

Editorial

Bricklaying by volunteers at Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) officially started in late November, the voluntary work parties having previously laid blocks up to water level. With the contractors soon to complete their work at Compasses Bridge, there will be plenty there to keep volunteers occupied for some time to come.

David Daniels has recently left us - we thank him for all his efforts. Contact details for the Northern Office remain unchanged, but hours will be variable. David's position as visiting groups administrator has now been taken over on a voluntary basis by Maurice Cranefield.

All volunteer workers and friends are invited to attend the annual MWWP Navvies' lunch, which will again be held at the Foxbridge Golf Club near Loxwood, on 10 February 2016. Details and menu can be found in this issue of *WPN*.

Finally, may I draw your attention to the fact that bonfires are not currently permitted in the Onslow Arms area - see page 3.

And may we wish all readers a Happy Christmas and work-filled New Year.

Bill

Thursday and Sunday Group

The initial block courses have been completed in the lock. Now the priority is to do the brickwork on the bridge abutments. There was a small celebration, under the watchful eye of Sally Schupke, when that brickwork started on 26 Nov. There is another team, under Martyn Baker preparing the top sill for the reinforced concrete invert.



A couple of nails, obviously from the original build and of 1813 vintage, which would have been hand made, found at Gennets Bridge Lock have been sent to the Canal Centre for all to see. These and some others were used to hold a 3in x 3in plank let into the mitre on the gate side. This feature was seen at DHL, whether it was standard practice to put it in on original build or a repair during use, I do not know.

The Thursday and Sunday Group meets at 09:30. The TSG has a work briefing form emailed out before the working day. Please email Eric Walker if you want to get on that circulation list.

Eric Walker

Hedgelaying Team

Oh! Missis, Oh No, No - don't ask, Oh! I wouldn't, No, I shouldn't, Oh! alright then. The Prologue...

We work with sharp tools, chainsaws and tall trees (in all weathers) so what could possibly go wrong? Yes, I forgot to do a Risk Assessment. WHAT! For my bathroom. Dangerous things sinks and loos. I fell over and whacked my upper chest, almost the throat, on the sink edge. Did it hurt? Yes it xxxing did. A&E said I'd be out of action for a week or four.

The moral of the story? A good risk assessment is a great relief. Think about it.

Enough of that rubbish. We have spent three days working on the Bramley Hedge and even though the weather has been a little moist, work has proceeded at a pace. There is now only about 15m to do, i.e. one more day, which will be the first Tuesday in December, weather permitting. This will allow time for a few odds and ends in the run up to Christmas.

Which reminds me, Happy Festive Greetings to one and all. So that is all until next year from me, at home, in pain.

Keith Nichols

Visiting Groups - NWPG

A turnout of 17 volunteers (a new record for ANWPG!) at our mid-November working party saw the team working on three different sites along the summit. At Compasses Bridge a trench was dug by machine for the sewer diversion on the southern access road approach that was to be carried out by contractors the following week. Hand digging was necessary for the connection boxes at either end. On the bridge itself the con blocks cut by London WRG at the previous dig were laid along its length. These delineate the area into which the services will be laid. Scrub cut

down by LWRG was taken from the southern bank of the canal above the causeway and taken in the NWPG pick up for disposal. Heras fencing was taken down and re-erected - one of the regular jobs on this site.

At the new slipway site the two Robs with their chainsaws felled two large alders that were in the way of the slipway route. The logs were stacked for wildlife in the scrub on the cutting side, and the remainder disposed of. Further west at the depot the old scrap shed was demolished and the two galvanised gate posts for the new security gates installed and embedded in concrete.

Wet conditions leading up to the weekend curtailed some of our earth moving activities - we have to be careful to keep mud off the airfield roads. It was one of those weekends when a lot of work was done with little obvious to show for it.

Bill Nicholson

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well, as the year draws to its close we at the Outpost of the Trusts empire are slowly putting the depot to bed, with Dave Evans' crew removing vast tracts of the depot's vegetation. Some of our time has been spent getting rid of ivy and such like from buildings generally camouflaged by foliage.

However we have managed to do some work of a more technical nature (don't laugh). The Seagull outboard engine mentioned in the last missive has been successfully returned to full health and has roared into life. Well, more of a splutter really, but it's now useable.

After an inquiry into the health of the Green Goddess (that's the large 6in pump to you) the team decamped to Peter Foulger's farm to inspect the beast. After extracting various bits of wood and clag from the pump intake the old girl started up and sounded quite healthy, but the real proof of the pudding will come when Peter has time to give it a full pumping test canalside.

During the month our old chum and associate member Dan brought us two pumps that our contractor had no longer any use for. They were in

a bit of a state, one really only useable for spares, but the other, once the pump was assembled and with a few minor adjustments, proved to be in full working order pumping away to its heart's content in our test tank. We now have another useable 2in pump to add to our collection.

Mind you, that was not the end of our time with pumps, Dave Evans brought in one of his 3in pumps. From his report, the diagnosis seemed terminal, but after stripping the whole thing down to its bare bones nothing could be found which would account for the faults reported so we are in the process of reassembling and will give it a go to see if the fault surfaces again. Watch this space.

One other donation came from Tony Tyrell in the shape of a Pollard pillar drill. This was very good news as our little bench drill had given up the ghost some months ago. To get the drill to the depot was an undertaking in itself as it weighs in at about 250kg. This meant it had to be stripped down into more manageable chunks for transportation but after a bit of sweating and straining along with a some cursing it was at long last installed in our workshop. Thanks to Tony we have another handy addition to our workshop equipment.

Bill Nicholson had mentioned that the floor of the gas bottle compartment of the shower unit was looking a bit care worn so as part of our bedding down for the winter procedure this was replaced. It will hopefully last for another decade or so, which probably see the old beastie out.

Well that's about it for this month, so from the team here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New year. Keep smiling

John Smith

Summit (Northern) Working Party

This time we were 10-strong, and pleased to welcome David who had travelled down by train from London. Still room for more on our third Saturday work party! Our main task was to carry on with the new Tickner's security measures. This involved digging holes, mixing

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
Tuesdays or Fridays	Work in Lording's area	Contact Tony Clear for details
Various Tuesdays	Hedge Laying	Contact Keith Nichols
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans
10 February 2016	MWWP Navvies' Lunch	See page 3

concrete and trying to ensure that the new fence followed the line of the roadside hedge. By the end of the afternoon (about 3.30 at this time of year!) all the fence panels had been successfully put in plus the gates fitted and then removed, having decided that the posts were not strong enough for such tall items. We agreed that gates matching the height of the fence would be a far better solution all round. There's still another one day's work here with the remaining length of post and wire fence to put up. However, next time (19 December) we are likely to be at Hunt Park clearing up logs after WRG Forestry's visit to start thinning the trees along the cycleway - the to-be western bank of the canal. Good mid-winter work. If you would like to join us, see page 2 for contact details.

Bill Nicholson

Health and Safety - Important

The Volunteers' Starter Pack and the Bonfire Safety leaflet have been reissued. Eric Walker says that there are a number of changes to the volunteers time reporting and it has been decided that the '999' Form be replaced by a Health Contacts and Skills (HCS) Form which is required to be renewed each year.

Julian Cheek asks us to point out that no bonfires are currently permitted in the Onslow Arms area. This includes the car park, towpath and the extended area behind the paper skips. If any group leaders or working party members need a reminder of the Trust's policy on bonfires, this was published in *WPN* 257 (April 2015), or the full statement can be seen at Bridge End.

Mid-Week Working Party

MWPP Navvies and their partners, and non-active members of the Group, are invited to the Annual Luncheon on Wednesday 10th February 2016, at Foxbridge Golf Club, the same venue as the previous couple of years, with lunch being served promptly at 1pm.

As in previous years, there will be a choice of two or three courses, including coffee.

Wey & Arun Canal MWPP Lunch Menu Wednesday 10th February 2016

Starters

*Roasted Tomato & Red Bell Pepper Soup,
Rustic Croutons*

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Duck Liver Pate, Melba Toast, Onion Chutney

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*Deep-fried Brie Wedges, Mixed Leaves,
Spiced Apple Chutney*

Mains

Homemade Steak & Kidney Pudding, Mashed Potatoes

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*Supreme of Chicken, Boursin & Mushroom Sauce,
New Potatoes*

~

Classic Fish Pie

All served with a selection of fresh vegetables

Desserts

Crème Brulee, Shortbread Biscuit

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*Spiced Pineapple Upside Down Pudding,
Rum & Caramel Sauce*

~

Lemon Tart

Cream & Custard will be served

Coffee & Mints

The three course menu will cost £20.25, the two course menu will be £16.95. See opposite for menu choices.

Drinks may be purchased at the bar beforehand. Of course, all volunteer workers and friends are welcome, whether or not you are MWPP regulars.

Booking will be confirmed when cheques for the full amount are received.

Please RSVP to Di Miles or Trish Loveland, with your choice of dishes, on either di913@btinternet.com or ploveland222@btinternet.com

Di Miles

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Dave Evans	Health & Safety Officer		compasses@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	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
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