



**Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Met up at Spa Common and loaded the trailer with all the equipment, pressure washer, generator, tarpaulins, bio wheelie bin etc. Jonathan went off and was burning the scrub. The rest of us carried on to arrive at Ebridge. The Life boat people were there training new recruits, throwing themselves into the canal and hopefully being saved. The site was flooded with all the rain that had fallen during the night. We cut channels from the road to the canal to drain the excess of water. With larger hydraulic jacks and more timber the boat was gradually jacked up and chocked up to a workable height, by then the mud around the boat was so bad wellies were coming off after being sucked down in the gloop. We stopped work at 1pm for lunch. After lunch Ivan was in the crew cabin clearing out years of rubbish and degradation, in the end there was three sack full (which were taken away at the end of day for disposal). We then rigged up two ladders from the engine cabin roof to the rear of the boat and pulled the large tarpaulin over the whole assembly making a huge tent that will make a good working conditions and will also keep the rain out. We then rigged up the pressure washer and tried a small area of cleaning but this wasn't very successful. Then tried angle grinder with flap wheel attached this removed the top layer of loose stuff but again not very good. At the end of the day the trailer was loaded up and we walked down to the spill way and washed off the thick mud that was over boots and leggings.



The site was made secure and the equipment was taken back to the workshop. Finished 4pm. (Terry Willoughby, WP Leader)



**Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup>** - Chris brought his digger to the Royston Bridge car park so that the tractor could tow it up to the Paston Way bridge. (Picture shows the new entrance path that had been made up on an earlier WP ) Chris then user his digger to remove the self-seeded sapling roots left over from a previous clearance where the access route had yet to be broadened. Meanwhile Frank, John and James collected up the arisings and attempted to burn them. Unfortunately they were still too wet to burn properly and the group had to be content with stacking them to dry out for the future. The digger was then towed back to Royston Bridge and the tractor returned to the unit. (Mark Shopland, WP Leader)

**Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> (Amber wind and rain weather warning throughout southern England) -**

Went to Spa Common workshop and waited to see if anybody turned up. Laurie came in and then Frank turned up with his dog. We decided to go and help Laurie on getting the crane in his workshop cleaned up ready for painting. At tea break Jonathan and Steve arrived and said that they had been waiting at Ebridge. Johnathan proceeded to cut up the rest of the planks to make duck boards. We continued on the crane when Chris came at lunch time and helped us. Finished at 3.30pm. (Terry Willoughby, WP Leader)

**Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> – Culvert Repair Site Clean Up. Tractor/trailer driven to site and loaded with**



the majority of remaining, ballast, bricks, lime, cement and wood for return to Spa Common. Frank and Jonathan freed the cement mixer from the slurry heap but as its drawbar was covered with a tonne bag of sand it was not possible to return this to the yard. Graham's winch assembly and several large items still to be removed and this is planned for the forthcoming Sunday WP. Bad weather curtailed the work. (Mark Shopland, WP Leader)