



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 64

December 2007

The Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year to all our readers and an especial thanks to all the volunteers in the Trust who have laboured during the past year in one way or another towards restoring the Wendover Arm Canal.

Although the Festival was a great disappointment, the bright side is that we are at last making progress on the Phase II re-lining. As you can see below the first 60 metres of experimental section at Drayton Beauchamp is in water and hopefully we now have a design and procedures in place to make real progress. Bulk excavation and pipe capping of Stage 1 is now 2/3 complete and the first half of the excavation for the first mooring bay has been completed despite the weather



Margaret Leishman

IN WATER AT DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP, OCTOBER 2007

Future Work Parties

In the last Newsletter I said that consideration would have to be given to our work party strategy, in particular working a five day weekend to economise on plant that costs us the same to hire for four days as for five days. I have only had two responses to this idea from volunteers, in particular one problem is the availability of someone to open up the gates to return hired plant on the Wednesday. Ray Orth already has to visit site on the Thursday and Tuesday to see plant on and off the site and he cannot cover Wednesdays. It is best if the same person is always responsible for returning plant on a Wednesday so there is no confusion with Morgans, the plant hire firm. Is there a volunteer to perform this duty on a Wednesday?

Until this matter is resolved we are keeping to the present four day weekend and the Work Schedule reflects this. There is also a problem over the February Work Party when Ray Orth will be away on holiday. It is my intention to have one tracked dumper on site to transport formwork, reinforcement and tools for the base of the mooring bay wall in Stage 1 but I would like to have an excavator so that we can continue with bulk excavation and pipe capping, also for placing ready-mix concrete. This means a second tracked dumper. **I therefore need two tracked dumper drivers and an excavator driver for each of the four days before an order can be placed with Morgans. Will volunteers please give me a ring so that I can arrange the necessary roster.**

The use of tracked dumpers, although expensive, has meant that we have been able to keep working despite atrocious conditions along the temporary road in the 'dry' canal bed. It has enabled us to take delivery of ready-mix concrete on both Saturdays and Mondays hence speeding up progress. Up to 30 metres of pipe capping can now be completed over one weekend albeit the mud in places comes over the vehicles caterpillar tracks.

The aim is to press on with bulk excavation, pipe capping (only 100 metres now to the end of the 321 metres of stage 1) and mooring wall enabling the spoil to be put back on the banks and consolidate where we have to cut into them for the pipe capping and plant access. This should hopefully allow us to proceed with bank lining during the better weather next year. Once all the bank lining and mooring wall are complete, a week long work party will have to be arranged to line the bed of the rest of stage 1 in one operation including another temporary bund between stages 1 and 2.

Sponsorship

Many thanks to Nigel Williams for sponsoring the cost of postage of this newsletter during 2008. This is not the first time that Nigel has sponsored the newsletter and the Trust is very grateful to him for his support.

Web Site

The address of the Trust Restoration web site managed by Oliver Revel (that is linked to the main Trust site) is:

<http://wendovercanal.org.uk/>

The number of e-mail recipients of this newsletter is growing. If you give me a request for e-mail transmission I will do so but please let me know if the attachment does not arrive. Please note that new volunteers are automatically sent the Working Party news by post unless they request that it is to be sent by e-mail.

First Aid

We still need volunteers who regularly come to work parties to take a First Aid Course so that we have a qualified first aider on site at work parties. Jon Kelly is our first volunteer to join Dave Barratt and will be taking his course soon. The Trust will pay any fees and expenses. Please let Ray Orth know if you are willing to help.

David Barratt is currently our only qualified First-Aider and, even if he is not on site, lives in Pitstone and can be contacted on 07973 411176 if he is at home.

Insurance

It is incumbent on anyone, regardless of age, to inform the Trust in writing if they suffer from any medical condition that could in any way affect their ability to carry out their work as a Trust Work Party Volunteer.

General Notes.

All volunteers receive and sign for the Trust's Restoration Manual that includes full Health and Safety requirements for the restoration works. The Manual is the property of the Trust; if you leave the working parties for any reason, please return the Manual to either Ray Orth or myself.

The Restoration Manual is currently being updated to take into account procedures for the lining in Phase II and new BW requirements under their procedures for treating us as a self-supervising contractor. Sorry for the delay but, as volunteers know, we have only just finalised our Phase II design and method of working. New volunteers will receive their copies as soon as the revisions are completed.

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; another is kept in the VW transporter for use on site. Also available in the transporter are ear defenders and goggles that must be worn when using strimmers, angle grinders, concrete breakers and the like. Individual volunteers must provide their own gloves and footwear with reinforced toecaps.

We normally work from 9am to 5pm (or dark if earlier!) when we are hiring plant or taking delivery of ready-mix concrete early in the morning. There are breaks for morning coffee/tea, packed lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. We take our own food and drinks.

DATES FOR WORKING PARTIES

| DATE (2008) | WORKING AT | WORK TO BE DONE |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Friday 4 th January to Monday 7 th January | Drayton Beauchamp | Continue with pipe capping and blinding for towpath mooring bay wall. |
| Thursday 10 th January | Various | Scrub clearance and bonfiring. Strip pipe capping formwork. |
| Friday 1 st February to Monday 4 th February | Drayton Beauchamp | Continue with pipe capping and set up formwork/pour first base of towpath mooring bay wall. |
| Thursday 14 th February | Drayton Beauchamp | Strip pipe capping formwork.. Strip and part re-erect formwork to base of mooring bay wall. |
| Friday 29 th February to Monday 3 rd March | Drayton Beauchamp | Continue with pipe capping and set up formwork/pour second base of towpath mooring bay wall. |
| Thursday 13 th March | Drayton Beauchamp | Strip pipe capping formwork.. Strip and part re-erect formwork to base of mooring bay wall. |

Roger Leishman, Restoration Director. 7 Hall Park, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2NU.

WORK PARTY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE TO FEBRUARY 2008

We intend to experiment with the five-day work parties commencing in January 2008. With the December newsletter I will be sending all work party volunteers a form to complete for the January and February work parties and hope that this will be successful.

| <u>Date 2009</u> | <u>Location</u> | | Excavator Driver | Tracked Dumper Driver | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Fri 4 Jan | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth/ R Leishman</i> | R Orth P Cardy | B Lansley | K Graves | |
| Sat 5 Jan | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth/ R Leishman</i> | R Orth P Cardy | | K Graves B Fletcher | |
| Sun 6 Jan | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth</i> | R Orth P Cardy | B Lansley | K Graves B Fletcher | |
| Mon 7 Jan | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth/ R Leishman</i> | R Orth | B Lansley | K Graves | |
| Thu 10 Jan | Various | <i>P Bowers</i> | | | | |
| Fri 1 Feb | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Leishman</i> | | B Lansley | K Graves | |
| Sat 2 Feb LONDON WRG | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Leishman</i> | | | K Graves B Fletcher | |
| Sun 3 Feb LONDON WRG | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Leishman</i> | | B Lansley | K Graves B Fletcher | |
| Mon 4 Feb | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Leishman</i> | | B Lansley | K Graves | |
| Thu 14 Feb | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>P Bowers</i> | | | | |
| Fri 29 Feb | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth/ R Leishman</i> | | B Lansley | K Graves | |
| Sat 1 Mar | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth/ R Leishman</i> | | | K Graves B Fletcher | |
| Sun 2 Mar | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth</i> | | B Lansley | K Graves B Fletcher | |
| Mon 3 Mar | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>R Orth/ R Leishman</i> | | B Lansley | K Graves | |
| Thu 13 Mar | Drayton Beauchamp | <i>P Bowers</i> | | | | |

The name of the person in charge on a particular day/site is printed in italics.

P Bowers 01255 504540 or 07880 744730 R Leishman 01442 874536 or 07850 170858
R Orth 01494 786868 or 07733 092034

You will note from the above roster that we have two groups visiting us in the near future. The Newbury Work Party Group will be coming to our November work party and WRG (London) will be coming to our February work party. Many thanks to both groups for coming to help us.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I HAVE TO REMIND ALL VOLUNTEERS THAT, OTHER THAN FOR ANYONE WORKING AS A BANKSMAN WITH AN EXCAVATOR DRIVER, ALL PERSONS ON SITE MUST KEEP AT LEAST AN EXTENDED ONE AND A HALF EXCAVATOR ARM LENGTHS CLEAR OF ANY EXCAVATOR WORKING ON SITE UNLESS THEY HAVE GAINED THE ATTENTION OF THE EXCAVATOR DRIVER AND HE/SHE HAS HELD HIS/HER HANDS UP CLEAR OF THE CONTROLS TO INDICATE THAT YOU MAY APPROACH OR PASS THE EXCAVATOR HE/SHE IS OPERATING.

LIKEWISE NO PERSON OTHER THAN A BANKSMAN WORKING WITH THE DRIVER MUST APPROACH A DUMPER THAT IS IN OPERATION UNLESS THE DRIVER HAS STOPPED HIS MACHINE AND TAKEN HIS/HER HANDS UP CLEAR OF THE CONTROLS TO INDICATE HE/SHE HAS SEEN YOU.

WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL VISITING GROUPS WHO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE ENSURE THAT THESE PROCEDURES ARE MADE KNOWN TO ALL THEIR MEMBERS WHO WORK ON WENDOVER ARM RESTORATION SITES. ALTHOUGH THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN TO VISITING GROUPS ON ARRIVAL AT OUR SITES, SOME MEMBERS OF VISITING GROUPS ARRIVE AT DIFFERENT TIMES/DAYS AND MAY MISS THE INITIAL BRIEFING.

**ROGER LEISHMAN,
RESTORATION DIRECTOR.**

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