

Editorial

It's rather a surprise to learn how long this newsletter has been in existence. Just before the June issue, Geoff Perks - who for some unfathomable reason has kept track of the numbers - told me it was to be the 200th edition. We are of course very grateful to Geoff for this information; his count began in November 1992, when the first official *WPN* was put out by Steve Jones. Steve carried on for an impressive period of well over 12 years, until issue 148 in May 2005, and Tim Jolly took over for the next year or so, until issue 156 in March/April 2006. After a brief hiatus, Wendy Andrews took on the job from October 2006 until No 197 in March this year.

However, that's not the full story. *WPN* had its roots in a newsletter sent to working party members in the 1970s and 1980s, intended to keep working party regulars informed in the gaps between publication of the quarterly *Wey-South* bulletin. Several of us had a hand in producing that, but it was mostly the 'baby' of the working party leader of the time, the late Keith Ellis. According to John Wood, there were 81 issues.

Not even Keith's newsletter was the first. That dubious honour goes to something circulated in 1975 by Peter Dragonetti, working party leader of the erstwhile southern section. Christened *Runaway*, it purported to give information for working parties (with a more limited circulation than *Wey-South*, though "less turgid"), but its real purpose seemed to be to have a pop at the Council of Management and various other committees. Needless to say, the CoM was not



2010 Poddle (June 13) - refreshment stop at St Martha's. The event is expected to raise about £11,000 (photo: Janet Phillips)

amused by being referred to as "the Fifteen Foolish Monkeys. See nothing, hear nothing and do nothing" - and various other 'digs'. It only lasted for one edition.

The tradition has continued of *WPN* not necessarily toeing the official line. Unsurprisingly there can still be occasional friction between what the working parties think they should do, and what the CoM will agree - mostly for good reasons like the need for permissions, to keep to agreements, or because of dwindling funds. Nevertheless, we are all working together for the same goal, so public disagreement is discouraged and *WPN* contributions often have to be edited (as is the case in this issue).

Bill Thomson

Tim Jolly

On 23 June, Trust members said a final goodbye to Tim Jolly, when his ashes were ceremonially scattered, by his brother, on the canal waters near Brewhurst Lock. Tim's family has kindly donated his collection of canal books for sale in aid of WACT funds.

There are several copies of *London's Lost Route to the Sea* by P.A.L. Vine available. For a full catalogue, please e-mail sec@weyandarun.co.uk.

In the meantime, we have to cover the many jobs that Tim undertook for WACT. In the absence of any suitably keen, skilled and willing volunteer, *Wey-South* 152 will be prepared by Julian Morgan and Bill Thomson (as was issue 151). Copy date is 31 July; photos and articles are welcome - please contact either of the above direct or at weysouth@weyandarun.co.uk.

We also need somebody to take on the organisation of the Christmas raffle - a not onerous task, but one which needs somebody local.

Thursday and Sunday group

The construction of the Southland Culvert outfall to the river has completed apart from a few tidy up jobs. A fuller exploration to find an original culvert again found nothing but large slabs of sandstone. With so much activity the new culvert was put in place, the final remaining job being the construction of an entrance pipe, sometimes known as a 'monk'. It was very evident that the silt in that part of the canal is about 1 metre deep. We think we have a disposal site for the dredged silt but that will not be available until August 2011, so deepening the pound will be delayed.

One of the jobs still to be done at DHL was to make the top sill; so materials were moved to the site and with the water level in the pound falling, the setting of the scaffolding was far easier.

The DHL top sill has now been finished, and the stop plank shelter is nearly complete. The back pump shelters both at DHL and Loxwood Lock have yet to start. During July we will have another go at making a jetty at DHL. Dave Dunman, being handy with the angle grinder, has removed the concrete lumps at the top of the lock and started cutting the stone for the Southland training wall copings.

The planning application for Southland lock was submitted into the Planning Portal in February for Chichester District Council.



*Three images from the recent
Mid-Week Working Party
boat trip on 'Wiggonholt'
(photos by Janet Phillips)*



The objections raised have been removed and CDC say they will try to get onto the agenda for the 14 July committee meeting. No doubt there will be a list of conditions as long as your arm.

Access to Southland has been negotiated with Paddock Wood. This will involve the construction of a temporary access road across the paddocks. There is already a bund across the canal but that will need to be made bigger. With the planning consent conditions answered, the end of the badger closed season, the end of the bird nesting season and the harvest completed, work can start in earnest constructing Southland lock.

Eric Walker

The Mrs Bucket group - Keeping up appearances on Mondays

We are pleased to report that Brian Crossley is out of hospital after his second operation and recovering slowly in a convalescent home. We miss him and his mower very much and look forward to welcoming him back.

With the serious growing season upon us we have concentrated on 'keeping up appearances' at our nine regular sites during June. The hazel plants we put in at the Loxwood over-spill car park had become submerged under the rapidly expanding undergrowth which included Himalayan Balsam. At our first meeting in June we started to remove what we could and intended to complete the job next time. However someone had beaten us to it and finished the job. At the time of writing we don't know who, but thanks very much!

We meet again on 5th and 19th July. We are hoping to make a mid-year visit to Malham lock in July and are currently seeking permission from the landowner.

Nick Wood (for John Empringham)

Mid-week working party

The members of the MWWP were pleased to co-operate with Loxwood Parish Council and the New Found Garden Committee in clearance and tidying up the proposed flower garden in Station Road with lots of praise and thanks from locals. A very good PR job.

From there we moved to a new work site at Shalford.

Our initial task - hand pulling out Himalayan Balsam, millions of the bxxxxxx things (no chemical spraying). However a lack of direction and uncertainty about the lease on the site (not helped by reports that a CoM member found our efforts a trifle amusing) led me to a decision to pull the team out for the time being, not wanting to see any more wasted effort. So back to Dunsfold Park, digging out a channel, dead/fallen tree removal, and to measure and peg out as requested by John Talbot. We have installed a post and wire boundary fence at Tickners, though I had doubts about the position requested by a CoM member.

Enthusiasm is a bit low at present, so the MWWP could be looking for a new leader. Many thanks to all members of the MWWP. The next six months could be interesting.

Peter Jackman

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
11 September	'Ruby anniversary' lunch, 12-2.30, Onslow Arms, Loxwood	Details and tickets from WACT office
19 September	Dunsfold small boat rally	See www.weyandarun.co.uk

One for the historians...



I recently discovered this old postcard, captioned 'Old Lock near Pulborough, Sussex'. It was published by Raphael Tuck, most likely around 1900-1910, and seems to be a reproduction of a rather primitive painting. Any ideas about location? It looks like a turf lock, or a set of flood gates. There is a lock house, and what appears to be a barge with red sail below the lock.

Loxwood Towpath Guide

The first edition of this new book is now available; the 28-page full colour book tells the story of the canal and its restoration at Loxwood and describes the sights and wildlife on the restored section. The guide is available from WAEL Mail Order (John Wood, 24 Griffiths Ave, Lancing BN15 0HW) - cheques payable to WAEL. Or you may pay by card by phoning the office. Cost is £2.30 inc postage, or £2.00 direct from the sales stand or Granary Office.

MDV helpers

The WACT mobile display vehicle (that very nicely fitted-out trailer) visits all sorts of events during the course of the summer months, but needs more people to man it, giving out leaflets and answering questions about the canal and WACT.

We particularly need help for the IWA National Rally of Boats, which for 2010 is close to our patch, at Beale Park, Reading, on the August Bank Holiday weekend (Aug 28-30). Even if you can only spare the odd hour it will be appreciated - contact pr@weyandarun.co.uk or lynis@supanet.com if you can help.

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