

2017 Work News – April, May and June

The exposed rotten drainage pipe near the Holsworthy branch had been draining water from the canal for a long period of time, dragging silt into the now cleared ditch which had started to impede the higher field drainage. It was found to be in need of some serious repair work after clearing all the surrounding vegetation and accumulated silt down to the clay bed and materials had to be ordered. (photo 1)



1 exposed rotten wood culvert



2 cleared back to profile



3 view from footpath

Still in April, the canal profile in the Aqueduct section over the river Tamar was cleared of all the new vegetation (photo 2) and the large amount of new vegetation was cleared from the turning area at the Holsworthy branch. (photo 3) along with another re-cut of the Filter Bed being carried out with the powered hand mower and strimmers, as the ride-on mower was found not to cope. (Photos 4 & 5)



4 well on



5 job done



6 Burmsdon Bluebells

A walking survey along part of the Burmsdon section at the beginning of May revealed the beautiful display of Bluebells. (photo 6) which appear here every year. With the purchase of water sealing adhesive, rubber sheeting and the purpose made steel cover the repair of the rotten wooden culvert was finally carried out in the middle of the month. (photos 7 and 8) before refilling the large cavity in the canal bed with clay.



7 slots cut in clay to take support



8 ready to overfill with clay



9 Burmsdon Aqueduct information

A guided walk arranged by the Bude Canal & Harbour Society for members of the Rolle Canal, BCHS and BCT arrived at Vealand after lunch having explored the Bude end of the canal and Hobbacott Incline Plane. The first part of the walk was between Vealand through to Burmsdon Bridge with the various points of interest being explained in conjunction with the display boards on route. (photo 9) Resulting from the walk, one of the visitors, being a member of the Cornwall Cavers showed a keen interest in exploring the wheel pit drainage culvert in order to try to clarify the position of the actual remains of the pit structure



10 after cut back



11 tree damage



12 culvert liner pipe

Moving forward into June with the usual canal maintenance taking priority, the heavy vegetation growth was cut back for two short sections either side of Vealand Bridge (photo 10) tree damage (photo 11) and a new lining pipe was inserted through the repaired wooden culvert to enable a better drainage flow and easier silt removal in the future should it become necessary.(photo 12)



13 end of bay



14 exit after first check



15 third at risk

An offer for trying to locate the drainage culvert, wheel pit plus any remains of a retaining wall at Virworthy Wharf from the surface levels was taken up with some follow up excavation (pick and shovel) work following on at the latter site. (photo 13)

The first of several exploratory trips into the Wheel pit drainage culvert proved to be interesting enough to warrant further investigations as part of the autumn program. (photo 14) General maintenance of damaged trees (photo 15) and hedges continued through the month except for during the third week when high temperatures for the country hit the headlines and any prospect of work was called off.