

Editorial

Dust off your dinghies, clean up your canoes. 13th of May sees the annual small boat rally to the site of Pallingham Lock, which is the tidal limit of the River Arun as well as the historic start point of the canalised section. As well as being an enjoyable, if challenging, day out on the water the event has a serious purpose too. It was started many years back by the local branch of the Inland Waterways Association in order to maintain the right of navigation on the upper Arun. The Trust has since assumed the mantle of organisers, but the campaigning spirit still applies.

Bill

Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

We did say back to our regular sites after Easter! We started at Run Common with the usual task of clearing the site of the rubbish left by the great British public over the winter despite the nearness of the Cranleigh amenity centre (dump). We also cleaned signs and seats at Drungewick, Loxwood and Devils Hole lock and the picnic table and milestone at the latter.

A large number of volunteers at our second outing allowed us to undertake a considerable number of tasks at Loxwood, assisting Kev Baker, clearing rubbish left by 'someone' behind the sewerage building, tidying the car park, cutting back on the bank by the bridge, cleaning seats, mowing and strimming the lock. Drungewick, Compasses and DHL also received attention. At the latter we installed two spur posts to stabilise the noticeboard.

We continued with 'keeping up appearances' at Southland, Devils Hole and Loxwood locks at our third meeting, as well as strimming around the 12 trees on the 'chicane' between Southland and Devils Hole and cut vegetation at Three Compasses Bridge and Run Common. No fourth meeting in April as heavy rain precluded grass cutting etc.

The last month saw some group members attending brushcutter and first aid training.

Nick Wood

Thursday and Sunday Group

The month was taken up by finishing the landscaping and final cosmetic touches ready for the completion ceremony. The very wet weather during April severely delayed topsoils spreading and hedge and tree planting. However, the change



Vanal neighbour Nigel Gibbons at the lock completion ceremony

to warm and sunny weather in the week prior to the completion ceremony on 21st April and a determined effort by our volunteers.

The group has now moved on to do some work at Tickner's Depot and will assist Kev Baker with some of his maintenance projects.

Dennis Gillen

Hedgelaying Group

Nice to vada your dolly old eeks once again. How are your lallies? Ours are fine. Jules and Sandy have promised to join the erstwhile Hedgelaying Group if Mr 'Orne does. Won't that be bona?!

So, What's New Pussycat? Well the team has excelled itself as we have moved on from 107 yards of laying to 180 yards in total in April and this is despite Tuesday 10th being cancelled.

We have taken long strides especially on the 3rd as the canal was overflowing through the dip in the towpath. The wheelbarrow almost became a boat which would have been difficult as I don't possess a Masters Certificate.

The team has thinned out another 15 yards which includes the 10 yards end point for this season. I hope that we can do another two days of laying but the Nightingales are back. I've heard three males around us on the 24th. If they go quiet suddenly then they are nesting and we will have to stop. So another 40 yards to lay, or not.

The birds are singing and the spring flowers are in flower so it must be Spring but you never know what the weather may have in store for us.

So that's it from my Mobile Office (Malt Shovel and Anchor Tap) and it's lucky that I don't drink. Yes, I don't drink wine. Just beer.

Cheers (Hic) All (Hic)

Keith Nichols

Mid-Week Working Party

This month has seen MWWP in a number of places. We spent a couple of weeks at Haybarn, clearing the hedge from the field side before bird nesting started. It now looks like a hedge rather than lots of spindly trees.

We also cleared Lee Farm Lock whilst we were there. A large branch had come away in one of the storms and left the lock completely blocked. This took a great deal of time and effort to remove.

We then moved to Hunt Park and cleared a number of dead branches on the school side of the Cranleigh Waters and cleared up sawdust from where an ash tree had been taken out on Gosden Aqueduct. Also time was taken to expose the roots and remove them from the Aqueduct.

We then spent a couple of weeks on the navigational section clearing brambles back and cutting the hedge in preparation for the towpath improvements. I do hope the weather will improve so that we can all enjoy some well earned sunshine.

Margaret Darvill

Tickner's Heath Depot

We had hoped that, with the return of warmer weather, we could turn our attention to those outside jobs which have been conveniently ignored during the winter months. But with the return of the cold damp stuff we have had to put these onto the back burner once again.

During the month work still went on to try and find out exactly what has caused our generator to misbehave. John Piper and David Robson investigated every circuit and mechanical part of the beast and at last they may have come up with a possible solution. So hopefully next month's missive may have good news. With the possibility of the depot being electrified once this generator has been restored to full health, it can then be released to any working party in need of it. Although rather heavy it packs quite a punch and delivers in the region of 6KVA of power which should prove useful.

Later in the month Mike Davison was kind enough to give Mick Jones and Richard Powell a chance to exercise their mechanical skills when he dropped off (not literally I should add) one of his mowers which had the audacity to fail to perform at the start of the grass cutting season. Fuel systems were looked at and blown through and with much cheering and flag waving, off she went full bore and, according to Mike, has given sterling service ever since.

Another kind person who realised that we were spending too much time lounging around was Dave Evans who gave us some work when the water trailer electrics malfunctioned. Initially I cast an eye over it and attempted to put my limited skills at the disposal of the team, without success I might add. So when called away on urgent business Richard Powell and Mick Jones stepped in and on my return, all had been sorted out. Who said jinx? At the same time Richard and Mick managed to refit the jockey wheel to one of the small trailers making it easier to manhandle it in and out of the sheds.

As you know doubt know Mick is our resident grass cutting expert. So when Tony Tyrrell dropped off a strimmer that he no longer needed Mick immediately set to work ensuring that it was a serviceable item that could be used anywhere in the Trust's empire. We are pleased to say that after a short inspection and a few minor tweaks the said strimmer burst into life, and off Mick went to give it a road test reducing some of the vegetation around the depot.

Earlier in the month he and Richard had ensured that the depot's sit-on mower was ready for the fray by giving it a service and ensuring all would be in order for when the better weather arrives for good.

So other than a couple of outings in the Land Rover collecting and delivering items and cleaning down some of the Trust's chairs, that's about it for this month.

All the best

John Smith

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	Gennets Bridge Lock		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	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

Northern (Summit) Working Party

Four continuous days of work in the middle of April together with drier conditions at last have enabled us to make good progress on the slipway. The northern wall is now complete with its brick coping thanks to JJ. This still needs a small return wall to be built so it looks symmetrical with that on the southern wall. Change of plan. The scaffolding has been removed hopefully never to go back in!

The main job for our four days was to shutter and cast three re-inforced concrete beams that span the base of the slipway - essential to hold the side walls both apart and upright. As usual Dave Evans applied his knowledge and skill in avoiding us doing any unnecessary physical effort by placing the cement mixer at the top of the slipway, and using the digger to move the cement and ballast next to it. All the team had to do was to shovel it all into the mixer and tip it down the chute to where it was needed. The very bottom beam was filled using the 13 ton excavator as it was too far from the chute. We used 11 dumpy bags of ballast in the operation.

Being dry enough, we also managed to dig out the ground on either side of the slipway to enable vehicles to access the towpath both north and south. Further spoil management was undertaken on the large heap - or "Mount Dave" as we know it.

One of the advantages of the Trust having full time staff on site is that tasks can be tackled during the week and that volunteers can be called in to assist when needed. One such job was to concrete in the anchor piles for the wharf piling, tackled by Dave and supporting volunteers on Thursday last (26th April). This will facilitate what we hope will be good progress when NWPG visit for three days in early May when the wharf area will be the focus of our attention.

Please get in touch with either myself or Dave Evans if you would like to help. We meet every third Saturday of the month (next one 19th May) and often on other Saturdays as required. You are also welcome to join us on any day that a visiting group is on site.

Bill Nicholson



Northern working party making good progress on the summit level slipway (Bill Nicholson)

Working Party Diary

Every Sunday and Thursday	Mainly construction work	Details from Dennis Gillen/John Robinson
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