



# THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 89

February 2012

## January Working Party

To avoid damaging the ground conditions in Stages 2/3 west of Bridge 4A that have been left ready for profiling in better weather, work concentrated on bank clearance in the Whitehouses area including removing the bulge in the bank opposite the former outlets from the old pumping station.

It had been thought that the bulge had been constructed to protect the towpath bank from the discharge of water from the pumping station outlets. This was discounted as the bulge was found to contain rubble that was obviously from building demolition at Whitehouses, something that happened over 100 years after the pumping station closed in 1836.

During the clearance at Whitehouses two discoveries were made.

Firstly a Grand Junction Canal Company boundary marker post in front of the boundary fence that runs behind the back of the Whitehouses site.



Ray Orth

**GRAND JUNCTION CANAL COMPANY  
BOUNDARY MARKER AT WHITEHOUSES**

Secondly, it was known that a well existed near the former pumping station. During the same clearance operations the well was located.



Ray Orth

**THE WELL AT WHITEHOUSES**



Ray Orth

**LOOKING DOWN THE WELL AT  
WHITEHOUSES**

Despite all their hard work at Whitehouses the team did have time for a lunch break!



Margaret Leishman

## **DOWN TOOLS, IT MUST BE ONE O'CLOCK**

### **February Working Party**

This was a work party of mixed fortunes due to the weather. On Friday and Saturday work commenced on clearing a path through the wood between Whitehouses and Bridge 4 to create both an access route to future water control functions at Whitehouses once the canal is re-watered and to act as a nature trail through the woods. The opportunity was also taken to level off the ground behind the mooring wall at Bridge 4. Tony Bardwell improved security at our diesel store where yet another attempt had been made to break in. He fitted a steel plate over the hinged lid.

On the Saturday we were joined by Essex WRG who made progress on removing new growth on the banks between Little Tring and Bridge 4.

Sunday was a different story! 4"- 6" snow had fallen and Essex WRG wisely decided to head for home rather than risk deteriorating road conditions for their journey back to Essex. Ray Orth and a few hardy volunteers who had actually managed to get to Little Tring completed stump pulling from the path through the woods at Whitehouses.

With no signs of a thaw and poor road conditions work was abandoned on the Monday and Tuesday and all mechanical plant put off hire. Work recommenced on Wednesday and Thursday and included carrying out essential fence repairs. At the beginning of the work party we had discovered that some light fingered person/s had removed every other

road pin from a length of plastic fencing along the top of the towpath bank and these had to be replaced as well as making repairs to the wind damaged plastic fence. Work continued on clearing both banks from Little Tring where Essex WRG had worked on the Saturday and scaffold tubes were cut and drilled with bolt holes ready for the additional information boards that are to be erected at the March working party. General tidying up around Bridge 4 and securing loose Heras fencing was another job completed. Not one of our most productive working parties but a number of minor works out of the way to leave us clear for re-lining to carry on.

### **March Working Party**

Provided that the weather does not let us down we intend to press on with relining banks and bed. The first two days will be devoted to bank and bed profiling, work that is machine intensive but does not require other labour apart from banksmen to be followed with bank lining and laying the bottom row of hollow concrete blocks. If they are delivered on time, Friday and Saturday will be spent erecting the new information boards and replacing the existing ones. The boards are:

- Wendover Basin - Replace board
- Halton Bridge - New board
- Stable Bridge - New board
- Drayton Bridge - Replace board
- Whitehouses - Replace board
- Bridge 4 - Replace board
- Little Tring Bridge - Replace board
- Bulborne Junction - New board

Seven of the boards are being paid for by sponsors and hopefully the eighth will be sponsored after a committee meeting in April.

The opportunity will also be taken to install the 3 mile post that was removed for safekeeping while the Aston Clinton A41 by-pass was being constructed and since renovated by John Henderson. During the February working party I used an old 1893 towpath chainage survey that had the distances of both Drayton Bridge and the old A41 Bridge recorded to determine the position of the 3 mile post.

Due to the diversion for the Aston Clinton Bypass there is a difference of around 25 metres between the old and new routes given that the 1893 survey is accurate.

Nevertheless, by interpolating the difference I still find that the 3 mile point is under Saxonway Bridge. To locate the post under the bridge would restrict the towpath so I have elected to place it just clear of the bridge on the west side, this side being nearest to the 3 mile point.

### **April Working Parties**

There are two working parties in April.

Firstly our normal week at the beginning of the month at which we will progress bank profiling, lining and the bottom row of hollow concrete blocks.

Secondly WRG BITM is coming for the weekend Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012. They will concentrate on laying the solid concrete blocks on the entire bank lining that we have completed in advance. It would be great progress if this was up to the Stage 2 mooring bay, if not further on the offside.

As WRG and KESCRG do not have self-supervisory status from BW for working on BW property, it is incumbent on the Trust to provide a supervisor for each day of this visit and also for the one week visit by KESCRG in July so I am including these dates in our volunteer roster. Volunteers please, if only for one day of the visits.

### **Ford Transit Tipper Lorry**

After our hard work restoring the tipper we had a visit from more of our light fingered friends who stole the radiator grille, a light cluster and two pieces of trim while the vehicle was parked in Tringford Pumping

Station yard behind locked gates during the February working party. All but the trim has now been replaced. It transpired that several premises in the Tring area were broken into at this time and there have been two instances of intruders at the newly renovated cottage at Tringford Pumping Station.

### **General Notes.**

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, one in the Transit tipper and two are available for up to two working sites.

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. BW 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 for 2012:

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
<b>2012</b>		
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March to Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining. If the weather is bad or we have spare volunteers it is intended to scrub bash banks between bridges 4 and 4A
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining. If the weather is bad or we have spare volunteers it is intended to scrub bash banks between bridges 4 and 4A <b>PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS BREAKS OUR FIRST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH RULE SO AS TO AVOID THE EASTER WEEKEND</b>
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Stage 2	<b>A WRG/BITM ONLY WEEKEND – VOLUNTEERS TO SUPERVISE FOR H&amp;S ARE NEEDED FROM WAT</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Stage 2 WAT Whitehouses KESCRG	Bed and bank lining Preparation work for wharf wall and settling tank renovation <b>KESCRG WILL BE JOINING US OVER THE WEEKEND</b>
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Festival at Box Moor	Erecting Heras fencing and general works
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June to Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Festival at Box Moor	General preparation and attendance at the Festival on an individual basis. There will be a roster of restoration volunteers over the three days of the Festival, Sunday to Tuesday to man the restoration stand.
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Festival at Box Moor	Dismantling Heras fencing and general works
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining.
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 9 to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Whitehouses	Wharf wall and settling tank renovation <b>A KESCRG ONLY WEEK – VOLUNTEERS TO SUPERVISE FOR H&amp;S ARE NEEDED FROM WAT</b>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining. <b>OUR USUAL AUGUST LONG WEEK.</b>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> August to Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November to Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining.

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

**PLEASE NOTE THAT MY INTERNET SERVICE HAS FAILED. I WAS ORIGINALLY WITH GATEWAY WHO WERE FINE. THEY WERE TAKEN OVER BY TISCALI WHO CONTINUED A GOOD SERVICE BUT SINCE TALK TALK TOOK OVER TISCALI I HAVE HAD MANY PROBLEMS AND WILL BE MOVING TO BTINTERNET ON MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**IN THE MEANTIME ANY E-MAILS SENT TO ME, INCLUDING TO [rluishman@ukgateway.net](mailto:rluishman@ukgateway.net) ,SINCE NOON ON FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY WILL NOT BE RECEIVED UNTIL MARCH 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 UNLESS MY SERVICE IS RESTORED BY TALK TALK. I AM KEEPING THE OLD gateway ADDRESS OPEN FOR RECEIVING ONLY FOR THE TIME BEING.**

**ANY E-MAILS FOR ME SHOULD BE SENT TO [rwleishman@gmail.com](mailto:rwleishman@gmail.com) AND FOR MARGARET SHOULD BE SENT TO [mleishman7@gmail.com](mailto:mleishman7@gmail.com) BUT THEY MAY NOT ARRIVE UNTIL THE NEW SERVICE STARTS ON March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

