

Editorial

There does not seem to be an awful lot happening at present in comparison with the hectic times earlier this year - understandable, it is the holiday period after all. But plenty to look forward to, not least the 40th anniversary celebrations next month. I understand a jazz band has been booked to make things go with a swing.

Southland awaits the decision of the district council, while we prepare for the presentation of a decently-sized grant cheque from the IWA SE region which is scheduled to take place on the summit during a midweek working party day.

All the talk of harvesting and preparing for winter gets a bit depressing as we are only just out of July. They do say that time flies as you get older. We must be very ancient. But still active enough to remind that young David Cameron that his 'big society' idea has been around for 40 years or more, as was underlined by Jonathan Mitchell who phoned in to BBC Radio Sussex when they discussed volunteer projects making a difference to our surroundings.

Bill Thomson

Thursday and Sunday group

The harvest at Southlands started on 1st August. It has been exceptionally dry since March and the wheat was dying with the lack of moisture. For us it made working in the canal bed relatively easy. The availability of Southland field could have been more significant to us if planning consent had been available, but it wasn't.

At Southland Culvert, the inlet was brought up to winter water level and prepared for the rain that must surely come.

Following comments from the West Sussex County Council ecologist at the end of July we spent a couple of days pulling out the Himalayan balsam and carting it away. It is very easy to pull out having only small roots. Clearing it away means that it cannot throw out new roots. Apparently the seeds from the snapdragon-like flowers can be shot 5m.

Dave Dunman's handiwork continued, with cutting the stone for the coping at Southland lock training walls, which is one of the jobs we hope can do this winter before it gets too wet.

The Chichester District Council planning meeting is due at 10am on the 18th August to which all are invited. There will be no meeting of the TSG on the 19 Aug.

Eric Walker



Before and after pictures taken at Malham Lock following the Mrs Bucket group visit on 5 July. More a question of restoring appearances rather than keeping them up, says photographer Chris Richardson

The Winston Harwood group (Thursdays)

We have spent the month beavering away at Lording's, Rowner and Loves Bridge. At Loves we cleared round the bridge and started the re-pointing.

Near Rowner Lock, some strimming, felling and clearing. Lording's involved grass cutting (we do miss Brian Crossley, but pleased to hear of his progress), strimming round the lock so that it looked like one. Plus clearing towpath etc, so that the canal section is more visible and more walkable.

As there was a Scout Camp at Lording's, two of us, DJ and TC, gave talks on the canal history and the water wheel. Seemed to go down well and resulted in £20 donation for canal funds. Pity they could not see the wheel working - the 3in steel centre spindle has broken.

Tony Clear (for David Junkison)

MDV helpers

Following the appeal last time, help is still needed for manning the mobile display vehicle. Lyn Nash is still in need of helpers for the IWA National Rally of Boats, at Beale Park, Reading, on August 28th -30th (bank holiday weekend). Even if you can only spare the odd hour it will be appreciated - contact lynis@supanet.com if you can help.

Fancy being a TV star? (again)

The makers of a proposed BBC4 documentary have been in touch asking for help. 'The Story of the Canals' will use home movies of people who worked and enjoyed the canals with their memories, to tell the story of how the canals were used to move goods around the country, and were then re-invented in more recent times as a vehicle for leisure.

The company is looking for any home movies made by people who have earned their living from canals, for example boat people, lock keepers, etc. etc. and film made by people who have used the canals for leisure. It would be a great bonus if the film makers or people appearing in the films could be interviewed. Can you be of any help? Have any members of WACT filmed their experiences?

Please contact the WACT office or ibild@availablelight.tv

Ian Green

We have learned that Ian Green, who worked with Jack Pocock at Fastbridge and on other projects, died last May. He had contracted a virulent form of cancer, which claimed his life within three weeks. Our condolences go to his widow, Linda.

New Loxwood guide - please note that cost is £2, or £2.30 by mail order (from John Wood - see opposite, or www.weyandarun.co.uk/goods.php).

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752 403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
Turlough Bamber	Restoration Manager	01483 421 305	restoration@weyandarun.co.uk
Michael Bates	Health & Safety Officer	07786 323515	michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Peter Jackman	MidWeek Working Party	01483 772132	mwwp@weyandarun.co.uk
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Peter Wilding	Loxwood Link	01483 422519	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston's Group	01903 774 301	winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	hedging@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Nicholson	Visiting Groups	01844 343 369	bill@nwpg.org.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	01403 210347	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

The Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

Excellent news; Brian Crossley is now back home and recovering his strength. He hopes to be back with us in a supervisory capacity on 2nd August.

July has been so dry that the grass on our nine sites has only been growing very slowly so we have concentrated our efforts mostly at Malham, as anticipated in the last WPN and at Haybarn where we have kept the towpath clear and been reed clearing. Pictures speak louder than words so have a look on Chris Richardson's website www.myriverarun.com/mwp3.html... (a couple appear on the first page of this newsletter, too)

We meet again on 2nd & 16th July if you would like some heavy gardening practice.

Nick Wood

Recycling

We collected just 15.75 tonnes of old newspapers and magazines for the second quarter of 2010, unfortunately a considerable drop from the 25.014 tonnes collected in the first quarter. I wonder whether this may be due to the recession with not so many people buying newspapers and magazines these days. With the recycling credit due, the second quarter should result in a payment of £1,672. Let's hope we can do better during the third quarter.

There is usually quite an opportunity for anyone who comes to the canal at Loxwood fairly frequently, to obtain leftover 'freebie' newspapers and magazines that are delivered to households in many areas. Should you be interested and would like more information, please contact me, John Wood on 01903 753099 or email recycling@weyandarun.co.uk

For our part, we now have an eye-catching sign on the steps leading from the canal car park in Loxwood, up to the canal towpath. It does seem that there are many local visitors that use our car park and towpath for walking, exercising the dog etc. The hope is that the sign might encourage those visitors to save their paper and bring it with them on their next visit.

I must take this opportunity to thank those people, some of whom make a tremendous effort to bring their paper to both our Loxwood and Hurst Farm Aylesford Newsprint Paper Banks.

Collecting inkjet cartridges and unwanted mobile phones has raised £273.50 since commencing this form of fundraising in December 2009. As you know, if you require more pre-paid mailers from EmptyCartridge Recycling Ltd, you just have to indicate this on the address label of the pre-paid label. If by any chance extra mailers are not received, we can supply you with more. If you send an A5 size stamped addressed envelope then we can send you 10 mailers. Do remember, every little helps and is good for the Trust's Green CV.

John Wood

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/Ken Bacon
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	Dunstable small boat rally	See www.weyandarun.co.uk
26 September	'The Pedal' sponsored bike ride	contact pedal@weyandarun.co.uk
23 October	Autumn meeting at Bramley	