



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 121

June 2017

May and June Working Parties

During these working parties work concentrated on profiling, laying the Bentonite lining and hollow concrete blocks on both banks.

On the Saturday and Sunday following the June working party BITM set to laying the high density concrete blocks and coir rolls. This operation was very successful and significantly advanced bank lining.



Mark Gribble

The BITM crew at Aston Ivinghoe Village Hall, their overnight accommodation



Chris Sargeant

BITM block laying between Bridge 4A and Whitehouses



Mark Gribble

The completed work - but see below the site earlier this year!



Chris Sargeant



Sandra Ming

In conclusion I must express the Trust's appreciation for the visit by BITM. Their effort has really given our re-lining work a magnificent boost. Well done BITM.

July and August Working Parties

A concentrated effort is now required to place spoil on both banks and lay the Bentonite on the bed with spoil covering where BITM completed the blocking. This will probably take most of these two working parties after which more re-lining will continue.

Operation Floodwatch

In the December newsletter last year I mentioned that CRT had revived the idea of gradually raising stop planks at Drayton Beauchamp Bridge so as to monitor the effect of raised water level back to Wendover; a proposal made by WAT in 2008 but vetoed by BW in case they were accused of flooding adjacent land.

CRT now wish to pursue this project but have asked WAT if they can assist with manpower to help them. WAT have agreed and are now looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate our volunteers in assisting CRT. If you are willing to take this task on please get in touch with me, Roger Leishman, as soon as possible.

Restoration Finances

As you probably know WAT are currently committed to contributing over £300,000 to our joint lottery bid with CRT which is moving towards Stage 2 submission – this money is ring fenced for that purpose. A decision as to whether we get lottery support is likely to be made by about June 2018.

In the light of this our available funds for restoration work would be very limited after this year

However I am pleased to inform you that WAT have just received an interim legacy payment of £150,000 from the estate of a member in Tring which may be followed by a further sum in due course.

This will greatly ease WAT finances and our ability to fund ongoing works.

September Open Day Sunday September 3rd

As the Old Rectory at Drayton Beauchamp was up for sale there was concern as to whether a new owner would let the WAT use the field for car parking.

I understand that the new owner is agreeable to WAT using the field for car parking so all is well for September.

Whitehouses

We still await details from CRT for their proposal for a pseudo weir and wing walls to the wharf wall at Whitehouses. Once this is to hand it is hoped that the Trust will be able to complete the higher level pipe capping in front of the wharf wall.

Tidy Friday

John Reynolds and his team continue with their good work of vegetation control. See schedule on page 3 for dates.

We are grateful to David Page who has offered some young saplings for planting this Autumn.

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 trimmers, 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.

WORKING PARTIES

So you can plan your diary ahead, the following are the dates of future working parties in 2017. The work to be done is very much subject to the weather especially during the winter months.

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
2017		
Friday 30 th June to Thursday 6 th July	Stage 3	Stage 3 profiling and lining.
Friday 7 th July	Meet at Little Tring	'Tidy Friday' vegetation control working party
Friday 4 th August to Thursday 10 th August	Stage 3	Stage 3 profiling and lining.
Friday 11 th August	Meet at Little Tring	'Tidy Friday' vegetation control working party
Friday 1 st September to Thursday 7 th September OPEN DAY Sunday 3rd September	Stage 3	Stage 3 profiling and lining.
Friday 6 th October to Thursday 12 th October	Stage 3	Stage 3 profiling and lining.
Friday 3 rd November to Thursday 9 th November	Stage 3	Stage 3 profiling and lining.
Friday 1 st December to Thursday 7 th December	Stage 3	Stage 3 profiling and lining.

IWA CHILTERN BRANCH WEEKEND AWAY

As many of you are aware Chiltern Branch organise a weekend away trip every year visiting canal restorations and a trip on a restored railway and all are welcome.

This year the trip is from Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October and will cost £260 per person based on sharing a room or a single room supplement of £60. I have included the full itinerary on page 4 and, if you are interested in going, please contact Colin Bird on 01932 248178 or e-mail ccbird@tiscali.co.uk

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THE CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY

29th September to 01st October 2017

Friday 29th September

- 07:00 Assemble at 8, Chapman Lane, Flackwell Heath where parking is available at a committee member's residence.
- 07:15 Depart from Flackwell Heath
- 08:00 Depart from Watford Junction Railway Station
- 11:15 Arrive at Barlaston to view the Wedgewood Museum.
- 12:30 Soup and Sandwich lunch in the Wedgewood Museum restaurant.
- 13:30 Tour of the Wedgewood factory
- 15:00 We will be joined by Steve Wood. Steve is Deputy Chairman of the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire Branch of the IWA and organizes the volunteer work parties on the canals. He will escort us to Burslem Port, a now long disused and short branch of the Trent and Mersey Canal where potential restoration is under consideration.
- 16:30 Depart from Burslem Port.
- 17:15 Arrive at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Stoke on Trent for overnight accommodation
- 20:00 Dinner at the Hotel

Saturday 30th September

- 09:30 Steve Wood will join us at the Hotel and will act as our guide for the day.
- 09:45 Depart from the hotel for Froghall, where the visit will start at Froghall Tunnel. This restricted bore is the key to the restoration and navigation of the Uttoxeter Canal. Steve will brief us on a possible resolution of this problem.
From the tunnel, we will walk the very short distance to the historic and the now restored Froghall Wharf, lock and basin. Evidence of the Wharf's business remain, such as the trackways that bought limestone to the Canal. It was also here that the Uttoxeter Canal began, and its beginning can be viewed.
- 12:15 Depart Froghall for Denstone.
- 13:15 Buffet lunch at the Denstone Hall Farm Shop cafe.
- 14:00 Following lunch, we visit Crunpwood on the Uttoxeter Canal. There are several sites to see, all within half a mile of each other. A number of restoration work camps have been held here and the visit will take about two hours to do the restoration sites justice. We will end this visit at Crunpwood weir

Sunday 01st October

- 09:00 Depart from the hotel.
- 10:00 Arrive at Froghall Station on the Churnet Valley Railway.
- 10:30 We will have freedom of the line tickets which will enable members to leave and board trains as they wish throughout the visit. They should however, return to Froghall at the latest aboard a train service to be advised. For added interest, the Railway is holding a themed day today, based on the Second World War.
- 13:15 Assemble at 'The Boat Inn' Cheddleton for lunch
- 17:30 Rejoin our coach at Froghall for the journey hom

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