

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Date 6th May 2018

Objective

It was planned to complete the painting of the underside of Ella II at Bacton Wood Mill lock and wire in the electrical controls for the automatic bilge pump. In addition, remove the bricks and rubble taken off the spillway at Ebridge and make tidy.

The Plan

The work-party to be split into three teams, one team to paint the underside of Ella II's hull, another to fit the electrical equipment and the remaining volunteers to go to Ebridge.

Work Achievement

The day was dry and very warm. 12 volunteers turned out and were briefed on the several tasks for today. The work-party was split into three teams, 2 to paint the inside of the hull of Ella II, 2 to carry out the installation of the electrical control box and the remainder to clear the bricks from the spillway area.

Ella II was lifted off her trailer to enable access to the bow end where there was a remaining unpainted area of the underside of the hull. It was painted and left to dry. Later the stern end of the underside was made accessible and this was painted and left to dry

Meanwhile the team installing the pump control box set about their task, which took most of the morning.

Eventually, with the paint dry and the bilge pump control box fitted Ella II was deemed fit to be lifted into the water to test how she sat afloat and to check for any leakage into the hull. She seemed fine and a short test trip was taken down the canal to see how she handled. With five volunteers on board she performed well driven by our electric outboard. From a distance she resembles a small wherry with her black hull and white nose. She has yet to have her name plates fitted.

Lunch was taken at Ebridge at approx. 12.30.

We were amazed by the number of people visiting the canal many with children of all ages, some sitting on the north end retaining wall with feet dangling in the water flowing over the spillway.

We set about removing the remainder of the bricks and rubble taken from the crown wall. We managed to clear all of it but now realise that the bank south of the spillway needs to be raised and levelled – a job which can be done without machinery and will be put on the task list.

Mary had an information table at Ebridge and talked to several of the many visitors..

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There were two boat trips planned for Sunday, which would have been on the pontoon, but as Ella II was afloat and ship shape she was used for the trips – the comfort and room on her appreciated by all. This was a good test run of Ella II.

Many thanks to Graham and Mark for their superb effort in getting Ella II looking so good



Work ceased at 16.30

Chris Black, work party leader