her when on site.

Also available in the store at Tringford are ear defenders and goggles that must be worn when using strimmers, angle grinders, concrete breakers and the like. CRT will supply hard hats, gloves and footwear with reinforced toecaps on request. We normally work from 9am to 5pm (or dark if earlier!).

There are breaks for morning tea/coffee, packed lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. We take our own food and drink.

DATES FOR WORKING PARTIES

So you can plan your diary ahead, the following are the dates of future working parties in 2013:

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
2013		
Friday 5 th July to Thursday 11 th July	Stage 2/3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Saturday 6 th July to Saturday 13 th July	Whitehouses (KESCRG)	Whitehouses restoration and access footpath.
Saturday 3 rd August to Sunday 11 th August	Stage 2/3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Saturday 3 rd August to Sunday 4 th August	Whitehouses (KESCRG)	Whitehouses restoration and access footpath.
Friday 6 th September to Thursday 12 th September	Stage 2/3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 4 th October to Thursday 10 th October	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 1 st November to Thursday 7 th November	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 6 th December to Thursday 12 th December	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
2014		
Friday 3 rd January to Thursday 9 th January	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 31 st January to Thursday 6 th February	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.

Roger Leishman, Restoration Director. 7 Hall Park, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2NU.
(Tel:01442 874536, e-mail rwleishman@gmail.com)

**WEEKEND EXCURSION TO MALDON, THE BLACKWATER
ESTUARY THE CHELMER AND BLACKWATER NAVIGATION AND
THE RIVER STOUR**

20th to 22nd SEPTEMBER 2013

Friday 20th September

09:15 Depart High Wycombe
09:35 Depart Amersham
09:50 Depart Chesham
10:15 Depart Watford
12:00 Arrive at the Hythe Quay, Maldon to board the traditional Thames sailing barge 'Kitty'.
12:30 We begin a two hour 'Two Islands' sail which will take in Brithnorth, Northey Island, Millbeach and Osea Island.
14:30 On our return to Hythe Quay, a buffet lunch will be served on board. Participants will then be able to relax on board or stroll the local area until 17:00
17:00 Rejoin our coach for the drive to Chelmsford
18:00 Arrive at the Miami Hotel, Chelmsford for overnight accommodation and dinner.
20:00 Dinner in the Hotel

Saturday 21st September

09:30 Leave our Hotel for Paper Mill Lock on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. We will be met by Hugh Turner, a member of Essex Waterways Ltd. Management, who will act as our guide for the day.
10:15 On arrival at Paper Mill Lock, we will board the trip boat 'Victoria' for a two hour coffee cruise on the Chelmer and Blackwater.
12:15 Arriving back at Paper Mill Lock, we rejoin the coach and drive to the 'General's Arms' in Little Baddow for a pub lunch.
14:00 After lunch we rejoin coach and continue to points of interest along the navigation guided by Hugh Turner. These will include the Springfield Basin, restored by the IWA, the Sandford Moorings, Beeleigh and the Heybridge Basin. If time permits, the Museum of Power may be visited.
17:30 Return to the Hotel.
20:00 Dinner in the Hotel

Sunday 22nd September

09:30 Depart Hotel for the Granary in Sudbury.
11:00 At the Granary, we will be met by Mike Finch, Company Secretary of the River Stour Trust who will act as our guide for the day. After a morning coffee, we will view the restored Stour lighter 'John Constable'
12:00 Rejoin the coach for the 45 minute drive to Stratford St. Mary.
13:00 Lunch at 'The Swan'.
14:00 View the lock restoration site at Stratford St. Mary.
14:30 Rejoin the coach for the short 10 minute drive to Dedham.
14:45 After arriving at the Dedham Boathouse Restaurant, we will enjoy a one hour walk along the River Stour to Flatford, viewing the restored Dedham and Flatford locks en-route. This walk will enable us to view some of the iconic Stour Valley scenes made so famous by the painter John Constable.
16:30 Rejoin our coach for the journey home.

THE COST

The cost of the weekend excursion will be **£246** per person, based on two people sharing a twin or double room. The single room supplement is **£40**.

The cost **includes**:-

1. All coach travel.
2. Two nights accommodation on a half board (bed, breakfast and dinner) basis at the Miami Hotel, Chelmsford.
3. A 2 hour cruise aboard the traditional Thames barge 'Kitty'.
4. A buffet lunch aboard the 'Kitty'.
5. A two hour cruise aboard the trip boat 'Victoria'.
6. Donation to the River Stour trust.

The cost does **not** include:-

1. Travel insurance.
2. Morning coffees and afternoon teas if taken.
3. Pub Lunches on 21/09/13 and 22/09/13.
4. Alcoholic beverages.
5. Other items of a personal nature.

The cost noted above is applicable to a party of 20 members. Historically, Branch 'Weekends Away' have attracted an average of some 25 members and guests. It should be possible therefore, to reduce this cost if more than 20 members and guests participate..

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION: CHILTERN BRANCH

WEEKEND EXCURSION TO MALDON, THE BLACKWATER
ESTUARY THE CHELMER AND BLACKWATER NAVIGATION AND
THE RIVER STOUR

20th to 22nd SEPTEMBER 2013

BOOKING SHEET

NAME/S (Block Capitals and include forenames please).....

.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE.....TEL. NO......

Please book me places for:-.....adult/s

I enclose a deposit of £50 per person. Cheques should be made payable to C.C.Bird.

Hotel accommodation required is:-

*Double bedded room

*Twin bedded room

*Single room

Any special dietary requirement?.....

The pick-up points are:- High Wycombe – The Swan Theatre. Amersham – Gore Hill Bus Stop.
Chesham – The Broadway: Watford – Railway Station.

My/Our preferred pick-up point is.....

This booking sheet and deposit should be mailed to Colin Bird at 11, Hillrise, Manor Road,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2PE. Tel. 01932-248178. **Deposits by 15th June please.**

*Delete as appropriate

Notes

Some locations to be visited require deposits to secure the bookings. Thus an early return of
this booking form and deposit **by mid May** would be very much appreciated.

Deposit cheques will not be presented until a viable group (20) is formed.