

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November – Ebridge Culvert Repair.**

Took a trailer load of bricks down to Ebridge. Met up with Trevor a new member and bricklayer who was harnessed up to the wooden structure for safety whilst he was setting out and laying bricks. I was mixing up lime mortar and feeding this down along with the bricks in a bucket on a long rope to him. Assisting Trevor was Mark who was cutting bricks to the sizes that were needed. After about four hours of sweat on the concrete mixer Trevor could do no more as the third of the arch he had done needed to set off. So after clearing the site and making secure we had a bite to eat and called it a day. (Terry Willoughby, WP Leader)

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December – Clear Fallen Trees on Honing Staithe and the Canal Path**



**BEFORE**

On arrival, found work in progress on cutting down trees on road bank between canal bridge and bridge over old railway – Ivan understood from canal owner being done for NCC, but appears also being done to remove trees from around power cables alongside road. No contractor work in progress today (Sunday) but much tidying up of canal land needed (fallen trees and brash on land), but hopefully will be done before contract completed.



**AFTER**

Fallen tree from canal bank near bridge cut up and tidied, path tidied with brush cutter. Tree across walk removed at ground level, but still hung up tree across path at higher level. Walk strimmed to maintain width. Noted a considerable number of hung up trees in woods within walk circuit.



Tests carried out with winch on tractor using CH's device to put out reeds in staithe cut – very much more effective than at Briggate. Unfortunately winch wire wound itself over end of drum and jammed, with no suitable tools available to carry out repair on site. Work party ended at that time approx 14:00. (Alan Bartram, WP Leader)

## Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> December – Repair Tractor Winch and Test McConnel Swingtrim

Tractor winch repaired by disassembling the drum to release a full turn trapped under the flange. Damage to the wire indicates that this has happened before, so when using it in the future it is recommended that tension is kept on the drum wire by hand until the slack is taken up. Using the remote control (blue plastic thingy kept in the key safe) from the front allows tension to be monitored whilst watching the drum and a bumble(?) pin may be useful to guide the wire on take up to avoid getting wire strands in the hand. (A mechanical lock at the end of the winch drum can be rotated to allow the drum to free wheel if required)



Chris and John fitted the extended draft links to the tractor and the scythe assembly was mounted to ensure adequate clearance between all items. All looks good and it is planned to mount the control support bracket assembly on the tractor's mudguard.

A trial run of the scythe showed that it was working correctly and that the two damaged hoses were in fact actually leaking. One was removed to serve as a model for the manufacture of replacements. (Mark Shopland, WP Leader)

## Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December – Mow western bank tops between Paston Way and Swafield Bridge



The trailer was loaded with two mowers, strimmer and hand tools and taken to Swafield behind the Defender. The path was clear enough to enable the trailer to be taken to the Condensate Bridge. The Blacks concentrated on tidying the base of the east abutment, whilst the remainder of the group tackled the brambles and heavy weed growth on the west bank. This area has not been tidied since cleared in 2015/16, hence there is a considerable amount of timber hidden under the vegetation. A route under the bridge was first cleared, then Ralph & Kevin with strimmers and Steve and Alan on the mowers tackled the vegetation. However, the Trust's machinery was not "man" enough to tackle more than a hundred yards or so. A heavier brush cutter is needed for this type of job. Some saplings were cut down and piled by the west abutment for later burning – but root removal would need access with the digger.

Chris Heath recommended that the soil under the bridge be levelled, and slightly widened – so as to allow smaller digger and HR mower access. The footbridge was measured, 90 cm, to check whether the HR mower would be able to cross. (Alan B to report back).

At 12.30 the group of ten, moved back to the Meeting room, nicely warm with a fan heater, for the seasonal mulled wine and mince pies (courtesy of the Blacks). Three members from the Chamber Ensemble, the Chair, Tom, and Laurie also dropped in. making a pleasant hour for the group of 15 in the meeting room for a good natter, and then an early end to the day.

After lunch, Darren attended to the unit 4 ring circuit sockets, to make them more “weather proof” against roof leaks, and also placed a further fluorescent light in the mess/store room, whilst Ralph started on repairing the Trust’s strimmer. (Ivan Cane, WP Leader)

### **We three Kings.....**



**Thank you for all your hard work and support throughout the year and may I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Mark Shopland, Work Party Organiser, 18/12/2019**