

Working Party News

For WACT Volunteers
Sep 2005

Editorial Comment

What very sad news about the death of Winston Harwood. For those who didn't know, he died on the 1st of September and the funeral was on the 16th. It goes without saying that his energy and can-do attitude will be sorely missed. Our commiserations to Rita and his two children. I've known him for over twenty years and 1st met him (with dog Trevor) at Lock XVII.

No material from Peter Wilding or Peter Jackman again. I talked to PW at the Brewhurst Mill Open Day and I can only think that he is too modest. He said that he only mows the grass at the two locks – but obviously he does far more than that – maintaining water levels being one of the more important ones.

Quite what the Mid Week Working Party (MWWP) is doing is anyone's guess.

Colin Gibbs has managed to collate from the Attendance Records when each volunteer last attended a working party. If they don't get this newsletter by Email, nor get a paper copy by right because they've sent money or stamped envelopes, then as long as they are continuing to attend they get a freebie paper copy.

TSG Group (Eric Walker 22/08/05)

Thanks to Rob Taylor, the weekend of the 20/21 August saw the removal of the trench sheets from the Loxwood lock site. To enable this to happen, there had been brick laying and further wall back-filling.

The previous milestone, the removal of the struts holding up the trench piles/sheeting, had happened earlier in the month.

Our working parties on Thursdays and Sundays will now continue as previously.

There is now an urgent need for us to make some more of the WACT concrete blocks, so we are looking for volunteers to spend a few hours on a Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday morning at Tickners. It takes about three hours with three people. If we manage three mixes a week they will soon be done.

Mrs Bucket's Goings On

As our leader is away on holiday this update has been prepared by Nick Wood. (20/08/05)

Handing over the torch from Brian to John was successfully completed on 18th July in the Bothy at Tickners Heath. We didn't appreciate how much recording was required by our leader - if we ever wanted an alibi for Mondays Brian could have provided one!

Our work at the 7 road crossings and Devils Hole Lock has continued, although Eric Walker's big cranes at the new Loxwood Lock have precluded visits to the latter on a couple of occasions. But we have now caught up. At the request of the Restoration Group we have agreed to undertake maintenance at the Haybarn Swing Bridge. It would be a pity if, after all the hard work undertaken by so many groups and volunteers, the site became all overgrown etc. We now await landowner permission to allow us to make regular visits to the site.

We are very pleased to welcome to our band, Barry Woodruffe and Ted Jackson who joined us in June and in August, Tim Lewis. With a strengthened team we can take on more work i.e. Haybarn, and exercise greater control over the continuing vegetation growth.

We next meet on Wed 31st August, Wed 14th Sept, Mon 26th Sept and Mon 10th October.

Message from Colin Gibbs

I'm sure Eric and Graham have already expressed their thanks to the guys and girls who attended the 3 camps between 9th and 29th July, especially to the organisers. Thought I'd like to add my own thanks to the 66 volunteers, who gave up a week of their holidays to get the new lock underway. I must not forget the regular WACT volunteers for their work throughout the building so far. In terms of statistics, the 66 who attended the camp worked for 2551 hours, which represents £ 30,608 worth of work. Their contribution has been fantastic. The result of their efforts can be seen when visiting the Onslow. My thanks to Graham (NWPG), Ian (KESCRG) and Stuart (WACT) for their attendance records".

Situations Vacant

We still need a Maintenance Manager – duties as laid out on Page 17 of Wey-South 131.

Exhibition Manager. We are hoping to get a Mobile Display Vehicle, to go to public events next year – both local and to places such as the IWA National Rally @ Beale Park near Reading. We'll need someone to take charge of bookings, ensure the MDV is manned and such like. The Publicity Subcommittee (Pub Sub), Chairman David Isted (failing him Sally Schupke) would be very pleased to hear from someone willing to do it.

Working Party Diary for September

If you do not attend regularly, please contact the site manager before joining a work party.

MOST TUESDAYS maintenance sessions at Tickners Heath. Check with Colin Gibbs first.

WEDNESDAYS Loxwood Link maintenance. Site details from Peter Wilding.

EVERY THURSDAY and SUNDAY Meet 0930 at the Onslow Arms, Loxwood. Lots of jobs mainly construction. Site details from Eric Walker.

MONDAY W P. (Mrs Bucket Group). Details of site from John Empringham.

WEDNESDAYS Mid-Week Working Party Details from Peter Jackman

Tuesday 20th September - Presentation to 2000th member – 3 p.m.. Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford

Working Party Directory.

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