



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP - 26TH FEBRUARY 2008

**REPORT BY: MONMOUTHSHIRE, BRECON AND ABERGAVENNY CANALS
TRUST REGENERATION MANAGER**

1. CEFN FLIGHT OF FOURTEEN LOCKS, VISITOR CENTRE EXTENSION

- 1.1 Work on the new extension was delayed during January due to the prolonged rainfall. The roof was completed during the second week of February. As the project is now about 4 week behind programme, the official opening will take place towards the end of April or early May.

2. GOVERNMENT NEW DEAL TRAINING SCHEME

- 2.1 This scheme commenced 4th February with an introduction to Lime Mortar Course at Ty Mawr Lime Brecon and a Health and Safety Course on the 11th at Cefn Flight of Fourteen Locks. Eight trainees have been working on the spillway stonework of Waen Lock 3, hedge cutting and clearing vegetation growth from the spillway of Gwasted Lock 2 with Chris Annetts and their supervisor Paul Stevens.

3. THREE YEAR PROGRAMME OF REGENERATION WORKS

- 3.1 If the above 26 week scheme is successful the objective is to continue the project to complete full restoration from Waen Lock 3 on the Crumlin Arm to Barrack Hill (Newport) and from Barrack Hill to Pentre Lane (Lower Cwmbran). In addition to the New Deal Trainees, Local Community Volunteers from the Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust and volunteers from the wider community representing the Waterway Recovery Group will also be engaged in the project. We may even be able to host a visit by Volunteers from Europe through a new Interreg IVB Crosscut exchange scheme.
- 3.2 The majority of work will involve offside cutting, inspecting and making good defects to the four locks within this section which was restored through a previous New Deal Training Scheme from 1999 to 2003. There are other restoration works within the scheme which will involve leak stopping, cleaning foliage from bridges and the head walls of culverts. Two important projects involve the raising of Malpas pedestrian footbridge and reconstruction of the slipway at Bettws Bridge. An integral part of this project is training trainees from the Government New Deal Training Scheme and the community volunteers in heritage and environmental skills.
- 3.3 The project is planned to take over three years, some works will be completed to coincide with the Ryder Cup and National Trailboat Festival (Kimberley Park) arranged through the Inland Waterways Association, both of which are being held in 2010. Visiting craft will then be able to navigate the canal from Barrack Hill to Pentre Lane and to Waen Lock 3 on the Crumlin Arm.
- 3.4 It is hoped that some craft owners will take the opportunity to make use of the slipways at Hall's Road Pontywaun, Manor Road Ty Sign Mano, Cefn Flight of Fourteen Locks Car Park and cruise those sections of canal.

4. COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE SKILL QUALIFICATION TRAINING MODULE (TRANSNATIONAL)

4.1 Through the above community project. It is intended to develop and establish a practical 'Water & Land' based skills qualification programme to enable members of the community who either wish to volunteer or follow a pathway to employment with credited skills, to participate in providing improved water quality, protection, maintenance and enjoyment of a safe historic waterway environment.

4.2 Training Units will consist of:

1. Use of Lime Mortar in a water environment.
2. Ecological management of aquatic and bank side fauna and flora.
3. Timber Crafts in a water environment
4. Natural Bank protection of a water environment
5. Ecological land drainage techniques.
6. Education ?
7. Recreation ?

5. MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANALS REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

5.1 A form has been produced to record and prioritise regeneration infrastructures 'Vulnerable Structures'. The individual authorities engineers will be inspecting their length of canal before the next officer group meeting.

5.2 British Waterways have put forward the idea of establishing a Regeneration Strategy Group which could be part of or report to the existing partnership. Discussions will initially take place between the existing local authority owners of the canal and the trust.

6. CHRISTMAS GROTTO

6.1 Considering the weather, road and building works lots of children enjoyed visiting Father Christmas with their Parents and Grandparents in his Grotto.
Rollalong Mobile Units provided two 32ft x 8ft Steel Office Units.
Mobile Toilet Units were provided by Loo's In Motion.
Brandon's Tool Hire provided the 10kva Generator.
All the equipment was provided at special hire rates: Total £1,357.50

6.2 Donations towards the cost of the event were received from:-

ELM Building Contractors	£ 700.00
Atkins Consultants	£ 150.00
Ty Mawr Lime	£ 50.00
Welsh Tourist Board	£ 457.50
Total	£1,357.50

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