

Editorial

Quite a short one this time - couldn't stretch it to more than two pages. On another topic, all of the work reported here requires money. We get very little in the way of public funding, so have to rely on private fundraising. It's great to see that the recent Puddle raised some £10,000, and that the LocalGiving initiative has brought in an amazing £57,000 since 2013.

Bill

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

Fortunately by early June the ground had dried out sufficiently to enable nine of us to spend all day down at Lordings, which was considerably overgrown. We brushcut, mowed and strimmed all around the lock and the cleared the towpath all the way past the flood lock to Winston's bridge as well as completing the clearance of the mud from the bottom of the waterwheel, started by Brian King.

Visits to all our 'regular' sites occupied the other three weekly meetings in order to contain the vegetation and to keep the sites looking tidy. In particular, much time was spent at Tickner's, extending the site by strimming the road verges with due regard to our safety and undertaking an extensive litter pick. At Haybarn, in addition to strimming around the swing bridge (as usual), we cleared the towpath and removed overhanging branches northwards to the 90-degree canal bend.

Unfortunately, despite all the work done by MWWP and ourselves, the towpath and hedge south of Haybarn are all overgrown again.

July looks to be more of the same plus a visit to Malham lock to tidy up following our three visits in February & March.

Nick Wood

Northern (Summit) Working Party

The good news is that during the month the slipway team has completed the concrete ramp down to the bottom. Once the dam has been removed it will join the canal. The honed skills of the mixing and laying teams ensured that the concrete stayed put and didn't slump down the steep slope into the canal. There is still some rough blinding concrete to be put below the ramp so that any boat trailers don't just drop off the edge never to come out!

Other work to be tackled at the end of the month includes some concrete bag work to support the clay banks between the canal and slipway and the back filling of the north wall and construction of the concrete walkway. Report on this next time.

Much of our leader Dave's time this month has been spent in completing the paperwork to support our activities. Required by our insurers before each working party, these comprise task plans, risk and method statements. They have to be specific to the project and site and can't be generic and unless agreed in advanced we are not insured for the work that we do. This is also the case for the week-long summer camp that visiting group NWPG with local support will be doing on the Loxwood section in July.

With 20 volunteers on site for seven working days it is hoped to complete most of the listed improvements to Brewhurst and Loxwood New Locks and as much of the replacement timber waling (yes that again!) under and around the road bridge.



Left: Northern working party pose for a team picture to mark the final concreting work on the slipway ramp. Above: slipway nears completion (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 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
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
Chris Jones	Boat group PEST	01403 752393	chrisryderjones@outlook.com
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	01903 744767	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

Day workers are welcome but please could you e-mail Bill (Nicholson) or Dave (Evans) if you plan to join us so that we can ensure that you receive the necessary safety briefings.

Bill Nicholson

Eric Walker Group

The EWG has been gainfully employed at Tickner's Depot for the last few weeks. We have cleared away various piles of redundant scrap timber and metal, including four mortar mixers that were hardly visible in the dense undergrowth.

We have positioned the welfare cabin from Gennets Bridge Lock into its final location and laid a "creatively designed" hard standing in front of it.

Work is now ongoing repairing the block work to the largest shed. There are a number of small buildings to be demolished, which will happen when we find places to store their contents. We have also completed various other "small" tasks.

An exploratory trench was excavated along the back of the west wall of Drungewick Lock to determine the existence of any buttresses. A field drain was laid along the verge approaching Compasses Bridge to prevent water going into the gardens of the mobile home park.

Next month there are a number of small projects planned, towpath repairs etc and of course work will continue at Tickner's.

Dennis Gillen

Mid-Week Working Party

The group has been split up this last month as we have had to do a number of small jobs. We have cleared the towpath between Loxwood and Southland so the visitors can see both out of the boat and the users of the towpath can see the water.

Time was spent at Gosden Aqueduct clearing all the vegetation on one face and trying to get a very large root out on the other. All sorts of tools have been used to try and get it out but so far without success. A couple of group members cleared the footpath from Harsfold to Lordings and cleared the triangle between the river and the canal there. The grass has grown up so fast this year. It should have been done weeks ago.



Ray Pick

For those who knew Ray Pick, who was my immediate predecessor as MWWP leader, I am sorry to report he died at the beginning of June. His funeral was held on Tuesday 3rd July at St Nicholas Church, Cranleigh, and afterwards at the Rugby Club.

Margaret Darvill

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 Keith Nichols
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans