

## Task Team

### February Task Day

The February task day was postponed until the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, when under the auspices of Ranger Ryan, 20 volunteers made some repairs to the severely storm damaged footpaths around Hind Wheel.



*Pathway resurfaced at Hind Wheel bridge*



*A family help restore the bridleway down to Hind Wheel*



*Roger Cose creating a diversion for flood water at the Hagg Lane car park at the start of the bridle way down to Hind Wheel.*

Footpath restoration is seriously hard work, but the task team volunteers appear to relish the challenge and really throw themselves into the fray. More footpath restoration is planned in the hope that such a devastating storm is unlikely to reoccur in the near future. Many footpaths are damaged by floodwater running off Rivelin Valley Road and so the Council has been asked to keep on top of drain clearance and the task team will help create water diversions away from the main footpaths.

### March Task Day

The March task day was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, a week early due to the Easter weekend. We took a break from the footpath restoration and concentrated our efforts on the dipping platform at Rivelin Cornmill where the rotting timbers had become a public hazard.





Ranger Ryan managed a small team to replace rotting timbers and to make the platform safe for another year.



*Task team volunteers replacing rotting timbers at Rivelin Corn Mill dipping platform*

The remainder of the volunteers were engaged in helping restore the adjacent willow tunnel. Created around 2007, the tunnel is still an attractive and a well-used addition to the Valley but requires regular maintenance to keep it trim. Willow is well known for rooting quickly but we are really struggling to get it to grow in that location. One suggestion is that there is too much shade from the surrounding trees.



*Passing walkers stop to talk to the task team*

The top growth is removed and planted and tied into the existing structure. Willow is deciduous but the dormant branches still create an inviting tunnel.



*The willow tunnel at Rivelin Corn Mill provides an inviting structure for the adventurous.*

Further work is needed to fully restore the willow tunnel



*A few remaining volunteers adorn the willow tunnel at the end of a long rewarding task day*



*Graham Axelby removing graffiti from the waste bin at Rails Road car park*

Text & photos by Graham Appleby