



## Headlines for South Wales & Severn – March 2015

### Volunteering

- Please see our local SWS [newsletter](#). More information about volunteering can be found at <http://support.canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved>
- The volunteer work boat project is ongoing, with the main rebuild halfway through. It is hoped to have the outside completed for a naming ceremony the week before the Worcester Canal Festival in June. Find out more here: See our site at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/boat-restoration-to-help-worcesters-canal-volunteers>



*The volunteer work boat*

### Operations

- Dredging in Gloucester Docks is underway – see [here](#) for our full press release.
- M&B Canal Winter Works Update  
The following stoppages are complete or progressing well:

| Location  | Description of works  |
|---|---|
| Llangynidr Bridge 130 Aberyail                                | Masonry repairs   |
| Pontypool Bridge 55. Jockey Bridge                            | Installation of stop plank grooves at Bridge 55. Repoint and masonry repairs to wet abutments.  |
| Lock 64 - 66  | There are a number of issues that will need attention during the winter period; these include a blocked paddle chamber on Lock 68. Hole in the towpath between lock 67 – 68. Minor leakages on various Lock gates. Stiff paddles on lock 64. We will liaise with COG prior to the works as and when required. |
| Llanfoist bridge 95a Tods to Bridge 96 Turn bridge at Govilon | Slip II stabilisation works   |
| Talybont Bridges 145 to 146                                   | Repairs to towpath embankment following a number of leakages in this area.  |

### South Wales & Severn Waterways

Canal & River Trust The Dock Office Commercial Road Gloucester GL1 2EB

T 0303 040 4040 E [enquiries.southwalessevern@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.southwalessevern@canalrivertrust.org.uk) [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

The following stoppages have been deferred to 2015/16:

| Location                         | Description of works                                  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Gilwern bridge 103 to 104        | A465 Road duelling scheme works                       |
| Llangynidr Lock 65 to bridge 131 | Relining of 500m of canal: lock 64 to bridge 131 Yard |

### Contracts Updates

The winter works programme has now reached its climax and is beginning to wind down in accordance with our environmental protocols. The majority of offside vegetation and tree work will cease at the end of February. We have been given some dispensation through the environment team to carry out offside vegetation work on the River Severn at our lock island approaches beyond the February date, due to the safety issues associated with high winter river levels. Of the 192 vegetation notifications passed to contract for completion in 2014/2015, 173 have either been instructed or completed, many of which have been picked up as part of the priority tree programme or offside vegetation works.

In detail:

- Alexandra Customer Service Facility

We suffered an act of vandalism at the Alexandra Warehouse Customer Service Facilities during January which resulted in its closure for a number of weeks whilst a repair to the shower floor could be facilitated. The repair undertaken through the PMTC contract has thrown up a number of issues with the shower floor drainage which is currently being investigated by the Senior Building Surveyor. A new deadlock has now been fitted to the customer facility to enable us to lock it down in the event of any future incidents.

- Swansea Canal Silt Removal Mond Nickel Water Abstraction Structure

These works were due to commence at the end of January utilising a suction vacuum vehicle through sub-contractors Adler and Allen following a drain down of the pond containing the structure. At the final meeting between all the parties, fresh concerns were raised and the works were postponed as a result. This project is now being taken forward via the dredging team through Land and Water, this should enable a more permanent resolution for the annual silt and weed bloom issues on the whole of the Swansea canal to be determined.



*Annual aquatic weed bloom on the Swansea canal*

- National Waste Contract

In order to adhere to Zero Waste England and Wales 2015 regulations, Biffa must inform CRT of which mixed recycling and segregated recycling collections are available to each site where a regular General Waste service exists. Draft opportunities for increasing the segregation of waste at bin sites across the South Wales and Severn area have been submitted.

Part of the mobilisation process will be to identify appropriate: Signage in the bins store, information for boaters, information boards, bin labelling and all other requirements necessary to deliver the optimum recycling segregation and collection, limiting the impact of waste contamination.

- Grass Cutting

We have now approved the 2015-2016 grass cutting programme.

- Reactive Tree Works

The volume of emergency tree work in the period from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 is as follows:



*High quality hedge to edge finishing towards Bridge 16 on the Worcester Birmingham canal*

| Canal   | X19 Number | Number of Trees |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| M&B     | 21         | 35              |
| SA      | 1          | 1               |
| DB & DJ | 0          | 0               |
| WB      | 5          | 20              |
| G&S     | 0          | 0               |
| RS      | 0          | 0               |

The M&B canal leads our reactive tree table moving into the spring period despite a large volume of winter tree works on the canal as determined through the tree survey.

- Winter Tree Programme

As part of the winter tree programme we have carried out management to 1688 priority trees ranging from severing ivy to felling, coppicing or pollarding. The vast majority of this work was completed by the end of February 2015 to avoid conflict with the bird nesting season. A significant amount of work has been carried out from the recommendations made in the reservoir inspections in order to comply with the Reservoir Act.



*Reactive tree adjacent to Bridge 53 M&B Canal January 2015*