

## **NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST**

### **In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd**

Subject: Preparation work on trip boat, reed removal on Purdy's Marsh.  
Date: 07<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
From: Chris Black

#### THE PLAN:

- To remove remaining unwanted metalwork, wooden seating and bolts from Elsa's upper hull.
- To transport Elsa to Laurie's workshop to prepare hull for sand-blasting.
- To continue cutting second third of Purdy's Marsh.

#### WORK ACHIEVEMENT:

10 volunteers turned out on a bright, dry but cold morning. Some of the work-party set off to cut more reeds on the marsh and the remainder were involved in various tasks including stripping the hull of extraneous nuts and bolts and the wooden seats.

There is a need to get the second third of the marsh cut as new shoots are appearing and nesting season will soon be upon us. It seems that the team of reed cutters progressed well, warmed by a fire!

Ivan walked upstream to assess the state of the canal since the bund near the sluice was removed.

Meanwhile the work on the trip boat was started. Most of the wooden seating was affixed by rusty bolts which had to be removed with a disc cutter. There were also several bolts through the upper hull which seemed to be redundant so all were removed. The bilge pump was removed in its entirety and will be replaced in a suitable position when the hull has been re-furbished.

Towards the end of the morning Elsa's hull was free of unwanted attachments - a prerequisite of sand-blasting.

Laurie had kindly offered to put Elsa into his workshop where the bolt holes could be welded up. Using his truck the trailer was turned around and then taken to the workshop and with bit of skilful driving by Laurie, and some manhandling by the volunteers, the trailer was reversed into the workshop. It now looked much larger!

Lunch was taken at approx. 13.00 hrs.

After lunch we set to work on clearing the mud and cut-off bolts from the inside of the hull. Meanwhile Laurie ground the hull bolt holes back to bare metal ready for welding up and chiselled off some fibreglass resin areas from the bow. Ivan and I continued to clear out the inside of the hull which is now ready for sand-blasting. Laurie welded up a couple of holes which now look like they were never there.

Tom Carr arrived in the afternoon and after a discussion about the flooding of the marsh at Ebridge he went down there to try to see how much water was flowing from the culvert connecting east and west sokes as this is the only escape for the water on the marsh. It needs more investigation.

Work ceased at approx 15.30

Chris Black, work-party leader