

Let me start with special thanks to all those volunteers who have brought trip-boating back to the The North Walsham and Dilham Canal. Without crew, it could not have happened.

You will all be aware (from reading the online diary) that next week we have a Private Booking on that Saturday and thereafter, from Saturday 21st onwards, we are hoping to be running public trips on Saturdays as well as Sundays.

THEREFORE

Please, between you, keep my mind at rest, over crewing, and try to do as much as you can to crew the boat/s. If I get 4 volunteers for any particular day, that means that we can have 2 on each boat and run more trips or spread the load by using both boats, depending on numbers booking. I expect it to be a very busy time when school holidays start and, let's face it we are going to need an awful lot of bricks, fuel (for the weed cutters), puddling clay, timber, lime, sand and all sorts else, to do what the canal needs to be done.

Repairs to lock walls, new gates for Ebridge and (WOW!) re-watering of the Bacton Wood Pound, later in the year we hope. Our efforts might just make the difference financially and, more than that, the more folk we introduce to the canal, the merrier. Remember, when the canal was first opened, there were thousands present. I wonder how many will attend when we re-water above Bacton Wood and re-open the locks? We will certainly be in the local papers, on Radio and Television news! This is a BIG DEAL! We need to put on a really GOOD SHOW.

Here's a thought! It may only be a 1/2 mile (ish) and a lock, extra, to Royston Bridge, when we re-water and get that lock working, but walkers, cyclists, fisher-people and the rest will have water for more than double the length they have now in water. All the way to Swaffield! That's some achievement by everybody involved, when you think of how it started before Laurie bought his length.

Another point is that we will be taking Ella II through that lock to Royston Bridge and back, thus doubling the travelling time AND FARES. That would all go towards materials. Even just 1 return trip on Ella II (all the way from Ebridge to Royston Bridge and back) and 2 trips on Sue B (doing the short run we do now) WILL REALLY HELP! See what can be achieved? And it's you who can achieve it. Everything else is nearly in place, all we need is your time please.

It's up to you now,
Looking forward to a wonderful summer,
Let's get this canal working hard for it's living,
Graham Pressman
(Boating Officer)