

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work party on Ebridge Lock No.3 area.

Date: Sunday 2nd June 2014

From: C. J. B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN: To tidy the grassed areas of the lock side 'island' and millpond in readiness for the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust's Open Weekend to be held on the 14th and 15th June 2014. To remove the floating weeds and debris from the upper lock gates and time permitting, to test out our newly acquired electric outboard on our workboat.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was sunny and very warm. Five volunteers arrived and following a short discussion regarding the scope of the work we started work. A safety throwing line was placed on the 'island' as a precaution against someone falling into the water.

Ever mindful of the bird breeding season all the volunteers took great care to examine the reeds and water margins for any nesting activity before any work on the banks was carried out. Only the top margins of the banks were cut back leaving the reeds and water margin plants untouched. The grassed areas were strimmed and mown and the lock side vegetation/grass was removed to make sure the lock edge was visible.

David Revill and Barry Mobbs cleared the debris from the upper lock gates resulting in a noticeable drop in the water level. Lunch was called at 12.30 during which we had an informal discussion about the progress on the canal restoration.

During the morning we had been pleased to see how many people were visiting the lock area and I had some interesting discussions with some of the visitors having taken our set of photos with me. All were really impressed by the work done at Ebridge by the Old Canal Co. and were fully behind the Trust in their aim to promote the restoration of the rest of the canal. 12 signatures were added to our petition of support taking the total to over 1900.

After lunch we left Ebridge for Spa Common. David and Ivan assembled the outboard and the boat was put in the water. Ivan and I set off downstream, tentatively at first, to see how it performed. We travelled about half way down the canal pound before returning back to Spa Common and were very pleased with the way it performed.

I returned to Ebridge specifically to see how many people were using the amenity of the millpond and canal. There were three vehicles parked on the 'island', people picnicking, a couple of lads canoeing and a bird watcher. I talked to several people, all of whom were extremely interested in the canal restoration and fully supported the efforts of the Old Canal Co. and the Trust.

The work party was ceased at approx 16.30 and I left Ebridge at 18.30.

Chris Black, Work Party supervisor