

WORK IN PROGRESS Autumn 2020

July

With the Ash Die Back survey continuing more trees were discovered, identified and their location recorded and entered onto an action plan for work to be carried out. (photo 1)



1 A number of dead branches but the rest may recover

Following a minor mishap the ride on mower ended up nose first into the soft mud of the canal. (Photo 2)



2 An unfortunate mishap

Initial efforts to remove it failed and on returning the following day with winching gear we found a person or persons had tipped it over further. Vandalism or attempted theft? (Photos 3 & 4)



3 Vandalism or attempted theft?



4 Safely rescued

August

Our first real day back to do some constructive work with vegetation clearance round the Virworthy Wharf basin and the footpath back to the Lower Lake. (Photos 5 & 6)



5 Vegetation cleared footpath side of the basin



6 Footpath north of Virworthy Wharf

Mowing continued with more broken branches having to be cut back to keep a clear passage. A borrowed extending pole saw was tried out on some lower dead Ash tree branches which proved satisfactory enough to purchase one for the Trust in view of the anticipated work ahead. (Photo 7)



7 Pole saw cutting

and the deep water & display notice boards were repaired or replaced. (Photos 8 & 9)



8 Replaced sign



9 Repaired and rebuilt display sign

Right at the end of the month we had to deal with an unfortunate incident where someone took it into their head to deliberately illegally trap the catches on two gates at Brendon Bridge and one at Lana Bridge, blocking the footpath. Damage had to be done to the main locking posts in order to temporarily release the catches prior to arranging to replace the gates. (Photos 10 & 11)



10 Trapped latch at Lana



11 Hacked out to release

September

The first two weeks of the months were spent at Virworthy Wharf on a general tidy up of the Wharf building, picnic table and surrounding area (Photos 12 & 13)



12 General clean up of the Wharf area



13 View of the Wharf area

plus cutting the hedge and canal bank top through to the Mill. (Photo 14)



14 Hedge and bank top

Week three and at long last we got back to where we were forced to abandon the fallen tree near the filter bed at Vealand. (Photo 15)



15 The reach of the extended pole saw

End of the quarter and back to Vealand Bridge with general vegetation clearance, widening cut with the small walk along mower to the footpath edges and combination of mowers to cut a new path into the filter bed. Twelve months growth made it hard going. (Photos 16 & 17)



16 Small mower coping well



17 Attempted cut into Filter bed overgrowth