

SHACKERSTONE RAILWAY PERMANENT WAY WEEK 4th to 9th OCTOBER

Some of you may have noticed the recent activities on Carlton Bridge. During the week 4th - 9th October, Martyn Plant and his team were working all hours to reline the bridge and restore it to a better working order, thereby preventing further decay to the bricks and mortar of the bridge.

Martyn and his team are men and women of all walks of life, and from as far afield as Bromsgrove, Rugby and Leicester, who voluntarily give up their spare time at weekends and holidays to maintain the upkeep of Shakerstone Railway.

When the bridge was originally built the bricks were painted with tar as a means of lining the bridge. However over the years the tar has worn away with weather and usage. The rain has since penetrated the brickwork of Carlton Bridge, leaving it open to frost and severe weather. This has caused crumbling of the bricks and mortar which we can see clearly on the bridge today. The structure of the bridge is good and sound, therefore the attention given to the relining of the bridge will preserve it for many more years to come.

Martyn and his team have dug down to the bricks and lined the bridge with heavy duty industrial polythene. New balast has also been laid. The old wooden sleepers have rotted away over the years and these have been replaced with new concrete sleepers and new rail tracking.

Eventually Carlton Bridge will be re-pointed with special attention to the brick work. However this may take some time as this work has to be negotiated with the Council.

The 'Santa Special' will be running up to the festive season starting on Sunday 5th December. There are four trips on Saturdays and Sundays and on Christmas Eve. Pre booking only and details are available from the station.

Editor

