



Barrow In Bloom 2021

Spring 2021

Barrow Deep Lock

In September 2020 Barrow in Bloom and the Canal & River Trust created a Partner Group to work together to try to improve the towpaths and hedgerows alongside our canal and the River Soar. One aim was to improve the area around Barrow Deep Lock. Below are a few photo's showing the area before the project was started:



During March Nick made the new planters from recycled decking planks to replace the existing plastic pots. These were then lined with weed suppressing material and stained.

Finally in early May we were able to start of sprucing up the area. Brian, Karen and Annette spent a day clearing the old plastic pots to one side, removing as many of the weeds as possible, and giving it all a really good tidy up.



Below you can see the new planters and planting around the signage as you approach the lock from the Navigation Inn.



We were then able to transfer all of the existing bulbs out of their old pots into the new planters. Room was left to for some annual summer bedding later in the month after any risk of frosts has passed. Below is a view of the new planters looking both up and down the lock.



Some of the herbaceous plants were replanted directly in the ground where there was room and the correct conditions for stronger growth. All the planters were given a generous amount of gravel to stand in to hopefully prevent the bases from getting too damaged in future years.

The old pots were removed from the hard standing to allow the fences to be painted. We also hope that some areas can be repaired so new planters with planting more suitable for shade can be installed to make this entrance to the lock look



Mid May finally brought an end to the rain, and Karen and Annette were able to put bedding into the planters. Lobelias and marigolds for the middle of the trio of planters, with petunia in the end ones. They should bring a splash of colour to the area in the coming months.

The herb planter was moved forward, out of deep shade and replanted with some fresh herbs, more will be added as the season progresses, but chives, fennel and mint are in there for now.

The herb planter will be re-stained on a future visit to match in with the other new planters.

Our first sunny day in late May allowed Karen and Brian to give the area around the planters a really good tidy up.

An old fence was re-purposed and secured in position to provide a well needed backdrop. Clearing the area took some time due to unusual items found buried around that needed considerable effort to remove, but the finished result was well worth it.



We are trying to create a natural 'dead' fence feature to create another form of barrier and the first of the uprights were put in place. The willow was beginning to sprout, so maybe creating a living fence – time will tell.



Thanks to everyone that stopped to say thank you for making the area look better.

The next phase is to refurbish the memorial bench and install some more planters on the hard standing next to the lock gates with some shade tolerate plants. The fences will also be painted to bring together the new look for Barrow Deep Lock.