

Editorial

The bi-centennial celebrations, and opening of the new Compasses Bridge, are fast approaching. An appeal for help at the bridge opening on Sunday 2 October: the Trust needs assistance with setting up and car park marshalling. All offers of help please to Tony Ford (tony_ford@weyandarun.co.uk). Tony is in charge of the Compasses bridge opening arrangements.

Bill

Mid-Week Working Party

This last month the group has been in different places each week. We completed the clearing of the working canal at Drungewick and I know that the boat group was very pleased with the clearance. The area had become very difficult for the boats to go through the cut due to the number of reeds and Drungewick tow path was very difficult to pass through.

The next week we cleared the verges of the car park at the Canal Centre so that more visitors can park, and the towpath between the Canal Centre

and Brewhurst was cleared of saplings and brambles so that a horse can go along the towpath for the horse-drawn boat trips. More work was then completed at Fast Bridge. The canal banks are looking better but there is still more to do. The next week we went to Harsfold where we cleared half a triangle of land for a land owner and then cleared the tow path for another landowner. Both areas looked so much better for our annual clearance. Finally, we returned to Pallingham and cleared the area we attacked two years ago (see pictures). We shall continue work there for several more weeks. Numbers have been very good in August. Keep up the good work team!

Margaret Darvill

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well at last we welcome back our wandering canal explorer Francis Wellerd who on his return has regaled us about his trip into foreign parts, well somewhere west of Watford anyway. The only drawback to report is that his jokes haven't improved during his absence. But it's good to see him back.

Our efforts to reduce the vegetation continues - mind you, we have had to limit our efforts to short bursts. As those canalside workers will attest, it has been rather hot. But we shouldn't complain, should we.

We have helped in a very minor way one of the Trust's surveyors, Gary Courtnage. He requested a few metal pins and various items of surveying equipment but unfortunately all the surveying kit is out on the canal. We did manage to produce some pins, unfortunately, however, it means another member of the Trust has found out where we are. Bang goes our efforts of anonymity.

Later in the month Dan O brought the outboard from *May Upton* which was misbehaving itself. On inspection it was found that an HT lead had worn and was shorting out against the engine, so once fixed the engine ran (fingers crossed) perfectly.

Talking of outboards we have looked again at the large 20hp Mercury, which has been languishing in the sheds since we renovated it last year, as it may be more suited for running both *MU* or *Wasp* being more powerful than the smaller *Mariner* and *Yamaha* engines.

At the request of management we are now refurbishing the Tickner's Heath notice board, as it was, to quote those further up the food chain, "looking a trifle tatty". More to follow in the coming month.

Well that's it, ta-ta for now. All the best

John Smith



MWWP's recent efforts in the deep south - top working at Pallingham; bottom, Cooks Bridge after clearance (pictures: Nick Houston)

Thursday and Sunday Group

August has gone - with lots of holidays, With the holidays etc the number of TSG volunteers has halved in the last month. During August the TSG was offered a number of jobs to help Kev Baker, principally painting the wood and metal at the locks. Also it has been able to catch up on a number of jobs in the 'on hold' file. Brian Dunman has now returned home from hospital having made rapid progress.

Visiting Drungewick Lock again, I realised that the bottom gates are in fact restrained by the 200-year-old metalwork set into the stone with lead. The metalwork is as good as the day it was put in and shows almost no rust.

Part of the purpose of the visit to Drungewick Lock was to cure a spout of water from the wall under the bridge. Using the workboat *May Upton* the lock stonework was pointed up, where there were holes in it, this only became effective half way along the lock, beyond the ladder. This led to the conclusion that there is a path for the water all the way behind the wall. Hence what we did was not a cure, but literally a sticking plaster; the void at the back of the wall has yet to be filled.

In one place, at about the 'lock full' water level, the pointing came away, amazingly that was lime mortar, that is original 1813! This confirmed the wall had not been rebuilt when the lock was restored in 1990. The conclusion may be made that that the path for the water had always been there and using the lock full meant water pressure opened it up. Further the backfill behind the wall, being lime mortar, the lime gets washed out and sand remains.

With this experience it is concluded that re-pointing the walls at BKL needs to be revisited. Eventually re-pointing will also be important aspects of re-commissioning both Rowner and Malham Locks.

By 18 August the first moves were being made for the TSG to go back to GBL. This will be a gradual process phased in as the number of external jobs reduces and the holiday season

closes with the grandchildren returning to school. As construction is so dependant on the weather, we are hoping for an Indian summer - or at least for each Thursday to be dry.

We have a number (four) of TSG volunteers who are sick, some long term, others just for a few weeks. We are thinking of them and send them all our best regards. We know they follow progress and so are sorry that we have been a bit tardy with photographs recently, we will do better.

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 when, and where, the TSG is working

Eric Walker

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

As anticipated in the last WPN, at our first Monday outing in August, six members of the group set to and replaced four fence posts at Loxwood (two lock side and two by the B2133). As it turned out, it was not an easy job because the new posts had to be located in the existing holes to allow the existing cross pieces to be used. The post nearest the lock bridge was the most difficult because it had to be cut to fit around the buried electricity ducting. We also started clearing the canal bank between the Centre and Brewhurst lock. This has now been completed by MWWP.

On the 15th, the group spent all morning at Lordings, strimming, mowing and hedge cutting from the bridge to the lock. It was badly overgrown but it looks a lot better now. Two members went to Rowner lock and, with great difficulty, recovered a stop plank and a WSCC footpath sign from the lock and placed them in the shelter. Everyone else visited the Drungewick aqueduct site and later Drungewick lock to cut the grass around the lock and give the hedge a trim.

We meet again on 5 and 19 September unless something else crops up in the meantime.

Nick Wood

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
John Talbot	Health & Safety Director	c/o 01483 505566	john_talbot@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

Summit (Northern) Working Party

Apologies for no report last time - it has been a very busy period with everyone's effort being put into getting the bridge complete (or as near as possible) for 2 October opening. In fact during August we have put in numerous extra days including a weekend visit by LWRG on the first weekend of the month.

Our efforts have been focused on raising the block work training walls in the area of the former causeway. These are being constructed on the pub side in double skin concrete block cells with concrete being poured in between the two courses to make a robust structure. Effectively this means that each cell has to be built twice which makes it a long process. The final height of the walls is around 2.5m (about 8ft in old money) so many blocks have to be cut to fit the curved profiles. To be honest I think we perhaps under-estimated the time needed to build this vast structure! One of the cells is to be used as a silt trap for the surface drain that runs down the road from the pub with the remainder to be filled with Type 1 crushed limestone by KESCRG when they visit on 3 September. On the airfield side we have decided to use a shuttered ready mix concrete structure on the main straight section and this is due to be poured on 2 September. Curved blockwork at the northern end will complete the structure.

All this work on the training walls has held up our ability to get back to brick cladding the northern side of the bridge - access has just not been possible. However, this work will commence again in earnest during/after the KESCRG visit and will continue throughout September with many extra days being committed by the team - and a four-day NWPG visit over the third weekend. There are many other jobs to do including the landscaping of the southern side. Our working days for September are currently: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24 with possibly more.

If you want to help please let me know and I can let you know details of our plans for the relevant day.

Bill Nicholson



Two images of London Waterway Recovery Group at Compasses (see Summit report, left)

Hedgelaying Group

Keith has asked us, as his script writers, to put a missive in WPN this month, without telling us what. At this rate there will be a mutiny on a chocolate bar.

Well, our best guess is that the group will reform later this month, dates to be confirmed by text/phone. It will probably be coppicing at Devils Hole. The group will reform, even if it is only one member. Can one be a group?

That's all folks - TTFN.

A Non & E Mouse (aka Keith Nichols)

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>