

Rangers Rag



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Winter 2004/05

Limekilns Revealed!

Visitors to the Grand Western Canal Country Park will be delighted with the restoration works that have been carried out on two important historic structures in 2004. The wharf at Whipcott Bridge and the Grade 2 listed limekilns near Holcombe Rogus have been restored by the Rangers and a 25-strong team of volunteers from the Inland Waterways Association's Waterway Recovery Group.



The structures, which date back to the early 1800's, were heavily overgrown with ivy, trees and brambles - whose roots were also damaging the lime pointing that was holding the stonework together. Canal Manager, Mark Baker, explained: "By removing the vegetation and re-pointing where necessary, these fascinating structures will be visible to the public and should remain standing for many years to come".

In the case of Whipcott Wharf, a disused staircase was rebuilt to allow visitors to the Country Park to access the wharf and imagine the bustle and industry of the area during the canal's heyday.

The Waterway Recovery Group is made up of volunteers from all over the country who signed up to attend working holidays. Many have returned to the canal following last year's successful project – the construction of a boat-launching slipway at Sampford Peverell.

WRG Camp Leader, Judith Gordon, said: "We were very pleased to be invited back again. The Grand Western Canal provides some very interesting work in a lovely rural setting and we get excellent support from the Ranger Service. We've had another great year and we hope to come back for two weeks in 2005 in order to finish these restoration projects".



Bird & Bat Box Day

Sunday 20th February 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:00pm

The first in a series of Wildlife Gardening events to be held at the Grand Western Canal Country Park. Come along and construct a bird or bat box as part of National Nest Box Week. Whole family welcome, sorry no dogs. Meet at the Rangers Office, The Moorings, Tiverton Basin. £2.00 per box. Choice of bird boxes, pre-cut packs or start from scratch. Please contact Mark Blake or Jo French on 01884 254072 to book a place on either or both sessions.

Watch this space for more fun events and activities for all the family in 2005.

New Ranger

Jo French joined the Ranger Team on 18th October 2004. Jo previously worked as a Countryside Warden in West Sussex and has also worked as a Field Studies Tutor in Bideford, Devon and Haselmere, Surrey. One of her responsibilities at the Grand Western Canal will be to provide an education programme for local schools. This will encourage children to appreciate the wildlife and learn about the environment through curriculum based activities that explore habitats, life cycles and manmade structures. If you know of a local school that would be interested, ask them to contact Jo for more details on 01884 254072.