



QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE
Wey & Arun Canal Trust

ISSUE 138 MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2007

As usual, with the March issue we concentrate on what's coming up in the new year. There's the AGM in April, the Loxwood rally in May and both the Poddle and Lordings rally on the weekend 9th/10th June. I hope to see you there.

The AGM is a good opportunity for new members (200 in the last 12 months) to meet their fellow enthusiasts – so please come along!

I know Shalford is a long way for people based down south but as our numbers get bigger the number of places we can hold it in get fewer.

You don't need a boat to go to one of the rallies. It's good to see the canal being used for what it was built for. If the weather is fine a lot of people take a picnic. You have to book in advance if you are taking a boat though.

The newly lowered canal behind the Onslow should be open for the Easter Bunny cruises 6th - 9th April (see back page) and work on the bridge/tunnel starts this summer.

There was only one taker for my idea of a Car Treasure Hunt in the last issue, so that won't happen.

The Christmas Raffle was a great success, with 4110 tickets returned – a record.

The winners were:-

- 1st prize Vouchers - Ian Edwards
- 2nd prize ZK hire – Josie Barnes
- 3rd prize - Onslow meal - Jo Jones
- 4th & 5th - Harry Stevens trips -
Mr Beard and David Southgate

The Arundel Christmas Dinner was also a great success, with 72 diners. Another record. Many balloons!!

Some of you will be keen to see the solution to Brian Crossley's teaser in the last issue. The twins were Ebenezer and Fatima and David's birthday was 1st September. I won't be printing the explanation as it is most of an A4 page! Brian will supply one but may ask for a donation. He took over £60 in entry

fees and the winner was Dr Mike Pearson of Horsham. (I knew that Horsham folks were very intelligent!)

You'll notice inside that the cost of producing Wey-South gets a couple of mentions. With colour it is expensive to get printed but perhaps we could get a copy on to our website and substitute that for a hard copy for some of you. What do you think?

One way of reducing the overall cost of producing it is to have some adverts. We are pursuing this actively so the next issue may well have some. This won't go down well with everyone, but we do have to keep costs down.

You may have noticed a new Office Manager at the bottom of the previous page. Fiona Doyle has replaced Jules Churchill who has gone on to better things. We all say "Welcome Fiona"

My thanks go to Geoff Perks for proofreading Wey-South. He is meticulous (although he hasn't seen this page!)

Thanks also to the happy band of members who very kindly hand deliver the bulletin in their area. 546 out of the 1781 copies sent to members this time.

Look at page 23. You'll see the amazing no. of hours put in by our volunteers on restoration and maintenance. Things like sales, publicity and boat crew, to name but a few, have to be added

Finally, the work we've doing at Loxwood is very exciting but is also taking up a large proportion of our resources. Don't expect that progress will be as rapid in the next few years. However, work does go on at other sites so there's a lot to look forward to.

The Quarterly Bulletin of
The
Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Registered Charity no. CC265331

The aim of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust is the preservation and conservation of the former inland waterway route between the Rivers Wey and Arun, with a view to reopening this to navigation.

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The next Issue will be published on the second Tuesday of June 2007. Copy to reach the editor by the end of April please.

If at all possible please email copy by attachment in Microsoft Word format. Typed copy is also acceptable. Photos are always welcome – prints or hi-res digital please.

**Issue 138
Mar/Apr/May 2007**

Work along the canal has gone well this winter, in spite of a long period of heavy rain. Phases one and two of the B2133 Crossing Project are almost complete. Phase three, the actual bridge itself, will start this summer and be finished before the year end. This has been a huge project and understandably has caused upheaval locally, so it is good to see each facet of the work completed and beginning to return to the very pretty canal scene it was. I thank all those who have been involved in carrying out the work and also thank all the neighbours of the site for their tolerance. Fundraising is still going on, and thanks to our very generous members the appeal in the last Wey-South has raised £56,000 so far. By the time you read this the figure will be higher. Our website has the latest.

Work is progressing at the Bramley (the northern end of the canal) with surveying done to help to determine the feasibility of the options available.

Just before Christmas keen groups of volunteers planted 1.5 km of hedge near Lee Farm (southern end of the canal). A very satisfying job and tough work, as I can testify having helped for a day and half myself.

Further hedge planting has taken place very recently along the bank above the lowered section of canal in Loxwood, and our hedge laying team have recently finished laying the hedge on the towpath below Brewhurst Lock.

The Canal Completion Strategy is now complete and will be launched prior to the AGM at Shalford on the 28th April. Anthony Woolhouse has been the leader of the team responsible for seeing this project through. I take this opportunity to thank Anthony for this and other work he has done for the Trust whilst being a Trustee, as he is leaving us this April to embark on a new career working in London. Also, we have produced a promotional DVD which we plan to give to prospective donors, so allowing them a quick and interesting way of appraising

the merit of our work. The DVD will be on show at the AGM.

If the forthcoming AGM agrees, the Council of Management (CoM) will be enlarged from 12 to 15 members. This will bring in some new blood and with it new ideas that are an essential ingredient to any forward thinking organisation. Following the Hon Secretary's plea at the EGM and in Wey-South, we have two nominations so far so there is still an opportunity to join.

A second update of the IWAAC 1998 report "Waterway Restoration Priorities" is about to be published, and hopefully the Trust will have improved its status through the production of our Canal Completion Strategy Report, which addresses points that we have fallen down on in the past. For the benefit of new members IWAAC is a statutory body whose remit is to advise DEFRA on inland waterway matters. This report is important to us as major funding bodies refer to it when making their awards.

What next? The Canal Completion Strategy Report clearly sets out a list of priorities and the overall strategy, but by the very nature of the huge task we have undertaken there has to be some scope in the order the work is undertaken. At present there is a growing volunteer work force keen to be involved with new projects. The new lock at Loxwood has demonstrated what can be achieved and heading northwards requires another ten of these. Eric Walker invites sponsors in his article (possibly tongue in cheek). The new lock has not yet been named as there could be a company or an individual wishing to have it carry their name in return for a large donation.

The pace of restoration is governed by availability of money. The CoM has to allocate funds to whatever it considers to be the highest priority, so sometimes some very worthwhile projects have to be put on hold while funding opportunities are found.

Peter Foulger

It will be a bit of a distant memory by the time you read this, but it gives me a bit of a warm glow thinking about the great time we had on Santa Cruises at the end of last year. Yes, that was in spite of the massive glitch in the staff rostering system that actually allowed your Hon. Secretary to drive the boat on one of the 7 performance days. I thought you had to put your name down at birth to get one of those prestigious duties. Mind you, with top-calibre crew and shore staff, you could say the skipper just has to point the boat in vaguely the right direction and it will all work out.

As soon as we realised the trips would have to start from below Brewhurst Lock, good old-fashioned British determination took over. I'm sure the organisers had nightmares in which customers battled through knee-deep mud to the landing stage, each 45-minute trip took an hour and a quarter and Santa took an unscheduled swim when transferring from his grotto (the "John Smallpeice") to the "Zachariah Keppel". None of those things happened; the customers took an easy stroll down the newly resurfaced towpath (many said how much they enjoyed having a different trip) and the instruction to skippers to pile on the power meant that punctuality was generally excellent. Santa Cruises are a huge team effort, but the star of the show was undoubtedly the man himself – Mike Anderson on all 35 trips, without an understudy.

Santa trips are one of the Trust's most public faces and it set me thinking about all the ways we use to spread the word, to our members and to Joe Public. Once upon a time, you got "Wey-South" (in black and white) through the post 4 times a year and that was pretty much your lot – unless you were keen enough to go to one of the 2 yearly meetings. If you were a landowner or local councillor, you might also get "Countryside Afloat" (a single photocopied sheet) twice a year. Now the bar is set so much higher and we don't have any choice about moving with the times. Of course we still have "Wey-South" (with copious colour), but we also have an excellent website that gets over 5,000 hits and over 450 visitors on the average day. We send out a monthly e-mail newsletter to any member who asks for it, there are at least two press releases a month and "Wey & Arun Canal News" (the renamed "Countryside Afloat") is a colourful double-sided sheet that encourages our key contacts to take us seriously. From the next issue, it will also be available electronically as well as in print. The list goes on – by the time you read this we should have launched another e-mail service that allows members to "talk" to other members.

All this is just the run-up to an intentionally provocative question: is it right for the Trust to spend over 30% of its subscription income on "Wey-South"? Is that the best use of our resources? Why not let us know your views?

Our campaign to strengthen the Trust's management team has enjoyed some success – we certainly expect to have a larger Council of Management after the Annual Meeting in April. If you would like to join in, though, it's not too late to put in your nomination form. Please make sure it is with me by 13th April at the latest. You only need to be a paid-up member and find one other member to support you.

The Annual Meeting at Shalford (28th April, just in case it's not in your diary yet) should be a great day. If you'd like to "make a day of it", we're offering several opportunities to explore the canal in the morning – please see the sheet inside this issue. I look forward to seeing many of you there,

Julian Morgan

MONEY

The Treasurer writes about the highlights of 2006.

In each Spring issue of Wey-South I highlight some items of interest from the previous year's accounts – particularly for those who don't come to the AGM, although the attendance there increases by leaps and bounds.

In 2006 we had an income of £392,000 and spent £395,000. As we are registered for VAT we were able to recover nearly £62,000 of the tax which we had paid. Soft Loans make it possible for us to pay the tax during each quarter and recover it later at no cost to the Trust. The Chancellor also gives considerable help through the Gift Aid scheme where we recovered £31,000 in tax relief during the year. Most members are able to make a Gift Aid declaration that they are taxpayers. In December, for example, 83 members paid their annual subscription. I was able to claim tax relief on 72 of them, with 8 others known to me as non-taxpayers and the final 3 who have escaped my net and on whom I have 'no tax status known'. The Bridge Appeal, to take another example, benefits from over £9,500 in tax relief to bring it to its present total of over £56,000 – ring-fenced for the bridge/tunnel.

We spent nearly £300,000 on various aspects of the Crossing project at Loxwood –lowering Brewhurst Lock, building New Lock, lowering the Onslow Pound and diverting the services. The Restoration Implementation Strategy, prepared by Atkins Ltd, cost £54,000 but nearly two-thirds of that cost was met by grants from interested authorities. If you exclude from the expenses total the £6,000 spent on producing Wey-South I hope you will agree that our administration costs are tightly pared. I can hardly expect members to respond to our appeals if we do not keep the belt of non-restoration expenses pulled in to its closest notch.

Sponsorship is again valuable, though the amount is rarely seen by members as it is rather tucked away in the accounts. It was worth £22,700 in 2006 and ranged from such things as Harwoods' provision of the Land-Rover (swapped for a brand new one in 2006), rent-free premises at The Granary and at our depot at Tickners Heath, the postage bill for Wey-South (less the 500 or so hand delivered) and 25% discounts on invoices from Peer Spanner Associates who do surveying for us. Fishers Farm Park let us have free use of their theatre for the Mikron Theatre show in July; Ringsoft Ltd, a Chilworth firm, sponsors the cost of the colour cover of Wey-South so that we have a brighter face to show to the world. These, and many other kindnesses, mean that we can devote as much money as we possibly can to the restoration itself.

Thank you to our members and sponsors..

Jim Phillips

NEWS FROM THE GRANARY

We know that the Santa Cruises will have been commented on elsewhere in this issue but we cannot miss out on the opportunity to add our thanks to everyone who helped. There are too many jobs to list them all here but each one plays its part in contributing to the overall success of the trips. Special mention must be made, however, of the tireless work done by Lyn Nash who masterminded the cruises again this year, and our ever-jovial Santa!

After the frenetic time in the Granary leading up to the Santa Cruises, January has provided some welcome quiet time – it is the only month of the year when we manage to catch up on certain tasks in the office and prepare for the boat season ahead. Charter bookings have been coming in steadily as groups and organisations start planning their outings for the year; confirmed bookings are higher than those at the same stage last year, and there are also a number of provisional ones in the diary. We would love members to recommend our trips to family, friends and colleagues so that we can have a record year. Page 13 gives details and prices for private charters and public trips. Also, as a reminder, the Onslow Arms is happy to provide buffet food and refreshments to take on board, or a trip along the canal can be preceded or followed by lunch or supper in the pub.

After an enforced year off, it is hoped that the Pete Wynn (our ‘dayboat’ which seats 4 people) will be up and running in time for the start of this year’s boat season. It is available for hire to all members so if you are tempted by the idea of enjoying a peaceful trip along the canal, give us a call.

We will be running the special Easter Cruises again – as you’ll see from the back page the 45 minute trips will depart on the hour from 11.00am to 4.00pm on all four days of the Easter weekend, from Good Friday 6th April to Easter Monday 9th April 2007. There will also be canal-side entertainments for the children to enjoy either before or after they have been on the boat. Tickets cost £7.00 and will sell out quickly so do get your booking in early. With any luck the newly lowered section behind the Onslow will be ready by then – a real treat!

If any member would like to be involved - as a skipper, crew, lock-keeper, car park attendant, refreshment supervisor, games or stall holder or just to add to the atmosphere along the canal by appearing in costume (e.g. Mad Hatter or any nursery character), please contact Rosie Sugar on 01403 752321 (or e-mail rosiesugar@tiscali.co.uk). In addition, if anyone would like to make/donate a Simnel cake, please give us a call at the Office – we would love to hear from you!

There will be a new ‘Special’ cruise for members this year: a Midsummer Soirée on Sunday 24th June. The Zachariah Keppel and the John Smallpeice will depart from the wharf at the Onslow Arms at 6.00pm and travel down to Drungewick winding hole where people will alight to enjoy drinks and canapés (under cover if the weather is bad!) before returning to the Onslow at 9.00pm. Tickets cost £12.50 per person and must be booked in advance through the office. We very much hope that many of you will take up this opportunity to get together with other members and celebrate Midsummer’s Day!

Lastly, a few other dates for your diary: the Small Boat Rally at Loxwood will be held this year on Sunday 27th May and at Lordings on Saturday 9th June. These are always popular so, if you would like to participate, please contact the office or Sally Schupke (email rallies@weyandarun.co.uk) for entry forms. Please also see the advert on page 13 relating to our annual sponsored walk, The Poddle, which will be held on Sunday 10th June.

Jackie, Bridget & Jules

**“SEND A FRIEND”
TO THE PODDLE THIS YEAR
Sunday 10 June 2007**

Help us to raise walker numbers this year – Send a Friend. If you can't walk yourself, or if you are one of the many helpers on the day, perhaps you know somebody who enjoys walking and might like to take part.

The numbers attending and walking the Poddle has steadily decreased over the last 10 years, to the point where less than 200 walkers took part in 2006. Although this decrease has not affected the amount of money raised, if we can attract more people to take part, we can raise even more!

If every member sent a friend, we can increase the number of walkers considerably – so please “SEND A FRIEND” – give them your Poddle Sponsor Form if you are not walking yourself.

The Poddle this year will start and finish at the Bandroom, Village Way, Cranleigh, with lunch at the Winn Hall in Dunsfold.

Sponsor Forms are enclosed with this copy of Wey-South, and if you require any further forms, please contact the Office. Last year we raised £12,000 towards the gates of the new lock at Loxwood, and this year we aim to raise money towards B2133 Bridge Fund.

You can also sponsor the Last Man - see the sponsor form for details.

If you would like to help with the Poddle please contact Joanne Holcombe on 01483 418195, or email her at joanne.holcombe@cartwrights.uk.com or contact the Trust Office.

Santa Cruises 2006

I am not normally a pessimistic person but I must be quite honest and admit that I had my doubts about the Santa Trips being a success. Not being able to operate from behind the Onslow seemed formidable, there was no towpath as such and where did we prepare the mulled wine! A few days before the event was due to start the car park was flooded, leaving a sea of mud, but the show had to go on. A lot of hard work by the weekend working parties reinstated the towpath from near the Onslow to Brewhurst Lock, which meant that we could get our visitors out of the car park and onto dry ground. Graham Baird came to our rescue with his little wooden 'cement' shed, which was cleaned up and placed by the Lock for us to work from.

I am glad that I was proved wrong. The seven days were an enormous success, raising over £6,000 for the Trust, the weather was kind to us and our 994 passengers seemed to enjoy themselves. Very many thanks to the 60 Boat Group volunteers who turned up and worked their 'shift' and enabled the days to run smoothly. An especially big thank you to the WACT members who volunteered to help us out, I am not sure that you knew exactly what you were letting yourselves in for, but your help was greatly appreciated and we hope that you will come and help us again. Thank you to everyone who donated mince pies.

Boxing Day was again very popular thanks to the Boxing Day Team and their many helpers, who entertained 90 passengers during the day, adding another £380 to the coffers.

Without you and our Boat Group Volunteers these events could not take place.

Having a WAEL of a time!

It occurred to me recently that a number of new members may be somewhat puzzled by the term WAEL. This stands for W&A Enterprises Ltd and is the trading arm of the Trust. It is solely owned by the Trust, and a nominee on behalf of the Council of Management holds the shares.

I am, for reasons that still elude me, the Chairman of WAEL. I am the third person to hold the post in the ten years or so that the Company has been trading. WAEL came about because of the acquisition of a narrow boat donated for use on the Canal. The Council of Management had to decide how to run this boat and stay within the very complicated Charity Law at that time. Our first effort to run the boat, after a team led by Roy Broadhead had turned it into the craft you see today, was in the summer of 1995. We had six skippers, about twelve crew, and a very short season as we ran out of water in late May! During the following years we gradually improved and eventually got up to the Onslow. That's all very fine – but what does WAEL do? Well, we run stalls at local fairs and fetes, the Black Hut stall at the Onslow, a mail order service and of course the boat operations.

WAEL is divided into groups, each headed by a member of the WAEL Board of Directors.

Fanny Lines runs the Sales stalls, both at the Black Hut and at the various venues we attend. She is supported by a small team and they sell suitable goods and give information about the Trust. They work quite closely with the Trust's own Publicity team, so as not to overlap with each other.

The boat operation is slightly more complex, as we have to follow the rules of the Merchant Shipping Act. The large boat, Zachariah Keppel, carries 30 passengers and has to be licensed and checked by the Marine & Coastguard Agency (MCA). This means that a training regime is necessary and someone has to manage the day-to-day operations. Mike Anderson does the Training and Rosie Sugaris the Operations Manager. Mike has Kevin and Pat Crawley to help him. Rosie is in charge of the boats and the operational work of the crews. Paul French oversees the Crew Coordination. This involves at least one member per month from April to October in getting the bookings from the Office and matching crew to them. There is a computer program to help, but the operation still takes time and effort. We also have a smaller boat for 12 passengers, John Smallpeice - yes that is the right spelling! Plus a self drive electric cruiser the "Pete Wynn"

Computers feature quite strongly in our world and Jennie Tomlinson is our IT manager and keeps the Crew Website and address list up to speed, with the help of Alan Dyer. Our very popular Christmas and Easter Specials are run by Lyn Nash and her team and put a considerable amount of money onto the balance sheet.

We also have a Money Man, Mike Anderson, who acts as our Treasurer. Bob Bentley is our Member without Portfolio. Bob's business background is often a useful reminder of our commercial roots. Jo Holcombe keeps us legal and within the Companies Act and is the Company Secretary. Liaison with the COM is maintained by David Isted, who also acts as Safety Officer.

As Chairman, I pick up on a number of loose ends. I act as the Engineering Coordinator, although all the clever stuff is done by Colin Durbridge, David Cousins, and Peter Andrews. To round off in this area, Derek Heath leads our Boat Painting Team and keeps all the boats looking good.

So you can see that there is an awful lot going on behind the acronym WAEL. If you would like to come and help, please get in touch, either via the Office or to me or any member of the WAEL Board. Come and join the fun, you know you want to!

Dusty Miller

Come and join us!

We are seeking additional boat crew to help take passengers along the restored section of the canal, starting out from Loxwood. Your help is needed to work the boats, operate the locks and interface with the public.

- Essential requirements - an enthusiasm for the canal!
- Full training and support supplied
- Frequency – as often as **you** choose

To find out more please contact Rosie Sugar, Boat Operations Manager (01403 752321). Look forward to hearing from you!

Narrowboat for Sale (Superstar)

A much loved 4/6 berth family narrowboat for sale. Valued at £28,000. 58'6" cruiser-style Hancock and Lane hull built in 1981. Perkins Phoenix 42 engine.

Property of Jean and Colin Gibbs since 1988. Mooring available for new owner at present location, in Gayton Marina (Alvechurch Boat Centres), Northants. Serviced annually by marina staff. Available from 1st June 2007. Please contact Colin. Tel no. on inside front cover.

The latest from Loxwood

Loxwood lock bridge was finished well before Christmas. What is so pleasing is that so many people appreciate the skill that went into its building. With the stop planks in place at the head of the lock, the quoins for the bottom gates can be fitted and the small back pump can be put in. This pump will do the routine small amount of water transfer to the pound above the lock. The large pump will become necessary when there are a number of boat movements each day. Also, before Christmas and just in time, the volunteers got the footpath from the Onslow Arms car park to Brewhurst lock ready for the thousands of feet walking along to the Santa Cruises.

Our contractors, Burras Construction, worked on through the winter, in very muddy conditions and were finished by the middle of January. On the bank opposite the Onslow they put in the pile cap and did some of the backfilling. The volunteers have put in the land drain (a white pipe) and a duct for electricity (in black). The water from the drain feeds into the canal, the electricity will come from the lock after the bridge is built. The backfilling remains to be done.

Behind the Onslow, Burras put in the retaining wall to support the towpath beside the waters edge. We shall also need to build the stone wall behind the Onslow and profile and resurface the bridleway for the Easter Bunny cruises. The stone for the wall will be either Pulborough stone blocks recovered from Brewhurst Lock or Horsham stone, much of which was used for the original retaining wall in the cutting behind the Onslow Arms.

The bridge in Loxwood High Street has now got an official name, Loxwood Canal Bridge, and a number 8098. These come from the meetings with the WSCC Highways Dept to finalise the outline design of the bridge. There are two bridleways, one from the east and one from the west; both finish at the B2133. It is evident that in 1964 when the river bridge was widened the road was realigned, taking it to the east but also making it a 'sweet' curve. The effect of this is that the traffic seldom goes through there at 30 mph so it is dangerous for horses and pedestrians to cross the road between the two bridleways. Pedestrians will be able to use the towpath under the bridge, a permissive right of way. Horses are not allowed on the pavement or under the bridge. The suggestion of a Pegasus crossing (Pelican is for pedestrians only) was turned down on the basis that the cost would fall on WSCC. They then insisted on a 1.5m (5ft) wide verge to the east of the pavement and that access to be carried across the bridge. Of course the bridge has to be lengthened to accommodate the change. Such a verge, they said, is part of the highway and hence the parapets on the bridge should be 1.8m (6ft). The cost of these changes will probably be over £10,000 and the parapets will probably look out of place. But, they had the whip hand so we had to agree in order for us to build the bridge in 2007. The detailed design is now well in hand at our consultants, Tony Gee & Partners.

On the plus side, BT got their cables diverted in good time for the bridge construction to take place and spent less than they originally expected. Whilst they were digging across the road they found the surface of a previous road, that is, before it was realigned. Also they found a cable, not shown on any drawing, three feet down and under the double white line. The electricity board has accepted responsibility for it and will ensure it is dead before digging for the bridge starts.

I was recently asked by a lady if a lock could be named after the person who gave the money for its rebuild and how much was it to restore a lock. After ruminating about the remoteness of Southland Lock, I said that £250,000 should be enough. It was only afterwards that I realised because of the economies of scale, I should have added that for £500,000 she could have two and get one free!

Eric Walker, Project Manager

RESTORATION ROUND-UP

A look at what's been happening since the last edition of Wey-South. Compiled by Wendy Andrews.

Thank you to the group leaders who've sent me copy for this edition of Wey South. For those who didn't I'm including a summary of their monthly updates to Working Party News.

As always, all the Working Party Leaders welcome newcomers with open arms, whether new WACT members or existing members with newfound time to spare. No experience is necessary, the opportunity is there to meet friendly people and maybe learn a new skill. The list of jobs to be done continues to grow, from 'gardening on a grand scale' to major and minor construction projects.

Whatever your expertise there are jobs available for all, male and female, young and not so young, all are welcome. You would work at your own pace for as long as you feel able, no pressure. Why not enjoy a day out in beautiful countryside and fresh air. Please contact the leader of the Group you may be interested in joining to find out more details

THE WTS GROUP (formerly the TSG Group)

LEADER: Eric Walker on 023 9246 3025

MEETS: Every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

At Loxwood lock the 'topping-out' ceremony was carried out on 22nd November as the last coping on the Horse Bridge was put in place. Also in November the towpath from our car park at the Onslow to Brewhurst lock was surfaced. As part of the diversion of the BT services prior to the B2133 Canal Bridge construction the volunteers relocated an inspection chamber and the amplifier therein.

In December the stop planks at the top of the new lock were fitted so that, following the connection of the electricity, a submersible pump could be used to bring the water level in the lock down to a reasonable level.

In the New Year the brickwork along the lock training walls was done and a start made on the chambers for the small back pump to be located just by the bridge. The back pump itself arrived in early February.

By the end of February, a small wall had been built alongside the bridleway behind the Onslow, up to the road. When Verralls changed the profile of the Onslow garden in September 2006, they demolished the Horsham stone wall around the garden and took it to Devil's Hole Lock because room at the site was very limited. Prior to reuse it had to be sorted, cleaned and brought back to the Onslow. From the demolition of Brewhurst lock there was a quantity of Pulborough stone that is now incorporated into a new wall around the garden. And of course the milestone, removed before the works began, was put back into position.

THE MID-WEEK WORKING PARTY (M.W.W.P.)

LEADER: Peter Jackman on 01483 772132

MEETS: Every Wednesday.

Name the venue and MWWP has probably been there during the last quarter. Peter is jokingly calling his group the 'Rapid Response Unit'! They go where they are most needed and change plans at short notice according to WACT priorities. Since the last edition of Wey-South was published they have been 'jungle-bashing' along the section from the Compasses north towards Fastbridge, tidying up around Brewhurst and helping Keith Nichols by coppicing at Devils Hole and Sidney Wood to provide material for hedge-laying.

The group's numbers continue to swell (see Colin Gibbs' statistics below) and a very warm welcome is extended to all newcomers. It's good to report that Peter is back at the helm after a few weeks off recovering from a hip operation – a sincere thank you to Tony Lewis for leading the group in Peter's absence

THE MONDAY WORKING PARTY GROUP (“Keeping Up Appearances”)

LEADER: John Empringham on 01483 562657

MEETS: Mondays, usually twice a month

Once the mowing season was over, later this autumn than usual, the Monday group has been busy ‘keeping up appearances’ at sites which have been cleared in recent years and are now in need of a follow-up. At the stretch of canal behind Utworth Manor, which was cleared by the MWWP only last winter, the brush and brambles had grown back to several feet high in places. It’s now restored to the tidy condition of a year ago as Peter’s team left it.

The group spent a good day clearing brush and undergrowth at Malham. Thereafter they moved on to Loxwood to help clear fallen trees and logs from the navigable section. There they’ve learnt two new valuable skills – how to operate a long pole saw (overhead) and how to recover one when it disappears (underwater)!!

Planned visits before the next mowing season, if time permits - Rowner, Lee Farm, Toat and Sidney Wood.

THE LOXWOOD LINK MAINTENANCE UNIT

LEADER: Peter Wilding on 01483 422519

MEETS: Every Wednesday.

As usual, before Christmas maintenance work was centred on preparations for the Santa trips which were to operate down through Baldwins Knob Lock. The winding hole was trimmed back, a large branch removed from the canal by the jetty and much wind blown tree debris also removed. In January May Upton made its way up to Brewhurst Lock, pruning the rampant off-side willows en-route, to be available to the MWWP. After being rained off and snowed off in successive weeks, clearance of the offside bank below the lock was able to be started in glorious ‘spring’ sunshine on 31st January by removing the large, awkward dead hawthorn at the entrance to the winding hole preparatory to its enlargement. Access is needed along this bank so that it can be raised to the level required above design water level to prevent overflowing

THE WINSTON HARWOOD GROUP

Contact: Lawrie Wraight on 01903 721404

MEETS: Every Thursday.

Since November the group has been helping with the lowering and reconstruction of Brewhurst Lock. Significant jobs have been casting steps and coping stones, also working on the installation of rails and ladders. They were hoping to be back at Lordings in January but the weather was too wet to work down there so the group has succeeded in erecting a rustic post and rail fence and more safety rails at Brewhurst. Weather permitting they will be back at Lordings from the beginning of February

THE KEITH NICHOLS GROUP

Contact Keith on 01403 753882

MEETS: Certain days during the winter months.

At time of writing (31st January) the group has just finished hedge laying at Brewhurst. This means that the 150m of hedge is ready before the reopening of Brewhurst Lock and the Onslow Pound. It was a bit of a race! It has been a difficult hedge to lay with such large, tall trees and not being a good double or treble row, more like a single line. Also, working from the top of a bank rather than being below or level with the tree bases hasn’t helped. We had to lay with the direction of flooding (it’s flooded four times over the base of the hedge this season to a depth of between 6” and 18”). It will be interesting to see how well it does this and next spring as we have dramatically reduced the canal bank overhang and competition from bramble.

For those who like figures: - most of the trees were 20’ – 25’ tall and varied between 6” and 2” thick. 10 trees were pollarded as standards and one left as a standard. Some 300 stakes and 300 binders have been used, all from WACT coppicing work. 10 days were spent on preparation and 31 days on actual laying. A total of 48 man days was spent on the hedge. 10 people have worked on it with a maximum group size of 6 and a minimum of 1.

The high profile projects in Loxwood have attracted massive interest in the Canal. Membership has increased dramatically, which has had the effect of an increasing number of active working party members. No less than 270 volunteers worked on restoration and maintenance last year. Approximately 125 of these came with visiting groups. The total number of hours worked is the equivalent of 13 fulltime employees.

Group	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Cat D	Cat E	Total Hours	Total Value (£)
Mid-Week Working Party	3261	1077	377	446	34	5195	58496
Tickners Heath Depot	91	168				259	2485
Keeping up Appearances	412	327	125			864	8981
Hedge laying Group	65	225	224			514	7410
Maintenance Unit	114	276				390	3834
WTS Group	2765	2753	532	968		7018	92222
Winston Harwood's Group	1331	162	389			1882	18879
Individuals recorded work	82	87	442			611	10371
Bit In The Middle	122	209	44			375	4033
Newbury W P G	1133	264	240			1637	15635
Kent & East Sussex C R G	858	317	249			1424	14473
Essex W R G							
London W R G	412	32	21			465	3656
WACT Camps	527	131	222	62		942	11516
** Traffic light operation at Loxwood	457	21	85	211		774	12093
** Hedge planting at Lee Farm	249	32				281	2095
** Clearance at Tannery Lane	117	14	7			138	1113
Totals for 2006	11996	6095	2957	1687	34	22769	267392
Totals for 2005	9445	5291	4200	1902	28	20866	272370
Totals for 2004	6379	6143	2223	1020	9	15774	190760

** One-off projects which were undertaken by regular members of working parties, and more importantly, by many new faces. I hope they enjoyed the experience so much they will be tempted to join a regular group. One or two attendances a year make so much difference to restoration progress. May I thank the 20 or so Leaders/Secretaries who have provided me statistics for me. The hours refer only to canal restoration and maintenance. Working parties don't just happen. Someone has to plan meetings, inform volunteers, work out the logistics, and at the end of the session, complete and return the attendance form. One leader has very kindly recorded his admin time (cat A) as part of the restoration process. Thanks Graham.

The value of volunteer labour has been based on the hourly rate used by English Nature
 Category A – General labouring = £7 Category B – Semi skilled = £11
 Category C – Skilled = £20 Category D – Specialist = £33
 Category E – Professional = £46

Leader's work enhanced by one category.

New Conservation Officer

We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Conservation Officer who will start his duties immediately. His first priority will be the landscaping that is required on the new lowered banks and winding hole at Loxwood.

Michael Joseph is a recently retired airline pilot and was formerly a mechanical engineer with Rolls-Royce Aero Engines. He has had a lifelong interest in the natural world, green transport and renewable energy. His wife Jane is a trained ecologist and worked for the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and also the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood, Cambridge. Since moving into their 400-year-old farm cottage 23 years ago, Michael and Jane have together restored half an acre of pasture back to a superb wildflower meadow with pond and hedgerow. They have two sons, both of whom work on the canal restoration as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme community service section. Michael is the owner of a small traditional wooden sailing dinghy which he has used with an electric outboard at boat rallies on the canal.

As the restoration of the canal gathers pace, we are very pleased that Michael will contribute his experience and enthusiasm to making sure that our conservation policies remain thoroughly responsible and up-to-date.

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Thanks to the generosity of the Post Office we can now include more pages in *Wey-South Bulletin* for the same postal cost (up to 100gms for 23p) and would like to explore the possibility of having paid adverts in the Bulletin. This would help to reduce the cost of printing it.

An Advertising Manager would seek advertisers, both local and national, be responsible for obtaining copy ready material, and of course ensuring that payment is made!

For more details, please contact Tim Jolly, Editor *Wey-South*. Contact details see page 3.

EXHIBITION MANAGER

We now have sets of professionally produced Display Boards, and by Easter next year our Mobile Display Vehicle should be properly fitted out and adorned with eye-catching vinyls which will show Wey & Arun canal scenes and other information pertaining to the *Wey-South* project.

A WACT Exhibition Manager would seek and arrange for the display boards to be exhibited at Public Libraries, local museums etc. In fact anywhere the public gather. It has been known in the past for certain retail outlets to display them for us, including Building Societies. The Exhibition Manager would probably need to recruit a small team to help move the boards from one venue to another.

With regard to the Mobile Display Vehicle, the Exhibition Manager would arrange for it to attend waterway rallies and local fetes in the summer months, also other locations and venues as suggested by the Publicity Group and/or the Sales Manager.

For more details, please contact David Isted, WACT Director of Publicity. Contact details as above.

CARPENTER

WAEL (see page 16) will be modifying *Zachariah Keppel* next winter (2007/8) so that it can take up to 50 passengers at a time, so allowing for a typical coach load. This will involve cutting the boat and welding in a new 10 ft section. The metalwork side of this will be done by person who did the re-plating not long ago but there is a lot of wooden structure inside the boat that will need an experienced woodworker. Contact Dusty Miller (see page 3) if you're interested.

CALLING ALL 'LEAFLET MONITORS'

Firstly, many thanks to all of you who deal with placing our Membership Application Forms and "*Welcome Aboard*" Cruise Leaflets at various strategic outlets, mainly in Surrey and West Sussex. Display of these leaflets forms a very important publicity aspect for the Trust. This year, in order to save time and money, may I kindly ask 'Leaflet Monitors' to let me know if they are willing to continue servicing their nominated sites during 2007. You can either telephone me on 01903 753099 or Email at john_wood@weyandarun.co.uk. Also, please indicate whether you are able to collect supplies from the Granary office at Loxwood, or need to have them sent to you.

The price of our Loxwood cruises remain unchanged this year, but if you still find "*Welcome Aboard*" leaflets with the 2006 inserts, would you please remove and replace with those for 2007. Again, supplies of 2007 inserts are available from the Granary office at Loxwood or can be delivered or posted to you.

Some of you will have seen last year a simpler, non-colour, Membership Application Form, printed on blue paper. These less expensive forms were intended mainly for outlets that had a rapid turnover. These are still current, though for 2007 an improved version has been produced, this time printed on green paper. One of the changes relates to using the logo *Wey & Arun Canal Trust*, in the shape of a hump back canal bridge, rather than using *Wey-South*®, which probably does not mean much to anyone outside the world of canal restoration. *Wey-South* was the name Founder Member John Markwick thought up as a suitable title for our quarterly bulletin, back in 1971.

Some 'Leaflet Monitors' are also able to display posters. Those that do, have posters sent to them from time to time (such as Easter and Santa Cruises, The Poddle, etc.) by our office managers. If you are not receiving such posters, but feel you could display them, perhaps you would let me or the office managers know so that your name can be added to the distribution list.

Once again, very many thanks for all your help, which is much appreciated.

RECYCLING

Firstly, some great news! During the 4th quarter of 2006 (1st October to 31st December) we collected a record 18.908 tonnes of old newspapers and magazines at our two Aylesford Newsprint skips. The previous best quarter was back in the 2nd quarter of 2005, when we collected 18.195 tonnes. The total tonnage for 2006 was 60.683, which will give us £3820.08 including re-cycling credits. Please remember that for every tonne collected by WACT, Messrs Aylesford Newsprint make a donation to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Well done to all those members and friends who have made this possible. For further information, location of our skips etc. please contact John Wood on 01903 753099.
