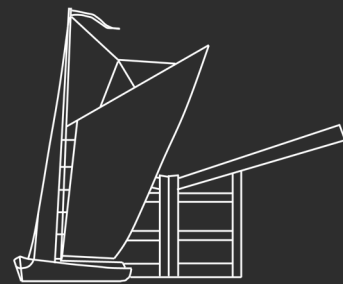


QUAGMIRE

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL
TRUST CIO

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2



SPRING 2020

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Just Sleeping



Bacton Wood Lock—Jill Heinrich

Meet David Revill, Founder Trustee

Whilst I no longer attend work parties (because I would be a liability to the Work Party Leader!), I still do a few things behind the scenes, such as the Trust's Liaison Officer.

A bit of history?



David, in his role as WPL in October 2009, famously telling the volunteers that "there is only another 100 yards to go!", as they battled their way through the forest—that was the Ebridge Canal at the time.

Norfolk is now my adoptive county (I had been here before, and graduated in 1956), so, when my family and I came here to Coltishall in 1973, we looked forward to a more relaxed way of life. I spent many hours flying at low(ish) levels over our beloved area, but had not heard about the North Walsham & Dilham Canal. Whilst the 1976 drought evidenced an enormous number of newly-visible archaeological features through the dried-up earth, nothing echoed a canal.

After retiring from the RAF, I took a greater interest in waterways in general, becoming a founder member of the Norwich Branch of the IWA in the late seventies. Although this branch folded and we all then came under the care of the Ipswich Branch, I am still a member of the IWA. During one of the meetings in Norwich, a speaker from NIAS (Norfolk Industrial Archaeological Society) convinced me that I should go along and join a work party at the unique water-powered sawmill at Gunton Park (Norfolk). I went and became hooked.

Before I could develop this passion further, I left England in the early eighties to replace an ex-SAS major in the Middle East, who found that gun-running was a more profitable pursuit! All my soldiers were Muslim (bar one) and mostly from the Sudan, but included a few former PLO men. A great bunch! There are not many - any - canals in the desert, so I came home as a Lt Col being ignominiously escorted from the country with my Colonel. Hey Ho!

As regards the canal in the nineties, not much was happening practically apart from the tremendous work being undertaken by Alan Faulkner of the EAWA (East Anglian Waterways Association). These included, amongst other things, the two ecological and structural surveys of the canal from top to bottom. Having met Alan at a meeting and seen several photos of the canal locks - all of which were hidden in trees, shrubs, reeds and weeds - a seed was sewn in my mind. Physical work started on the canal in 2000, with Graham

Brown as the first Work Party Leader. In 2002, Kevin Baker took over, and I was invited to visit a work party to see if I liked it. That was in 2003, and a couple of years later when Kevin headed south (he now works on the Wey & Arun Canal), I became Work Party Leader. I hope to write a short article about this period for another occasion. I should mention that shortly after I became WPL, Chris and Mary Black arrived on the scene, and without them we would certainly not have progressed as well during this phase of restoration.

With our work becoming more regular and then frequent, liaison became very important. These were the days before the Trust was set up, so there were no officers or any real organisation! To this end, I liaised with NNDC, NW Town Council, NCC Bridges & Highways, adjacent landowners, nine press publications, the EA, BBC Radio and TV, Natural England, NWLT, Easton Agricultural College, RSPB, IWA, IDB, EA-WA and business companies relevant to the works. I am very pleased to see that my efforts with the NCC and IDB begun in 2008, in connection with the 'hole' at Ebridge, have finally been resolved. It just shows that perseverance does pay off!

Once the insurance for the Trust is finally sorted out, and it's close, I shall hand over the paperwork to Nigel Lloyd for his safe-keeping. In the meantime, there are still bits of information I am able to provide to our officers and members, whilst continuing to work for the Trust in the liaison role. **David Revill**

Julie Kelleher, Sue Kirrage and Barry Hestor

With regret, I must report that Julie Kelleher, the Trust's IT Officer, and Education Officer Sue Kirrage have left the Trust due to other commitments. Both have served the Trust well and done sterling work for us, and we thank them for their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment over the years. The Charity Commission has been informed.

I am pleased to say that Barry Hestor has joined the Trust as the replacement IT Officer for Julie (big boots to fill!). Barry is very community-minded; he has been elected as the Town Mayor of North

Walsham twice in the last few years, and remains an active member of the Town Council. Barry's career was in the telecommunications industry until he moved to the MOD, working on their IT systems at military sites in the region. Now retired, Barry brings a lifetime of skills to the Trust - he will manage our website, email accounts and all matters related to IT. We can't promise Barry any bling to wear around his neck in his new role with the Trust, but he is a most welcome addition to our team of volunteers. Barry and Julie met in March for the handover.

Sue Kirrage had introduced the much-needed Induction Scheme and Volunteer Handbook, as well as First Aid, Rope Throwing, Tractor Driving and other courses for volunteers. On the Education front, Sue liaised with the High School's DofE scheme and was aiming to increase local schools' involvement with the Canal. If anyone wishes to take on this role, please contact me.

Nigel Lloyd, Administrator.



Work Party Roundup for 1st Quarter 2020



Sunday 19th January saw the first work party begin the repair of the *Weasel* by jacking up the bow onto wooden blocks. Clean waste water was pumped out. Weeds and debris were removed from the aft section. Anti-pollution material rolls were placed in the contaminated bilges to absorb any oil and prevent local pollution.



Thursday 23rd January was the first real test of Dr Tom's repaired Swingtrim Scythe. It had been stored for a few years and had sustained damage to a couple of its hydraulic pipes. These have been replaced, a new filter fitted and the hydraulic oil changed. Its being fitted to our tractor required some longer draft links to avoid the rear tyres. When all this had been completed, we took the unit out for a successful real-life test on the canalside at Spa Common. This unit promises to be really useful on the sloping banksides, conservation areas and for reed bed cutting later on in the year.



On **Sunday 2nd February**, the work party was greeted by the sight of the Mundesley Inshore Rescue Group training new recruits at Ebridge by throwing themselves into the canal and then hopefully being saved!

The real purpose of the day was to fully raise *Weasel*, so that the hull could be examined and repaired. This was done by gradually jacked it up and supporting it on wooden chocks. Because of earlier rain, the mud around the boat became so bad that wellies were coming off after being sucked down in the gloop! After clearing the crew cabin, two ladders were rigged from the engine roof to the aft of the boat and a large tarpaulin pulled over the whole assembly to make a dry work area.



Thursday 6th February was a day for some serious groundwork at the Paston Way Bridge with a mini digger being used to widen the canal path under the bridge. Now, both a mini digger and the tractor can be used on the western bank between the Paston Way and Swafield bridges. The digger then proved the value of this work by removing the self-seeded saplings from the banksides along the canal.



The **Sunday February 16th** work party was carried out in the teeth of a nationwide 'Amber' weather warning for wind and rain. The dire conditions meant that the day was spent either in Laurie's workshop helping to get his new crane ready for painting or cutting up planks to make duckboards for the *Weasel* repair site.

Thursday February 20th found the work party clearing up the culvert repair site ready for the hole to be backfilled. The main tasks were the disposal of building rubble and the recovery of unused bricks and cement for storage at Spa Common. The cement mixer had buried itself up to the axles in slurry and this had to be chiselled out by hand ready for it to be returned to the yard.

Sunday 1st March saw Laurie filling in the culvert repair void with soil, which took about three hours. Loads of puddling clay were then laid down the inside edge of the lock wall to seal it against possible water ingress when the lock was filled. This was then tamped down with the digger bucket, after which the area was levelled off. White plastic temporary fencing was erected on both sides of the lock and secured with spikes.



The **Thursday 5th March** work party started at Ebridge to reposition the plastic fencing to mark out the position of a straw bale mud filter on the east side of the lock. This was used later on in the week, when the silt and mud were pumped out from the Ebridge lock using high pressure hoses.



Mark Shopland WP Organiser

“All that was left was for Laurie to fill in the ubiquitous hole at last.”

Projects Group News

The Projects Committee is working behind the scenes on much more besides those tasks spoken about below. This little sub-committee is charged with the orchestration of projects and their funding, so that everything is pre-planned and ready to start when the time is right. As soon as the Projects Committee has firmed up the plans, our Grants Officer has his work cut out submitting applications for the materials and professional services needed for these necessary activities. Please do keep those donations coming in! Huge thanks to those of you who have donated, enabling the Trust to accomplish what it has. Laurie is so close to opening the next section to Royston Bridge, with Jeremy's help! PRESS ON!

Ebridge Culvert.

As reported in the last issue of Q, the culvert had been rebuilt by the end of January. All that was left was for Laurie to finally fill in the notorious hole. This momentous occasion was on 1st March 2020, with soil from the nearby piles being carefully placed into the hole. Puddling clay was also placed behind the lock wall. The soil will now be allowed to settle, before topping up and re-seeding. In

particular, I would like to encourage drivers *not* to park, please, on the line of the culvert, which runs parallel to the lock.

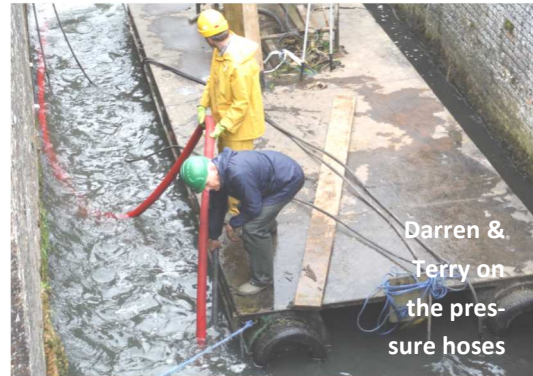


Ebridge Footpath and Banks.

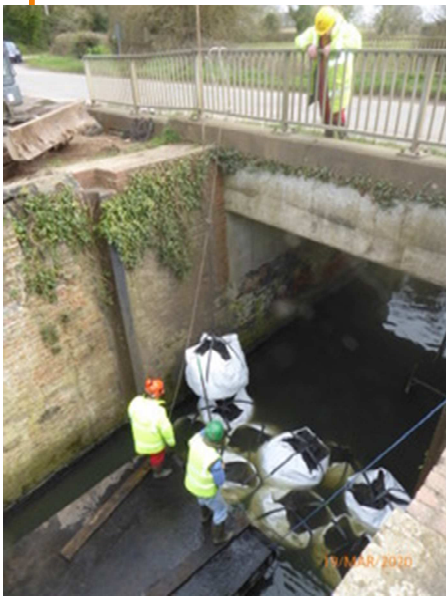
Jeremy has spent hours raising the banks above Ebridge. Only wet weather put a temporary halt on it. Carl Bird has very kindly supplied the necessary materials, some of which are still stacked ready at Ebridge. As soon as it is possible, I know Jerry will be on the phone to recruit tipper driving volunteers and Laurie with his loading digger, all of them organised and ready to get the job finished.

Ebridge lock silt removal.

Just before the lockdown, we were able to do a somewhat hurried job in which our volunteers used high pressure and suction pumps to stir and remove most of the silt from Ebridge Lock. Frankly, it was a heavy-going for those down in the lock, working off Laurie's pontoon. We were all disappointed to find that when the bridge was replaced, all (or most) of the old bridge brickwork had been simply dropped and left abandoned in the bridge hole. This has spilled back between the gate recesses, and will have to be dug out mechanically or manually. However, about ninety years' worth of silt has been sucked out, leaving the removal of other, solid, items (and who knows what else!)) from the chamber to a later date.



Darren & Terry on the pressure hoses



Thursday 19th March found the work party jetting the area around the base of the Ebridge Lower gates ready to install a temporary bund. This will enable work on the lower gate mountings in the dry. Meanwhile, a mini-digger was used to fill twenty-four ballast bags, with the remaining puddling clay in order to form this bund. Laurie arrived late morning with his digger and, once the sill area was sufficiently clear, began lowering the bags into position. They were then left to consolidate and will be sealed at a later date. Both pumps, along with their outlet hoses and control lines, were then uncoupled and left on the lock sides for collection on the Friday. This was the last work party before the Coronavirus lockdown precautions came into force.

Ebridge lock bottom gates.

The replacement gates we bought second-hand from Liverpool have had their rotten lining boards removed. The majority of the rest of the timber is still in very serviceable order. I may choose to replace one of the short beams, unless we can scarf in a new tenon, which I think we can. New green oak facing-boards have been acquired locally, and are in the process of being cut to size and fitted. Whilst this is going on, they need to be kept wet and covered. One of our valued volunteers, who carries water in his vehicle for car-washing, is maintaining this as he drives past.

Graham Pressman - Projects Officer



Summer Watch along the Canal with Perry, Suki and Tom



Black-tailed Skimmer

Many species of birds traditionally pair up around Valentine's Day, and so birdsong is far more noticeable at this time of year. The priority is to establish a breeding territory, and attract a mate. The dawn chorus is well worth hearing if you're up that early! Once nesting begins, birdsong reduces greatly, because the last thing a bird wants to do is advertise the location of a nesting territory to potential predators. Once the young have hatched, the bird world goes almost silent.

Of course, other of nature's sounds increase in Spring. The buzzing of insects, the croaking of frogs and toads, and the distinctive 'plop' made by water voles as they dive into the canal. Speaking of small mammals, it is worth keeping an eye out on the back-sokes. I was walking near Royston Bridge one day when a movement in the water attracted my attention. A diminutive mouse-like creature, almost black with a silvery-white belly, was swimming quickly along. A water shrew! Not easy to find, but an absolutely beautiful little creature!

As the weather continues to warm up, dragonflies and damselflies - whose nymphs have often spent many months at the bottom of the canal - begin to emerge. The nymphs crawl up a plant stem, often a reed, where they grip on tight. The exoskeleton splits open and the most wonderful flying jewel emerges, pausing long enough to expand and dry its wings before taking the skies.

Perry Hampson

New Friends, Old Friends

Nobody except the Poppy Lady admits to it, but I could swear that there *is* a guerilla planter at work along the canal, secretly popping in garden species. For example, grape hyacinth *Muscari armeniacum* and summer snowflake *Leucojum aestivum* - plants which I haven't seen on the site before - are this year dotted along the canal embankments north and south of Royston Bridge. Pretty but puzzling, for how could they suddenly appear like this (there's been no new fill brought in where they grow) unless a roving/rogue horticulturist has snuck them in? No matter, because they're very welcome, and add to the ever-burgeoning plant list. Moreover, does the cowslip just spotted by Bacton Mill Lock fall into this category? I don't think so - it looks self-sown, and all the more welcome for that.



New to the Canal:
Cowslip, *Primula veris*, at
Bacton Wood Lock

Then there are species which disappear from one spot to reappear in another. For example, I cherished the primroses which grew near the sluice north of Royston Bridge, but, alas, recent IDB dredging and re-profiling of the soke bank removed them. Unexpectedly, though, fine new clumps have recently appeared south of the bridge, perhaps regenerated from a clump on the opposite bank.

Finally - in contrast to species which suddenly appear - there are valued old friends which persist, even though I only know of them as single specimens. This year, then, I'm glad to rediscover our lone examples of spotted dead-nettle *Lamium maculatum* and of lemon balm *Melissa officinalis*, whilst hoping that they continue to thrive for another twelve months and beyond.

Suki Pryce

The Closed Season

The closed season for anglers is thought to be one of the longest-running laws in British history. It is possible the idea was inspired by the 1831 Game Act, which imposed similar restrictions on various breeds of bird. The law was introduced under the 1878 Freshwater Fisheries Act, so that fish could complete the “procreation of their species in peace and quiet” from March 15th to June 15th. It is a common misconception that, because it is a canal, the closed season doesn’t apply. This is not the case, though, because the North Walsham and Dilham Canal is connected to the river at Wayford Bridge, and the FF Act applies.

The annual close season helps to protect fish stocks across England when they are spawning, by preventing angling for coarse fish in rivers, streams, drains and specified canals, as well as the ‘site of special scientific interest’ (SSSI) stillwaters. Also, the Trust has introduced a lengthened pike closed season - March to September - as pikes are early spawners, and, despite their fierce reputation, are particularly vulnerable during the summer months, owing to warmer water and low oxygen levels. The Trust was one of the first organisations to initiate this, and is gaining further support following scientific research at the University of Hull that relates to the oxygen levels of the waters at different temperatures.

The closed season causes a “great” debate amongst anglers, and there is support in some quarters for it ending, but a recent public consultation ended with the Environment Agency “Taking...available evidence into account...” and deciding to “retain the current close season”. I, for one, support this, mainly because I feel there is something special about the Glorious 16th June, and the exciting build-up to finally taking your first cast, which, owing to the present situation, may take even longer.

Tom Webster

“The Closed Season is one of the longest running laws in British History”

An Eel or Not ?



Em Bee posted these images on the Trust’s Facebook page on 26th April, having taken them earlier that day from the bridge looking into Ebridge Lock. The question posed was “Is this an elver or a young grass snake?”. Opinions were fairly divided, but definitive evidence that the critically endangered eel was once again in the Canal would be welcomed by the Fisheries Officer and Mitigation Group. There are several reports, from years ago, of eels being seen climbing the lock cills to return to the Upper Canal’s waters.



Duncan Baker MP

As many of you will know, the previous MP for North Norfolk, Norman Lamb, very much supported the restoration of North Norfolk's Canal, so it was with great pleasure that we received the following from our new local MP, Duncan Baker.



Dear Mr Cane,

It is wonderful to hear what work you and your colleagues have done to transform the North Walsham and Dilham Canal.

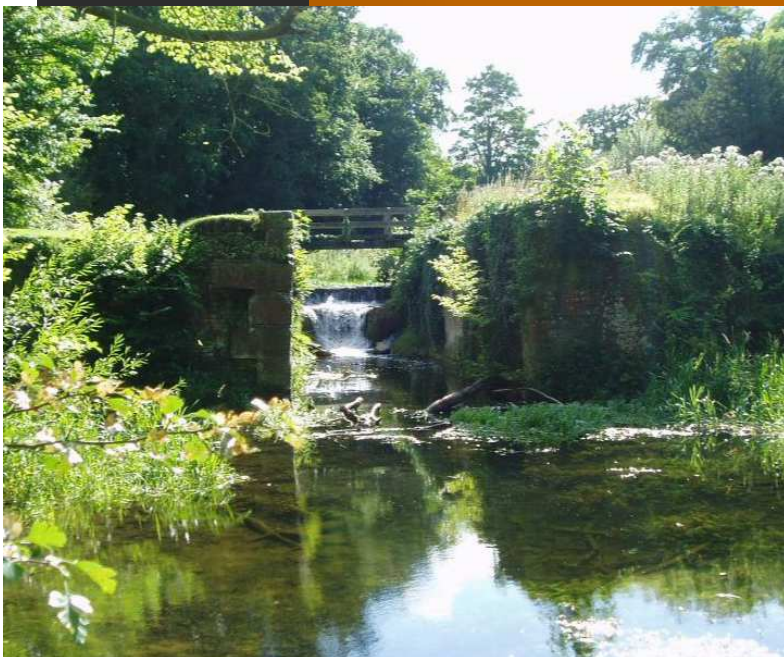
I am truly delighted, it is important to have people such as yourselves in the community.

I'm looking forward to visiting as soon as I can.

Regards, Duncan Baker MP, North Norfolk

When the situation returns to normal, the Trust looks forward to arranging a visit, and a trip on Ella II, for Duncan and his family to find out more about the Canal, the Trust and OCC's work to further its restoration.

Waters Elsewhere



The Sleaford Navigation Trust is in discussion with North Kesteven District Council towards the restoration of Haverholme Lock, (owned by NKDC) which will take the navigable section another step towards Sleaford. SNT's chair, Chris Hayes, said that they are fairly advanced in the first stage of the planning to rebuild the bywash and working with the EA towards an environment permit. "We are looking forward at getting the ecology report carried out in May, and everything else approved by the end of the year. There is a possibility of the WRG visiting in 2021 to carry out the work on the bywash."

"Once that is completed then we can divert the flow through the bywash and turn our attention to the lock chamber." **Waterways World April 2020.**



Radio Norfolk Treasure Quest—With Graham hosting Ebridge Lock's Clue Four

On 1st March, Ebridge Lock top-gate beam became the location of Clue 4, for Radio Norfolk's *Treasure Quest*, with Julie Reinger and driver Kayleigh.



Ella II There I was at the beginning of the year, imagining quietly cruising up and down, taking in the wildlife and the fresh air, telling people about the canal's rich history.

Then COVID-19 materialised, and passenger boating had to stop. Our chippy, David, had spent the Spring smartening *Ella II* up for us with pretty wooden panels and, with just a coat of blacking on the hull still to be done, we'd have been all ready to go. Very sad.

We cannot know if we will be able to restart trips this season. Keep an eye on our website, www.nwdct.org, and our Facebook group. As soon as there is news, it will be posted.

With any luck, when we restart trips, there will be something special and new to offer. Just because we can't be out there on the water doesn't mean plans are not afoot. There is much happening behind the scenes. I look forward to telling all in the next *Q*, once we know what we can do and when.

Graham Pressman—Boating Officer

Water Level Sensors

This is a project which has been successfully tested for several months now. Some of you may have noticed little plastic boxes here and there. These measure water levels, humidity and temperature at regular intervals, sending a text message in the event of any sudden level changes. We can also study levels on a web-based graph at any time. This has been a boon during the lockdown, as levels can be monitored from the comfort of an armchair. Thanks to Chris Harvey (pictured at Ebridge Culvert) for these!

Graham Pressman



Archive Slot - The Glorious June 16th - By Roy Webster

For The Boy Roy June 16, 1949, could not have arrived too soon



After a statutory 90-day lay-off, it was the opening day of the new coarse fishing season and now, after what seemed an age, he could connect again with Isaac Walton's gentle art.

The fishing close season came into force by the Mundella Act of Parliament in 1878 and was enshrined in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act in 1923.

But, apart from game fisheries of salmon and trout, there was little or no enforcement of the law protecting coarse fish such as roach, bream, perch, pike and tench, more especially during the war years of 1939-1945 and beyond when working classes depended on catching substantial numbers of these species to supplement the ration books that limited supplies of staple foodstuffs until the early 1950s.

In 1948, a wind of change swept across the waters. The Rivers Board Act divided the nation into separate administrative areas, in our case the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Board.

Suddenly uniformed fishery bailiffs appeared on the scene, checking fishing licences and seeking prosecutions for those offences and any violations of the close season.

The Boy, badgered by a mother who had spent the previous three months lamenting the absence of the usual weekly fish supply, did not need her encouragement "to get out there fishing again".

His angling equipment consisting of a pre-war antiquated cane rod strapped together with binder twine, an ancient centre-pin reel and goose quill floats, were crowded into a frayed, wicker creel and awaited on the doorstep, along with a bait can containing garden lob worms and muckheap brandlings.

So it was now the burning question - where would he visit tomorrow, the glorious 16th? Would it be the North Walsham, Dilham Canal down the Green Lane or Taylor's Cut that meandered past the bottom of the Dilham family's garden?

Since it was a Thursday, there was a second question. Should he fish early morning, before school,

later in the afternoon following a six-mile bike dash home or should he bunk off school completely, feigning sickness like some of the men in the village who called off from work?

His mother wasn't having the latter. "Either you can get out of bed at dawn and fish 'til eight before school or I'll pack you some grub and you can make off straight from North Walsham," she instructed loftily.

The Boy decided on the second option. His preparation for the impending school certificate exams at The Paston would have to wait. He planned to be at the waterside of the Canal by 5pm, fishing for bream from a swim opposite the grazing land at East Ruston Common.

Arriving at the ancient Tonnage Bridge, where navigation tolls were once paid, he surveyed the scene. Two men were already trying their luck in a clear channel between the lily pads, where angry-looking dark green/brown dragonflies and more delicate blue damsels flitted beside the marginal reeds above the deep yellow lily flowers and king cups.

"Caught anything?" he asked the men. "No bites yet, we've only been here 20 minutes," one responded hopefully.

The Boy smiled. Those fellows wouldn't catch much using hefty tackle more suitable for sea fishing. Pedalling and pushing his bike over almost a mile of rough ground, much of it the legacy of 1940 Army deepening the canal to act as a tank trap against a possible German invasion, The Boy duly arrived at his chosen spot.

He slashed through a jungle of overgrown brambles and nettles with a sharp long handled sickle, locally known as a reap hook.

Within minutes he had hacked his way to the water's edge. The only sign of life was a motherly mallard protecting her hatch of ducklings and the twitter of reed warblers nesting in the bankside thicket.

Gazing into the distance he spotted a Suffolk mare with a sturdy foal trotting towards the opposite bank. Now, suddenly brimming with enthusiasm he prised open a can of worms and a hook was baited and ready when mother and son their tails swishing up spray to deter bloodsucking flying insects, entered the shallows.

Suddenly, the bream appeared on the turbid surface, their black dorsal fins resembling mini sharks as they scythed among eight hooves, feasting on edible morsels disturbed by the sudden activity. The Boy cast his bait skilfully downstream and instantly the float dipped beneath the surface and a bream of about 2lb was played into the landing net. After carthorse and son had clambered ashore The Boy reeled in another 11 fish up to 4lb.

Making for home as the skies darkened he met up with the two men again. "What have you caught?" one asked. The Boy opened his carrier bag and displayed two sizeable fish which he had retained for the family pot. "I had a dozen like these," he told the men, who sheepishly admitted they had caught nothing.

"Can I buy your fish?" wondered the younger man.

"No, you'll have to catch your own," responded The Boy sharply, knowing full well his mother was waiting to prepare his catch for tomorrow's dinner.

Thus, it was bream from the Canal on an action packed opening day and next time out the target would be pike from The Cut.

Back then, two fish per day of any species above lawful minimum size limits could be retained for the pot. Strangely, the opposite is now the case on free tidal rivers where the limit on pike just one fish per day not exceeding 65cm, or 15 of small fish species up to 20cm. While on private fisheries such as the North Walsham canal, alive or dead, no fish may be retained.

I wonder what Isaac Walton would have made of that!

From The Chair

This period of suspended animation has not meant that everything has been put on hold. The Projects Group (Graham Pressman, Nigel Lloyd, Mark Shopland and myself) have been 'meeting' on Zoom every week courtesy of Nigel Lloyd who has been setting the meetings up and our allotted time of 40 minutes has not been nearly enough to cover the items we are now trying to resolve.

We have been trying to work out how best to complete Foot Path 19 which is a pre-requisite to re-watering the OCC's pound above Bacton Wood Lock.

Bank material surveys have been carried out by the members of one family as part of their daily exercise to keep them mentally and physically fit.

Schedules have been reviewed so that the materials and labour are marshalled for the eventual resumption of the Ebridge Lock restoration project. While no start dates known but we need to have an agreed order of work for when work can continue.

We welcome Barry Hester, who, as you will have read earlier, has agreed to succeed Julie Kelleher as our IT officer. We would like to thank both Julie and Sue for all their work, in various guises, over the years. We wish them both well in their new adobes, far from the Canal in distance—but we know that we'll still be in their minds.

Tom Carr - Chair

Funding Round-up.

A very welcome donation has led to the purchase of two Stainless Steel Kitchen Work Units for the Trust's Unit at Spa Common. They will be used in the mess area to provide washing facilities and as a hygienic preparation area for hot drinks and refreshments for the volunteers. Designed to be portable they can also be used for outside events.

Interconnector has provided the funding for the purchase of a Dissolved Oxygen Meter to support both our routine measurements of the health of the canal water and for measurements to ensure that aquatic plants are only cut when it will not stress the fish.



Progress on the lock gate refurbishment at Ebridge, supported by an award from the Worstead Festival Fund, is seen in the accompanying photograph. It shows the new facing planks of green oak stored temporarily in position before being fitted. The tarpaulin keeps them damp in order to make them easier to work.

We have made an application to the Geoffrey Watling Trust for funds to purchase a cement mixer, generator and brush cutter in support of our continuing restoration and maintenance work. A decision on this bid is expected in mid-June. An application to the RHS Community Support Programme for funds to provide wildflower seeds for our ecology and conservation areas was accepted but, because of the Corona Virus Pandemic, the whole programme has been put on hold until it is safe to work again.

Mark Shopland—Grants' Officer

Contact the North Walsham & Dilham Canal

Working To Secure Norfolk's Canal Heritage

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Treasurer –Barry M	Treasurer@nwdct.org

Administrator's Notes

The 2-mile permissive walk from North Walsham town centre to the canal and back has now been fully signposted, offering a lovely walk down to the canal and joining it between Royston and Swafeld bridges. The OCC has also - this month - raised the soke footbridge, where the walk joins the canal, and which will make that section so much easier to negotiate. Thanks to the canal owners, and likewise the NNDC Market Town Initiative, NW Town Council and Regenerate North Walsham, for facilitating the walk. A 6-mile walk from the town centre to Ebridge Mill - skirting Worstead, Ebridge, Spa Common, Swafeld, and returning to the town centre - is planned, but cannot be actioned until a problem with a small section of the route, for which we have not yet been granted the owner's permission, has been overcome. This remains a work in progress.

The day-to-day administration of the Trust has continued. Last year's audited accounts were submitted to the Charity Commission; governing documents were kept up to date; tenancy agreements for our workshop facility at Spa Common were drawn up, as was council tax administration for the same facility. Tractor registration, insurance and road tax matters were all completed in a timely fashion.

Nigel Lloyd—Administrator



Coming Events

Unfortunately, all of our planned events for the future, e.g., boat trips, a coffee morning, talks, a film evening, as well as Walk & Water, have been put on hold. However, the plans for the Open Weekend on August 15th/16th remain unchanged. The decision will be reviewed at the beginning of June.

Tom Carr—Chair

Swans at Ebridge



Ebridge Spillway—Gwennie Nunn—Nov 2019

