

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> November – Completion of Bacton Wood lock upper gate stop plank and sill shuttering.**

Mixed up a barrow full of mortar and finished off the pointing up the sides of the metal channels. Amended the shuttering by fitting two new pieces of 3 by 2 along the top edges of the shuttering to make it more rigid for the pouring of the concrete. Then repositioned the tie bolts to get correct spacing apart of the boards.

Lifted the steel reinforcing and levelled off the ground beneath and relayed the shuttering. Dug a hole and cemented a plastic bucket in to form a sump if ever we need to put a pump in. (Terry Willoughby, WP Leader)

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> November – Unit 4/5 Emergency evacuation route clearance**

Very quickly established shed not worth retaining as a kit of a complete shed. Some panels retained for further use and moved to store in unit (RG selected them). Remainder of shed wood burnt up near lock together with other re-growth material awaiting burning. Tractor tyres and large oil-drum (which had missed collection) moved to toilet block. Tiles too contaminated for further use, therefore bagged for disposal, along with felt from shed roof. Area alongside unit cleared of loose material, disposed of as appropriate. Chemical applied to oily area and worked in with brush, and left to act over lunch. Unexpected rain over lunch period probably diluted effect. Brushed up after lunch and material disposed of in old oil containers. Hopefully further rain will help, but see how it looks when dry; certainly very much better than before. Small amount of concrete mixed and applied to holes along bottom of side of unit. (Alan Bartram, WP Leader)

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> November – Completion of self seeded sapling removal from Royston/Swafield reach**

Chris very kindly brought his mini-digger in to remove the self seeded saplings alongside the canal bank from Royston Bridge to Swafield. John assisted by knocking off the mud from the arisings and piling them up ready for recovery to the car park at Royston Bridge. (all done in the pouring rain) The western side of the canal was mown between Royston bridge and the Paston Way bridge both to ease pedestrian access and assess the extent of sapling growth. As this was virtually non-existent the mini-digger was not used.

The path to the Mike Thurston centre was discovered and uses a partially collapsed wooden bridge over the ditch to get to it. It's not appropriate for the tractor at this point so a small mower would be needed to clear it. (Mark Shopland, WP Leader)

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> November – Cement pour at Bacton Wood for the upper lock stop plank sill.**



Gerry got the 360 digger ready, the ready-mix concrete lorry turned up and reversed up as far as he could. The concrete was then poured into the diggers bucket then trundled up and carefully put down into the lock opening, this was repeated five times. Meanwhile there was frantic shovelling to level this over the whole of the site and into the shuttered wall section. This was then tamped down and trowelled off. The top of the wall was

levelled off and then a film of cling film was laid on top of this, we then carefully lowered one of the stop boards down the channels on top of the film, this was to achieve a perfect joint. The site was cleared of all debris. (Terry Willoughby, WP Leader)

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Nov – Clearance of arisings at Royston Bridge & clearance of path to Thurston Centre.**



After some discussion, JP took tractor with tool box and bricks to Ebridge, SL went to help unload bricks. Meanwhile TW, JR, & RG went to RB to await arrival of tractor. Spare trailer had already been loaded with mower and tools (DR trailer still had layer of bricks in it). When tractor returned, box dropped off and replaced by tow ball fitting and trailer attached. AB then drove tractor to RB. First job was to use the tractor to pull RG's van which had got stuck in mud at roadside edge of parking area on north side of RB. Hence a rather late start to planned work.

Then moved to path, leaving tractor at bund although west side to path from there was probably OK. Path mown and strimmed and overhanging foliage cut back. As finished work on path, Laurie arrived, and state of bridge was inspected. Laurie suggested digging material from bank to fill hole (not sure that is practical). However, while discussing last month's bank overtopping found that alongside bridge there was still present the previous (piped) bund - lower but useable. Work then concentrated on clearing top and sides of bund so that edge could be clearly seen. Lunch taken near sluice. After lunch cleared east bank of alders south from Swafield. Two overloaded trailer trips made to RB. (Alan Bertram, WP Leader)

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> November – Clearance of Ebridge culvert entrance and reinstallation of Notice Board**



Rough grass cut by Chris and arisings left to dry out before disposal. Notice board re-installed by Terry and John in approximately its original position and mower trailer emptied of bricks at the culvert repair site. McConnell scythe offered up to tractor and successfully mounted on three point hitch and power take off. Not convinced that the mounting angle is correct so investigating further. (Mark Shopland, WP Leader)