

Editorial

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers a very happy New Year. We hope you all had a good Christmas - as you will see from the picture opposite, the date didn't stop one particular band of volunteers .

2016, as well as being the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal, was very much a year of highs and lows for our working parties, an undoubted high point being the inauguration of the new Compasses Bridge, thus returning the possibility of navigation to a major part of the canal's summit level. 2017 promises much as well.

There is still time to book your place at the Navvies' Lunch on 1 February - we have repeated last month's booking form, so there's no excuse for staying away.

Bill



Taken on Christmas Day in Hunt Nature Park, Shalford. The team enjoy some mulled wine. Happy New Year to all our members and fellow working party volunteers (Sally Schupke)

Thursday and Sunday Group

As we come to the end of the year, the weather has been kind to us, but now we can blame the sun for going to bed early making the working days shorter. Bulk deliveries of Type 1 were missed twice and then the wrong material was delivered. The TSG folk involved in preparing the ramps had never done the like before so it was a steep leaning curve. Danilo reminded us the other day how many sleepless nights he had before the pouring of the bridge arch, because he had taken responsibility for making the centering. No doubt he will find something else to worry about.

Contingency plans were made in case the preparation for pouring the concrete ran into the new year. JJ Price and Geoff Thomas did extra days on the parapets to bring the bridge brickwork up to the string courses (the string course corresponds to the level of the concrete ramp).

So it was, on 22 December, by pouring our last big concrete pour of some 29 cubic metres, or 64 tonnes if you like, two major milestones in the construction of Gennets Bridge Lock were achieved. They were the completion of the bridge roadway concreting and the first lift on the top sill walls. Well done to Martyn Baker and his sub-group who have been meticulous in their preparations for the top sill walls over many months. All the concreting was all done by midday and then home for the Merry Christmas shopping.

On such a bright note, we hope all the readers of WPN have a Happy New Year. We next meet on Thursday 5th January. 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

Summit (Northern) Working Party

December has been quite a busy month at Compasses although the short cold days makes progress on the ground difficult to see sometimes.

At the beginning of the month, KESCRG and LWRG helped us make significant progress with the major task of completing the long length of concreting behind the extended wing wall (my optimism about using the green mixer was misplaced as it broke down before its first mix!). This leaves us to complete the brick coping, a long job which whilst progressing steadily, is dependent on the weather and on having a skilled bricklayer available. The visiting team also completed the bank retaining work adjacent to the mobile home park, and progressed the kerbing and surfacing works between the security cabin and the bridge.

For the rest of the month, and including four days between Christmas and New Year, JJ has soldiered on with brick facing the pub side



Northern working party removing the dam at Compasses Bridge, using the Trust's excavator (Bill Nicholson)

retaining wall; Graham Hawkes and Steve Melling have done the same with the aforementioned copings. We have started to remove the dam and silt closest to the bridge using a 6 ton hired dumper and the Trusts' large excavator and in the process have uncovered the landing stage built by NWPG some years ago. In the compound, there has been a massive tidy up to enable the new (well second hand) toilet and washing block to be installed and plumbed in. This will provide enhanced levels of comfort for our volunteers.

NWPG will visit again on 14/15 January when

we plan to split our work between Hunt Park and Compasses. Planned work includes the removal of the site compound at Hunt Park and some tree felling; at Compasses, there is more bricklaying to do and the construction of a second retaining wall on the airfield side of the bridge to start. After we meet again on 21st January for our usual third Saturday working party.

New members are always welcome to join our team - details from me, Bill Nicholson or site manager Dave Evans.

Bill Nicholson

| 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 Officer | 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 | | compasses@weyandarun.co.uk |
| Bill Thomson | Working Party News | 01903 744767 | bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk |

Hedgelaying Group

Happy Brew Year, Hoppy New Beer, em, Ah Yes, Happy Beer to everyone for 2017.

This missive comes to you from the secret travelling office that, as in the last missive, is nowhere near the Anchor Tap. I had hoped to include a photo of the 'secret site' but MI5 stopped me.

We have had another five days on this site and I had hoped to be there on 29 December to finish off/clear up, but conditions refused to allow it. We will therefore have the first Tuesday in January 2017 there to do the above. Thereafter, we will be on the canal from above Gennets to Rosemary Lane. My last comments on this site will be, therefore, in February WPN. Well, that's something to look forward to! Isn't it? Oh! Suit yourself then.

As this is for the year ending 2016 I would like to thank all the volunteers for their continued support which includes the three new volunteers: John, Steve and Graham. Cheers, chaps.

My bonfire cooking screw-ups for this last season include: 1, burnt bacon; 2, charred chipolatas; 3, a black baguette.

Working party reviews and scores, next time. Well, that's something to look forward to, or is it? Say la vie, go on - la vie. 'Til next time.

Keith Nichols

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

In December the Group finally got round to tidying up Malham lock on the 19th after a false start earlier in the month. It was really overgrown,



Monday Group at Malham Lock:
1 before work,
2 during work
3 after, work
(pictures taken on 1 December, by Keith Quince)

(Editor's note - those images certainly bring back fond memories of early working parties there way back in the 1970s)

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 |

the result of a long period without a visit (see photos)!

We meet again on the 9th and 23rd January. Work in prospect for the early months of 2017 is likely to be clearance in Sidney Wood, the 1500 yards between Firtree Copse and lock 16, usually requiring four outings and hedge trimming south of Haybarn swing bridge.

Nick Wood

Tickner's Heath Depot

As we only worked (!) two Wednesdays in December there really is not a lot to report from the depot this month.

For those who have been paying attention to recent scribblings from yours truly, you may recall that I was very pessimistic about the prospects for the outboard of the *Wasp*, but as usual our the trusty team of skilled mechanics had other ideas. With Charlie Coxwell's help a new impeller was obtained and fitted and the beastie was given an extensive run in our test tank. No sign of the overheating red light was spotted, so all that now needs to be done is for it to be given a run attached to the *Wasp* to see if the extensive cleaning and repair programme has done the business.

We also had some success with the outboards Kev Baker dropped off at the depot, or should I say the team did. One was given a service and seemed to be running OK, whilst on the other, a Yamaha, the team sweated blood to adapt part of a door lock to make a choke lever only for me to ruin their hard work by dropping it whilst putting it back in the shed and completely wrecking it. All it is now useful for is spare parts, sorry chaps.

You can see why I have been relegated to collecting and delivering items to and from the canal side - I should add that the team does seem to function better when I am away on a jaunt.

One final thing, I did report in previous *WPNS* that we had a quantity of logs at the depot which could be collected on a Wednesday and that this had to be put on hold because of the need to supply the Santa Cruises. Well, I can now report that after delivering what was requested to Loxwood we still have quite a pile which anyone is welcome to reduce (I'm sure the treasurer would welcome a donation to WACT funds). I can be contacted through depot@weyandarun.co.uk or via either of the WACT offices regarding collection on a Wednesday. Unfortunately we cannot deliver.

So, other than a general tidying up, that's about it for 2016.

All the best

John Smith

Mid-Week Working Party

The group has done a wonderful job continuing to clear the canal basin and banks at Haybarn on the non public footpath and half clearing up as far as Lee Farm Lock. It now looks like a canal, albeit one with very little water in it. We have one or two more weeks to complete the task and then we will move on.

Numbers have been in the high twenties for three of the four weeks partly due to lovely sunny weather and also because every one likes working there as it is away from the traffic and aeroplanes. The only problem is the potholes down to the site. Happy New Year to every one

Margaret Darvill

MWWP Luncheon - 1 February 2017

The annual Lunch will be held at Foxbridge Golf Club, Foxbridge Lane, Plaistow Road, Kirdford , RH14 0LB. All past and present members of the Mid Week Working Party and their partners are cordially invited to attend. As numbers are limited, bookings will only be accepted with a menu choice and cheque together, and must be received by Wednesday 11 January 2017 at the latest, by post only.

Di Miles

Please make cheques payable to Mrs D.J.Miles and send, with menu choice, to:
8 Newlands, Buckingham Close, Guildford GU1 1TR, Home phone : 01483 575804.
Cost for any two courses £19.15; three courses £22.50.

Form for each attendee , please.

Attendee Name:

Menu Choice (please indicate your choice below):

Starter:

Spiced Parsnip Soup, Rustic Croutons, *or* Ardennes Pate, Toast, Apple Chutney, *or* Butterfly Prawns, Mixed Leaves, Sweet Chilli Dip

Main:

Chicken, Leek and Mustard Pie, *or* Beef Bourguignon
(both served with Creamed Potatoes & a selection of fresh Vegetables); *or*
Roasted Cod Fillet, Provencal Sauce, served on a Warm New Potato & Green Salad

Desserts:

Sticky Toffee Pudding, Caramel Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream; *or* Pear and Apple Crumble, Custard.

Cheese & Biscuits

Coffee & Mints