

Working Party News

for WACT volunteers - June 2010

Editorial

I hope everybody has bought their bricks for the Loxwood bridge parapets. As you know, WACT is supporting the Loxwood Parish Council and Loxwood Society in improving the appearance of the B2133 bridge. They don't much like the appearance. Neither do most of us, which may come as a surprise to Loxwood residents.

It's not our place to say why the parapets have such a purely functional look (though I am sure that any different approach at the time would have caused delays and astronomical extra expense and inconvenience), and hindsight is a wonderful thing that allows people to say how things could have ended up differently. Neither are we too keen on muddy towpaths and road diversions, but we accept their inevitability for the sake of the end result.

The reason for bringing these things up again is just by way of a reminder that WACT's works don't please everybody, and we have had some bad press among some locals. So we have to be extra careful to keep a tidy site and lessen the impact as much as we can. But I am sure we all know that.

Bill Thomson

Thursday and Sunday group

The construction of the Southland Culvert outfall to the river has started. An investigation to find the original culvert found nothing except what may have been the foundations, thin slabs of sandstone.

One of the jobs at DHL is to make the top sill. The materials are on the site and with the water level in the pound falling, the setting of the scaffolding will be easier.

The stop plank shelter is in hand and the back pump shelters both at DHL and Loxwood Lock have yet to start.

The planning application for Southland lock has been submitted to Chichester District Council and they have received a number of objections, which are given on their website

Volunteers are asked to support the Poddle on Sunday 13 June 2010, which is a major sponsor of our work.

Eric Walker



The new culvert south of Southland Lock, the TSG's current project

WACT stars on BBC TV

Those of you receiving this newsletter by e-mail - set your video recorders for BBC South, mid-day Sunday 6 June, because the South segment of The Politics Show will include footage shot on the Wey & Arun Canal. Those receiving it by post should be able to watch it on the BBC i-Player.

The Mrs Bucket group - Keeping up appearances on Mondays

Brian Crossley continues to make a slow recovery. We wish him well and hope to see him back on the canal as soon as possible.

May saw us working on our nine regular sites. Apart from our normal mowing, strimming and litter clearance, this included repairing two seriously damaged fences at Haybarn swing bridge, removing large tree trunks which had become trapped in the canal against the culverts at



'Josias Jessop' being filmed by the BBC for the Politics Show, to be shown on 6 June

Newbridge (these were roped and hauled away) and replacing a damaged info post at Drungewick aqueduct.

One intrepid member of the Group has mowed the towpath all the way on the Scrace's section of the canal from the 90 degree turn, north of Haybarn, all the way to Lee Farm lock, thereby consolidating the work we undertook earlier in the year.

You will find some super pictures of us and MWWP on Chris Richardson's website, www.myriverarun.com/mwp2.html. Well worth a look!

We meet again on 7th and 21st June.

Nick Wood (for John Empringham)

Winston Harwood Group

We have finished our winter programme of maintaining canal bank sections of brambles and small trees and doing our bit towards Devil's Hole Lock etc.

Back to Lordings (great!), but a serious problem with the waterwheel. The central shaft or spindle has dropped, only a little, on one side and caused the wheel to jam.

Most of the team has been engaged in erecting scaffolding, to provide a working platform, for side access above the river, plus four-legged tripod (quadropod?) and lifting gear to lift the wheel a few inches. I was impressed at the expertise - difficult access!

At the same time we have managed to cut the grass round the locks and do some strimming.

VOLUNTEER (perhaps two) NEEDED for our WATERWHEEL. The waterwheel at Lordings (Orfold) is the only one of its kind in the whole of the British Isles. It is powered by the river and lifts water constantly, topping up the Canal. Very clever, quite impressive and of great interest to most walkers, when working.

The need for a volunteer arises because, due to a knee problem, I cannot take long periods kneeling (even though we have good cushions). Any volunteer would not need to be a retired engineer or mechanic, none of us are!

Winston's Group meets every Thursday, though it would be possible for two volunteers together to do a different day. (You would miss out a bit, if you did!)

Everything you need can be provided, i.e. end seals, spanners, drills, bolts etc. It is a summertime only job. Too wet and cold in winter and an access problem then too.

For more info, please phone me, Tony Clear, on 01903 774301

Tony Clear

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Bill Nicholson	Visiting Groups	01844 343 369	bandsnicholson@tiscali.co.uk
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The late Tim Jolly

There was a good turn out from WACT at Tim's funeral, including many current and former working party members. Tim's ashes will be scattered on the canal at Loxwood, in accordance with his wishes. This will be done on the evening of 23rd June, from *Josias Jessop*. All who knew Tim are welcome to attend; we will be gathering at 7pm on the canal by the Onslow Arms.

Strings and Wings

This is the title of a two-day entertainment being held at Dunsfold Park, comprising popular and classical music concerts. The second day looks particularly interesting, with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Carl Davis and accompanied by Claire Sweeney, featuring a fly-past and firework display. The concert on the first day is by The Bohemians. The dates are 4-5 June, so e-mail subscribers to this newsletter will just have time to book. A 10% discount is available to WACT members quoting DISC10 when phoning the ticket hot line on 0871 297 0743. Details at www.stringsandwings.com.



Mock-up of how the Loxwood bridge parapets should look, subject to fund raising and planning permission. Donations (£5 per brick) should be sent to the WACT office

Working Party Diary		
Every Sunday and Thursday	Mainly construction work	Contact Eric Walker for details
Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
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 Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith
Every Thursday	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
4-5 June	Strings and Wings, Dunsfold	See above (10% WACT discount)
Sunday 13 June	38th annual Poddle	Contact the WACT office (helpers to Jo Holcombe, 01483 418195)