

Working Party News

For WACT Volunteers

February 2010

Editorial Comment (*Wendy Andrews*)

What with the snowy weather and leg injuries this month's edition seems to contain more apologies and requests for help than news on progress. Let's hope we can do better next month.

Restoration Guide (*Colin Gibbs*)

The booklet "A Guide to Restoration Progress" is in the process of being updated and generally revamped, probably with coloured maps, more photos etc. Consequently we hope to get the book bound rather than use spines as up to now. If it is going to look more like a proper book we are going to need more photos for the back of the existing maps and much more information about the canal. Dusty has agreed to fill at least one page giving an in depth article on WAEL with specific reference to the boat operations. HOWEVER we require many more photos. Julian and Janet have been prolific in this respect over the past few years. Some of their work is outstanding BUT there must be many budding journalists among the working parties who have had great experiences on their days out and would to share them with others – perhaps your experience working on a particular project or a day in the life of a Group Leader, flooding experiences and here is where some humour can come in. Eric is hoping to include more of his diagrams for the road crossing and the new lock. Please send anything you feel could be used to me, Colin Gibbs, at 36 Meadowside Road, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7PF or email to colin-gibbs@blueyonder.co.uk by early March.

Incidentally, Martin Smith, one of our members, has been elected on to the IWA Committee ostensibly to look after the interests of restoration groups around the country. He regards our approach to restoration as a shining example to the vast majority of groups. As such he is hoping our CoM will give permission for him to use our Restoration booklet as the basis of his presentation at the next Committee meeting.

I look forward to receiving your funny restoration stories!!

Waterways Worlds (*Bill Nicholson*)

Receipt of the January WPN reminds me that having cleared my attic I have decided to dispose of my almost complete (December 2002 is missing I think) collection of Waterways Worlds. Now I don't think that they have much value but would anyone in the Trust like them (for a donation to WACT) or be prepared to try and dispose of them on e-bay? If not I'll bring them to Loxwood and put them in the paper skip - they weigh about ¼ ton I guess so should be worth £25 to WACT at least! They are all unbound and in pretty good nick.

Celebrations on April 17th (*ed*)

Plans are afoot for the naming of our new trip boat, Josias Jessop, and the re-commissioning of Devils Hole Lock on April 17th. Offers of help before or on the day would be appreciated to set up signage and marshal the car parks. Please contact me, Wendy, on 01403 752170 or wendy_andrews@weyandarun.co.uk

Thursday/Sunday Group (*Eric Walker*)

As January came to a close the Devils Hole lock copings are cast and the quoins and ground paddles are in. The termination of the back-pump pipe at the top of the lock has been completed. A start has been made putting in the bollards. Construction of the training walls at the top of the lock and the back pump chamber has also started.

The electricity cable has been pulled through some scaffolding tube that fits nicely under the lock bridge string course. Later in February the electrical connections will be made, not just for the electric kettle, but more importantly the submersible pumps.

The construction of the winding hole has continued to be on hold. The strategy is now to clear the silt in Loxwood pound so as to be able to get back at the winding hole. With the removal of Loxwood lock stop planks and a few dry days a start could be made on the silt removal. With the gates in manufacture and the possibility of getting the lock clean and dry for them to be fitted, the reduction of the water in the Loxwood pound is becoming an essential aspect for the end of February.

The additional split rail fencing for the lock has been ordered. The materials on the site are now to be moved either to Tickners for long-term storage or to Southland for the next job in that area.

The occasional extra meetings on Tuesdays have restarted being led by Mike Biles.

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

A very cold frosty Monday in early January saw us completing the clearance of the ditches and ‘rodding’ the pipe beyond the car park at Loxwood so that the water can now run into the river. Then we adjourned to Sidney Wood and cleared the culverts and spillway of autumn debris. Whilst walking the towpath between the culverts we came across a large mature tree which had fallen across the canal and was blocking the towpath. This has been reported to Turlough.

At our second meeting of the month, held fortunately after the bad weather had abated, we continued clearing the towpath and around the hedging plants between Haybarn Swing Bridge and Lee Farm Lock. With a bit of luck one more outing should see the job finished.

We meet again on the 1st and 15th February if you would like to join us.

Hedge Laying Group (*Keith Nichols*)

Keith is back at work having recovered from an operation on a leg. His plans for the next month are not clear (rumour has it he is due some holiday!), however he will be in touch with the team in due course.

Tickners Heath Depot (*John Smith*)

No news from John this month other than that he has injured a leg and is likely to be out of action for quite some time. Please join me in wishing John a full recovery – how will we manage without him!

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

I am afraid I only have a blank page for you for this month. Let’s hope we can do better now the weather is getting better. See you next month

Mid Week Working Party (*Peter Jackman*)

No news from Peter this month

Working Party Diary for February/March/April

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	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	Contact Keith Nichols
Sunday 14 th February	Valentine’s Day Boat Trips at 12.00 and 14.00	Contact the WACT office for more information and to book
Saturday 17 th April	Reopening of Devils Hole Lock	More information in March Wey South
Saturday 24 th April	WACT AGM in Billingshurst Village Hall starting at 14.00	More information in March Wey South

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	Loxwood Projects	023 9246 3025	eric_walker@weyandarun.co.uk
Peter Jackman	MidWeek Working Party	01483 772132	a.m.saville@btinternet.com
John Empringham	(Monday Group)	01483 562657	john@empringham.com
Peter Wilding	Loxwood Link	01483 422519	peter_wilding@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner’s Depot	01903 235790	john8216@btopenworld.com
Ron Chamberlain	Winston’s Group	01293 532 715	ronchamb@tiscali.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston’s Group	01903 774 301	penny.clear@talktalk.net
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	
Bill Nicholson	Visiting Groups	01844 343 369	bandsnicholson@tiscali.co.uk