

Editorial

The last *WPN* of the year means it is time to wish all workers, readers, supporters and friends a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2019. Thanks for all of your support during 2018.

The date has been fixed for the 2019 'Poddle' sponsored walk. Margaret Darvill leads the organising team for this, as well as co-ordinating the Mid-Week Working Party. Margaret says that the walk, on 2 June, will start at Bramley Village Hall, and will take in the new section at Birtley, along with Rooks Hill Farm, Albury and Blackheath.

Shortly before this, on 19th May, is the small boat rally on the River Arun from Pulborough to Pallingham. With so much happening at present on the summit and Northern end it is easy to overlook the southern extremity of the navigation. Small boats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards are invited to come together to help maintain navigation rights on the River Arun, without which the term 'London's Lost Route to the Sea' would be a lot less meaningful.

Finally, a note of sadness. As this issue was being put together we learned of the passing of Keith Nichols, leader of the hedgelaying group. Regular readers will be well aware that Keith's last few reports were written from hospital in Chichester, where he was being treated for cancer. He lost his short battle with the disease on 24 November. He kept his unique and quirky sense of humour to the end, refusing to be defeated. Our condolences go to Penny, to the members of his group, and to all of his many friends.

Bill

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

A part from a brief visit to Compasses Bridge in Amid-November to bring the site 'up to scratch', unusually for us we spent all our four November outings working on the restored section with Kevin.

We started November off well with an extended outing, 10 of us only going home when the light began seriously to fail. We cleared and burnt all the branches and debris from the towpath, which Kevin had cleared out of the canal from the work undertaken by contractors and MWWP, between Drungewick Lane Bridge and the lock and around the non-towpath side at the heavy plant crossing at Drungewick. We also secured the relocated seat north of Baldwins Knob lock and laid the paving slabs.

At our second and third sessions we continued brush cutting, clearing the banks and cutting the hedge between Birch Copse and Baldwins Knob lock. As a result this task is nearly completed in that it

may require one more day's work to finish. As part of this we also repaired the fence at Barnshill Bridge. Then we transferred our attention to cutting back the undergrowth on the non-towpath side of the canal round the winding hole at Brewhurst Lane Bridge and south for about 150 yards in preparation for raising the banks along this low lying section. This is essentially preparatory work required to allow the canal bank to be raised in order that the water level can be raised by 2in next year. So, from our point of view, another worthwhile month.

It's that time of the year again to send our good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our canal colleagues. Have a good one from all of the Mrs Bucket Group!

Nick Wood



Two pictures received from the Monday Group, taken by Roger Wilson (lengthsman with his wife Margaret) on 11 November showing the canal flooded at Northlands lifting Bridge and water flowing over the towpath from the canal into a flooded River Arun near Newbridge.

Eric Walker Group at Tickner's Heath



This page and next - some before and after shots by Dennis Gillen showing the refurbishment work undertaken by the EWG at the Trust's Tickner's Heath Depot.

Eric Walker Group

The group has spent most of the last few weeks continuing with the refurbishment operations at the Trust's Tickners Heath Depot. We have filled numerous skips include some with metal scrap and also disposed of a number of irreparable pumps and mixers.

Work continues on repairing the three small and one large Nissen huts. On 5/6th December a specialist contractor will apply a layer of polyurethane sprayed foam to the inside surfaces of all four buildings, thus encapsulating the asbestos based sheeting and providing insulation. Once this is completed we will help John Smith and his team to move their plant, tools and equipment from their existing workshop (before it falls down) into the newly created workshop in the large Nissen hut.

It was hoped by the end of this year we would have installed mains electricity on the site. However, due to an issue over a "legal right of way" with UK Power Network, this has been delayed and hopefully this will now go ahead early in the new year. Once John and his team have been moved, we will then proceed

to part demolish the old workshop and two other buildings which have asbestos sheet roofing. This, of course, will be done by a specialist company with whom we have placed an order. By retaining the side and back walls of the old workshop and adding partition walls, this structure will be used to store bulk materials such as aggregate, sand etc.

As well as work at Tickners Depot, we have helped Kevin Baker with a couple of small jobs (landing stages and quadrants at Brewhurst Lock). We have also removed the mature hedging along the west side of Drungewick Lock, ready for a ground investigation company to carry out borehole work on 28th November.

Dennis Gillen

Stop press - Keith Nichols will be privately cremated on Friday 14 December. Afterwards, at 2pm, there will be a non-religious service at Loxwood Church, followed by light refreshments and memories at the North Hall. All welcome at Church and Hall - please let Penny Line know if you are attending.

Working Party Diary

Every Wednesday and Thursday	Mainly construction work	Details from Dennis Gillen/John Reynolds
Every Monday	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Details from Margaret Darvill
Monday to Friday (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 tba
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans
First Friday of the month	PEST boat group	Contact Chris Jones/Peter Hyem

Boat Group PEST

For our November outing the PEST working party worked with Kevin Baker following up the work of the tree-felling team on the stretch of the navigation south of the Drungewick Lane slipway.

The tree-felling operations had, inevitably, left a considerable amount of cut material in the canal. Using three boats, *Josias Jessop* (PEST team), *May Upton* (Kevin Baker) and an electric dory (Mr and Mrs Julius Mach) all of the debris from the felling operation was removed from the navigation. The PEST team then proceeded south to Drungewick

Lock removing debris from the water and cutting back some of the more egregious outgrowth from the bank.

Plenty more work of this nature remains to be done if we are to keep this currently unused part of the navigation in good order.

Anyone wishing join the working party should contact:

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Chris Jones



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John Talbot	Health & Safety Director	01483 429918	jcst@weyandarun.co.uk
Dennis Gillen	Eric Walker Group		dennis_gillen@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	07920 755957	kevin_baker@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
To be appointed	Hedge laying		
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