
waterway recovery group (north west)

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING BODY
FOR VOLUNTARY LABOUR ON THE
INLAND WATERWAYS OF BRITAIN

31st March, 2022

LAST TIMES OUT

Hollinwood



After the washout that was 5th February, when the small band of hardy volunteers abandoned site at lunchtime, the 5th March was almost the opposite.

Returning to continue the management of the regrowth that had sprung up during the Covid hiatus, most of the group concentrated their attention on the bottom lock, clearing the entire structure of vegetation, whilst I, with help from Sam,



uncovered the steps at the base of the staircase pair, and also dealt with a couple of long-standing (or should that be long-fallen?) fallen trees that hadn't quite hit the deck yet, which opened up the view from some benches back to the bottom lock.

All-in-all, a productive day.

(Report by Mike Chase, Photos by Mike Chase and Diane Richardson)

Ashtac 50



Overall this was successful in cleaning up an eyesore, getting 30+ volunteers each day, good local radio coverage but not all objectives realised hence another visit this coming (now last) Tuesday. It was a fitting tribute to 'Ashtac' in that amicable working with CRT was achieved along with getting local residents to join in.

Downside is that the work, although the only available in the area, hasn't contributed to any significant improvement or extension of the navigable waterways network.



(Report and Photos by Barry McGuinness. More photos at <https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/JXCjCB8BKlIBPMvFz1MAT?domain=share.icloud.com>)

NEXT TIME(S) OUT

This will be a one-day dig on Saturday, 23rd April, and will be a return to the infilled Stockport Branch of the Ashton Canal known as the Yellow Brick Road, specifically the so-called Pyramid Garden. Last October we cleared the brambles, etc, which had taken charge again after a previous clearance in 2018. The intention this time is to grub out as many roots as possible to reduce the scale of future re-growth.

Vehicle access is *via* Ashton Old Road to Louisa Street (northern side, west of Morrison's in Openshaw). Follow Louisa Street to the far end. At the T-junction with Claytonbrook Road, turn left. This is a cul-de-sac with the canal line to the left, behind trees and bushes but with big gaps.

Some input from Manchester City Council is still awaited but this is unlikely to affect arrangements so please contact John F (details at the end) or more information and/or to express interest.

OTHER LOCAL GROUPS

The **Hollinwood** are having a month off.

Manchester IWA will be working on the 2nd Saturday (9th) but the site (possibly Lock 6 on the Ashton) is still to be confirmed. Contact Barry for more information.

The **Lancaster Canal Trust** work on the 2nd weekend of the month so their next dates are likely to be 09/10 April, though, as ever, their update hasn't come out in time for this newsletter. Their main site is at **Stainton** (a few miles from Junction 36 of the M6) and details will, no doubt, appear shortly on their website. I suggest that you start with their Bulletin, <https://www.lctrust.co.uk/newsletters>.

We have asked the **Manchester, Bolton & Bury** for information but haven't had a reply so far.

Mike Chase has separately circulated details of work on the **Sankey**.



THE FUTURE OF WRG(NW)

Last time I asked for guidance as to the number of recipients of this newsletter who would participate in digs going forward. I got just six replies even though I know of a similar number who are likely to do but still didn't reply. This is not sufficient for a viable group. There will therefore be an *ad hoc* meeting in Manchester on 17th May to discuss what, if any, future there is for NW. At the moment it looks as though the answer, sadly, is that there isn't. The meeting will be open to anyone who wants to attend and we would welcome the widest possible participation. Please contact me for details or to express a view if you can't attend

NEWS FROM BOOKLAND

The Book Fair at the former Gorton Monastery, as previously reported, is booked. It's on Sunday, 22nd May. Address: 200 Gorton Lane, Manchester M18 8BQ. Open 10:00-16:00. Free car park, admission £1, which we'll give you back as discount on any purchase. Just introduce yourself. Even if you can't come, please copy this around, especially any groups in the North West, not just canal groups.

And yes, we are still collecting books of all kinds to sell for our funds, via second hand bookshops, to on-line dealers and at waterway events. Get in touch if you have any books to offer, not just waterways.

JF

Two One for your Diary?

We have booked for this year's Festival of Water at Shobnall Fields, Burton-on-Trent. The dates will be 27-29 August. Roger would appreciate offers of help as some regulars can't attend this year.

The 'Son of Saul' festival (that's boats, beer and music) was, as reported last month, due to be held at Saul Junction from 8-10th July but we learned minutes ago that, because of time pressures on the organisers, it will not go ahead on that date. It may be "sometime in August", otherwise next year.

2021 Diary			
09/04	Dig	Manchester IWA on the Ashton Canal	BMc
09-10/04	Dig	Lancaster Canal Trust	
23/04	Dig	Pyramid Garden (see text)	JF
17/05	<i>ad hoc</i>	Discussion of the future of the group	MB
22/05	Sales	Gorton Monastery Book Fair	JF
27-29/08	Sales	IWA Festival of Water, Burton-on-Trent	RE

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Change of Addresses etc.

The electronic circulation list for this newsletter is handled by IWA Head Office so if you want to change your e-mail address or drop off the circulation you need to contact Jonathan Green (CBW above).

Snail mail recipients (now down to 4) need to tell me (Malcolm).