

Early spring clean for Cholmondeston Lock

IN EXCELLENT weather 20 volunteers from the Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters (SUMBA) started their spring and summer maintenance programme by giving Cholmondeston Lock an early spring clean.



SUMBA volunteers give Cholmondeston lock gates a lick of paint. PHOTO: SUMBA

The major task was to re-lay part of the lockside towpath which always suffered from puddles after rain. With assistance from the Canal & River Trust's local team this was accomplished within the three-day target. The path is now much improved and the work has already received compliments from regular visitors.

They also completed the annual full repaint of the lock beams, paddle gear, footbridge and lockside posts and everything now looks spick and span for the new season.

A broken concrete slope to the footbridge was replaced, the leaning Weaver Way signpost

was re-erected and two rotten legs on the older picnic tables were replaced.

The gardening team planted fruit bushes, rhubarb and butterfly-attracting buddleia – something for visitors and also insects to enjoy in the coming months.

Using CRT workboat *Gow*, SUMBA took a final opportunity to complete the offside cut-back programme. An overhanging tree was cut down below Cholmondeston railway bridge 5a, a log obstructing the canal near Sykes Hollow was removed and white paint applied to tree stumps in the winding hole above Cholmondeston lock.