

## Task Days

Having complimented the task team on their achievement in restoring of the nature trail in upper Rivelin, it was rather upsetting to see that a flash flood during Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September has caused further damage to the same sections. However, the damage is minimal and can easily be repaired although the Council's footpath restoration of Hind Wheel was completely washed away. The dam wall at Hind Wheel is fully intact and it is just the surfacing that has been washed away and we need to give some thought into how we can protect our footpath surfaces from flash floods.



*June 24 Hind Wheel (East) repaired by Sheffield City Council*



*Sep 30<sup>th</sup> washed away again in the recent flash flood*



*June 24 Hind Wheel (West) repaired by Sheffield City Council*



*Sep 30<sup>th</sup> The footpath topping washed straight into the dam. Fortunately, the dam wall remains intact.*



*The recently restored stepping stones at Roscoe Wier have been dislodged by this tree washed down during the flash flood.*





Driftwood at Home Head Wheel shows the height of the flash flood of between 1 and 2 metres.

### July 24<sup>th</sup> Corporate Task Day

I ran a corporate task day towards the end of July for BNG and began work on the footpaths at Holme Head Wheel.

*'The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Services Team is within Natural England, which is based in Sheffield and York. BNG is a new approach to development which seeks to reduce the loss of biodiversity as much as possible, and losses that do occur due to development must be replaced and increased by 10%. You can find more information on BNG here: [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain)'*



*Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Services Team*

*"The team had a great day, and, on their behalf, I'd like to thank all those involved with the organisation of it."*

*Benjamin Tinsley*

Thank you to Ranger Ryan Atkin for supporting the event and for RVCV volunteer Roger Goodwin for his assistance.

### July 28<sup>th</sup> RVCV Task Day

Following the corporate task day, the intention was to continue the footpath work at Holme Head Wheel, but I felt it was more important to pay a visit to Rivelin Corn Mill as the site had become very overgrown.



The dipping platform was showing serious signs of decay and was taped off and taken out of service. The 'John Monach' memorial bench behind the platform was also showing signs of decay and the family have asked me to replace it at the earliest opportunity. We are also planning a memorial bench for Ken Shail in the same location but may have to wait for platform repairs or replacement.



*A haircut for the willow tunnel at Rivelin Corn Mill*

The willow tunnel was very overgrown, and we gave it a severe haircut and replanted the cuttings to try and thicken up the sides. Large sections of the willow have died, and I have been trying to understand why this might be. One theory is that there is a lot of shade from mature trees. Also, willow needs to be constantly cut back which forces new shoots on the lower stems.





*Clearing the undergrowth and verges (with a smile) at Rails Road car park (Rivelin Corn Mill)*



*Roger Cose and Scott Berg on sapling planting duty – donated by Keith Kendall*



*And finally, the team photo at the end of an exhausting day which Rivelin Corn Mill looks all the better for.*

## **September 29<sup>th</sup> RVCG Task Day**

Ranger Ryan suggested that we do some birch bashing on the edge of Carver Fields (which I've always known as Millstone Edge but apparently, it's called Den Bank). We had a good turnout of 15 volunteers plus me and Ryan. The bank side is predominantly bilberry but with small trees and bracken threatening to take over. Our volunteers did an amazing job of clearing the brash. We also cleared some of the footpaths along the edge of Carver Fields and provided better access to the memorial benches dotted along the edge.



*Birch bashing on Den Bank with Stannington flats in the distance*



*Ed and Gareth installing a memorial bench*



We took the opportunity to install a new memorial bench donated by the RVCG for longstanding committee member, Margaret Sanderson who sadly passed away last year. The bench is in a stunning location at the head of the valley on Den Bank and now with a dedicated plaque funded by her son Jerry.

Margaret Sanderson was an original RVCG committee member from 1991 and held the roles of membership secretary and newsletter editor for most of that time.



*Gareth and Ed admiring the view from the newly installed bench*



*The dedication to Margaret Sanderson provided by her son Jerry*



The steps leading down from the lower Carver field were in a bit of a dangerous state and so volunteers Ed and Gareth helped restore the steps to ensure safe passage. They also added an extra step at the bottom to make the steps more accessible for those with a smaller gait.



*The RVCG task team volunteers pose for a photograph on the edge of Carver Fields.*

I am hoping to continue our footpath repairs at Holme Head Wheel however a recent storm and flash flood has undone some of our previous footpath work and so we may have to divert some of our resource to that.

Text & photographs  
Graham Appleby, Task Team Leader