

Editorial

The Trust's working party activities are covered under a blanket insurance policy arranged through the Inland Waterways Association.

There are few age-related restrictions. Those under the age of 18 would not be expected to be found on a construction site, though properly supervised young people may take part in work such as clearance of vegetation and rubbish.

There are no upper age limits as such, although personal accident cover is limited to those between 16 and 75. People in charge of work parties are expected to take into account the level of fitness, and mental and physical ability, of all volunteers.

In case of any questions, Julian Cheek has copies of the IWA Notes which will be useful when assigning tasks, or if asked questions.

Don't forget the Trust's Autumn Meeting in Pulborough on 28 October, when there will be updates from the various project managers.

Bill

Thursday and Sunday Group

We were amazed, some of the horse fraternity are calling the bridge at GBL 'Tilly's Bridge' because Tilly was the first horse across it; all part of the ups and downs of project work.

During August we had a visit by the senior officer for Natural England in Kent and Sussex with a group of five of his team members, including two trainees. They were "Really impressed with the works the Trust have undertaken and pleased with the new solutions you implemented." They recommend for the future: "An organisation license which could be considered for the Trust ... which would allow future works to take place where newts exist in return for building in a strategy for newts into the work plans supporting the delivery of positive habitat creation and management which would support the key needs of newts in this landscape." That's all good news for the Trust where at GBL using the site licence system, which was the only one available at the time, cost £20k and a delay of two years.

August saw the bricklaying in the lock almost completed and casting the copings well in hand. As for the winding hole, it is as complete as it needs to be at this stage of the project.

Preparations to clear the site are in hand and the purchase of the four different grass seed mixes will go forward shortly. The biggest quantity of seed is for wetland meadow, which the site is, being at the bottom of a field with a clay sub-surface. The others are pond surround mix, for



Horse Tilly crossing the bridge that now (unofficially) bears her name (Eric Walker)

just that, clay meadow (around the winding hole) and hard wearing (around the lock). What the TSG has to do now is clear the ground, cabins, concrete etc and cover it with top soil if required and till it, ready for the grass. To keep the Hedging Group happy the 771 hedging plants, for 134m of new hedge, have been ordered for delivery in November.

As part of the hibernacula, now taking shape on the site close to the bridge, it is hoped to introduce some insect hotels.

We are still recycling car batteries, give us a call if you have one. And the sale of logs is going well too, just a few left.

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

Mid-Week Working Party

August has been a busy month for our working party with record numbers attending on some weeks and very low numbers on others due to the different weather conditions

We have had three separate weeks at Loxwood clearing the canal of timber and reeds as far as the slipway at Drungewick, the towpath of brambles and weeds and also worked on the car park at Loxwood. This should make it easier for boats to navigate and the punters to have a better view as well as making the area look much tidier. In between we have been back to Hunt Park where



The MWWP's efforts, improving the hedge at Haybarn (Nick Houston)

Hedgelaying Group

Traditional greetings to one and all. Well, that's our summer break all but over as I hope to reconvene the Group on Tuesday 26 September. That is, weather and willing volunteers being agreeable. This should take place at the Slinfold Coppice.

We will have the following areas to work in this season:

1. Slinfold Coppice
2. Haybarn North Hedge
3. Devils Hole Coppice
4. Gennets North - Rosemary Lane Hedge

Keith Nichols

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

On 7 August we gave four of our regular sites a real 'going over'. In addition to the usual mowing and strimming, at the Drungewick aqueduct site, we repaired and modified the gate to the Roger Dimmock lane to prevent it being lifted off its hinges again by future miscreants; at Loxwood we cleared the ditch at the bottom of the canal bank and cut the overflow car park and kept up appearances at Devil's Hole and Southland locks. We have been asked to 'look after' Gennets Bridge lock and its immediate environment too when Eric and his team move off site.

At the request of the landowner and working in co-operation with MWWP, on the 21st, eight of us spent all day at Haybarn continuing cutting and trimming the hedge south of the swing bridge (as well as doing our usual tidying up around the swing bridge). This hedge has grown too high and is in real need of TLC. So far both groups have now made one visit each and between us we reckon some 85 yards has received a haircut. It is going to be quite a task to complete it as far as the Lee Farm causeway.

We meet again on 4 September and 18 September when we will need to visit our regular sites to 'keep up appearances'.

Nick Wood

we took out more bricks from Gosden Aqueduct from Cranleigh Waters, ground down a large trunk to clear the end of the aqueduct, cleared a great deal of Himalayan Balsam and reseeded one of the Cranleigh river banks where flood repair had been completed.

We have also been back to Haybarn where some of the group reduced the height of 50 yards of a hedge to 5ft 6 in. This job is made more difficult by most branches having to be lopped as they are very thick because it has been left far too long. Others in the group continued to clear the base of the canal and banks. Eventually we will clear the whole length between Haybarn and Harsfold bridge. We are back to Haybarn to do our annual clear up next month

Margaret Darvill

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
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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

Tickner's Heath Depot

Quite a quiet month here at the depot. Most of our time has been spent getting the depot ready for the influx of items coming from Gennets Bridge Lock. Racks have been erected to house the large amount of Kwik Stage Scaffolding and Acrow Props, and on the final Wednesday we entertained JJ Price who kindly used the Trust's 360 to clear the pile of old concrete rubble which gives us a bit more space in preparation of what's to come.

One job that has been on the back burner is improving the anti-slip on the stairs leading up the Granary Office, a task that needs to be done when the weather is fine and dry, as we had no idea of the length of time the job would take. Mick Jones and Richard Powell decamped to Loxwood to see how long it takes to remove the old stuff, surprisingly with the aid of a hot air gun the strip was removed in seconds, we can now see that to remove the old strips, coat the steps with a sealant and stick the new strips in place will take the best part of two days. As the office is manned Monday to Friday it will best be done over a weekend. All that needs to be done now is to wait for decent weather and one more item can be crossed off the 'to do' list.

As you no doubt remember, we have had trouble with the depot's static generator. So as one of our members (John Piper) really needs power for his cuppa, we cast our eyes towards the Trust's rather old generators of dubious vintage. One was selected which, from memory, hadn't run for some years. Again our star mechanics set to and after groaning and moaning the beastie started and proved capable of producing sufficient voltage to power most of our lights and tools. The only trouble is that we may find ourselves in breach of the 'Noise at Work Regulations'.

Finally, on one of the better days, we decided to look at the old work boat which has been languishing in the depot for years. It was covered with a tarp but this has become rather religious (holey) so we removed said tarp and pumped the



Elderly workboat unveiled and pumped out (John Piper)

old girl out. Now we need to decide what to do with her: please send your suggestions on the back of a £10 note to John Smith c/o Tickners Heath Depot.

To see the team in action please cast your peepers on the photo above.

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

Situation Vacant

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust wishes to recruit a Duty Ranger for the section of canal between Southland and Drungewick Locks in Loxwood, West Sussex.

Duties would include maintenance (including small to medium repairs) of the canal infrastructure. The DR must be capable of carrying out prompt, safe and effective maintenance and repairs. Given the locations involved, the DR will need to use their own vehicle. The Trust expects that the DR would need to spend 1 – 2 days per week, dependent on the number of jobs to be done. This is expected to be a paid position.

Applications should be made to: Sally Schupke, Wey & Arun Canal Trust, Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Guildford GU4 8EQ or by email to support@weyandarun.co.uk

Closing Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

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
9th/10th September	Heritage open days	Look for details on website and in <i>Wey-South</i>
28th October, 2.30pm	WACT Autumn Meeting	Pulborough Village Hall