

Editorial

Very many thanks to Geoff Thomas for so ably filling in with producing the last couple of editions of WPN and the restoration pages of *Wey-South* during my prolonged absence. His professionalism and efficiency were very much appreciated.

Bill

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

Our two regular meetings in May saw us continuing with 'Keeping up Appearances' on our normal sites. That simple sentence hides a lot of work with the fast growing season upon us. Regular mowing and strimming are essential at this time of the year if the sites are to stay looking cared for. As part of this we filled in the deepest hole in the car park at Loxwood, but there are others to do and we will need a good supply of material and a mixer to complete the job.

In response to a request, our leader called an additional meeting in the middle of the month to undertake brushcutting, strimming and mowing at the Lordings site. It was well overdue a visit and by the end of the day eight of us had managed to tidy up the whole area from the flood lock bridge to the lock by the water wheel.

We meet again on the 6th and 20th of June with much to do. We never seem to be short of work!

Nick Wood

Tickner's Heath Depot

Here at sleepy hollow the birds are singing, the grass is growing and everything is a delicate shade of green, so with not much happening our thoughts have turned to repairing what items of kit remain at the depot.

Mind you, the depot stock is being gradually whittled away, mainly by the TSG which has suddenly found uses for items of equipment which have languished in the sheds since the flood, well for a few years anyway. The request for one of the bridge formers did cause us a slight headache. It had been put right at the back of one of the Nissen sheds, because we had always assumed it would never see the light of day again. So a certain amount of reorganisation was required.

Mike Hobbs has given us a bit of work, dropping off two brush cutters and an outboard. All have been looked at and various adjustments made, and they have been returned to store awaiting a request for their use. The Monday group has also helped to keep us busy by dropping off a Flymo which needed some work doing to the fuel line. Once a new length of pipe was fitted Mick Jones gave it a good work out and seriously reduced the grass levels at the rear of our sheds.

Yours truly has even had time to venture into foreign climes and fit a keb and security bracket at DHL. Hopefully the device will stop those who think a keb looks better in the canal than out of it. I now have to figure out a way of getting to Southland to fit another. I could use a bike but as the handle of the keb is 3m in length, it seriously reduces a bike's manoeuvrability. Anyone got any ideas? Perhaps a boat trip for the whole Tickner's crew might do the business!

Dave Kersley has once again been very busy and has reduced the paper mountain at the Cactus Farm to zero. He managed to fit this in between officiating at his daughter's wedding. (Where's the photos, Dave?).

So all in all a quiet month - all the best once again.

John Smith



Two views of recent Monday Group work at Lordings (pictures supplied by Nick Wood)

Thursday and Sunday Group

At Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) it has been a quiet but still busy month and time has just flown by. On the top sill, all the items used to get the concrete poured were removed. Then we started the big task of putting in the steel reinforcing and shuttering for the walls.

At the bridge, the centering was being made and by the end of May it was in position. There was a delay in making the centering caused by non-availability of the particular size of timber needed, but that was finally overcome by the efforts of John Reynolds in Budapest and his son David at Pulborough.

Work then started on the training walls at the bottom of the lock: a dirty and wet job, so well done to all those who fought the good fight.

The bricklaying continues with enthusiasm by Eddie Fairman, Geoff Thomas and Edward Stratton-Woodward, ably assisted by Martin Smithers. For Jason Falkner and others in the group, it is nearly a full time job keeping the bricklayers serviced with mortar, bricks and adjusting the scaffolding. Jason is usually to be found at the back pump chamber and JJ the haul side training wall.

Car batteries are still needed for recycling to bring in some money. Keep them coming, despite promises, only one this month.

Although we have a defibrillator for early treatment of cardiac arrest on site, following advice from Oxford University on BBC News this last week, a packet of aspirins was put in the first aid box for people to consider taking after minor stroke "to prevent or limit the harm caused by further strokes". Like the scientists, we await clearer medical and public guidelines. NHS England says it will carefully consider the findings of the study. Now someone says they could prove lethal. Help!

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

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
5 June	'Poddle' sponsored walk	See WACT website

Summit/Northern Working Parties

Work continues with the essential preparations for the two weeks of WRG summer camps in early July. As has now become the norm, extra days have been added to the programme. At the beginning of the month, the team had a short diversion to deal with a fallen tree to the south of the Tickner's crossing. Although we removed all the exposed branches, a second visit with the Trust's 6ton excavator will be needed to drag the large trunk out in sections. The team then spent an afternoon clearing rubbish from the canal bank at Compasses in preparation for some bank stabilisation work by contractors.

More exciting, on the following weekend a small team spent two days taking down the concrete side walls of the causeway using the 13ton machine with a hired-in hydraulic breaker attachment. At last it is now possible to see through the bridge, with the added benefit that the bricklayers can see what they are doing.

The final working day was our regular third Saturday. A team of eight, including, pleasingly, a number of our newer team members, continued with the excavation of the causeway. The team repositioned the pump to enable the canal to be pumped out, removed and cleaned the aquadocks, and continued the bricklaying on the south side of the bridge. Lee and John started their apprenticeship in bricklaying and will hopefully enjoyed it enough to return for more!

There will be a number of extra days at Compasses in June. The dates so far include 4th and 5th June as well as the regular third Saturday on the 18th. If you would like to help with this exciting work please contact either Dave Evans or me.

Bill Nicholson

Hedgelaying Team

Allo, 'Allo! This is definitely my last report pre our summer break. I first surveyed the Haybarn/Middle Lock hedges back in July 2012 noting that the hedge was too short in a lot of

places, had been trimmed around Haybarn Swing Bridge, needed the face trimmed and cutting on the towpath/bank side.

We finally started on it last year and at the end of laying on Tuesday 17 May we had completed 318 yards out of a total of 625 yards. Not bad at all for one day a week for just over only half of the season. In May we worked two days with one day by myself doing some field side clearance where the hedge was very stunted. On that day I spotted a Blue Tit frequently visiting the unlaied section about 6 feet from where we had finished. This is the first bird to be found nesting in the hedge.

The photograph shows some of the many onlookers we have had whilst laying the hedge.



17 May was a day for finishing binding and stake cutting day, plus two large bonfires on which I did four fried eggs so that the three of us could have egg and ham rolls. Lovely.

We are now going back into Devil's Hole to do late coppicing for 70 stakes and binders for the Loxwood Village Fete demonstration. It appears that there will only be two of us on site for that day so I don't expect to get much laid - ho, hum!

Next year we expect to be more central, i.e. Rosemary Lane to Gennets. So...

*Goodbye, Goodbye,
We'll be laying again sometime,
Goodbye.*

Keith Nichols

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
Julian Cheek	Maintenance coordination	01483 505566	julian_cheek@weyandarun.co.uk
Maurice Cranefield	Visiting working parties	01483 505566	Maurice_Cranefield@weyandarun.co.uk
Dave Evans	Health & Safety Officer		compasses@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Gennets Bridge Lock	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Margaret Darvill	Mid Week Working Party	01483 894606	margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Kev Baker	Loxwood Link	01489 690241	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@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