

# And then what?

## Canal Camps: Easter and on

We bring you the latest on sites and leaders for this year's Canal Camps - and a few vacancies for leaders that you might fancy filling

### Canal Camps 2009

The months are passing which means that the summer camps season is getting closer.

We have two Easter camps this year, both on the **Wilts & Berks Canal**. the first week is being lead by Martin Thompson ('RAF Martin') and (assuming he's still in the country) Chris Rowell ('Geezer Chris') will be assisting. The second week we are changing it around a little and Rachael Banyard will be leading while RAF Martin will be assisting. The work will be on Steppingstones Bridge where a lot of work by WRG and the local society has seen the complete rebuilding of a bridge; hopefully these camps will see completion of the structure.

Into the main summer camp season, and we start with two weeks on the **Montgomery Canal**. The first week is being led by Lou Kellett and Alan Jervis; the second weeks leadership team is as yet unconfirmed. The work will be 'environmentally friendly' bank protection and possibly some stone walling at an old wharf.

Soon after that we have two weeks on the **Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals**, leaders for the first week are myself (James Butler) and Gordon Brown (not the PM!) and the second week is being lead by Rob Daf-fern and Rachael Bowers. Work will include building bridge access ramps, installing a wooden footbridge and other works to pre-pare for when the canal hosts the 2010 IWA Trailboat Rally. This will also be the site for the October camp - we are currently looking for volunteers to lead this.

Moving across the country, we head for the **Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation** where the work involves rebuilding a lock chamber base in concrete and repairing a lock wall - after we first drive an excavator through it! Liz Wilson is leading week one with Nina Whiteman assisting, then a few weeks later (allowing time for the concrete to go off) we have another week's where leader Ed Walker will be ably assisted by Nigel Lee.

On the **Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal** we will be attempting to build a slipway in just two weeks! Fred Towey and Lorraine Hughes are leading week one, we have an assistant for week two but as yet no leader - could it be you?

The biggest project for this year is the four weeks on the **Cotswolds Canals** at Gough's Orchard lock, where we're playing a vital part in kick-starting the huge £25m Phase 1a scheme to reopen six miles of the canal over the next four years. To start the ball rolling we have our chairman Mike Palmer with assistant Becky Parr on the first week, then the second week is being led by Chris Blaxland ('Teacher Chris') and Martyn Worsley, the third week will see Adrian Fry flying back into the country especially to lead the camp, aided by Chris Colbourne, and there are no leaders confirmed for week four yet - this project will be a fantastic opportunity for new leaders and assistants as the continuity between successive camps means the work can be well planned in advance and vehicle movements will be minimal. So if you fancy leading a camp, this is the place to start! Among other jobs the work will include rebuilding the lock walls, repairing the lock tail bridge and towpath laying.

Just down the road from here will be the KESCRG and NWPG camps on Eisey lock, also



Maggie Eaton

*How do you fancy bridge-building on the W&B...*



Martin Ludgate

*...or eco-bank protection on the Mont...*

on the **Cotswold Canals**. Further details of these camps next time.

There will also be further work on the **Wilts and Berks Canal**, at Seven Locks with BITM and a camp at a new site at Pewsham Lock where we will be rebuilding the lock and repairing a culvert under the canal.

That's a lot of work in the south of England, but the north hasn't been left out in the cold: there has been a lot of progress on the **Chesterfield Canal** recently and a camp this year will be building a winding hole out of concrete blocks. Once this has been completed another stretch of canal can be rewatered. Fancy leading this camp?

Back in the south we have two weeks on the **Basingstoke Canal**, where we will be laying pipes and building a pump house for the next stage of the back pumping project. Although we currently have no leaders for either week this will be a good opportunity to drive machinery and cast reinforced concrete.

Then we come to a camp with a difference: The **IWA National Festival** at Redhill near Nottingham - here WRG will help set up and run a large festival site. The leader for this two week epic Neil Collings. Do you fancy helping him? The assistant's position is still free.

In October WRG heads south to the **Grand Western Canal** in Devon where Martyn Worsley and Alex Bibby (one half of the 'Tweedles') will be leading the camp. The work will be mainly be scrub bashing with bonfires and possibly the chance of building a wooden fence.

Then in November on the **Wilts & Berks** we have our annual big get-together weekend, the WRG Bonfire Bash a.k.a. the Reunion. Anyone fancy leading a weekend instead of a week?

And as ever the year ends with a Christmas camp, which again is ideal for new leaders as the work is scrub bashing and bonfires. No leader yet but who is thinking of Christmas 09 just yet? (Well, WRG is - we're currently choosing a site and the **Montgomery** looks possible)

So there we are folks, that is the line up so far. As you can see we have had loads of volunteers to lead camps already but we still need more leaders and assistants. If you would like to have a go at being an assistant or would like to move up the ladder and become leader please get in contact with me. I will be delighted to hear from you and I don't bite! Please call me James Butler on my mobile **07745 256117** or alternatively email me at **james.butler@wrg.org.uk**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered that I haven't mentioned above; we haven't forgotten about you, we are finding you a leader or assistant.

So to summarise the camps we still potentially need leaders for are:

- **Montgomery Canal** 20th - 27th June
- **Basingstoke Canal** 27th June-4th July
- **Basingstoke Canal** 4th - 11th July
- **Wilts and Berks Canal**, Pewsham Lock 4th - 11th July
- **Cotswold Canals**, Goughs Orchard Lock 15th - 22nd August
- **Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal** 1st - 8th August
- **Chesterfield Canal** 15th - 22nd August
- **IWA Festival** 24th August - 3rd September
- **Monmouthshire Canal** 24th - 31st October
- **Bonfire Bash** 7th - 8th November
- **Xmas camp** 26th Dec - 1st Jan 2010

**James Butler**  
**Suzie Pounce**



David Miller

*...or even lock rebuilding on the Stowmarket?*