

Editorial

Sorry about this issue being a few days late - it's all down to difficulties with emails, meaning I couldn't actually get to the contributions sent in by our organisers. It's amazing what disruption can be caused by something as simple as a missing password. Thanks to Tom Crawshaw, Richard Crook and Julian Morgan for their input into getting everything working again.

It's great to see the new-look brick parapets on the Loxwood High Street bridge. It now seems to blend in perfectly with the nearby lock and the general locality. Also worth a mention is the work put in by Loxwood Link working party members Mike Davison and Terry Russell) who have been busy recently repainting the Brewhurst lock beams and bollards. Other noteworthy recent events include a visit on 26-27 May by the Newbury Working Party Group, installing safety rope fixtures at the Onslow wharf. The IWA Restoration Committee paid a visit on 26 May, to inspect the Shalford and Alfold/Dunsfold areas, where our next major works are planned. This committee has assisted the Trust in obtaining some generous grants. Personally, that's particularly gratifying. I was involved with that committee about 20 years ago when the Wey & Arun project was thought to have too many obstacles to be really viable. WACT has truly turned the corner to become one of today's leading national restoration projects.

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

Summer again and almost too hot for bricklaying. Please don't forget your suntan crème and bring plenty of drinks to avoid dehydration. At home when I get cramp I add extra salt with my food. Sorry Eddie. Last month I was one day late so missed the copy date. Eddie (who comes every Thursday and Sunday) reads WPN to see what we have been doing!

As we were leaving Paddock Wood on Sunday evening we met a horse coming in. Dave Kersley put it in a paddock, put some water in the trough and had to dash to the Onslow in support of the WRG work that day. I needed to find an owner so that the entrance gate could be locked. I checked with two of the neighbours, one was out the other did not recognise my description. I found a lady in a field with some horses who agreed to come and have a look. When we got back the horse had gone! Had it jumped a fence or what? Lets try another neighbour, down a winding lane and past two other houses. Yes, she had it. She had seen it across the fields and river and had come and collected it while I was away! Her husband had switched off the electric fence and not told her, so the horse got out. I got home three hours late that day.

Back at the lock and progress there; the brickwork is up to the top of the lock on the offside and the towpath side is about a third done. The top sill has yet to be started. Casting the copings continues and the first bollard is in place.

In June as well as continuing with the lock bricklaying we have the safety rope, ladders and boat servicing point to put in behind the Onslow. At DHL we are repairing the back-pump. There are also jobs backing up at Paddock Wood, Hillcroft, Gennets Lock and Sydney Wood.

There are two home based Internet based jobs that we urgently need help with. Both are related to the need to raise money for Southland Lock and in the first instance to buy a set of gates at £41,000.

First is a sales group job, for the background see

http://www.charityretail.org.uk/Press/sellingonline_summary.pdf

We have some online sales through the website run by the WACT office and Julian Morgan. They sell WACT items, memorabilia and books. Otherwise sales are retail from the Canal Centre or MDV. We could use eBay (WACT is already registered with Missionfish) or Amazon or both depending on the skills and experience of the participating volunteers.

Second is help with the search for grants from charitable trusts and sending the applications. There are a large number that need to be filtered before we make an application. Previously (1999) after such a search we got 4% returns, some of which are still donating. Again an Internet interface with printer is required. There are 18,524 charitable trusts to be looked at. To date 1,725 CTs have been looked at and a short list of 67 derived and applications made.

Join us: The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at Southland; if you need directions please ring 07717 855340 for the latest info. Thursday is presently very popular but there is scope for more volunteers on a Sunday with lots of jobs to do.

Eric Walker

Hedgelaying group

Dobri den as the Czechs say, or Hello there. Since the May issue a small/very small team (sorry Mr Potts) has done another six days down at Harsfold to finish the laying, so as of Tuesday 22 May the laying was finished and staked. Hurrah!

Unfortunately we had run out of usable binders leaving about 40m to bind plus we also need to burn a pile (5 small piles) of trimmings. . Dave Kersey very kindly transported some freshly cut binders to the site on Wednesday 23 May so I could then finish it off. Bob and I were down on Wednesday 30 May binding and cutting the tops of 150 stakes and planting 10 trees, but this means I still have one day of work down there before I can walk away from it knowing that it is totally finished. This will also mean that there will be a good layed hedge between the Flood Lock Bridge and Harsfold Bridge some 700m in length with a decent mix of standards (left as trees) in it.

Both local landowners seem to be very pleased with the results as do all but one of the walkers I have encountered (that is 200 to one on this length, this season).

There were not any birds attempting to nest in any of the unlayed material but some warblers were very interested in the layed part and it was good to hear a nightingale singing from the other side of the meadow in the blackthorn close to the river.

So that is it from the Hogslaying Group at this time, with one last day at Harsfold being Thursday 7 June.

Keith Nichols; 01403 753882 or 07817 798865

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

At the end of April, having started the 'growing season' off well by, *inter alia*, clearing the towpath between Three Compasses Bridge and the leased boundary beyond Farnhurst Bridge and between the 90° turn in the canal north of Haybarn Swing Bridge and Lee Farm lock, we continued in May to keep our nine normal sites up-to-date and tidy although, with other pressures on members' time, we have been a bit thinner on the ground than usual. We have also provided help to that one-man working party called Dave Kersley by assisting him with the removal of logs from DHL to the farmer, loading 300 bricks at Southland for the Loxwood Bridge parapet reconstruction and clearing surplus Bentomat sheeting to Tickners Heath.

We meet again on 11 June and 25 June, and hope to include a visit to Malham lock.

Nick Wood

Mid Week Working Party

Our campaign at Ifold Bridge Lane, just to the north of Southland Lock, continued through to the middle of May. There really has been quite a transformation there and, if you venture up there you really can see the course of the canal for the trees. That is not to mention (but I will anyway!) the impenetrable curtains of brambles, and considerable quantities of general rubbish and scrap. It is all now ready for a topographical survey.

The area around the arch bridge over the river has also been extensively cleared with a view to its repair or replacement, as a part of the overall scheme in this area.

Moving on, the gang were at Farnhurst Bridge later in the month clearing and felling along the eastern bank and generally tidying up the area. We understand that a work camp will follow, which will tackle the clearance of the build-up of silt across the canal deposited from the nearby surface water outfall.

There followed the now customary navvies' "Workers' Playtime" outing which ran on 23 May with a boat trip down to Drungewick - we were hoping to go up to Devil's Hole but they won't lift the bridge parapet scaffolding even for us! - followed by luncheon at a suitable venue. Colleagues from the Mrs Bucket and

Working Party Diary		
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 Thursday & Sunday as required	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Every Thursday	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
Thursday and Sunday	Eric Walker's Group (construction)	Contact Eric Walker for details
24 June	Midsummer cruise (to Drungewick)	Details and tickets from WACT office
5 July	Cream tea cruise 2.30pm	Details from WACT office



MWWP at Gun's Mouth

Tickner's Heath groups were also included, and thanks to Geoff Perks for organising things.

Work has now also begun back at Gun's Mouth at Shalford, clearing and chopping the logs and general debris arising from the recent foresters' visit, and also in the process baling out and replacing the decking to the two barges to make them more usable. A good day was had by all on 30 May and we were able to rescue the barges, and form them into a pontoon bridge across the original canal and onto the mainland. There was the customary bonfire of course but the usable logs were brought across by means of a (very) 'human chain'. Now if only we could find a way of generating cash from these logs...

Peter Lander (for Ray Pick)

The Winston Harwood Group

Nice to see our small group efforts at Loxwood with regard to the planting of shrubs around the new Canal Centre. This looks excellent - well-established and attractive, partly thanks to essential watering by other volunteers during the drought. Credit also to Ian Burton (the Trust's conservation officer) for an excellent choice of subjects in the design. He was in effect a temporary group member, with very useful skills in brickwork, morticing posts for the moved fence and buying the turf. The quality of the turf was the best I have ever seen - just like a thick carpet, weed-free, fine and well coloured. I found out when I collected the shrubs that they were from the main nursery site of the firm I used to work for - small world! (Good plants)

The giant hogweed spraying over the years is lessening the annual load - less needs spraying on bits we need to make safer. If you know of a quad bike with direct mounted tank, spray motor with umbilicus, hose and trigger lance... I will dream on!

Tony Clear (for David Junkison)

Loxwood Link

Following the completion of the parapet work at Loxwood High Street, Derek Heath and I have successfully cleared a lot of the weed and tree growth on the section, enabling Jonathan Mitchell, Mike Akers and I to run two public trips to Devil's Hole Lock on Saturday 2 June; both trips being completed without incident in around 45 minutes. There is a minor issue with the back pump not working correctly and hopefully Colin Durbridge will be along soon to reconfigure the sensors.

Battery usage on *Wiggonholt* is a little high at present on the trip but hopefully that will lessen as we see more boat trips to DHL.

Peter Foulger has kindly cut the grass from Drungewick Lane down to the lock as it has grown prolifically over the last few weeks. Thanks also to Mike and his trusty mower for all the other grass cutting along the Link.

Having run the DHL trips, it is clear that I will need to run a trimming trip along the whole navigable length fairly soon before the overhanging trees get out of hand.

Kev Baker



The new parapets take shape at Loxwood (Richard Crook)

Newspaper Recycling

From 1 January to 30 April 2012 we collected just over 33 tonnes of old newspapers and magazines which, including recycling credits should give us about £3,000. Very many thanks to all those members and friends who support this easy method of fundraising

During 2011 we collected a total of nearly 116 tonnes, our best ever-annual amount. This resulted in payment to the Trust of £12,035.

We have a paper storage facility at the former Hollygate Cactus Nursery, Ashington, situated on the B2133 Billingshurst Road north of the village. Left over 'freebie' weekly newspapers are stored there for onward transmission to our Aylesford Newsprint paper banks at Loxwood. Several members kindly look in and take this paper on their way to Loxwood. We never know just how many bundles there may be, but if anyone else can look in and collect we would be most grateful. Contact me on 01903 753099 for more details.

John Wood

Help wanted - MDV

You will know that the Trust has an excellent mobile display vehicle for the purpose of publicising our aims and our work. Unfortunately we don't get anything like the value we should out of this wonderful asset. We need more people to man it at the various venues, to tow it to the venues, and I believe we are also in need of a coordinator. All offers of help and enquiries to the chairman please.

Tickner's Heath Depot

No actual report this time, but Richard Watson has sent this picture, which he captions: "Putting everything to good use, John Smith takes a break at Tickners with his latest trophy."

And...

is that the ubiquitous Mr Kersley in the background?

Talking of Dave Kersley, we are told he would like a bit of help with one of the many jobs he undertakes for WACT, in this case the hand delivery of over 120 copies of *Wey-South* in the Cranleigh and Bramley areas. If you could help Dave out, particularly in Bramley, then please get in touch with David King, our membership secretary, who handles the distribution of *Wey-South* (and *WPN* too), at email membership@weyandarun.co.uk

To be included in the mailing list for *WPN*, please (for email copies) send a request to listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk or for printed copies, send a supply of SAEs to David King, via the WACT office.



Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
John Benfold	Working party coordinator		restoration@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	Visiting Groups	01844 343 369	bill@nwpg.org.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	07777 668 928	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk