

Editorial

If this issue looks a bit thin it's mainly because of the holidays. Keith's hedging group always takes time off at this time of year but will resume work next month.

But that's not to say that we haven't been making progress. The first two weeks of July saw our Summer Camps, with over 20 volunteers on each week. The first week concentrated on the new Compasses Bridge, finishing the brickwork on the Tickner's Heath side and making great progress on the opposite side training walls. Work continued during the second week, with construction getting under way on the new summit slipway, using the Trust's 13-ton digger. Pictures can be found on the WACT website.

Volunteer clearance activity has recently been supplemented by no less than 12,000 North American weevils in the Tickner's Heath area. These have been introduced (and funded) in cooperation with the Arun & Rother Connections (ARC) project to deal with an invasion of Azolla, a non-native water fern.

Bill

Mid-Week Working Party

This month we have spent time at the far end of the working canal in the Drungewick area. Volunteers have given Drungewick lock and the path from the bridge the appearance of a really well looked after waterway. The weeds and reeds had grown very fast in the last two months and made the canal look a bit neglected. We have rectified this at Drungewick, and are now clearing the plant crossing and the narrow channel immediately north of the slipway. The reeds were so thick that the boats were unable to get through without a great deal of effort. Life should be better



The result of the MWWP's clearance efforts at Drungewick (Margaret Darvill)

for the trip boats now. We shall continue to clear the tow path and reeds in the next few weeks.

Margaret Darvill

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well, at last some decent weather where we can roll up our collective sleeves and get down to some work on the exterior of the buildings at the depot.

Most of this month has been spent giving the doors to our various sheds a coat of preservative. Mind you, some of it dried as soon as we put paint on, but if you visit the depot you might notice the delicate shade of red now coating all of the doors. Hopefully this will reduce the tendency of the doors to swell in winter making them rather difficult to open, quite easy if you have a physique like Charles Atlas but a bit more difficult for us lesser mortals. So with luck they will be easier to open in future.

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	Details from Margaret Darvill
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
Various Tuesdays	Hedge Laying	Contact Keith Nichols
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans
1st and 2nd October	Bicentenary celebrations	Look for details on website and in <i>Wey-South</i>

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We have also been fighting a losing battle with the vegetation, no matter how much we cut back the next time we visit everything seems to have shot up again. Life has been made a bit more difficult as our resident vegetation expert David Robson has been away teaching various members of the empire God's language. Isn't education a wonderful thing.

Even without the services of our mechanical wizard Francis Wellerd, off at the outer reaches of humanity via various canals, we have managed a bit of maintenance, Mick Jones and Richard Powell are getting to be quite dab hands at refitting the Beaver wheeled strimmer drive belt.

As usual Dave Kersley has been out and about giving support and hopefully encouragement to

the working parties. One thing I hate to admit is that he even managed to beat me to the depot one Wednesday morning, oh the shame of it!

The Aquadocks have finally returned to the depot, have been cleaned and checked and are now ready for their next expedition canalside.

Well that's about it for the month, All the best

John Smith

Thursday and Sunday Group

We regret to report that one of our TSG volunteers, Brian Dunman, was injured in a fall at the Gennets Bridge Lock site on 14 July. Brian's wife, Wendy, tells us that he is making good progress and thanks everyone for their good wishes and cards.

The Thursday and Sunday Group normally meets at 09:30. Please email Eric Walker if you want to get on the email circulation list for details of if, and where, the TSG is working

Eric Walker

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

Having concentrated on Gosden aqueduct in June, at both our July outings we returned to our regular sites. This included a further visit to Lordings to mow the lock and remove a tree covered in ivy which, as reported by the lengthsman, was blocking the path. The overflow car park at Loxwood was also brought under control with the use of DK's large wheeled brushcutter. On the 18th it was really hot and by the time we finished all 10 of us were very tired and frazzled. Nevertheless we are up to date. We are due to meet again on 1st and 15th August with the intention of repairing the fence at Loxwood lock, cutting at Drungewick lock and making another visit to Lordings. Possibly Malham too on 15th.

Nick Wood



Pictures by Dave Verrall showing MWWP at work near Drungewick

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