

Editorial

Our congratulations to MWWP member Margaret Darvill who, at the council of management meeting following the AGM, was appointed as a director. The other new face on the CoM is Tony Ford, a chartered civil engineer whose knowledge and experience of design and construction of roads and bridges will be most useful. His remit is to look at all the Surrey bridges, focusing first on Compasses Bridge at the south entrance to Dunsfold Park. Talking of Compasses Bridge, we learn that plans for the bridge will be on public display on 8 June at Alfold Village Hall, between 11am and 1pm.

WACT's winning ways continue, with the Canal Centre at Loxwood being commended in the Recreation & Tourism and Design & Construction categories of the 2013 Waterways Renaissance Awards.

Among the most recent work carried out by WACT's own working parties and visiting groups were the completion of the towpath upgrade between Compasses Bridge and Farnhurst Bridge. In Shalford, the work compound has been created for the future Hunt Park work site. Both tasks were completed over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The Gennets Bridge Lock appeal has reached the highly creditable total of about £65,000. As the work planned for this summer is likely to cost over double this sum, there are some difficult decisions to be made at board level.

Finally, more helpers are needed for the MDV (mobile display vehicle (MDV) which forms a vital part of the Trust's publicity efforts. Manager Peter Marchi is in particular need of people who can help with towing it to events, we believe that the size and weight are equivalent to a standard trailer. Peter can be contacted at email pm@weyandarun.co.uk.

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

At Southland lock, construction of the training wall on the towpath side is finished and landscaping is in hand with only the steps to go in. Connection of the back pump to the pipework (to take the water from the bottom to the top of the lock) has been completed, and its shelter is being constructed.

Clearing the silt from DHL pound has started. Some of the arisings are to go along the top of the bank, down to Loxwood lock, raising it by about 1ft (30cm) alongside the water. It is then important to keep the water off the track by cutting grips or letts so that puddles of water do not form on the track, but go down to the ditch. There will be similar treatment up to Southland. Along this section, the towpath surface is scheduled for improvement work.

The small back pump at Loxwood Lock is now fully operational. Manufacture of replacement coping stones for the horse bridge is progressing well, and the top gate walkways have now been fitted at the lock. Fitting fenders for safety ladders behind the Onslow Arms is still on hold.

There will be a big push over the month from 11 June to build the haul road for access to Gennets Bridge Lock. There are offers from a number of digger drivers from WRG and our own team to work on days other than a Thursday, so if you are able to help with this work please let me know.

Have you got a life expired battery in the garage? Please give me a call on 07717 855340 to get them to me; we can then get good money for them.

Join us: The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at Southland; if you need directions please ring 07717 855340 for latest info.

Eric Walker

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well, spring has sprung, the birdies are singing, and the depot has burst into life - except for the staff that is. During the last month we have continued to work on the maintenance unit's mowers - not only servicing the beasts, but also devising a way to stop those pesky mega-mice at Drungewick from chewing through the fuel primer bulbs. After careful thought Mick Jones and Francis Wellerd came up with a solution. The caps from large cans of WD40 fit over the bulbs a treat, so the little darlings will have to find other ways to satisfy their taste for rubber.

Due to the amount of timber coming back to the depot, the team has had to make another shelter to store the various lengths of wood appearing from the canal. Whilst on the subject, we would be grateful if only useable timber came back. We are rapidly running out of space to store the stuff.

Space in one of the sheds has been found for the newly manufactured stop plank shelter. Mind you, it did take a bit of thought and a certain amount of manoeuvring to get it in place. Dave Kersley continues his labours cleaning cement off the boards of the Kwikstage scaffolding being returned from Southland.

So, apart from the increasing incidence of unloading the various trailers, that's about it for this month. All the best from the Tickner's Team

John Smith

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

With all our main sites brought up to date during our first outing in May, we were able, as anticipated, to make a start on the common land at Tickner's at our second meeting. Initially we are concentrating on clearing the water course on the south side of the causeway, although Tim did find time to mow the towpath on both north and south sides. Apart from some clearance undertaken by that one-man working party, Dave Kersley, the area has received little attention and it was real jungle busting stuff, the sort of work with which MWWP will be familiar. We have cleared about 40 yards of the water course, but there is a lot more to do. We shall continue with it when our other commitments permit. We left an awful lot of vegetation for burning in the yard at Tickner's.

We meet again on 3 June and 17 June. The latter date will include a visit to Malham lock, subject to obtaining the necessary permission.

It is good to see that work has started on the Devil's Hole pound.

Nick Wood

Mid Week Working Party

For the first two weeks we cleared the area at Dunsfold from the burns site to Tickner's, so that access could be made along the canal bank to within about 7m of the Dunsfold Road. On each day in excess of twenty willing helpers turned up to bolster our team.

On the following two weeks of May we removed a number of trees down in the river adjacent to the Rosewalk, north of Love's Bridge.

In addition, we cleared dead trees on the nearside of the canal in the Love's Bridge area, and this was scheduled to continue on Wednesday 29 May.

Over those particular two weeks, and in order to clear this area, the team rose to the extra challenge. The effort required was over and above the normal day's work

In addition the group has made a list of possible volunteer lengthsmen, who would be prepared to walk designated areas of the canal and inspect any works required by the working teams in the future. This is all for discussion at the next Restoration meeting.

Ray Pick

Hedgelaying Group

Hail Fellow Volunteers. This is my last report for the 2012/13 laying season. What have we done this season you may ask? Four days trimming, four days coppicing, 13 days laying, 3 days at Southland, and five-plus lost days.

Total lengths layed: Baldwins 35m + Drungewick Slipways 50m = 85m total this season. This total is a lot less than previous years (for example, 300m in 2011/12) for the following reasons:

1. Smaller numbers of group members - currently four, has been eight-plus.
2. The group has had to spend time coppicing; in previous years material has been cut by MWWP and/or larger hedgelaying group.
3. More days lost due to volunteer unavailability and bad weather.
4. No Sunday volunteer availability.

What is the answer? We can only do what we can do, but it does make planning extremely difficult .

What is there to do in the 2013/14 season?

1. Lay the six trees at Southland Lock to finish the Lock side - we ran out of laying time and volunteer availability this season.
2. Finish the last 45m at Drungewick Slipways.

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	Check with Ray Pick for confirmation of venue
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	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details

3. Possibly go back down south, between the Swing Bridge and Harsfold?
4. Any other ideas? I am open to suggestions - on a postcard, of course!

We would like to do the lock side at Brewhurst Lock but it needs another couple of years yet. Also, the hedge offside between the Canal Centre and Brewhurst Lock but it has not grown enough, and there is very little room to work, so this is probably not viable for hedge laying. It is probably best just to leave it to grow naturally, as the bank is so high from the canal level and the hedge is on the north side, so no shading of the canal.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped this season. I will return!
Cheers all

Keith Nichols

Winston Harwood Group

Apart from keeping plants under control, we have been involved with removing the stop plank shelter and replacing it with a larger one at Drungewick lock, thanks to pre-fabricator Charles.

At Lordings we need to remove a failed bearing on the waterwheel, plus some plants control and some turf-lock replacement work. The faulty bearing is still a waterwheel problem as we need to lift the central spindle to do this. We will win, but sometimes these things are very difficult!

Tony Clear

Boat (Appearance) Group

Another boat cleaning session is planned to be held on Thursday 27 June. After the numerous charters and rigours of the 'pirates and princesses' trip, the boats will need a more thorough clean than we are usually able to carry out during normal operations. Even an hour or two of your time would be appreciated, tea and coffee supplied.

Anybody able to help with this important task please email me at sh@weyandarun.co.uk or phone on 07905 670095 or 01273 461729 (please leave a message if no answer). Thanking you in advance for your help.

Steve Harmes



At the recent AGM, chairman Sally Schupke presented trophies in recognition of the work of two volunteers. Expert bricklayer Eddie Fairman was presented with the Jack King Cup, while the John East Cup was presented to Geoff Thomas, a TSG regular who also helps out with 'Wey-South' production.

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
David Daniels	Visiting working parties	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	support@weyandarun.co.uk
Michael Bates	Health & Safety Officer	07786 323515	michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Ray Pick	MidWeek Working Party	01483 272443	anne.pick@btinternet.com
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Kev Baker	Loxwood Link	02380 861074	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston's Group	01903 774 301	winstonsgroup@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
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	07777 668 928	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk