

## Littledale Work Weekend.

After weeks of planning, our long awaited work weekend had arrived. Most people arrived on the Friday evening, some travelling from as far as Birmingham. Whilst most of us just settled in and chilled, Jack and Pat A started work washing out the phone box. During the evening the assault course team ran through the plans, setting the sequence of works and a rough idea of the layout. After a light supper we retired to our bunks, ready for an early start.



Sun rise was at just after 5.30am. A handful of us saw this, as we were up on site for a start at 6.00am! We wanted to get the site set out before the arrival of the digger and too many feet. Then back for breakfast. At breakfast, people were allocated jobs, such as cleaning the bin store, gateway, barn and car park, painting the toilet block

and of course the assault course. The trailer was loaded with telegraph poles, pipes and tools and we set off to the top car park, leaving the



other teams to their main centre jobs. We split the assault course team into smaller units and started on the first obstacles. Whilst the auger team prepared the holes for the hurdles, the digger was used to prepare the bed for the 'Tom's Tunnel', with the much grunting and cursing, the pipe was positioned and



covered with earth, our first part of the jigsaw was in place! James set about removing trees and limbs, (of trees!) that were in the way. On the car park, Q and Kev, sorted through the poles, marking up and cutting to length. The digger team of Pat and Stu, moved back and started digging out the pond for 'Sarge's Swing'. Bang on 10.00am, as promised, the concrete wagon arrived on site, with our FREE load of concrete!

Many thanks go to Dave Squirrell from Bolton-le-Sands who arranged for both this and a generator as well. The arrival of the wagon meant that the chainsaws were deployed in a bit of hard pruning of the Hawthorne at the gateway. With the concrete on site, we were then able to start getting the post fixed in place. Q was left in charge of producing the two huge sets of shear legs that were needed to produce the frame for the swing. By lunch, we had the first set of legs ready for concreting in. These had to be raised in the beginnings of the pond; Sarge loved wallowing in the mud.



Whilst the assault course was taking shape, at the main centre jobs were being ticked off the list at an alarming rate of knots. Bill and his band of youngsters had already completed the bin store, the gateway and the car park. Jack was busy power washing the whole barn and the painting team were busy in the toilet block. The most productive work though, was taking place in the kitchen, where Janet and Tracye were busy producing another meal for the hungry workforce.

After lunch, were we were fortified not only with food, but with the arrival of extra recruits. We now had two gangs working on replacing the steps from the centre to the campfire circle. The painters aim was to finish the emulsion and make a start on the gloss whilst the assault course team wanted to get all the uprights concreted in place by the end of the day. It was decided to move the evening meal back to 7.30 to take full advantage of the beautiful day and James and



his saws, as he would not be with us on the Sunday. We did it, by the end of the day, a very tired but enthused workforce returned to a fantastic meat and tattie pie safe in the knowledge that all and more of the work needed was complete! Saturday night was a quite dignified event; well it would have been if Sarge and Ted hadn't rekindled their

'friendly' rivalry at cards!!!!

Sunday saw a rather leisurely rise at 7.30. After another great breakfast, it was back to work. The painters were onto glossing, Bill's team were onto filling the tipper with hardcore, topping off the bouldering wall base with bark and sorting out the compound and pioneering pole rack. Jack was sweeping and power washing paths. At the assault course, Q was sorting the swing, everyone else were forming 'jetties', barking up, spreading concrete and hardcore. This left Kev and David to chase 6 inch nails in an attempt to nail the hurdles together and then with the help of Sam they went on to complete the scramble net.

After lunch it was time to clear up. At the assault course, Mick and Richard ensured that the whole site was raked clear, bridges were installed over the small streamlets, all the timber that James had cut down to clear the site was loaded onto the pickup, (this has subsequently been cut split and stacked and will equate to £200 in revenue when sold!)



The whole weekend was fantastic. The number of jobs completed far exceeded

expectations. Yet another activity has been added to the site, making it more attractive to visitors in the future. The rest of the site has been spruced up. A huge thank you to everyone who helped out in any way, not only those who were there, but also Grace, who sanded down the woodwork in the toilet block during the previous week, Ian who arranged the telegraph poles and Dave who saved us a fortune!

