



Pocklington Canal Project Newsletter #2: March 2017

Dredging Update

Those of you who have walked along the canal between Coates Bridge and Bielby Arm recently will have seen lots of activity taking place. Contractors Land and Water have opened up a central channel along the canal, in order to create areas of open water surrounded by fringes of reeds along the banks. The results of this will be more apparent in summer, when we hope to see more diversity than the mass of common reed that we have seen in recent years.

Find out more – 5th March

PCAS will be re-opening the Information Centre at Canal Head on Sunday 5th March (the centre is open every Sunday 12 – 4pm between March and October). Lizzie Dealey, the project officer, will be there that day to answer any questions and speak to potential volunteers. Please do drop in to say hello. If you can't make it, please send any questions to lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk.



The view from Coates Bridge before (top) and after (bottom).

Restoration on the Pocklington Canal

One of the highlights of the project, the restoration of **Church Bridge** will be taking place between April and July 2017. This will be carried out by volunteers who will be trained and supervised by Terry Lee Conservation, a specialist in historic brickwork repairs. Details of this volunteering opportunity are described overleaf.

Separate from the HLF project, the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society (PCAS) and the Canal & River Trust continue to work together on the restoration of **Thornton Lock** which is hoped to be completed by May 2017. Preparations for the restoration of **Walbut Lock** have already started, with the PCAS Working Group expecting to be able to carry out the repairs within the lock in summer 2017. This is part of the PCAS led restoration project to extend the navigable section of the canal upstream of Melbourne to Bielby Arm.

Events guide out now

Don't miss out on the first wave of events taking place—the events programme is out now. You will have received a copy by email along with this e-newsletter; otherwise please contact the project officer on lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk or collect a copy from the Information Centre at Canal Head. Updates on events, and the project as a whole, can be seen on the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society Facebook pages.



Volunteering Opportunities

We're looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the Gem in the Landscape Project. You'll receive full support, training where required and full reimbursement for any travel costs. To apply for roles please visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer. If you have any questions please email the project officer on lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk.



Heritage: We're looking for people who can commit to volunteering for two or three days per week between mid April and July to help restore Church Bridge. You'll work alongside a skilled contractor, and some prior experience of lime mortaring would be useful but not essential. Places are limited, so we may not be able to take everyone who is interested. Later in the year we'd like you to use your new found skills to help carry out the brickwork on the restoration of Swing Bridge no 7 near Melbourne Arm.

Education: Could you commit to a couple of days per month to help run school sessions and family events, both on the canal and in schools? This is an ongoing role and you will be part of the Trust's Explorers team of volunteers.

Habitat: If you are interested in conservation work or surveying for wildlife, you might like to join up with Friends of Pocklington Green Spaces who volunteer on the last Friday in the month. This is an ongoing role, and you'll be volunteering as part of a group.

Walk leaders: We would like to set up a monthly rota of guided walks which can be shared out amongst a small team of volunteers so we expect the commitment will be to lead two to three walks per year. Walks can be of varied length and focussed on wildlife or heritage, and a 'script' will be provided.

Research: We're looking for people who would like to contribute towards an exhibition on the canal's history which will go on display in 2018. We'd like to cover different topics within the canal's history, so you'd be taking one topic and taking a deeper look in order to contribute to this display. In addition, this research will help to create a new history section for the Canal & River Trust website to complement the new interpretation.

Archaeology: We will need a team of people who would like to volunteer for around three days per week between 21st June and 4th July. This is a great opportunity for anyone with an interest in archaeology to learn what's involved, and gain valuable experience which you can use on other community digs.

Contact

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working in partnership