

Editorial

Quite a short missive again this time; but thanks in particular to those who have contributed pictures. It's always better to see what the sites look like, despite the descriptive efforts of our correspondents.

And as always, the Trust has enjoyed the help of visiting working parties. The fact that they generally work over a whole weekend means they are well placed to tackle some of the larger jobs. Our July visitors came from Waterway Recovery Group Bit in the Middle, normally shortened to WRG BITM, reflecting the fact that they originated from somewhere in between the London- and Manchester-based groups that were WRG's original stalwarts, WRG being the 'practical restoration' arm of the Inland Waterways Association (IWA). The BITM team worked hard and skilfully on the summit level, repairing and improving a culvert and land drain near the Tickner's Heath.

Talking of the IWA, the association has recently helped with the funding of specialised training for some of our volunteers in the safe and correct use of chainsaws and herbicides. As a result, Phil Broadley, Chris Elphick and Mike Hobbs are now qualified chainsaw operators, while Mike Hobbs and Bob Smith are our newly-certified herbicide experts. With the summer weather helping to promote plant growth these new skills will definitely be put to the test in the near future.

Finally, I have received a suggestion that with more and more people using smartphones and tablets to read publications like the e-mailed version of *WPN*, it would make it easier to read if we split each page into two columns. This would be very easy for me to do, but I remember that when we originally used a two-column format, I was asked to change it to a single column in order to make the text easier to read on a PC screen. If anybody has strong feelings one way or the other please get in touch; in the absence of any feedback I will try two columns as from the next issue.

Bill

Thursday and Sunday Group - Southland and GBL

The Southland Lock official opening on 21 June went very well. Many thanks to all those whose efforts got us there. We were fortunate to get water just in time and some boats came to the lock. After that we were happy to let the water down in a controlled manner to the Loxwood pound to fit the various water screens to ground paddles and back pump. The other major job has been to re-profile the silt bank in the old winding hole and the canal channel. Fortune again smiled on us when the heavy weather, tornado and thunderstorms with a month's rain in a few hours, had no adverse effect on the Devil's Hole pound.

The repairs to the towpath from DHL to Southland have been going well and the material from Paddock Wood should be moved out from there this August.

Work at GBL is still on hold. The application for an EPSM licence to Natural England went in a day late. Then there was a bleat the application form changed in May this year. By working over the weekend, by my registering onto a government website and getting four passwords and two reference numbers, Natural England have accepted our application, though they say they may take longer than the 30 working days to reply. I am so glad I don't have to earn my living in this area of business.

Repairs and modification to Gennets Pound Sluice continues. At Barberridge we put in a kissing gate and a training wall. Along with the parapets, this work is as agreed with the two landowners and WSCC rights of way officer.

The Thursday & Sunday Group meets at 09:30. Please get in touch with Eric Walker to learn where work is taking place - this is frequently on several different sites.

Eric Walker

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	Check with Ray Pick for confirmation of venue
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	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays



Two views of Malham Lock - before (by Chris Richardson) and after (by Roger Wilson) attention from MWWP in July

Again in July we held three meetings to 'catch up' on our regular sites and to meet other demands. At the request of our Lady Chairman and after consultation with MWWP, we cleared the slipway site at Barnshill Bridge which had become seriously overgrown. We erected the new notice board at Three Compasses, following an approach from the Project Manger, with the help of Dave Kersley and mechanical hole boring equipment; a new one for us! We also visited Malham lock which was more overgrown than the group had ever seen it; another visit is required, perhaps in August, to give it another cut, to deal with the piles of cuttings we left and to get a boat into the lock to clear the foliage growing out of the bottom of the lock walls. With the aid of 4M (Martin's marvellous, monster mower) members were able to cut a path through the towpath jungle all the way from Lee Farm lock to the 90 degree turn in the canal north of Haybarn Swing Bridge; a lot of hard work! However, we shall have to return shortly to cut the hedges.

All in all, a productive month. We meet again on 4 August and 18 August; details from John Empringham.

Nick Wood

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well, here we are again, with the sun at Tickner's burning our eyes out. Pleased to say that with the hot weather upon us, we have not been exactly inundated with work, so a big thank you to all those considerate souls who thought of us by not giving us too much to do.

The month saw us put the final touches to the Mercury outboard. We seem to think that the sophisticated electronic ignition system was kaput and so would not run with the designated spark plugs, so rather than spend a fortune on a new system we opted for buying older style plugs which proved to be the solution. We now have a 20hp outboard which has plenty of oomph - anyone for water skiing?

As the team was getting rather bored with the scenery around Tickner's, it came as some relief when Mike Davison asked us to replace a broken slat on Peter Wilding's bench at Drungewick. The change of view seemed to have had a marked effect and the team worked even harder (if that were at all possible) in more salubrious surroundings. Hopefully the bench looks better for their efforts too.

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Michael Bates	Health & Safety Officer	07786 323515	michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Ray Pick	MidWeek Working Party	01483 272443	anne.pick@btinternet.com
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's Group	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
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	01903 744767	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

The trip to Drungewick and the associated privilege of a tour through Drungewick Manor may have influenced yours truly in agreeing to take on the re-roofing of the shed (or should I say colander?) at Guns Mouth. We have made two visits, one for an assessment and another to fit a cross beam, so watch this space for further news.

Also during the month there has been a lot of activity in and around the depot with camps doing various jobs along the canal. This has meant that we have been rather busy preparing equipment such as pumps, cement mixer and generators and so ensure that the camp has everything it needs to run a successful operation. Mind you, it also means we have to put it away again and deal with what's left behind.

One final thing: I must thank Richard Watson for his efforts in keeping the grass down at the depot. He constantly shames us into doing our own gardening. Not that you would notice the difference, our efforts that is.

Well I think that's about it for this month folks. All the best

John Smith

Mid Week Working Party

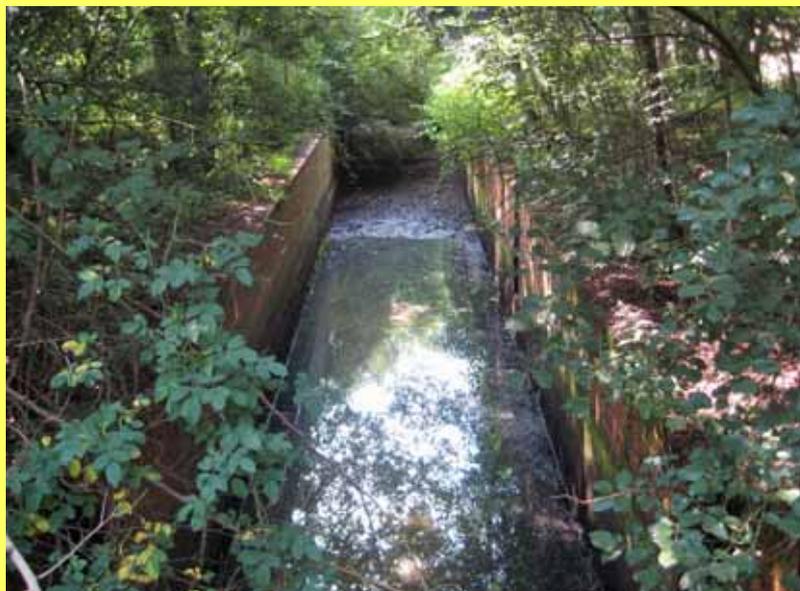
For the first three Wednesdays of July, the MWWP went on their annual expedition to clear the reeds in the Drungewick area of the canal. Part of the team used the Trust's work boat *May Upton*, while the rest of the team worked from the towpath.

For the following week, six members of the MWWP worked on a section of the canal around Rowly Lock, clearing the bed of the canal and the area around the lock. The rest of the team continued with the reed clearance at Drungewick.

For the last Wednesday of July, the smaller group of the MWWP completed their work at Rowly Lock. The rest of the team returned to the Bonfire Hanger length of the canal near Rosemary Lane. We cleared scrub and overhanging branches from the canal bed and banks.

Dave Verrall, on behalf of Ray Pick

Right: three views of Rowly Lock (Lock 17, near Cranleigh). The top picture shows the lock before, and the other two after, clearance by MWWP. Your editor is pleased to see that the brick-work of the chamber which he helped restore in the 1980s remains intact. Pictures by Alan Jennings



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