



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 94

December 2012



*A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year
To all our readers*

November Working Party

This was not the best of our working parties. Brian Harris and John Reynolds pumped out the bed along the Stage 2 mooring wall ready for bed lining starting on the Friday. Despite very wet and muddy conditions on the Friday and Saturday work proceeded as fast as conditions allowed. Torrential rain on Saturday night continuing into Sunday found the site completely under water again so there was no alternative in the pouring rain but for Bob Fletcher, who was in charge, to cancel work for the day.

The Monday was spent pumping out again and relining carried on despite the dreadful site conditions. Fortunately the weather improved somewhat on the Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and it was possible to complete the bed lining to the end of the mooring wall so restoration is now 100%

complete up to that point awaiting better weather before recommencing work.

During this working party we used the method of dealing with spoil with the minimum of transport as described in the last issue of this newsletter. We were able to operate with two excavators but only one dumper, a considerable financial saving.

December Working Party

Dreadful weather continued during November so the decision was taken not to carry out any work on Stage 2 lining; a clear stop point of lining had been reached in November and the site was best left alone.

Instead various 'housekeeping' jobs were undertaken as follows:

A skip was hired and all rubbish at Little Tring was collected and sent to tip and the site generally tidied. Rubble was laid on the roadway through the storage site and we now are asking all plant operators to turn plant round at the far end of the site to avoid swivel turns churning up the roadway.

Phill Cardy led a team removing roots from behind the wharf wall at Whitehouses. It was then backfilled to allow settlement before the coping stones are replaced during the May 2013 working party by KESCRG.

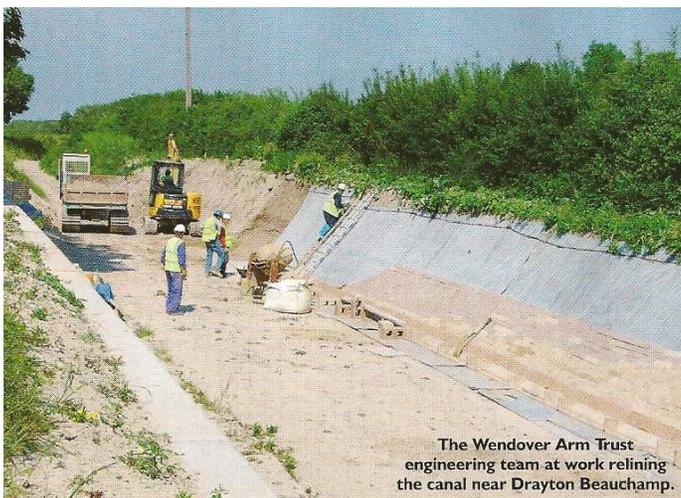
Various items of bank lining materials given to the Trust by Balfour Beatty after the Aston Clinton by-pass construction were sorted out and some are on offer to a railway enthusiasts' group at Chinnor thanks to a contact made by Peter Lockett. This enabled areas to be cleared ready for further deliveries of concrete blocks by Hanson in January.

The towpath hedge through the Little Tring storage site was cut.

The hut, under the direction of John Reynolds, was re-roofed. The felt was leaking quite badly after 14 years since it was first erected.

All the ply boards used on site to cover the bottom of the strips of Bentomat down the bank were recovered and stored at Bridge 4 pending better weather.

The supply of Bentomat granules at Little Tring was replenished from the back-up store in the garage at Long Marston.



Do you remember the bed of the canal before the present weather pattern came upon us in the last two years? This was taken in 2009.

January Working Party

The portents are not good at present as far as the weather is concerned. It seems unlikely that we will make much, if any, relining progress but we are ordering 300 metres of hose so that we can pump out the water in the bed to the nearest manhole, presently just east of Bridge 4A. We also have some work nearer Little Tring in mind to avoid churning up the bed too much with the use of plant.

WAT Restoration Committee

This Committee of the Trust Council has not met for some time now, mainly due to the repetitive nature of the relining of Phase II not requiring liaison with CRT to such a great extent as was needed during Phase I and the commencement of Phase II.

I therefore suggested resurrecting it as a meeting of those who lead our working parties so that we could co-ordinate our activities and discuss new ideas for improving progress with the minimum of manual input. We have had an initial meeting that was very productive and extended over two afternoons!

Volunteer labour

The table below shows the value of volunteer labour up to the end of 2012.

| | HOURS | TOTAL HOURS | VALUE £ | TOTAL VALUE £ | TOTAL VALUE @ 2½% pa. INFL'N |
|------|----------|-------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1996 | 1,016.50 | 1,016.50 | 8,132 | 8,132 | 8,132 |
| 1997 | 997.50 | 2,014.00 | 7,980 | 16,112 | 16,515 |
| 1998 | 2,696.00 | 4,710.00 | 43,174 | 59,286 | 62,287 |
| 1999 | 3,550.50 | 8,260.50 | 30,799 | 90,085 | 97,012 |
| 2000 | 4,239.90 | 8,479.90 | 36,865 | 126,950 | 140,129 |
| 2001 | 5,021.50 | 13,501.40 | 40,132 | 167,082 | 189,038 |
| 2002 | 5,560.00 | 19,061.40 | 44,480 | 211,562 | 245,347 |
| 2003 | 6,721.50 | 25,782.90 | 53,772 | 265,334 | 315,399 |
| 2004 | 6,647.75 | 32,430.65 | 55,366 | 320,700 | 390,742 |
| 2005 | 3,784.50 | 36,215.15 | 37,437 | 358,137 | 447,264 |
| 2006 | 4,179.50 | 40,394.65 | 35,326 | 393,463 | 503,665 |
| 2007 | 5,463.00 | 45,857.65 | 43,704 | 437,167 | 573,601 |
| 2008 | 4,342.00 | 50,199.65 | 34,736 | 471,903 | 634,657 |
| 2009 | 5,285.00 | 55,484.65 | 42,280 | 514,183 | 708,807 |
| 2010 | 5,262.00 | 60,746.65 | 42,036 | 556,219 | 766,754 |
| 2011 | 5,799.50 | 66,545.15 | 46,396 | 602,615 | 872,766 |
| 2012 | 5,694.50 | 72,239.65 | 45,556 | 648,171 | 962,213 |

Joyce Smith continues to give us great support in compiling these records from our daily site sheets and some of these do cause a few queries!

Joyce now also supplies CRT with details of our volunteer effort that go into the overall volunteer statistics published by CRT. Many thanks again Joyce.

Mechanical Plant

As there has been some confusion over plant drivers who have been passed out by Ray Orth as a dumper and/or excavator driver, Ray is now issuing all drivers with a special ticket that applies to Wendover Arm Trust sites only. Authorised drivers are now being identified on volunteer timesheets.

We do need some new operators but are constrained by the plant time we can afford without delaying restoration progress, particularly with excavator driving that requires regular driving to keep your hand in.

First Aid Course

I am pleased to report that we now have five more trained first aiders as a result of the first aid course arranged by Ray Orth in Marsworth Village Hall on October 29th to November 1st.

They are Tony Bardwell
Martin Bird
Peter Bird
John Henderson
Peter Lockett

Congratulations to you all.

We also have Jon Kelly
John Reynolds
Michael Wright

A total of eight first aiders.

Whitehouses

We are very pleased that KESCRG are programming three visits to us next year to progress Whitehouses. They are coming for the usual May Bank Holiday weekend, a week in July and a weekend in August. We have been impressed by their high standards.

We are currently compiling estimates for the various works at Whitehouses and hope to apply to the Chiltern Conservation Board for a grant to cover some of the work in the 2013/14 financial year.

Visit by Wey & Arun Canal Trust

In September John Brooman and I took a party of WACT members to see the work on Stage 2. I think that you may be interested in this extract from Wey-South, their latest quarterly newsletter.

“On 23rd September a group of 39 WACT members and one dog travelled by coach to the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum in Northamptonshire.

Our first stop was at the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union near Tring where we were met by Roger Leishman, Restoration Director of the Trust that is restoring the 6.7 miles of this pretty canal between the main line at Bulbourne and Wendover on the edge of the Chilterns. Roger handed out information on the project and then he and a colleague took us on a short towpath walk to see the current work site. Everyone was impressed by the high standard of workmanship – Bentomat lining is being used in the same way as on the Wey & Arun. By the time we returned to the coach the drizzle had started, and this set the pattern for the rest of the day.....”

Before WACT departed the Trust was presented with a cheque for £50 to which I was able to respond with the Trust’s grateful thanks.

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. 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 2013:

| DATE | WORKING AT | WORK TO BE DONE |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 2013 | | |
| Friday 4th January to Thursday 10 th January | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining if weather permits otherwise work in Stage 5 , Little Tring to Bridge 4. |
| Friday 1 st February to Thursday 7 th February | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| Friday 1 st March to Thursday 7 th March | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| Friday 5 th April to Thursday 11 th April | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| Friday 3 rd May to Thursday 9 th May | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| Saturday 4 th May and Sunday 5 th May | Whitehouses (KESCRG) | Whitehouses restoration and access footpath. Replace coping stones on wharf wall. |
| Friday 7 th June to Thursday 13 th June | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| 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 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| Friday 1 st November to Thursday 7 th November | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |
| Friday 6 th December to Thursday 12 th December | Stage 2/3 lining | Bed and bank lining. |

WORK PARTY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Will all volunteers please note that as from the next (January) working party, all schedules will be sent out via John Reynold's distribution system but all responses should be to Ray Orth (email copy to me please).

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