

GREENWAYS AND CYCLEROUTES WORKCAMP 2025

Greenways Tenth Annual Workcamp took place from 6 to 13 September, in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

88 Volunteers worked a total of 362 days, and we welcomed back many whom we had not seen for more than five years. We are immensely grateful for the support of Somerset Council – and its predecessor Mendip - for our funding. For three years we have worked on Hamwood viaduct, and looked wistfully at the locked gates at its northern end. This year we were delighted to be working on the next 1,300 m of path from there to Thrupe Lane and on to minor roads towards Radstock and Midsomer Norton, and the Two Tunnels route to Bath. Camp activities focussed on making this route one to remember.



Thanks to the generosity of Gavin Mayall, we camped for a fourth time in the welcoming quarry at Rock Farm, where we recovered from our work fed and watered by Chris and Claire Grimshaw, with able assistance from Wendy. The weather was really not that kind, and the capacious marquee provided welcome cover.

Our contractor, Mark Golding had already built a sleeper bridge for farm vehicles.



John Richfield, Andy Hatch prepared shuttering and Malcom, Rupert and Nicola set it out for four new cattle grids, poured on Monday.



Mike Thompson led on filling a total of 11 gabion baskets above two culverts of the railway. Of these 7 were filled in just one day by Tiziana and her colleagues. The weather was not kind, but the results are wonderful.

Nearby, Ken, Tim and Jane built a stone wall to dam a small stream to create a pond area, which filled during the week.



On Tuesday Mark Golding assembled the concrete sleeper wall to discourage material from the embankment landing on the path and on Wednesday volunteers from Somerset Council and Neil Tilham wired them together. It looks just like the Jenga Block model.



Malcolm was in his element digging a drainage channel



wall above what we think is a railway soakaway, helped by a big team including Helen and Jeremy from Tidenham, Peter, released from his barn, and our leader...



Once again David Judd held court with a concrete mixer in the yard supervising filling of sandbags for the headwalls, and these were installed by David Fish with much help.



While Steve and his team (who have laboured for weeks before camp clearing vegetation) created the woodland fence



Will Haynes and Paul Thomas, in charge of structures for Sustrans and Railway Paths Limited respectively, supervised the restoration of the





In camp and elsewhere, Simon Jarratt and Pete Sprules installed benches of two kinds.



George Sartin from Dorset and his brother donated a shelter to the Friends of Windsor Hill, made from recycled pallets and assembled it with help from Tom, Alan and John L and John R.



John R also built a flight of steps to the bench under Hamwood Viaduct.



And then there were the works to prepare for the Cheddar bridge in the yard. John Linden and Alan Purvis assembled the reinforcing bar. Peter and Caroline with help from Axel and Guy built shuttering. It all fitted!



Lucy, Nicola, Katy and others tackled fretsawing of the names to go on the bridge abutments with Jane Debney in charge of layout



And on Thursday afternoon we had an outing, through Windsor Hill Tunnel, over Bath Road Viaduct to Charlton Viaduct, and tea courtesy of the Showering Family with a walk round the garden of Kilver Court.



On the way back we revisited the Pergola built last year



and walked the Cemetery Link that John plans to build...



Caroline Levett
for Greenways and Cycleroutes
September 2025