



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 101

February 2014



JOHN BROOMAN
1942 - 2014

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of John Brooman at the end of January. John was the Trust Treasurer as well as being one of our regular weekend dumper drivers. We all knew that John had been suffering ill-health for some time but his sudden death came as a shock to all of us.

John and I had worked together very closely on the restoration finances, John keeping the financial accounts and myself the management accounts that are behind my six-monthly progress reports. He was very meticulous and I have found everything in very good order having had to take over the accounts at very short notice as an interim measure.

I know that all his friends on the Council and at working parties will miss him greatly and this was evident from the attendance at his funeral. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

With John's death and Paul's ill-health the Trust are desperate for new help on the Council. If you are

willing, or know of anyone else who would be willing, to serve on the Trust Council please let me know on 01442 874536.

I must apologise for the delay in sending out this newsletter but both Margaret and I spent February taking over the Trust accounts leaving little time for editorial matters. It does, however, allow me to include an update on the March working party.

January, February and March Working Parties

I am afraid that this is more bad news. We were unable to progress lining in January due to the extremely wet weather; this continued during February and March so we have lost three months this year already. To make matters worse a drainage ditch dug to drain water from the working site through Bridge 4A cut us off from the site altogether.

The excavated material left on either side of the ditch is now liquid mud, useless for backfilling the ditch and we could not get a dumper near it to cart it away.

We managed to get an excavator up to the bridge working clear of the drainage ditch working as you can see below, spreading the wet mud on the banks to dry.



Having cleared as far as the bridge with the excavator working clear of the ditch any attempt to track over the ditch was impossible. When we reached the bridge two attempts to go further resulted in failure and twice we nearly lost the machine into the ditch.



This picture shows the excavator on solid ground but the ditch alongside is liquid mud totally incapable of supporting a tracked vehicle.

Towards the end of the working party it was at last possible, with some imported dry fill, to make access for both excavator and tracked dumper through the bridge.

This means that we have lost at least another month so we can only pray for a long spell of dry weather during March and we are now re-appraising the best way forward in April.

Whitehouses

During January and February, unable to work on the lining, the footpath/nature trail from Bridge 4 was completed. The path was also fenced off from the canal and is now open to the public for close viewing of the works at Whitehouses.

Ray Orth is arranging for an information board to be placed at the viewing area at the end of this path.

We look forward to another visit from KESCRG in April to continue their good work on the structures at Whitehouses. CRT are also going to remove the large tree stump by the settling tank and fill the adjacent open chambers with pea shingle to protect them from possible collapse as preliminary work to their operational water control project on this site.

Theft of Bench Plaques

The replacement plaques have been delivered and Ray Orth and I will be installing them this month including photographs to send to the families concerned.

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.

DATES FOR WORKING PARTIES

So you can plan your diary ahead, the following are the dates of future working parties in 2014:

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
2014		
Friday 4 th April to Thursday 10 th April	Stage 3	Stage 3 lining including concreting through Bridge 4A narrows.
Saturday 12 th April and Sunday 13 th April	Whitehouses	KESCRG weekend
Friday 2 nd May to Thursday 8 th May	Stage 3	Stage 3 lining including concreting through Bridge 4A narrows.
Saturday May 3 rd and Sunday May 4 th	Whitehouses	KESCRG weekend
Friday 6 th June to Thursday 12 th June	Stage 3	Stage 3 lining including concreting through Bridge 4A narrows.
Friday 4 th July to Thursday 10 th July	Stage 3	Stage 3 lining including concreting through Bridge 4A narrows.
Friday 1 st August to Thursday 8 th August	Stage 3	Stage 3 lining including concreting through Bridge 4A narrows.
Saturday 9 th August and Sunday 10 th August	Whitehouses	KESCRG weekend
Friday 5 th September to Thursday 11 th September	Stage 3	This was the target for the start of re-watering 450 more metres of canal but is now in the balance.
Friday 3 rd October to Thursday 9 th October	Stage 3	Too early to say.
Friday 31 st October to Thursday 6 th November	Stage 3	Too early to say.
Friday 5 th December to Thursday 11 th December	Stage 3	Too early to say.

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