



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 100

December 2013

100th ISSUE

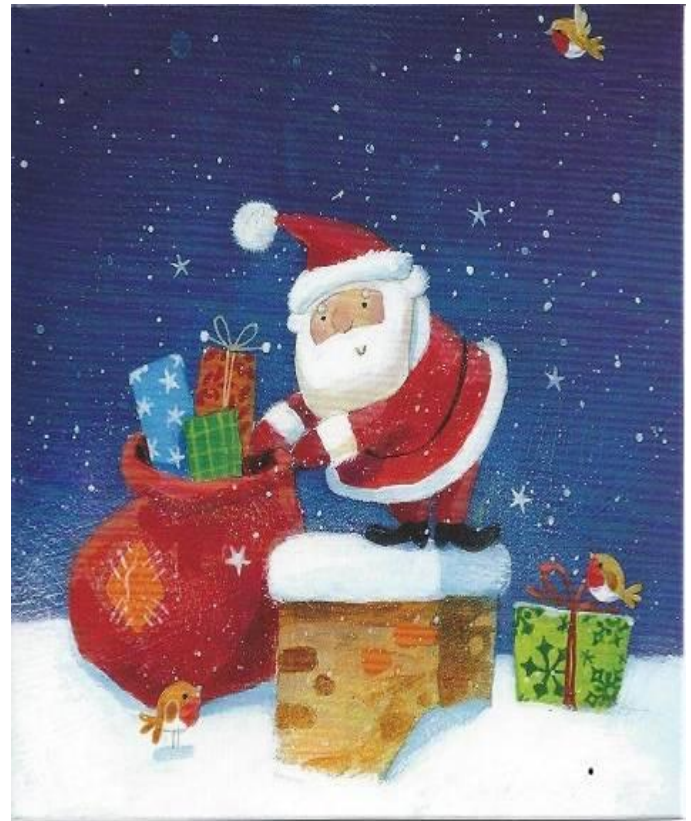
I cannot believe that this is issue 100 of this newsletter since No.1 was published in June 1997, 16½ years ago when Phase I of the restoration started. Looking at Issue 1, the main activities at the time were fencing off the Phase I site at Little Tring west of the bridge and strimming cleared lengths of the canal bed at Drayton Beauchamp. We were also making arrangements with BW for trial holes on the Phase I site to assist in future design of the restoration.

There is also an account of how our then Chairman, Roger Lewis, was passing the site on Friday 5th June 1997 and rang me to say that an excavator was busy at work. It turned out to be illegal bottle hunters who refused to leave until BW and the police were involved. The police stopped the excavation but BW had to produce the Deeds to the land for the police before the diggers, who were claiming it was public land, backfilled their hole and left the site.

November Working Party



Now back to the present, after much pumping out of water the bank lining was completed for about 15 metres into Stage 3 as you will see above. The post at the top of the offside bank marks the start of Stage 3 and there is about 5 metres of Stage 2 bed lining to complete.



*A Merry Christmas and
(with good weather) a Happy New
Year to all our readers*

As the bed is laid in 20 metre lengths we need to complete another few metres of bank lining and then, weather permitting, lay the next 20 metres of bed lining in December so completing Stage 2.

It is also pleasing to see that the grass seed on the banks sown in October is already growing well.

December Working Party

The good news about the December working party is that Stage 2 is complete. 350 metres of re-lining and a 50 metre mooring wall was finished. The final cost of Stage is £153,700, working out at a cost of £439/metre (exclusive of overheads). The Stage 1 comparable cost was £400/metre so the increase in cost over Stage 1 is 10%. As our material and plant hire rates have not increased, this is solely due to the

bad weather encountered during Stage 2 – the result of plant idle while water is pumped out of the working site and volunteers having to work in mud and water.

As you are already aware we are leaving the next re-watering until the re-lining reaches Bridge 4A as it will be easier to construct the next bund in the bridge narrows although care will have to be taken so that a dredger can remove the bund in future whilst working clear of the bridge span.



THE END OF STAGE 2 IS THE BUSH ON THE OFFSIDE WITH MARKER POST IN FRONT



WORK ON STAGE 3 IS PROGRESSING WITH BRIDGE 4 IN THE BACKGROUND

January & February Working Parties

As we have had to abandon work on re-lining in January and February for the last two years we are making alternative plans for other work if this happens again in 2014. Ray Orth is sending out a schedule to regular volunteers with full details for the January working party.

Sad News

We have just heard that Sheila Lewis, the widow of our late Chairman and Vice President has died.

Our sympathies go to her family. Sheila has been so helpful to the Trust, in particular the restoration team, in allowing us to keep our pick-up and the Trust's caravan at her home, Hastoe Hill. Sheila has generously supplied electricity to the caravan that has been used, mainly by Phill Cardy, as lodgings during working parties. The pick-up already has a new home at Tringford and we are now debating the future of the caravan as Phill has retired to Devon and is no longer using it.

Good News

At the IWA Chiltern Branch Christmas Social I was yet again presented with a cheque towards our restoration, on this occasion for £2,000. The financial support from many IWA Branches has been terrific but Chiltern Branch has outstripped all others and, of course, many of our volunteers are members of the Branch.

More good news

We are very pleased to welcome Charles Carrington as our new Health & Safety Officer. Charles is recently retired and is experienced in H&S and will give Ray Orth a very welcome break from preparing risk assessments, method statements, COSH sheets etc., a task that Ray has carried out extremely well for many years. Welcome Charles and many thanks for joining us.

Whitehouses

WRG BITM came for a weekend in October and continued the good work on the footpath/nature trail from Bridge 4 to Whitehouse. Continuation of this work is planned for the January working party and will be a job for February as well if the weather prevents work continuing on re-lining Stage 3.

KESCRG have planned three weekends with us in 2014 to continue their excellent work at Whitehouses. CRT will be carrying out their work on this site during 2014 and we are hoping for an early site meeting with them and their contractor early in the New Year in order to co-ordinate all the work on site.

Theft of Bench Plaques

The Trust Council have agreed the style of plaque less likely to be stolen to be used to replace the old brass plaques and these are currently being manufactured.

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 3 rd January to Thursday 9 th January	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining, another 20 metres?
Friday 31 st January to Thursday 6 th February	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining, another 20 metres?
Friday 28 th February to Thursday 6 th March	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining, another 20 metres?
Friday 4 th April to Thursday 10 th April	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining, another 20 metres?
Saturday 12 th April and Sunday 13 th April	Whitehouses	KESCRG weekend
Friday 2 nd May to Thursday 8 th May	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining past Bridge 4A
Saturday May 3 rd and Sunday May 4 th	Whitehouses	KESCRG weekend
Friday 6 th June to Thursday 12 th June	Stage 3 lining	Pipe capping through Bridge 4A narrows
Friday 4 th July to Thursday 10 th July	Stage 3 lining	Bentomat lining and concreting through Bridge 4A narrows
Friday 1 st August to Thursday 8 th August	Stage 3 lining	If weather has not impeded progress this will be the construction of the bund in Bridge 4A
Saturday 9 th August and Sunday 10 th August	Whitehouses	KESCRG weekend
Friday 5 th September to Thursday 11 th September		Target for Open Day and start of re-watering 450 more metres of canal. Complete any lining works east of Bridge 4A and commence pipe capping from manhole at chainage 3622
Friday 3 rd October to Thursday 9 th October	Stage 3 lining	Pipe capping
Friday 31 st October to Thursday 6 th November	Stage 3 lining	Pipe capping
Friday 5 th December to Thursday 11 th December	Stage 3 lining	Pipe capping

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