

# Working Party News

For WACT Volunteers

June 2009

## Editorial Comment (*Wendy Andrews*)

The 'Big Day' on May 9<sup>th</sup> went off without a hitch. The weather was perfect and thanks to all the hard work of each of the groups the crossing site looked very smart. Wiggonholt was ready just in time for her naming ceremony and the inaugural cruise through the tunnel. Now we look forward to new projects as we head further towards Guildford.

Welcome to the Trust's new chairman, Sally Schupke; I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her every success in her new role. Peter's will be a hard act to follow.

Best wishes to Peter in his retirement as Trust chairman. I have no doubt that he will continue to be heavily involved giving help, support and guidance to our various restoration activities.

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

Not unnaturally we devoted part of our time before the 'big' day ensuring that Loxwood looked its best. Our 'representatives', one of whom we are honoured to say was with his lady in the VIP gathering on Wiggonholt, reported that the 'opening' was a most enjoyable, special occasion, well supported with speeches which were much appreciated even by lowly maintenance staff like us!

We are still catching up on our regular sites as holidays have now kicked in so we have not been operating at full strength during May. But as our founder says 'we are here to enjoy, not kill, ourselves!' We meet again on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June, you will be made very welcome if you join us.

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

Nothing from Ron this month; he's busy with holidays but will be back with a report for the next edition

## Tickners Heath Depot (*John Smith*)

I am pleased to report that Ken Bacon has returned to the Tickners team after an absence of some time, his past knowledge of the site has already proved invaluable and has helped this novice considerably.

Please be aware that the strong winds earlier in the month ripped off part of the roofing and side wall of the scaffolding shed. When attempting to shore this up it was found that the corner post had rotted and the North East (far right from entrance) corner was without support. Temporary repairs have been carried out but anyone entering should note it does not have a secure corner post on the NE corner and as a consequence that area is in a slightly unstable condition.

May I ask that the working parties please remember to supply help loading and unloading items at Tickners, although Dave Kersley is as strong as an ox other members of the Tickners team are not and it would be helpful if after loading the Landrover and Trailer that someone from the WP comes back to Tickners to help with the unloading.

The Tickners team would be grateful if operators of the various diggers, dumpers etc on sites remember to check the basics prior to use; i.e. fuel, oil, coolant, tyre pressures etc. Without wishing to venture into the minefield of Work Equipment legislation it is sensible to do so to prevent the Trust having to fork out cash due to the premature failure of vital equipment.

Regards to all

## Thursday/Sunday Group (*Eric Walker*)

May was a bit of a blur but the weather was good! In the lead up to the official opening on May 9<sup>th</sup> record numbers of volunteers came to help get the essential items done. During May the Loxwood site settled down and the grass started to cover the bare earth.

The Loxwood Lock ground paddles have had some work done on them to reduce the leakage; this will enable some evaluation of the propeller pump to be undertaken. There are still some repairs to the pump outstanding but the soft 'start and close down' installed by Colin Durbridge is very successful. Gradually the outstanding jobs have got done leaving the building of the sani point in support of Wiggonholt and the rubbing strake to be done in June.

With planning consent for the changes to Devils Hole Lock the move of the TSG to DHL is being prepared. Initially we will be getting contractors in to do the major masonry removal at the head of the lock, then the volunteers will move in and start the restoration. All we hope for is more dry weather.

### **Mid Week Working Party** (*Ed on behalf of Peter Jackman*)

Work in the Bramley area is temporarily on hold so once again the group is looking for jobs to do, always difficult to find in the bird nesting season. They've recently been to Elmbridge pulling out tree roots and then plan to be working between Devils Hole and Southland. Please check for venue with Peter or Richard before turning up.

### **Hedge Laying Group** (*Keith Nichols*)

May has been a quiet time. On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> two of us finished off the damaged section at Baldwins and then lopped 6 more large overhanging branches. A bonfire followed with baked potatoes and copious amounts of bacon which sizzled away making quite a lot of walkers salivate as they passed by. We enjoyed the feast, despite some light rain, whilst listening to two nightingales singing away. Then we planted five common spotted orchids nearby; these were some of the excess I have in my garden and more will be planted out in the near future.

There will probably be one day spent planting more of my home grown wild flowers and doing a couple of minor jobs which will then close this season for the group. So it only remains for me to say thanks to Bob, Bob, Dave, Jeremy, Roger, Richard, Nick and Tony for their support, enthusiasm and humour and that I hope to see everyone in September/October when the 2009/10 season starts.

It would also be remiss of me not to welcome the new chairperson (P.C), Sally Schupke and say 'cheers' to Peter Foulger. I am raising a glass to all the above and others, as always!

### **Newspaper and Magazine Recycling** (*John Wood*)

We can now put 'Yellow Pages', BT Telephone Directories, Thomson Local Directories etc into our Aylesford Newsprint Paper Banks.

We must NOT put in cardboard or food packaging (i.e. Kellogg's Corn Flakes packet).

The Recycling Credits we receive from West Sussex County Council have increased by £5, so now for every tonne we collect, we receive £82 in recycling credits, plus £10 from Aylesford which gives us a grand total of £92 a tonne. We saved 20.531 tonnes for the first quarter of 2009 and have received £1,683.54.

However, there is some disappointing news. With the exception of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust and a few other charities in West Sussex, who are regarded by WSCC as having a 'Historical Agreement' with them, recycling credits will not be available to any new Aylesford Paper Banks the Trust might like to install. This means the recently installed paper bank at 'Shoots' Garden Centre at Washington will only attract £10 a tonne from Aylesford. I am appealing to the Recycling Manager at WSCC and the Cabinet Member who deals with recycling, to give recycling credits for our Washington bank as I only found out about all this on May 15<sup>th</sup> when in conversation with the Adur & Worthing Councils recycling manager. The Washington bank was installed in late March. The Trust has to find £40,000 by October this year to pay WSCC a commutation fee to take over the Loxwood bridge/tunnel so we need every pound we can get.

### **The Last Word** (*John Wood*)

Following Charles Walker's challenge last month re the spelling of 'Hangar' and 'Hanger' John Wood has responded as follows:

Hangar: A large workshop or building for storing and maintaining aircraft.

Hanger: A wood on a steep hillside, characteristically beech growing on chalk in southern England.

Thus, on or near the canal we have the following Hangers - Bottomfield, Baldwin's, Malham, Riefield, Harsfold, Braziers plus at least two just known as 'The Hanger'.

The word hanger is more generally known as a peg or hook upon which something may be hung.

## Working Party Diary for June/July/August

Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' – Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith
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
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Annual 'Poddle'	Contact Jo Holcombe on 01483 418195 (evenings), or email joanne.holcombe@cartwrightgroup.co.uk.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Mikron Theatre at Fishers Farm	Contact the office to book

## Working Party Directory

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