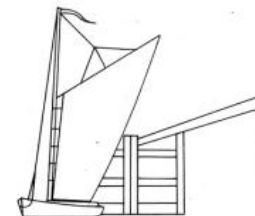


# Quagmire

The Autumn 2019 newsletter of  
**The North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust**  
Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1180474

Working to secure Norfolk's Canal Heritage



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## News...

As reported in the Summer 2019 edition of Quagmire, second-hand gates have been purchased for Ebridge bottom gates and also Swafield (lock 5) bottom gates. See the photo on page 24



Planks will have to be removed from these gates and a nut-splitter was hired from Gee-Force Hydraulics to access these. **The Trust would like to thank Gee-Force Hydraulics** for waiving the hire fee as a donation towards the restoration

project.



**Congratulations** to Graham Pressman and his crews, for, within 21 months, they have **covered the costs** of setting the boats up, and are now **directly contributing to the Trust's funds**. That alone is an amazing achievement but in addition, *Ella II* has now been valued at **£5800 for our assets**.

View Graham's recent television broadcast on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbt102qHUyc>

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## *THE EBRIDGE HOLE*

**Recently** the Norfolk County Council Bridge Engineers surveyed Ebridge Bridge. The bridge was passed as sound - but the east approach abutment appears to be rotating into the hole. This hole, caused by a combination of the brickwork culvert collapsing, exacerbated by the water run-off from the road, has been an ongoing problem pre 2006 (In fact the 1912 floods also caused damage here) A meeting between the East Anglian Waterways Association, Inland Drainage Board (the people responsible for the culvert) and the NCC took place around 2008, and a plan was drawn up for repairs - but they never happened. A couple of years later, NCC Highways put in new drains on the east approach to the bridge, to stop water running off, but these gulleys are blocked and so all rain - especially sudden storms - wash into the hole.

**Work-parties have started clearing the hole (see the report below in [Work party News](#))**

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**This** newsletter should have been my last but I was persuaded to compile this one as my swansong! You will be pleased to hear that Ivan Cane will be taking over Quagmire after he steps down as Chair at the AGM on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Annual Reports, last year's minutes and this year's agenda are to be found from page 11.

## Recent Events

**Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July 2019** NW&DCTrust Open Weekend. Volunteers worked hard on Thursday's work-party getting the site ready for the weekend. Ivan sent thanks to all who erected, laid out, manned, tidied, spent, talked, took down, trailed, cleared the site. Thanks also to all who came to the Saturday night get-together, a pleasant evening, good beer, good belly pork rolls and good company.



*Frank*

The *Top Gate Award* deservedly went to Frank for his ever presence at everything and everywhere when needed and the *Bottom Gate Award* to Julie, for her entertaining e-mails about washing bowels!



*Julie*

A special thank-you was given to Laurie and the Cushion family for all their work over the years - without which there would not be a Canal for us to be celebrating beside. A special award was presented to Jeremy for his years of work, using his skills to return the Canal to its original profile, and to Daniel (sent later as he was unable to attend) for his many voluntary evenings and weekends spent maintaining the banks and other aspects of the Canal.

*Ivan Cane - Chair*



*Suki, Tom W and Mike Cole manning  
Tom's very impressive Wildlife Tent*



*Mike Hicks from Radio Norfolk  
recorded a piece during the Open Weekend*

Julie reports on the next page:

It was an extra special weekend for the Trust as we hosted the unveiling of our first ever canal restoration project..... the restoration of the Ebridge Lock gates, the first phase being successfully completed as per the restoration program.

The NWDC Trusts 7<sup>th</sup> Ebridge Open Weekend (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July) saw us invite different activity groups as well as hosting our regular Trust Information tables.

Saturday at 2pm saw Mick Hicks of BBC Radio Norfolk's "Tea-time Antiques" interview Ivan our Chair and Graham our Boating Officer, the interview was aired during the Matthew Gudgin show later that week. Nick Dennis, of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association brought along a selection of his craft which attracted interested visitors. One of his team actually travelling with his canoe all the way from Rutland. Nick later advised "I managed to paddle my 120-year-old Peterborough cedar Rib sailing canoe up to Bacton Lock and then sailed her back. that's not been done for many a year I suspect!"

Sunday saw the arrival of the Norwich Wild Swimmers enjoying the fresh (cold) water of the canal. (The Trust does have wild swimming safety posters on their canal notice and information boards).

Norfolk Classic and Vintage Tractor Club visited stayed for the whole weekend for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Thank you Keith and your team for your continued support.

Feedback to our Information table hosts was that what the Old Canal Company, Laurie Ashton, his workforce and the Trust volunteers have managed to complete along the Ebridge to Bacton Lock reach has been tremendous.

Over the whole weekend the Trust volunteers managed to raise just under £2,000 all of which goes back into the canal restoration pot. £2,000 all without a raffle or tombola!

Thank you, our members, for your continued support especially if you visited our event.



After the weekend the Trust received this email:-



*Just a quick note to share the appreciation from 7 of us swimming at Ebridge Mill today, 2 paddleboarders, 5 canoeists, 3 fishermen, several dog walkers, some people who just drove up to sit on the bench and enjoy it. Ages I would guess from 17 to 75. Lovely friendly atmosphere with us all chatting and saying what a wonderful resource it was, how lucky we were that the Old Canal Company had made it possible, how well it was looked after and how welcoming the Trust were to everyone.*



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August** requires a whole page!

Well, that was a busy Sunday! It started with Julie leaving home at 5 a.m. to start the footfall survey at Ebridge, where 13 volunteers recorded and interviewed some 193 visitors to the area. Slightly fewer than expected, probably due to the overcast weather and forecast, but still a 69% increase on 2014's figures. The first photo shows Tom (Fisheries Officer) interviewing a visitor. The second photo shows Mary and Suki eating Magnums bought for them by an interviewee! (I did wonder why there were chocolate stains on the sheets.) My thanks to all those who took part in the survey.

*Ivan Cane – Chair*



**...also on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August**, at 3pm Bob and Sea RNLI gave 12 volunteers rope throwing training, starting in unit 5. Earlier, the work-party had displayed the large maps on the wall and the photo illustrates the amount of work that has already been undertaken in the Unit, which is really starting to look like a meeting room. Further exciting improvements are planned for the units – watch this space for more news.



**...also on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August** there was a work-party! see below.

## Work-party News

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Volunteers met up at Spa Common at 9am and fitted carrying-box to rear of tractor. Left Jonathan to fill it with bricks and take them along to Ebridge. A motor bike frame, pallets and other debris were removed from the lock bottom. The pontoon was pulled down to the lock and one tower scaffold assembly was pulled on to it. This was then set up to make a safe platform to be able to work on the wall safely. Old damaged bricks were then cut out and ivy roots were removed. Volunteers then tied in new brickwork and made good the pointing. It was so hot down in the lock that Nigel and Terry were flagging badly so had to have constant rests on the shaded part of the lock. Once Frank arrived he mixed the mortar, saving them having to keep climbing out.

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

#### Purdy's Marsh



Despite only three volunteers, the intended clearance area was done. The cutter on the digger swept the material in an arc and left it in approximately a line. This was piled up into a number of piles, but not all the cut material could be collected up, lack of time/volunteers. Some of the areas cleared were then given a second cut with the brush-mower, which reduced the level down, but still was cutting just higher than the lowest node on many of the balsam. Despite that, it will have removed the chance of seeds being distributed.

Further cut along base of bank will tidy up digger's series of circles and uncut area along base of bank as area widened near south end of cleared area. Path cut with brush-mower (difficult to follow path as so overgrown since March) south to large pond and then to small pond, encircling both. A hot day, but a lot of work was achieved by three volunteers.

#### Units 4/5

The board, meter and main switch were repositioned onto the side wall, after drilling through the Concrete in the gutter between Units 3 & 4, an earth pole was installed, ensuring that the Units' electrics are safely protected. A ring with 5 double sockets was fixed to the east wall, then entry and outside floodlights fitted. All were up, checked and working at the end of the day. Floodlights are to be fitted to the 3 bays of Unit 4 during another work-party.



### 25<sup>th</sup> July

Alan Bertram's concerns about bonfires were noted and the decision was taken to leave the piles of cuttings to dry out further until conditions were more suitable.

Jonathan's warning of having seen an Adder on site was also noted. The NHS guidance on treatment was copied and will be left in the unit for guidance. (Basically, do not mess about with the bite area, just take the victim to the nearest A&E)

The flail was re-connected to the Tractor with the repaired hydraulic hose being reconnected. (These do not need bleeding as they do this automatically) and driven to the site by Chris Heath with the DR mower following. To prevent further damage to the hydraulics the flail angle hydraulic lines were supported using a bungee cord. (Volunteers are asked to keep an eye on this.)

The group then completed raking up of the waste piles and tried cutting the remaining areas with both the DR mower and the Tractor/Flail. The Tractor/Flail worked really well, reducing the stubble to something

approaching mown grass. The DR mower still left significant stubble and recognisable Himalayan Balsam root stems, and does not seem really suitable for this task.

A third visit to this cutting area to move the cuttings to their final disposal sites for burning and then flailing the remaining areas should complete this task.

Both Chris Heath and Mark Shopland are now happy with the operation and use of the Tractor/Flail and the DR Brush Cutter.

Damage to the inside areas of the tractors rear tyres was noted which appeared to be caused by the movement of the trailing coupling links to the flail and some damage to the offside link which allowed the whole assembly to move further than intended. This excess movement appears to have been effectively cured by removing the two shackles in the adjustment linkages and straightening the offside link bar.

A huge amount of work was completed for a small but hardworking team of Chris H, Dennis and Mark.

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August

### Surveying water level



Volunteers met at Spa Common at 9:30. *Group one* went to lock 5 at Swafield, where Mickey Starling was already cutting down vegetation. Volunteers then proceeded to dig and probe down, in the lock, to find the bottom. (photo 1). The lock walls were marked with the water levels. The laser was set up and marked up, this was then transposed to Swafield Bridge and the water level was marked on both sides of the bridge. The group carried on moving equipment and putting pegs

in all the way down the canal to the sluice, the spillway and on to Bacton Wood Lock, where they stopped for a late lunch. After lunch the process was undertaken in reverse to double check. (photo 2 shows Steve manning the laser.)



At Swafield Lock the water level is only about 6 inches below the correct level, Royston spillway is within an inch or two and at BW lock the level is a couple of bricks down from the top. Hence the original survey was confirmed as being pretty accurate. The task for OCC is now to further raise the levels of the banks above Royston Bridge.

### Units 4 & 5

*Group two* continued the lengthy task of installing the electrical system for units 4 & 5. First some of the roofing liner sheets in the loft were re-fixed to allow access for the cabling of the three floodlights for the bays of unit 4. Following the installation of cabling, the lights were fixed. All electrics were then tested.

Unit 4 now has internal and outside floodlights and a ring main, all installed to the latest regulatory spec. At this stage no further work will be undertaken in unit 4 until it is dark, and we understand the users' further needs!

After lunch, the water pipes were fixed to the beams, rather than hanging on pipes, container swept and tidied and temporary switches were put in unit 5 for the lighting there.



## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August

While some volunteers were conducting the Footfall Survey, the main work-party was at Spa Common preparing for the arrival of *Sue B* with the stop planks for storage - it's good to see a Canal used for its proper job of transportation

Darren was work-party leader for the day and he obviously didn't allow his team to have idle time!

He reports:

We started by clearing the space between the containers and found 3 pallets to lay on the ground.

Whilst waiting for the stop planks to arrive on *Sue B*, we moved the tents and other Open Day gear into the container. When Graham arrived with the planks on *Sue B*, and moored beneath the plank bridge, they were unloaded and stacked 4 across the pallets with brick spacing the planks then covered with tarpaulin and lorry tilt.

Other Jobs completed:

- Removed concrete from Ebridge Notice board legs
- Mowed grass around BW lock
- Cleared area for partition installation
- Fixed large maps on wall of Unit 5.

Welcome to Ross who joined us for his first work-party.



## Thursday 22nd August 2019

Chris and Dennis used brushcutters for rough clearance with Dee and Frank following up to clear the arisings. Ross and Bridget then teamed up with the two mowers one set high and one set low to mulch and finish off. Himalayan Balsam was removed from the canal walk where possible and duckweed was removed from the canal to improve flow. A large Ash had fallen over the path which will need a chainsaw to clear, but it did make a handy lunch-time seat for (l-r) Bridget, Chris, Frank, Dee, Ross, Dennis.

Mark Shopland



## Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August



**Ebridge Chamber Ensemble** continues their Tuesday and Thursday work on the lock chamber. Frank, Jonathan, Nigel T, Kevin C, and w/p leader Terry, put two small drain pipes in the base of this hole as so much water was leaching through. The third large hole in the lock was almost finished. All rubble and dirt from the pontoon was cleaned off and removed. Two hand posts were put into the canal bank to assist the free swimmers and canoeists to get out of the water easily. The site was cleaned up and work finished at 5.30pm.

*Photo taken in July showing Nigel and Terry in the chamber.*

## Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August

The site was tidied prior to the Inspection by the EU LEADER team of the work on the top gates. Mark Shopland accompanied the inspector, and gave them sight of all the official original documentation. He reports:

*The meeting with Andy Thorpe of the local Action Group (LAG) Manager - LEADER (NCC) went well with all questions answered and us being rated 'Satisfactory', apparently that's as good as it gets! This means we should get paid in a maximum of 30 working days (6 weeks) from the claim acceptance date of 21 August 2019.*

PHEW - that means that we can hopefully pay the £20,000 bridging loan from the IWA!

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September

### THE EBBIDGE HOLE

(see *News...* item above)

Sunday was a ~~hole~~ day's work, preparing it for NCC/IDB inspections on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was not an easy task - and one that had to be undertaken with care as the stability of the sides was unknown. Steve and Jonathan attached safety ropes before climbing down through thick vegetation. They cut trees and brambles, passing them up to Frank and Mary who lifted them over the bridge, ever mindful of the cars passing close by. Chris B cut back and cleared the east wall of the lock, Dennis, Ralph and Alan cut back everything on the bank above the hole and Ross lit a fire to dispose of everything.



Bridge Network Engineer, Mark North, and colleagues undertook a further inspection of the hole on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and we now await a camera survey.



## Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Nigel T, Jonathan, Kevin C, Frank and Terry started work at 9am and finished at 4.30pm. All the holes and a lot of damaged bricks in the wall of the lock were filled/replaced. The pontoon was then pulled up to the gates and we tried to caulk under the cross beam with sacking, but unfortunately this wasn't very successful. Pontoon was cleared of all debris and pulled back into the lock away from the gates. All the cut reeds that had floated up against the gates were removed and taken away, (ready for the next lot to float down).

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Dennis, Dee and Bridget first cleared access to the piles of previously cut reed on Purdy's Marsh to find that they had rotted down significantly and had a damp base layer. The general area was still wet from the previous day's rain so it was judged that fires would not be a hazard to either the peat base or adjoining fields. Approximately two thirds of the cut reed was burnt.

Access and sightlines to the footpaths around the bridge were cleared.

Jonathan had already mown the footpath from Spa Common to the Bund, so FP19 was completed (no turning at the end so had to reverse out) as was the rest of the footpath to Royston Bridge.

The eastern footpath from Royston Bridge to Swafield was then mown and vehicle access to the western path was found to be available. (However it is understood that Laurie is going to have some more bank building material delivered next week, either to this area, or for use in this area).

Bacton Woods lock pedestrian access was not mown, nor was the path from Spa Common to Ebridge due to lack of time.

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

When the volunteers opened the Units they could see the fruits of David B's work, for the partition between 4 & 5 had been erected - thanks to David for doing this all on his own, he would welcome some helpers from time to time.

By Monday, the door was finished - not a butt joint job - but proper joints and pegs!  
**PLEASE does anyone know of a person about to change their kitchen - we need a sink and unit and a couple of other units to fit along the west wall.** Thanks to Frank who has offered to paint the new partition.



Five volunteers worked at Purdy's Marsh, two fires were started (using previous fire sites) to burn all remaining cut material piles on north section of marsh. DR mower was used to cut round fire sites and piles of cut material then mowed over site of piles to remove remaining material, which was getting bound up with re-growth. Paths were cut from piles to fire sites.

DR mower used to cut path again south to and around the two ponds on Purdy's Marsh created earlier in the year. Reeds in these ponds are now 2m+ tall. Path cutting and further cutting

was curtailed owing to near flat battery in mower. Vegetation was also cut back adjacent to Royston Bridge SE corner to aid visibility when emerging off canal bank.

After lunch the fire sites were checked, the grass cut around top gates of BW Lock ready for Heritage Day visitors. The landing stage by Units was improved for use by trip boats

More temporary electrical work was done in Units during afternoon, including work to facilitate use of battery charger on DR mower. Also another two tables erected in unit 5

Work was done at Ebridge in afternoon to improve visibility for driving out from east side of lock (Mrs. Manning's side).



(The Ebridge Chamber Ensemble had a week of well-earned rest.)

## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September

At the North Walsham Canal Co's lock at Honing. Mark reports:

Arrived at site to find a ginormous tractor offloading a pallet containing about 20 fence posts, 6 paling rolls, wire, staples and a post hammer. On inspection it appeared to be the biggest job to be done was the repair of the fences on both sides of the lock.

The culvert paddles are in poor condition and could benefit from replacement but they do not currently represent a hazard and the job is not regarded as urgent. They were left largely uncleared as it appears that it is the vegetation that is holding them all together.

Lock walls are in a relatively good order with only the concrete coping stones in really poor, missing or dislodged condition and representing a serious trip hazard.

Vegetation around the outlet wings walls could benefit from clearance but is not seen as urgent.

The east and west wall paths; that from the soke bridge to the lock bridge; and the two sides of the existing fences were cleared using the brush cutters and mower to allow for repair.

About ten new posts were set and one roll of new paling was used to repair where the existing fence was too far gone.



Our thanks to the NWCCo for providing the materials. The Thursday group will return again on Thursday 3rd October, hopefully to complete the work there.

However, having caught up? with some of the minor chores, there are some larger ones looming. 700 tonnes of "soil" has arrived at Ebridge to be spread along the east bank to raise the level. Dumpers drivers are needed for this - please phone Graham P on 07585 160 772 if you can help out here, and he will come back to you with the dates. Dependent on the Trustees deciding on funding - the next main construction job will be to install stop log (plank) grooves and cill in the mouth of the top of Bacton Wood Lock. The OCC have agreed to this, and the provision of the planks to act as a regulatory plank weir as the pound above the lock is re-watered, will greatly aid the testing and wetting of the banks up to the bund.

Ivan Cane - Acting WP Co-ordinator

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## Dates for your diary

### **Talks & Presentations 2019/2020**

7th November 2019	Swafeld Villagers	Ivan Cane
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Sutton WI	Nigel Lloyd

### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October AGM (see below)**



Graham Eckersley - Meetings Secretary, compiled the information below, which includes the Agenda, Minutes of the 2018 AGM and all Trustees' reports.

If they are not inspiring enough, there is the promise of tea and cake!

*The Quagmire is a newsletter for all members of NW&DCT and members are encouraged to make suggestions for future items.*

*The deadline for items for inclusion in the Winter2019/2020 Quagmire (at the Trustees' discretion) is 5<sup>TH</sup> January 2020.*

**Agenda for the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Trust CIO to be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**at** Honing Village Hall, The Street, Honing, North Walsham, NR28 9AB - 7pm for a 7.30pm start

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declaration of interests - all Trustees
4. Minutes of 10th and final AGM of the former North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust, held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018
5. Matters Arising not covered in the Agenda
6. Annual NWDCT Report – Adoption of the report
7. Chairman's Report – Ivan Cane – Adoption of Report
8. Presentation of Audited Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 – Barry Mobbs – Adoption of Report
9. Appointment of Trustees – The following Trustees offer themselves for re-election:  
Thomas Carr, Graham Eckersley, Nigel Lloyd, Roger Hopkinson, Julie Kelleher, Barry Mobbs, Tom Webster, Graham Pressman, Mark Shopland, David Revill  
If anyone else wishes to be proposed for election as trustee, please contact the Trust Administrator\* prior to the meeting.
10. Election of Chair for the Trust CIO – nominations, seconded, may be received by the Administrator\* in advance of the AGM, or taken at the meeting. (This item will be chaired by the Vice Chair)
11. Appointment of auditor/scrutineer for the accounts for 2019/20

*Take the opportunity in the break to chat with Trustees and other volunteers over refreshments and to look at displays around the room.*

*Following the refreshment break there will be an Open Forum Session at which members may put questions from the floor to the Trustees and Officers on any matter relating to the Canal or to the Trust's activities.*

\* Please contact the administrator on [secretary@nwdct.org](mailto:secretary@nwdct.org)



**North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust**  
**Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at Honing Village Hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 38 persons present.

**1. Alan Faulkner - Past President (who passed away on the 12<sup>th</sup> August):**

The Chairman gave a brief history of his waterways career and said he would be greatly missed.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Trevor Harvey, Peter Moore, Andy Rayner, Gillian Jeckells, Andrea Lamyman, David & Gisella Revill.

**3. Declaration of Interests of Trustees:**

All Trustees confirmed that they had no interests to declare.

**4. Minutes of the AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017:**

The minutes of the meeting were accepted and signed. Prop. J Kelleher Sec. Jonathan Parke

**5. Matters arising not covered in the agenda:**

Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 – these were approved without comment.

**6. Chairman's report:**

The Chairman (Ivan Cane) presented his report with the help of slides. He stressed the importance of volunteers (which come in 6 different categories) and that the Trust is always looking for more. With the popularity of the boat trips, crew and skippers are required. Training will be given. He thanked all volunteers for their efforts and thanked the Meetings/Minutes Secretary in particular. The report was adopted: Prop Mary Black Sec Graham Pressman.

**7. Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018:**

There were no questions or comments and the accounts were adopted. Prop. Andrew Fryer Sec. Alan Bertram.

**8. Confirmation and affirmation of Trustees for the CIO.**

The Trustees are confirmed as: Roger Hopkinson, Mark Shopland, Nigel Lloyd, Thomas Carr, David Revill, Barry Mobbs, Ivan Cane, Graham Eckersley, Julie Kelleher, Graham Pressman, Christopher Black, Alex Hurrell, Thomas Webster, Mary Black. Prop. Susan Kirrage Sec. Alan Bertram.

At the next AGM all the Trustees will be re-appointed (if they wish to serve) and then the year afterwards ⅓ will retire.

**9. Election of Chairman:**

Chris Black Vice-Chairman took the chair for this item. There were no nominations for this post and it was unanimously agreed that Ivan Cane be elected as Chairman. Ivan said that he would serve for another year but will stand down at the next AGM.

**10. Appointment of auditor:**

It was proposed by I Cane and seconded by C Black and unanimously agreed that Mike Segon be appointed auditor to the Trust's accounts.

**11. Formal closing of the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust:**

The chairman formally closed the Trust and the assets will now pass to the new (CIO) Trust, registration number 1180474. As agreed at the AGM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017.

The members present thanked the Chairman for his work and gave him a round of applause.

### *Chair's Report*



The Trust's first year as a CIO has seen it "come of age", as it has used its new powers to enhance its work of assisting the Canal Proprietors and aiding restoration work. The ability of being able to negotiate loans and employ contractors has enabled the Trust's first own project – that of the restoration of the top gates at Ebridge, to take place. Our thanks to the Inland Waterways Association's bridging loan of £20,000, interest free, which enabled us to take advantage of the EU LEADER's offer of a grant of £26,152 for the timberware. The Big Society's grant of £14,980, has enabled the Trust to buy a compact tractor and attachments, and also a weedcutter, all of which have been busy maintaining the banks and channels. Our thanks to the many people who have also donated to the Ebridge Lock and Canal fund, with nearly £10,000 being raised to date to cover the construction of the cills, repairs to the lock chamber and purchase of secondhand bottom lock gates. The ability, as a CIO, to claim Gift Aid will add to these funds. A hidden feature, which took many months to set up, but has now proved its worth, is online banking, which in turn allows us to have accounts with various suppliers and ensures that bills are quickly paid!

Being a CIO means that the Trust can now own its own assets, whether trip boats, machinery, land or even a canal in the future. This has enabled the renting of units 4/5 at Spa Common. Much work is being undertaken here to set up a base, not only for equipment, but also a meeting and information room. The trip boats are now owned by the Trust, and it is incredible that within 21 months of receiving the gift of a rusty leaky hull from the Barnsley Canal Society, *Ella II* has not only been completely refurbished, complete with solar power, it has become a popular attraction, completely covered its restoration costs and now providing a regular income for the Trust's other works. All this has only been possible through the hours of work put into the Trust by volunteers, from those applying for grants, scraping rust from hulls, clearing 30 years' worth of accumulated garage waste, painting and advertising to being one of the "Wet Team" - the trained 14 skippers and crew that turn out every weekend, rain or shine.

Our "Muddy Teams" have also been hard at work during the year. Once there was a fortnightly Sunday Work Party, this is now supplemented by Thursday fortnightly group, and the Ebridge Chamber Ensemble working most Tuesdays and Thursdays on their own pet project. Additionally, specific projects, such as Bacton Wood Gates and Ebridge Top Gates have led to volunteers coming out every day until the job is completed. Of late we have seen more younger faces appearing and hope that a few our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers may return one day under their own steam. Another new aspect that the Trust provides is of Education, Training and Induction and we look forward to liaison with primary and other schools over the coming year. Our thanks to everyone involved in this aspect of the trust's work.

On the conservation front, the Wildlife and Fisheries Officers have expanded their teams; allowed the Trust to have closer links with organisations such as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, IDB/WMA environment officer and other local specialist groups. This has led to a revision of the management of Purdy's Marsh, with mitigation enhancing features, such as turf ponds, being introduced. We now have a greater awareness of the diversity of flora, fauna, fish and invertebrates that thrive by the restored OCC section of the Canal, exemplified by the profusion of photos and interest shown on the Trust's social media. During the year the Trust has continued to work on its mitigation and canal management plans, in conjunction with the EA and other bodies. Our thanks to all involved with the "Green Team".

*Continued/...*

The Trust's officers work hard to ensure that the visiting and interested public are kept aware, not only of what is happening with restoration, but also on the historical and other aspects of the Canal. Facebook and other social media are continually monitored, and exhibit the joy that visitors have from their experiences with the Canal. The media is used efficiently advertising and reporting events, whether the Open Weekends, trip boats, film evenings, heritage walks and talks and canal news. Quagmire undertakes a similar job, but to more depth, for our members. During the past few months our website has been upgraded to better inform the world as a whole. Meanwhile, through the generosity of various donors, general notice boards have been installed along the Upper Canal and specific history panels erected at major canal structures from Honing Lock to Swafeld Bridge. All these things have helped to increase our membership throughout the year. Our thanks to everyone involved with "spreading the word".

Behind all of this are the "Suited Ones", the Trustees and Officers who work hard to help to keep the wheels turning. Some, again, will be stepping down for the AGM. Alex, who has undertaken a great job with her media contacts, keeping the links working both at national and local levels, from magazines to radio and TV. Mary and Chris Black, who have been the stalwarts that have supported and run many work parties for over 15 years, at the same time Mary has brought the Trust's magazine "Quagmire" from a newsletter to a substantive quarterly magazine whilst Chris, under the guise of Vice Chair, raised thousands of pounds of grant funding, liaised with everyone of importance and enabled the Trust to grow and grow. The Trust is indebted to the years of work they have given. They, like me, will continue to come along and wield our saws on the work parties of the future.

Our thanks to the team who have nursed the CIO through its first year:

**Trustees and Officers of the North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust, 2018/2019**

Ivan Cane, Chair. Chris Black, Vice Chair. Nigel Lloyd, Administrator. Barry Mobbs, Treasurer. Roger Hopkinson, Hon Vice President. Graham Eckersley, Meetings Secretary. David Revill, Liaison Officer. Alex Hurrell, Press Officer. Andrea Lamyman, Membership Secretary. Tom Webster, Fisheries Officer. Julie Kelleher, ICT Officer. Mary Black, Quagmire Editor. Graham Pressman, Boating Officer. Suki Pryce, Wildlife Officer. Tom Carr, Land Issues Adviser. Mark Shopland, Grants Officer. Susan Kirrage, Education, Training and Acting Induction Officer.

As well as the abundance of Chiefs, we also need to give thanks to all the Injuns at the canalface. It was pleasing to see so many at the Open Evening at Ebridge Lock in July, and a pleasure to present the *Top Gate Trophy* to Frank Boast for his tireless work over the year. Presentations were also made to Jeremy Cushion and Daniel Gotts as thanks for their efforts over several years supporting the OCC and Trust. Finally, the *Bottom Trophy* was awarded to Julie for her "bowels"! Elsewhere, Honorary Memberships have been awarded to Darren Rogers of Broadland Computers, the Cushion Family and Sir Norman Lamb for their support and help with the Canal restoration over the years. At the other end of the spectrum, the Trust was honoured to be asked, by the IWA, to attend the Parliamentary Reception in the Terrace Pavilion at the House of Commons in May. Our thanks to Roger and Julie for proudly wearing the Trust's flag at the occasion.

And finally, our thanks to the 300 plus members, without whose support the Trust would not exist.

*Ivan Cane - Chair*



## *Treasurer's Report*



### FINANCIAL YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> June 2018 to 31<sup>ST</sup> May 2019

Bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 - £11,148.76

Bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 - £10,353.19

The full audited financial accounts appear below

The items of income exceeding £2,000.00 were:

Events: £2,099.65

Grants: £15,480.00

Subscriptions: £2,475.00

Trip Boat: £4,918.50

The items of expenditure exceeding £2,000.00 were:

Events: £2,043.12

Trip Boat: £2,284.71

Plant and machinery purchase: £15,699.14

Ebridge Canal Projects: £3,573.45

The Trust's tangible assets of boats, tractors and large items of machinery have been valued at £18,934 after depreciation during the year. Our merchandising stock has been lessened with the writing off of £751 for the yellow books, printed many years ago.

The accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 have been balanced and have been examined by the Trust's auditor, Mike Segon A.C.I.B. We are very grateful for the work he has undertaken to help with the setting up of the Trust's CIO first accounts and for undertaking the audit

We have been recognised by HMRC as a suitable charitable organisation so we can now claim gift aid on donations and membership fees from eligible taxpayers.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we now have an on-line banking facility. This has taken a while to achieve but it is already proving its worth by simplifying and speeding up payments and giving us instant access to statements.

Barry Mobbs - Treasurer,

### NOTES FROM THE TREASURER 11 September 2019

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 until 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 our income was £35,898 and expenditure £38,139, with a balance in our account of £9,666.16.

This unusually high income and expenditure was due to the purchase of lock gates and associated works at Ebridge and the receipt of a loan from the IWA and some generous donations.

Our works at Ebridge have been subjected to examination by the EU leader team and payment of the grant has been approved and should be in our account within two weeks.

We have been recognised by HMRC as a suitable charitable organisation so we can now claim gift aid on donations and membership fees from eligible taxpayers.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we now have an on-line banking facility. This has taken a while to achieve but it is already proving its worth by simplifying and speeding up payments and giving us instant access to statements.

Barry Mobbs - Treasurer,

**North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust**  
**– Financial Reports for the Year -**  
**1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE SHEET For the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

**Income:**

Events	£2,099.65
Profit on Sales of Merchandise	£221.26
Grants	£15,480.00
Donations	£1,227.00
Subscriptions	£2,475.00
Trip Boat	£4,918.50
Ebridge Canal Projects	£1,680.10

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£28,101.51</b>
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**Expenditure**

General	£270.42
Events	£2,043.12
IWA Subscription	£54.00
Overheads	£1,117.37
Work Parties	£1,096.82
Admin	£442.13
Marketing	£1,124.78
Trip Boat	£2,284.71
Building maintenance	£159.77
Machinery repairs & service	£93.62
Ebridge Canal Projects	£3,573.45
Bacton Wood Lock	£838.24
Merchandising - Stock Written Off	£753.00
Depreciation	£4,865.14
Legal Costs	£253.15

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£18,969.72</b>
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<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,131.79</b>
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<b>Note</b>	General Fund - Excess of Income over Expenditure	£9,384.94
	Legal Fund - Excess of Expenditure over Income	£253.15
		<b>£9,131.79</b>

# **North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust**

## **BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MAY 2019**

### **Tangible Assets**

Assets Recognised during the year	£8,100.00	
Additions during the year	£15,699.14	£23,799.14
Less Depreciation for the Year to 31.5.19		£4,865.14
		£18,934.00

### **Current Assets**

Stock of Merchandise	£1,758.45	
Bank Current Account	£10,353.19	£12,111.64
		£31,045.64

### **Represented By**

General Fund at 1.6.18		£9,748.76
Assets recognised during the year:-		
Tangible - Work Boats/Trip Boats	£8,100.00	
Current - Stock of Merchandise	£2,665.09	£10,765.09
		£20,513.85
Excess of Income over Expenditure		£9,384.94
		£29,898.79
	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	
Legal Fund at 1.6.18	£1,400.00	
Excess of Expenditure over Income	£253.15	£1,146.85
		£31,045.64

## **NOTES**

## **MERCHANDISE ACCOUNT**

Stock at 1.6.18	£2,665.09
Less stock written off*	£753.00
	£1,912.09
Purchases	£40.00
	£1,952.09
Stock at 31.5.19	£1,758.45
Cost of Sales	£193.64
Sales	£414.90
Cost of Sales	£193.64
Profit on Sales	£221.26

\* Stock written off, yellow books £751 and postcards £2



## **BANK RECONCILIATION**

Balance as Bank Statement 31.5.19	£11,907.19
Unpresented cheques (3)	<u>£1,554.00</u>
Balance as Accounts	<u>£10,353.19</u>

## **AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE**

I have examined the books and vouchers of the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust for the Year Ended 31st May 2019 and certify that the above accounts are in accordance there with.

Michael Segon, A.C.I.B.  
13th September 2019

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### ***Administrator's Report***



After obtaining CIO status last year, work began on developing an over-arching strategy for the Trust. CIO status brings with it a requirement to add a more formal structure to our work and to put the Trust on a more business-like footing. After a shaky start, a document was prepared with the help of some key Trustees and volunteers. The aim of the strategy is to identify and document the restoration works required at each of the pounds of the canal, prioritise these tasks, identify costs and to build a timeline for bringing the works to fruition. A draft strategy was prepared and offered to Trustees for approval in April 19. The strategy covers a 10-year period in which the whole canal restoration can occur. This is of course dependent upon a fair wind, cooperation of canal owners and the availability of funds and resources. The document is currently being updated to reflect the works carried out in 2019.

I have been working with a group of community minded people to create 2 circular walks to the canal from the centre of North Walsham. The costs will be met from the Market Town Initiative (MTI) fund provided by NNDC. A photographic list of required signage has been prepared and now sits with Norfolk County Council for approval. It is hoped road signage to Ebridge Mill from North Walsham can also be included as part of this package of works.

*Nigel Lloyd – Administrator*

### **Editor's note:**

The Market Towns Initiative is a £400,000 funding pot designed to support community organisations in North Walsham, Stalham, Fakenham and Holt.

## ***Boating Officer's Report***



- Both *Sue B* and *Ella II* are in fine order. We have been running trips every week, all the year round with only one weekend stopped by ice.
- We have a new electric outboard for *Ella II* as the newness wore off the old one. Oh and we have fitted solar panels to supply all the power we need for the electric motor. That's so long ago now that I almost forgot it.
- The 2t outboard used on *Sue B* is still running well and has been serviced.
- Both boats are now moored at Ebridge, in the hope that they are less vulnerable to vandalism. That also saves an empty trip from Spa Common to Ebridge each time.
- *Sue B* has also been used for carrying goods as necessary. That has proven quite useful.
- The weed eater is doing a fine job, keeping the canal free of weed and is running well despite a couple of little teething problems. A paddle fell off, the cutter blade was inclined to pop out and the starter motor failed. Mark P has fixed all of that now. I have ordered a new voltage regulator for the charging circuit. Mark P will fit that when it arrives. The boat is doing a fine job of keeping weed clear for boats, canoeists, swimmers, fisher-folk and all other canal users. It's good to be able to clear the cut weed as well as to cut it deeper than previously possible.
- I am reliably informed that the passenger boats have now paid for themselves, so it's mainly profit from here on in! Any private business could be proud to achieve that in the time.

G Pressman – Boating Officer

## ***Ebridge Lock Project.***

- Phase one is complete with the new top gates in place. Thanks to the EU LEADER grant!
- We have bought used gates for the bottom end and are in the process of preparing those for fitting.
- Laurie has bought a machine which will empty the lock of mud, before we fit the gates.
- We have 2 alternative offers of timber for re-lining the second hand gates. The saving, by doing it ourselves will run into thousands of £s.
- Our stalwart volunteers have been working hard and now nearly completed the repairs to Ebridge lock chamber walls. Those thumping great holes are now a thing of the past!
- The famous “Ebridge Hole” seems to be getting near to being repaired now. Once that is solved, we will be able to hang the gates and fill the lock.

G Pressman – Project Leader

## ***Liaison Officer's Report***



I have been concerned with five main objectives in this current Trust year.

1. Insurance for the Trust and the protection of its' activities of working parties; the Trustees; properties and Marine Insurance for our vessels.
2. Ebridge lock with the EA
3. Ebridge area with the WLMA (IDB) and the NCC Bridges and Highways departments – success (I think?) at last after 12 years of trying.
4. Greenways Project with NCC
5. Membership of the IWA

All of the above have been successfully managed but with one comment on Nr 4. where the NCC scheme is only yet at an exploratory stage, therefore only one meeting attended – but good contact made with the responsible people for future progress.

David Revill – Liaison Officer

## *Education and Training Officer's Report*



The writing, collating and production of the new Volunteer Handbook was completed. This includes: some background of the Canal and of the Trust, lists the induction procedures and serves as a record of training. Officer email contacts are included.

New volunteers inducted to date have stated that it is a helpful procedure.

There are a number of new volunteers yet to receive their induction and Handbook.

### Training completed this year for volunteers and members:

1. **First Aid course:** Ten attendees - all passed and certificated in an Emergency First Aid at work course, valid for three years. Excellent attendance. We could run the next e.g. in the spring, if sufficient demand - at a cost of approx £20 per candidate. All candidates stated that this is valuable training. An aspiration to purchase a defibrillator was expressed.
2. **Throw Line Training** - 11 attendees. Excellent attendance. Comment from one: "Had to say how glad I was to do the line throwing training, very worthwhile, such a simple but effective way to help someone in water".
3. **Tractor Training** - Six people completed the Tractor Training undertaken by Johnson Bros on the delivery of the new machine
4. **External Training - Restoration Hub Workshops**  
Sue Kirrage attended the Working with Young Volunteers workshop at Hatton in February, and Ivan Cane the Annual Conference, with its theme on fund raising in March at Wolverhampton. It is hoped that more volunteers will be able to attend these courses over the coming year. The Trust offers to cover fuel for traveling.

### Other plans for next year include:

- Liaison with local schools, with aim to deliver trial in-school 'workshop/talk/visits' and invite school reps to discuss how best to make use of the facilities and opportunities that the Canal offers.
- Development of a new Member Handbook.
- Further training courses, as required for volunteers and members.

*Sue Kirrage - Education and Training Officer, Acting Volunteer Induction co-ordinator.*

## *Membership Secretary's Report*



I am happy to report that our membership numbers have recovered considerably since November 2018 when membership had fallen to just 199. At that point, a number of members had failed to respond to our GDPR exercise and consequently had to be considered either to have lapsed or unlikely to renew. Happily about 30% of these members subsequently renewed and/or confirmed their GDPR consent.

New memberships have mushroomed in recent months: of the 76 new members since November 2018, 60 have joined in the last 3 months! Some have perhaps been inspired by the striking and highly visible progress being made at Ebridge and others certainly as a direct result of a trip on *Ella II*! The ability to join via an online membership form (thanks to Julie K in establishing the online form) has proven popular in the last few weeks and promises to further increase the number of new members joining. As a result, membership has recovered to pre-GDPR levels and now stands at 300 members.

*Continued/...*

Our other recent initiative, as a Charitably Incorporated Organisation, has been to encourage members to Gift Aid their subscriptions and donations where possible. Already 16% of our members have provided Gift Aid declarations, which will increase our income by £184 this year and hopefully for many years to come.

As membership numbers increase, the management of member communications and renewals becomes increasingly labour intensive and so we are looking into a membership system that will automate renewal reminders and automatically record subscription receipts. More on this in the coming months...

*Andrea Lamymman - Membership Secretary*

### ***Media Officer's Report***

Between November last year and August this year I have publicised the:

- Christmas and New Year boat trips (November)
- EU Leader grant success (January)
- Sponsorship and arrival of the notice boards (February)
- Film night (May)
- Open weekend (June)
- Heritage Open Days Walk and Water tours (August)
- 



I have handled approaches from local media for interviews resulting from publicity - many thanks to Graham Pressman for being willing to act as the trust's spokesman on several occasions.

In close liaison with Graham I have also kept the boat trip listings in the EDP up to date.

My increased work commitments, and changes in my family circumstances, mean that I am stepping down from the trust at the AGM as I can no longer give it the time and attention it richly deserves. One example of this is the trust Instagram account, which I set up some time ago. I no longer have time to run it and it has been dormant for several months. It has the potential to attract a great deal of good publicity for the trust.

I hope the trust can find someone able to take over my role. The fantastic work being carried out by members/volunteers deserves wide recognition.

*Alex Hurrell - Media Officer*



*The noticeboard at Ebridge Lock*



## ***Events Co-ordinator's Report***

The Trust held many events both Public and Private organised and managed by our Trust Officers ably assisted by our volunteers. I list the following events which were attended by many visitors interested to see and learn about the latest developments along the North Walsham and Dilham Canal.

We do not advertise a charge for attending private presentations but many of the organisations kindly donated generously to Trust funds.

### **Public Events for 2019:**

12 <sup>th</sup> June	Film Evening at The Atrium, Nth Walsham
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Weekend at Ebridge Lock
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	"Heritage Open Days" – Trust 'Walk & Water' Guided tour
18 <sup>th</sup> August	At Ebridge, the Trust conducted our 'Footfall Survey' last completed in 2014.

### **Private presentations** given to the following groups:

#### **2019:**

17th April	Hickling Ladies Group
20th March	Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group
27th February	North Walsham PROBUS group
21st February	Brooke Thursday Club
11th February	Wells Ladies PROBUS group

#### **2018:**

31st October	Great Yarmouth Probus
7th September	Stalham Good Fellowship group
27th July	Celebrating "Norfolk Day"
14th July	Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Social - Canal Walk & Boat Trip
10th June	At Norwich Cathedral. 'Celebrating Volunteers Day'
7th June	North Walsham Countrysiders

Due to various circumstances, the following events of 2019 could not be attended

27 <sup>th</sup> June	North Walsham Fun Day
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Norfolk Day
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Worstead Festival
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Green Build

*Julie Kelleher – Acting Event Co-ordinator*



*The Walk & Water guided tour, September 2018*

## ***Fisheries Officer's Report***



2019 has proven to be a challenging but successful year from a piscatorial point of view of the canal.

Some small changes were made to the fish rules for the start of the new fishing season and I am happy to report the rules are now being followed by a majority of anglers using the canal.

Out of season pike fishing has been greatly reduced this summer, mainly due to national and local press coverage of scientific research conducted at the University of Hull and relating to the oxygen levels of the waters at summer temperatures. It's now scientifically proven Pike suffer greatly from fishing in the summer months and more fisheries are rolling out an enforced longer closed season, something the Trust took a lead in doing 3 years ago.

I am pleased to report all of this has helped reduce angling related fish deaths this season and my work of educating angling on the canal will continue next year.

I am concerned at the silt levels and the causes of silt at Spa Common. This presents a significant danger to the canal ecosystem and I greatly support the Trust in trying to resolve this ongoing problem and causes.

To end on a positive note, I am happy report healthy catches of roach, rudd and dace, plenty of pike and perch, also over the last year we have had some recorded catches of quality tench to add to our records as well.

Tom Webster - Fisheries Officer

## ***Wildlife Officer's Report***



- Canal Habitats, Flora, and Environmental Management: I continue to update my Report on the Canal's plants and habitats, with management suggestions.

- Plant Recording: I continue to record regularly along the Canal: 365 species and counting.

- Previous/Other Canal Corridor Wildlife Records: We currently have records from: Tom W (fish); the previous WO Perry (birds; moths; other groups), the North East Norfolk Bird Club (birds; hover flies), and Pigney's Wood (birds).

- Wildlife Volunteers: We currently have roughly 6 volunteers involved in aspects of Canal wildlife.
- Aquatic invertebrate–water quality monitoring: Specialist volunteers Nick and Gordon have surveyed the Ebridge reach, and gone on to survey at various key points along the Canal. Their results have been sent to the EA and others involved.
- Purdy's Marsh Management: Chris H and Alan B have been experimenting with several techniques/pieces of equipment to carry through some of NWT's management recommendations, and to improve Himalayan Balsam control.
- Liaison with the IDB re soke management: I have met with an IDB-WMA Environmental Officer on site to discuss the cutting of their sokes. This should take place early autumn '19.
- Open Weekend: Tom W, Volunteer Mike Cole, and I helped man the Wildlife Tent at the Open Weekend, had many visitors, and gained 2 new volunteers.
- Quagmire articles: I have written 8 pieces for Quagmire about vegetation-related matters along the Canal.

Suki Pryce - Wildlife Officer

## Grants Officer's Annual Report



### Big Society Fund (£14,980) – NNDC

The End of Grant report was successfully submitted in May 2019. This grant funded the purchase of an aquatic plant cutter and compact tractor/flail for use on our routine maintenance programme of the in-water sections. These are environmentally sensitive tasks carried out during the autumn/winter seasons and we are only just beginning to evaluate this equipment.

The use of the aquatic plant cutter follows the best practice by basing the decision of when to cut, on a combination of temperature and dissolved oxygen measurement. Initially we have used a simple titration kit that takes around 15 minutes per sample, but this is neither fast nor accurate enough for use during cutting, and we have sought extra funding for an electronic tester. The compact tractor/flail combination has proved very effective for mowing paths and mulching areas previously cut using a brush cutter or motor driven scythe.

### Leader Bid (£26,152) - NCC

The RDPE Claim Form was submitted in August 2019. This was to cover the cost of a set of Upper Gates for the Lock at Ebridge, and a supply of safety fencing for use on this and future tasks. The gates were manufactured and installed by Hargreaves Foundry Ltd, the installation and removal of the bund was carried out by Jerry Cushion, and all other tasks were carried out by NWDCT volunteers.

The justification for the award is in the increase in rural employment and Tourism that it generates and we need to provide three, yearly reports on this growth. The recent footfall survey (193 visitors physically counted) combined with an electronic satisfaction survey (unattended box recording 49 visitors) at Ebridge in August gives a multiplier of four to the satisfaction survey figures. The intention is to install the satisfaction survey box on one or more of the Notice boards over the year and use its readings to estimate visitor numbers.

### New bids

Work on the Upper Gates has led to an innovative solution for the supply of future gate assemblies, that of refurbishing gates previously used by the Canal and Rivers Trust. These have a very similar dimensions, sound frames and ironwork but poor cladding. A timely donation has allowed us to purchase two sets and transport them to Ebridge for re-building. *(The photo shows these arriving on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.)*

A bid to the Worstead Festival fund is hoped to support the cost of the new cladding material and its installation

Mark Shopland – Grants Officer



## ICT Officer's Annual Report



### Website:

2019 saw the upgrade of our website – [nwdct.org](http://nwdct.org)

I'm glad to report that the website is coming together with many more items of interest being uploaded. One benefit is the online membership form [nwdct.org/membership/](http://nwdct.org/membership/)

We're investigating the possibility of an 'online payment' facility making it easier to make Membership subscription payments and to encourage sales from our online shop. Also, with the new website and Trust fundraising we know that our Sponsors visit our website as their first point of call for information.

### Social Media:

All of our social media accounts continue to grow in supporter numbers with many uploading their brilliant pictures of the canal to our 'GROUP' Facebook account.

Statistics:	Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (to date)
• Facebook page LIKES			429	600	937	1290	1671 2144
• Facebook group members						213	407
• Twitter followers						91	125
• Instagram followers						69	107

Social media stats at 6th September 2019

Facebook page	2134	followers 2227
Facebook group		426
Twitter		128
Instagram		106

Julie Kelleher - ICT Officer

[www.nwdct.org](http://www.nwdct.org) [www.Facebook.com/nwdct](http://www.Facebook.com/nwdct)  
[www.Facebook.com/groups/](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/) [www.nwdct.org](http://www.nwdct.org)  
[www.Twitter.com/NWDCTrust](http://www.Twitter.com/NWDCTrust) [www.Instagram.com/NWDCanalTrust](http://www.Instagram.com/NWDCanalTrust)

## Land Issues Report



The scope of the Trustees' reasonable interest in land issues affecting the restoration of the navigation is indicated by the variety of matters referred to below. In future years some of these may drop away as siltation problems are resolved, safe road access is established and neighbours' adverse possession is successfully challenged, among other things.

What has been clear is the extent to which the owners prior to the sale to the OCC Ltd have been unwilling or unable to defend their interests leaving opportunists to claim adverse possession or hope that no one will notice a long-standing trespass. To some extent adjoining canal proprietors may have tolerated these abuses.

The 1812 Act defines the extent of the Canal and its associated works. Some neighbours, who seem unwilling to return to the Canal proprietors the full extent of the Canal estate, can find themselves unwittingly as proprietors with all the obligations that imposes. On the whole these issues have been best resolved by negotiation, but some remain.

*Continued/...*



Land issues addressed since the previous AGM have been:

1. Waste – the action of a neighbour to the detriment of the Canal – relating to bringing silt and grit to the Canal to form berms or shallows likely to obstruct navigation and the flood damage by road water run-off of structures required for the water management on the Canal.
2. Parking. The need for increased capacity of the parking areas for visitors and Canal work parties.
3. Safety. Vehicle access and sight lines affecting the use of parking adjacent to the canal.
4. Boundary rectification at Swafield and Royston Bridge.
5. Purchase or recovery of small areas of land formerly within the Canal ‘estate’.
6. The Trusts’ tenancy of a dilapidated industrial unit, where Trust members have achieved an electrically safe and waterproof building to house new equipment and relieve the over loaded shipping container of much of its burden

Much of the above is on-going and the Trust remains for the time being a volunteer workforce and pressure group for the benefit of the OCC and our shared objective.

Thomas Carr, Chartered Surveyor.

### ***Work Party Coordinator’s Report***

Unfortunately we have not been able to recruit a new WP Co-ordinator during the year, so my big thanks to David Revill, who held the fort for 3 months, and to the WP leaders – Terry, Alan, Mark, Nigel, Jonathan and Darren, without whom there would not have been any work parties.

There has been a great call on the “muddy team” this year – 73 in all over 65 days - and everyone has risen to the Challenge, resulting in a programme of fortnightly Sunday and Thursday WP’s, plus a site specific group – the Ebridge Chamber Ensemble, working most Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have welcomed several new volunteers, much needed with a greater number of WP’s to cover. Our DoE youngsters proved their worth at Briggate, Honing and Purdy’s Marsh – constructing their own turf pond.

The big challenges have been the fixing of Bacton Wood lock gates – 7 days - and the Trust’s first own project – Ebridge Top Gates and stop planks – funded by EU-LEADER – 22 day’s work undertaken there, plus continuing work on the Chamber (10).

Purdy’s Marsh collected 11 visits, as we have experimented with various plans in conjunction with the Trust’s Wildlife team and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Our new units 4/5 have accounted for 8 official days – with our Top Gate Winner – Frank Boast – spending many other days wielding a paint brush as have others. My thanks to everyone for the many hours and days committed to the Trust’s Work.

Ivan Cane – Acting Work Party Co-ordinator.

### ***Postscript***

*It has been a great pleasure, during my three year tenure as Chair, to work with such a dedicated group of people. Being at the fulcrum of the activity, I have been amazed at just how much work each officer undertakes, day in day out. And, not being content with that – they are also at the forefront at meetings, on work parties, answering the never-ending questions on social media, and for saying “yes” when I thrust yet another task onto their shoulders.*

*The Trust has come of age, and it is with pride that I pass over the Chair to the next incumbent.*  
Ivan Cane – Chair 2017-2019.