

Editorial

Not often are we able to announce that yet another working party has been set up, but we now have a regular meeting on the third Saturday of each month, meeting at the Compasses Bridge compound at 9.30am. Dave Evans is the leader.

Contracts have now been placed for building the new Compasses Bridge. The work will be done by C. J. Thorne of Uckfield, the same contractors employed on the Loxwood road crossing.

And look out for the Wey & Arun Canal on the Channel 4 programme *Great Canal Journeys*, presented by Timothy West and Prunella Scales, Filming at Shalford and on the navigable Loxwood section is scheduled to take place during June.

Bill

The Mrs Bucket Group (keeping up appearances on Mondays)

In May we continued keeping our regular sites under control and continued with our winter job in the lock 16 winding hole. We were fortunate to have the services of Martin's monster mower which allowed the towpath, between the 90-degree



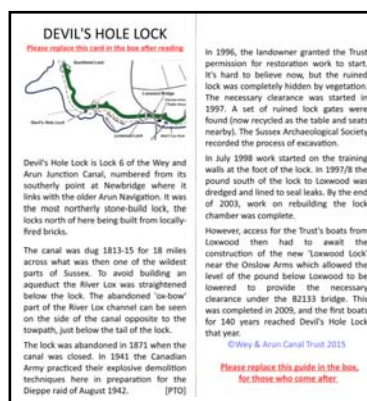
turn in the canal north of Haybarn to Lee Farm lock, to be cut, all 1,500 yards of it in about two hours, a task which would have taken us at least two full days with trimmers and ordinary mowers. He also came across a rare early purple orchid between Lee Farm causeway and the lock (see picture).

We have now added Southland lock to our responsibilities, as an additional regular site. In fact on May 11 we removed debris from the lock chamber including a very large log which took some shifting. We are also considering the workload implications of cleaning all the mileposts, a job previously undertaken by Brian Crossley.

We understand that the cost of printing the leaflets that are placed at various locations along the canal, has led to a decision to phase them out.

We think this is a pity and one of our number has suggested retaining the boxes and replacing the leaflets with laminated cards describing each location. It is intended that they would be replaced in the box after reading. An example for DHL is shown. What do other navvies think?

Nick Wood



Thursday and Sunday Group

The Thursday and Sunday Group meets at 09:30. The TSG has a work briefing form emailed out before the working day. Please email Eric Walker if you want to get on that circulation list.

Eric Walker

Tickner's Heath Depot

May saw most of the team take a well-earned break away from the hurly and burly of the depot so much so that we managed only a fraction of our normal output.

We did however manage to collect a new large flatbed trailer kindly donated by Stephen Darvill, the only downside to this magnificent 12ft by 6ft trailer is that it does not have a braking system, having originated across the pond in the good old US of A. We now have to figure out how to convert it, as at present its carrying capacity is limited to half a ton on the road.

Mike Davison returned a damaged mower to the depot as the drive cable had snapped. Despite numerous attempts by Alfold Mowers we have been unable to find the correct replacement type. However another similar mower turned up with what looked like a terminal fault and the team was able to use the cable from that and so make one good item out of the two.

The outboard from the *May Upton* workboat has again turned up at the depot and has been stripped, cleaned and repaired. It was then given an extensive run in our test tank and ran without a hitch, hopefully when back with the *MU* it will now perform good service.

The aquadock, which had been used by the MWWP at Compasses, has been checked in and all the screws and nuts given a good clean. Some of the external screws have been replaced by the

Northern Working Parties



Compasses culvert (left) and viewing platform (right). Pictures from Bill Nicholson

newer type which have four internal splines. This reduces the likelihood of the splines shearing, making the screws unusable.

David Robson has once again done sterling service reducing the amount of vegetation in and around the depot.

On the wildlife front it would seem that the residents of our nest of young robins have fledged and can no longer be seen hopping around our workshop so spring has sprung and summer is nearly with us - hooray.

Well that's about it for this month. All the best
John Smith

Mid Week Working Party

M^WWPP has spent a busy month working on 'project' clearances - by that I mean areas where we have been given permission to clear and which will support ongoing projects. For example, we worked on the off-side bank at Compasses, below the Mobile Home Park in agreement with Tony Ford and Dave Evans for their work on the

new bridge. We used the aquadocks to ferry rubbish across the canal and Dave Kersley kindly removed it.

The following two weeks were spent in Hunt Park, firstly near the new viewing platform and then across the other side of Cranleigh Waters. In both cases there were more than 15 volunteers doing the back-breaking job of pulling Himalayan balsam! We also cleared a fair amount of rubbish from Hunt Park, including two old tyres and sundry beer cans.

On 27 May we were scheduled to work at Whitley with Richard Smart, who is looking at the old rail crossing. We'll be digging some trial pits to see what remains of the bridge, if anything. Some of the team will be doing clearance just south of Run Common Road for about 100 yards to the culvert.

Future work will involve pre-camp prep at Shalford prior to the final push on the viewing platform, and another visit to Fastbridge.

David Daniels (leader, pro-tem)

Working Party Diary

Every Sunday and Thursday	Mainly construction work	Contact Eric Walker for details
Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Enquiries to David Daniels pending appointment of new leader
Every Wednesday (plus Thursday and Sunday as required)	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Tuesdays or Fridays	Work in Lording's area	Contact Tony Clear for details
Various Tuesdays	Hedge Laying	Contact Keith Nichols
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans
7 June	The Poddle, Amberley	www.weyandarun.co.uk/poddle/2015PoddleForms.pdf
25 July to 1 August	WACT Summer Camp	www.weyandarun.co.uk/SummerCamp2015.php

Hedgelaying Team

Hello and goodbye all, as this season's hedgelaying has now come to an end.

May allowed us to complete the Roger Dimmock Lane/slipways hedge of mainly hazel. The final 40 yards took three days to complete, needing people on both sides of the hedge as the slope was very steep. Teamwork was the key, as at the top of the slope, there was little room to manoeuvre. The lower of the two hedges will be left to the Boat Maintenance Team as regards cutting. They will decide whether to cut at a specific height or just allow it to grow out.

We have one day left, 26 May, scheduled for tidying up, bonfire, bacon, spuds and from Brewhurst, removal of unwanted saplings to grow on for future hedge infill.

It only remains to thank everyone who has helped on site this past season, so, a big hand for Bob, the two Daves, Steve, Nick (no not Stevie Nicks, she's a rumour from Fleetwood, Mac!), Colin, Harry, Stuart, the two Mikes and Peter.

nb: The contents of all reports may be totally fictitious, the characters mentioned may bear a resemblance to someone living or dead, the contents may not be the view of the author who

may or may not have been elsewhere and drunk at the time. It wasn't me guv, honest.

See you all in September at the start of the new season 2015/16.

*Keith
Nichols (or is
he? or am
I?)*



**Pictures:
Hedgelaying
group at
Roger
Dimmock
Lane and
Drungewick
slipways**



Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
Julian Cheek	Maintenance coordination	01483 505566	julian_cheek@weyandarun.co.uk
David Daniels / Northern Office	Visiting working parties, MWWP etc	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	support@weyandarun.co.uk
Vacant	Health & Safety Officer		Volunteer required please
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Vacant	MidWeek Working Party		Contact David Daniels (above)
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Kev Baker	Loxwood Link	02380 861074	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston Group (Lordings)	01903 774 301	winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	hedging@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Nicholson	Northern working parties	01844 343 369	bill@nwpg.org.uk
Dave Evans	Summit working party		compasses@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	01903 744767	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk