

Clearing Lubstree Wharf

On Friday 24 March, twenty volunteer workers braved the cold, wet & highly un-Springlike weather to make a start on the clearance of Lubstree Wharf.

Fourteen of the workers were trainee pilots from the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury, while the other six were stalwarts from previous working parties at Wappenshall Junction. The pilots provided the “backbone” and “engine” for this day’s clearance operation as part of the Local Community Project initiative of DHFS/RAF Shawbury. Having just gone solo in a helicopter in the past week, this back-to-basics work probably brought the pilots back-to-earth again!

Lubstree Wharf is situated just to the North of Leegomery, Telford and only 100 metres from the entrance to “Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom”. However it is well shielded by trees and hardly anyone knows of its existence. It is the terminus of the Humber Arm, and still has water for 200 yards. Last used



commercially in 1944, it was widened in more recent years for an angling club: however two buildings and the brick edged wharf are still present, in addition to the Lubstree Bridge.

The owner of Wharf Cottage (immediately adjacent) is Harry Cotton, who – with his family – has been collating snippets of wharf history and memorabilia. The Cotton family are S&NCT members and made us very welcome. One of his „finds“ is the Day Book of the Wharfsman at Lubstree in 1915: inside in beautiful copperplate writing are details of every bridge and culvert from Norbury Junction to the Humber Arm, along with names of landowners whose properties flanked the canal.

The north end of wharf exposed and cleaned.

Part of an article in S&N News, Spring 2006 by Tam Hazan



Trainee pilots take a break at Lubstree Wharf Warehouse

Saturday 8th April saw snow on the Wrekin and the next batch of volunteer workers braving the cold yet again, to continue with the clearance work at Lubstree Wharf.

Ten hardy people arrived and soon work was underway to continue with the clearance of the soil from the original brick edges of the Wharf. It was slow but rewarding work and the lone fisherman who arrived near the end of the morning, just as the group was clearing up and making good the edges, was very impressed by what had been achieved so far. He said that in the summer the trees arched right over the water, and although it looked very beautiful, the leaf drop in the autumn caused the basin to clog up with debris and this made fishing very difficult because of snagging under the surface of the water.

There is much more work to be done, and the brick edges are still not all completely clear, so there is plenty for the next working party to do!