

Working Party News

For WACT Volunteers
December 2008

Editorial Comment (*Wendy Andrews*)

Christmas is a'coming! It's still not too late to sign up for a seat at the annual 'Navvies' lunch on December 15th. Neither is it too late to offer your services for helping at the ever popular Santa Cruises which will be running on December 13th/14th and 19th to 23rd. Please contact Rosie Sugar, (rosiesugar@hotmail.co.uk or operations@waelboat.co.uk, or telephone 01403 752321) to get involved. Also think about calling the WACT office to book a trip as a Christmas treat. In addition to the Santa Cruises there will also be trips on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Talking of Christmas treats, why not give a WACT subscription to that friend or relative who already has everything? Membership forms are available from the office, they also can be downloaded from our website www.weyandarun.co.uk/membership
I've been editing WPN for over 2 years. As much as I enjoy the job I feel very strongly that new ideas and new blood would vitalise its continuing success. Please think about offering to take over – the commitment is about a day and a half a month, not much to ask. If you're tempted, please get in touch.

Christmas Lunch (*Geoff Perks*)

Last Orders Please!

Bookings for the annual Christmas Lunch on Monday 15th December at the Three Compasses have now reached 35 so we are teetering on the brink of having 1 or 2 dining rooms. This is just to remind you that all bookings need to reach me (01403 262855) by Saturday 6th December at the latest so that the orders can be confirmed to the pub.

Hedge Laying Group (*Keith Nichols*)

The economy is having its ups and downs and affecting us all to some extent. A tyre factory says inflation is helping them but they are not looking forward to deflation!

Only 2 days have been spent at the hedge this month due to work pressure etc. Thursday 13th rain stopped play very early in the proceedings. Well - it was the 13th!

Friday 21st saw 2 of us braving a bitter north wind although it was sunny for most of the time. We spent our time attacking bramble and briar to find out if any trees existed amongst them. We did find one dead area but luckily some trees that have appeared out of what was long grass in a holding area will fill this. I thought we had emptied that area last year. So we have all but finished the clearance and will soon proceed with laying. Many thanks to the MWWP as the first part of our order for stakes and binders had appeared at Drungewick courtesy of Dave Kersley. Bob Potts and I spent a happy hour going to and fro moving them to the hedge, which beats spending money at a gym for exercise. It's free here!

Weather permitting, our next 'exercise days' will be:

December 1st, 9th, 17th

January 2nd, 5th – 9th, 12th, 20th, 28th

February 5th, 9th – 13th, 23rd

There also may be some Sundays worked if anyone is interested but not in December.

From my office – Merry Christmas to all with the emphasis on “Merry”.

Winston Harwood Group (*Ron Chamberlain for David Junkison*)

The group spent the first Thursday in November at Lordings clearing and burning some unruly brambles and other unwanted vegetation from near the new bridge. It does not take long for Mother Nature to take over the land when left on its own. For the remainder of this rather dismal month the group transferred its attentions to doing similar work at or near Rowner lock where we have been reclaiming the tow path and generally clearing bramble and weeds from the bank of the canal. With the aid of Richard and his brush cutter a useful amount of scrub has been cleared and burned and several doggie walkers and hikers have remarked on how much better it is for them. It's nice to be appreciated!

Well I think that's all for this month so very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Trust and their families. See you next month!

Monday Working Party (*Nick Wood for John Empringham*)

In November we completed our final ‘roundup’ of our regular sites with overdue visits to Devils Hole and Loxwood New Locks. We also finished cutting the hedge back at Loxwood to improve sightlines for motorists and continued preparing the ground on the verge by the new bridge in preparation for seeding. We have now commenced our winter programme by meeting a request from Peter Wilding to cut reeds at Drungewick and to give the roadside hedge a significant ‘haircut’ at the same location. Future venues are likely to include Sidney Wood and our annual visit to Malham lock.

We are very pleased to welcome David Thomas, a new member of the Trust, to our happy band.

We meet next on December 1st (worksite details from John E) and the morning of December 15th in Sidney Wood. Finally, Happy Christmas to all our working party volunteer colleagues.

Mid Week Working Party (*Richard Watson for Peter Jackman*)

The post-and-rail fencing at Tannery Lane, that Peter referred to last month, went in surprisingly quickly. He allowed two days, which I reckoned was an under-estimate as I thought we’d be fighting tree roots the whole way. In the event, it was a very efficient day’s work. Dave Kersley turned up bang on time with the materials and the post hole borer seemed to know where to go to miss the roots. With Ian Edwards leading the progress, shouting, “Another one here; that’ll do; shove a post in!”, suddenly we were ready to run in the wire. Actually, the ground was so soft where we met the stream, that we were able to knock posts straight in. The wire tensioning and fixing proceeded with similar speed and the whole thing was done in the day, and to my amazement when I went to look a week later, it was all still standing. We even cleared the remaining junk including a caravan chassis, all of which Dave K. took away to Tickners.

Two weeks work at Beevers Farm produced the stakes and binders that Keith Nichols asked for, though there was the inevitable dispute as to what made a stake and what made a binder. Tony Lewis was the arbiter so you can blame him, Keith (sorry Tony).

Next week might see us digging ditches: watch this space.

Working Party Diary for December/January/February

Usually first & third Mondays of the month	‘Mrs Bucket’ – Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Most Tuesday mornings	Maintenance sessions at Tickner’s Heath Depot	Needs a volunteer to lead the group
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Check with Peter Jackman or Alison Saville for confirmation of venue
Every Wednesday	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Contact Peter Wilding
Every Thursday & Sunday	Mainly construction work. Meet at the Onslow Arms, 09.30	Contact Eric Walker for details
Every Thursday	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Ron Chamberlain or Tony Clear for details
Varying dates in the winter months	Hedge Laying	See Keith Nichols’ piece for this season’s dates
December 4 th	Christmas Dinner Arundel	More details from Tim Jolly 01403267408 tim_jolly@weyandarun.co.uk
December 12 th	Christmas Dinner Bramley	More details from Emma Williams 01483 890515
December 15 th	Christmas Lunch for Working Party Volunteers	Contact Geoff Perks 01403 262855
December 13 th /14 th & 19 th – 23 rd	Santa Cruises	Bookings through WACT Office Offers of Help to Rosie Sugar
December 26 th	Boxing Day Cruises	Bookings through WACT Office Offers of Help to Rosie Sugar
January 1 st	New Year’s Day Cruises	Bookings through WACT Office Offers of Help to Rosie Sugar

Working Party Directory

WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752 403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
Wendy Andrews	W P News Editor	01403 752 170	wendy_andrews@weyandarun.co.uk
Turlough Bamber	Restoration Manager	01483 421 305	restoration@weyandarun.co.uk
Michael Bates	Health & Safety Officer	07786323515	michael.g.bates@btinternet.com
Eric Walker	B2133 Crossing	023 9246 3025	eric_walker@weyandarun.co.uk
Peter Jackman	MidWeek Working Party	01483 772132	a.m.saville@btinternet.com
John Empringham	'Mrs Bucket'	01483 562657	john@empringham.com
Peter Wilding	Loxwood Link	01483 422519	peter_wilding@weyandarun.co.uk
tba	Tickner's Depot		
Ron Chamberlain	Winston's Group	01293 532 715	ronchamb@tiscali.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston's Group	01903 774 301	penny.clear@btinternet.com
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	
Bill Nicholson	Visiting Groups	01844 343 369	bandsnicholson@tiscali.co.uk
Don Gibson	Educational Projects	01903 201375	doncanalgibson@hotmail.com