

Council spends £30,000 to resurface Shrewsbury towpath

OVER the last year the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust (SNCT) has held regular work parties in Shrewsbury to clear the canal towpath into the town.

This length, from Factory Bridge (opposite Ditherington Flax Mill) to Shrewsbury town centre, has fallen into disrepair in recent years, the surface has deteriorated and it has become impassable in some areas in wet weather.

Before the work parties started to clear the line of the canal the verges had become very overgrown with dangerous briars, overhanging tree branches and a lot of litter. Brambles have now been cleared right along the length and particularly in the St Michaels Gate area. A massive amount of rubbish has been removed, chiefly from the hot spot behind the Canal Tavern, where two skips were filled with litter and bottles.

The SNCT volunteers have received encouragement from local home owners, members of the public and passing cyclists and this has made it all



Volunteers prepare the towpath for resurfacing. PHOTOS: SNCT

worthwhile. For the first time the trust was also allowed on to the Morris Lubricants site to clear back and clean up the area next to the towpath on its side of the fence.

Shropshire Council agreed to spend £30,000 to resurface the path along the whole route. The new surface and the fall to the edges of the towpath will ensure that rainwater runs off the path, making it usable throughout the year for everyone.

The SNCT volunteers have worked with Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council, St Michael's Gate Management



The finished towpath.

Company, Cycle Shrewsbury and members of the local community to achieve this excellent result.

In November about 500 daffodil bulbs were also planted alongside the St Michael's Gate section of the towpath and it is planned to add some roses later in the year.

Shropshire councillor Alan Mosley described it as a great outcome. He said: "It is a very useful route from the north of Shrewsbury, by the Flaxmill and into town via the canal towpath and then up by Dana. These works will make this important route much more attractive."