

Editorial

August means the holiday season, hence an inevitable slowdown in the rate of work. Some people go away to coincide with the school break, while others, like our hedgelaying group, stop work, to resume in the autumn.

Things don't cease on the canal - this can be the season when greenery, although visually attractive, threatens to take over the canal banks, while the warmer weather can help the progress of bricklaying and construction work. So there is plenty of work for volunteers. If you are reading this online, suggesting you are not one of our regular 'navvies', why not consider lending a hand with a working group? The organisers listed on Page 2 would, I am sure, be only too pleased to welcome you.

The new Compasses Bridge is now (almost) finished; the compound has been cleared and its contents moved to the next work site. The bridge is a finalist in the Living Waterways awards for 2017 - we eagerly await the outcome of the judging, which is due to be announced in September.

Bill

Thursday and Sunday Group

Following completion of the bridge parapets at Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) in June they were given a thorough washing. Then the scaffolding, at that end of the lock, could be removed and returned to Tickner's Heath.

Meanwhile the bricklaying continued at the far end of the lock and started on the top sill. By the end of the month the progress was such that some of the copings at the off-side top sill could be cast. The new pond we dug earlier is flourishing with all sorts of life. The bank behind it is to provide infill when the lock wall copings are cast.

Despite deliveries of towpath materials not occurring as ordered we managed to keep both brideways open while doing the changes to the surface. Eventually the towpath was brought up to the bridge deck height and, with WSCC permission, the temporary diversion over the causeway was closed. The landowner, horse riders, a motorist and pedestrians were all highly delighted with the bridge and its ambiance.

After a 'round robin' fundraising exercise, £5244 was raised from well wishers for the ground paddles and they were bought as funds allowed. The sluices have been fitted to the top sill of the lock during the past month.

The digging out of the winding hole has continued at a lower level (both work rate and topographical) and really needs to be completed by the end of August. Recently, after a months rainfall in a day, things became very sticky and provided an early warning. Fortunately the air temperature is up and the ground is drying out quite quickly; this will not be the case in September unless we get another Indian summer, so fingers crossed.

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



Three men in a boat (or coping stone former) at Gennets Bridge Lock - Geoff Thomas



Newt pond at GBL, with the new bridge in the background (Eric Walker)



Part of the Tickner's Team on an Away Day to the Gun's Mouth (John Piper)

Tickner's Heath Depot

Not much to report this month from the hard-working crew that carry out their existence at Dunsfold Park. Due to a lot of the staff going away into foreign parts this restricted what the team could do.

The main concern this month is that the depot generator has given up the ghost. This is rather annoying considering the fact that it is only just under two years old, and needless to say it is out of warranty. The engine is perfect, that runs a treat, but no sign of electricity coming out of the alternator. The supplier's technical bods have been contacted and their advice taken and put into practice, but still the beast refuses to generate anything other than muttering from the team.

We did have some success in other areas. Mick Jones had another look at the carb on the Swedish Mixer, having stripped it down and cleaned everything within sight, once put back together the thing started and ran like a good'un. It is now ready for use should it be needed.

Yours truly has been out into the foreign, well Brewhurst lock really, apparently some kind-hearted soul had decided that their need of a keb was greater than the Trust's. They had managed to wrench said rake from its housing in the stop plank shelter, so the securing device was replaced

and another keb fitted. We hope this will last a bit longer until we can design a superior locking device.

The last Wednesday of the month saw us decamping to the Gun's Mouth to transport a load of unwanted junk, sorry stores, from Bridge End to the shared shed at the canal side. The weather was against us, damp and miserable, but the task was completed. We also managed to increase John Piper's knowledge of Trust geography.

Well, that's all folks for this month. All the best
John Smith

Summit (Northern) Working Party

A short report this month as your correspondent has shamefully failed to attend a single working day during the month of July so the contents are very much second hand.

The major (and on-going) operation has been the dismantling of the site compound at Compasses and its move to the slipway area. It was November 2014 when we arrived on site and started to erect the timber hoarding around the perimeter of what has been our home for two years and eight months. The compound has been essential to the successful outcome of the project. It has been a step change in the way volunteers have operated on the canal and all the Trust's larger projects can expect to have such a facility.

The major part of the move was on 19th July when the regular team had the assistance of a hired flat bed truck with Hiab crane, a small telehandler and the Trust's Land Rover and trailer. The truck moved the containers and site office and much of the other heavy equipment (fuel stores etc) – eight trips were involved. Thanks to the team who worked into the early evening to break the back of the job.

A new Summit WP base has now sprung up at the top of the road leading down to the proposed slipway – our next project due for completion Spring 2018. Space is much more limited here but no doubt we will manage.

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	01483 429918	jcst@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		dave_evans@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	01903 744767	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

We have not quite finished up at the bridge. The steps to the landing stage need concreting and another (much smaller so we are promised) retaining wall has to be built on the Tickners/ Airfield side of the bridge. We will be working on Saturdays 5, 12 and 19 August. As always, volunteers new and old are welcome and we can find work for everyone who turns up. Contact Dave Evans or myself. Details below.

Bill Nicholson

Mid-Week Working Party

The group has cleared a variety of areas with the main area being Harsfold Bridge to Haybarn. This is an area the team loves going to and numbers have been high. Where we have cleared it is looking very good but there is still a great deal of work to clear the base, over hanging branches, old trees and vegetation. Other jobs we have done in between are clearing from Tickner's to Compasses on the towpath side, Compasses to Farnhurst and Loxwood to DHL on the towpath side with two members on *May Upton* clearing the red spot dead trees on the non-towpath side and logs out of the canal at Southland. For two weeks a small group helped an archaeological dig on Gosden Aqueduct and helped take the old bricks out of the river

Training: I would like a volunteer from all the working parties to do a First Aid Course as each group should have at least one and really two people with up to date First Aid certificates.

Also please can I have names of anyone wanting to do a spraying course for GHW. Please email me at margaret.darvill@btinternet.com

Margaret Darvill

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

The calendar dictated three meetings in July. At our first meeting we were able to bring all our regular sites up to date, which is easy to say but time consuming to achieve!

Having visited Lordings on 22nd May (see June WPM) the site required our attention again and, accordingly nine of us spent all day there on 17th



Above:
Monday group at Lordings, July 2017 (Roger Wilson)



Right:
Monday group at Orfold (Dave Verrall)

July. That site suffers prolific growth and we had a lot to do including 'rolling up' the carpet of weeds etc from the bottom of the lock to reveal the brickwork so competently laid under the direction of the late and great Winston Harwood. Finally on the last day of July we made our first visit this year to Malham lock which was probably more overgrown than in previous years. At the request of the landowner we spent a lot of time cutting and tidying up the hedge on the meadow side of the wire fence to the lock. We didn't quite finish the job and will need to return again shortly. C'est la vie!

We meet again on 7th and 21st August when we shall need to return to our normal sites.

Nick Wood

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 (not in summer)	Hedge Laying	Contact Keith Nichols
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans