

## Editorial

The great news this month (just in case you haven't heard) is that Chichester District Council has, at long last, granted planning permission for both Southland Lock restoration and the replacement brick-faced parapets for the B2133 bridge in Loxwood. The first carries a lot of conditions, for which Eric and his band were well prepared, while the second still requires a lot of planning and raising more money through the local 'buy a brick' fund, which WACT is supporting. In fact WACT is doing rather more than just supporting the fund; by holding the money on behalf of Loxwood Parish Council and the Loxwood Society then charitable benefits can be realised, making the money worth more. A few members were rather disappointed by rather sensationalist local press reports about the bridge's "motorway barriers" that would be better suited to a prison; particularly as the suggestion is that WACT actually wanted this design. But we should be able to turn this round to give us some positive PR.

As the Wey & Arun Canal restoration project is 40 years old this year we can't let this pass without celebrating the fact. Do come along to our Ruby Anniversary lunchtime bash at the Onslow Arms in Loxwood on Saturday 11 Sept 12:00 to 14:30. The ticket price of £10 per person includes the barbecue, a dessert and a drink from the bar. Ticket numbers are limited to 150; some are still available from the WACT office.

Former Hon Sec John Wood points out that all the Chairmen and Secretaries from our 40-year existence are likely to be present - the only exception being founder Chairman John East who died in 1994. Quite a landmark, particularly because John doesn't expect all to still be with us for the 50th anniversary.

*Bill Thomson*

## Thursday and Sunday group

When working in and around the canal any rain brings with it sticky conditions. The expected rains came; and even before that the wheeled dumper got stuck and the tracked dumper was sliding about so that at one point a track came off. Somehow David Kersley managed to get it back on, but it is a feature of the machine we will have to manage carefully.

In the end the Chichester District Council (CDC) planning committee voted unanimously to "permit" the work at Southland and the railings at the B21323. Of course there were conditions, to be agreed by them before any work can commence. But they did not refer to the statutory requirements previously identified by WSCC in their response to the consultation by CDC as part of the planning process. Is it possible the new government will sort this one out? I doubt it. This has given WACT significant problems in the past and maybe we will get it right this time by reading, not what is between the lines, but what was in the submissions to CDC.

At the Southland culvert, work has continued to bring the final level above the design water level for the pound. This should enable the surplus winter water to be taken out of the canal rather than it rushing down the canal and if there is any summer water keeping it in the canal.

More work removing the Himalayan balsam in the Loxwood and DHL pounds was helped by a visiting party from Worthing Work and Pensions Department volunteers.

Brian Dunman, to whom I apologise for calling Dave last month, continued cutting the stone for the coping at Southland lock training walls. That will be a challenge, for already there is a significant amount of water in the canal following some heavy rain and, as above, we cannot move until we get agreement from the statutory bodies.

The TSG generally meets at the same time and place. If you want to contact the group leader, me for the time being, try [tsg@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:tsg@weyandarun.co.uk). A group address should in future enable me to say what is going on where. To get on that list please advise [listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk). If you would like help to run this facility, let me know.

*Eric Walker*

## The Winston Harwood group (Thursdays)

More time has been spent clearing blackthorn at Rowner. Diabolical dog roses, brambles and intertwined blackthorn branches needed sorting - what a tangle! The blackthorn stumps will be chemically treated later.

We have finished pointing at Love's Bridge. Some serious voids in the pointing, up to 10in deep, were filled with a mortar gun, nice and solid. (Traditional little trowel does not work - leaves voids. Please phone me for details)

We are pleased to report an on-site meeting right by the waterwheel, co-opting Turlough and our brilliant engineer, Tony Turnbull, who has put in a lot of background work on a new system of spillways and further modifications to improve on the 2005 waterwheel. It will make for greatly reduced maintenance time on the end seals (Hooray!)

Our next task is to remove the present waterwheel and salvage certain parts. Very pleased to report that we anticipate funding and installation by next spring. (Beats getting depressed!)

Also, Brian Crossley paid us a working visit to repair our 'almost unique' folding stile which had been vandalised.

*Tony Clear (for David Junkison)*

## The Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

At our first meeting in August we continued with our tasks down at Haybarn. Subsequently more work was undertaken by three members of the group with the result that, at least for the time being, the swing bridge and the towpath to the north as far as the 90 degree bend in the canal and south to Lee Farm Lock looks well cared for, and the bridge itself looks smart now that it has been repainted. (see also on Chris Richardson's web site at [www.myriver.com/mwp3.html](http://www.myriver.com/mwp3.html)).

We have not neglected our other sites either and both our 'regular' meetings have involved visits to them to 'keep up appearances'. In addition, we have cleared the reeds around the slipways at Drungewick and mowed the site as well as pulling up the Himalayan Balsam in Loxwood over-spill car park at the request of the landowner on the other side of the river.

We meet again in September on 6th and 20th if you would like to join us.

*Nick Wood*

## Mid-Week Working Party

After feeling slightly downcast (see WPN July) our spirits have been lifted somewhat, with numbers well up - 26 people on a recent work party. Most of our recent efforts have been concentrated on the Dunsfold summit level, making the pound look cared-for and preparing for dredging work. MWWP member Trish Loveland received, on WACT's behalf, a £4,000 cheque from the IWA SE Region towards the dredging and improvements on the summit. To mark this occasion, we moved the 'Assisted by IWA' sign to a prominent position where we hope it could

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Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	<a href="mailto:tsg@weyandarun.co.uk">tsg@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Peter Jackman	MidWeek Working Party	01483 772132	<a href="mailto:mwwp@weyandarun.co.uk">mwwp@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	<a href="mailto:mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk">mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
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be seen by visitors to the Dunsfold Wings and Wheels event over the August bank holiday weekend. We took the opportunity to do some repairs to the signboard, and top it with another explanatory sign about what is going to happen.

The dredging will commence once we have agreed a disposal point for the silt. Another point awaiting resolution is the location of the towpath - both WACT and Dunsfold Park would like to see it moved to the other side of the canal, i.e. the non-airfield side.

Much of the work at Dunsfold has involved taking down timber. Before doing this, the group worked closely with the conservation advisers to ensure that there were no nests, always an important consideration when working at this time of year.



**The Dunsfold Wings and Wheels visitors shouldn't have missed this by the entrance - WACT dredging coming soon, thanks to the IWA support (Janet Phillips)**

We are still awaiting final details of the agreement to work on the Bramley side of the A281. To assist in this area, two steel work punts have been acquired and moved to the Guns Mouth. We hope that all the 't's can be crossed and the 'i's dotted so that the punts can be put to use before the Cranleigh Stream gets into flood.

In fact there is no shortage of work - we just need to be sure that the necessary permissions are in place. Another up-coming project is repairs to the steps at Fastbridge.

Finally, an appeal. We are desperately in need of at least one more chain saw operator. The group's only trained chain saw person (me) can't do it all.

*Peter Jackman*

## Summer Camp

This years Wey & Arun Summer camp - after some last minute changes - consisted of adjusting the Paddock layout at Paddock Wood farm and moving the garden plot some 6m east, including moving a raised fruit bed and a small green house and related fencing.

George Whitehead's team was reduced in numbers this year and at best was only 10; and by the end of the week was as small as six operatives including George.

The team won two quiz nights during the evenings, one at the Onslow and one at the Foresters, which was the local drinking hole during their stay at the Kirdford Village hall.

Steve from the Newbury group joined us for three days and was the key operative in fixing up the shower unit which once again gave sterling service. Bill Nicholson also joined us for two days and helped with the most arduous task of driving home some 70 posts over the full seven day period.

We must thank the owners Mr & Mrs Swindon for their assistance and understanding, particularly the help given by their father Gordon.

The output of the small team including three girls, Clair, Sally and Sarah, was impressive and the attention to detail in relocating the cottage garden driven along by Sam was, I feel sure, appreciated by the owners.

All the team had visited before and further sterling inputs were made by Phil, John and Ian all the way from Edinburgh.

The work was completed successfully completing the adjusted fencing to the paddocks and relocating three horse troughs and water connections, in preparation for future work at Southland Lock.

Superb support was once again given by Dave Kersley through out the week right through to removing the shower unit from the Village Hall

We must make sure we advertise next year's camp to encourage old members back and perhaps new members.

*Allan J Chambers*

## Hedge Laying

After last season's fiasco of ill health and bad weather, what may you ask, does this season hold for the group?

A good question, because at this moment in time I am not sure whether it is just a short section of laying at Drungewick Lane area or that, plus a considerably longer section elsewhere. We will know in due course, I expect, but it doesn't make planning easy.

This season should start with some hedge trimming at Harsfold, Drungewick Lane and Baldwin's Knob.

So, without further ado, here are some provisional dates and I will be in touch.

September - Thurs 16, Fri 24.

October - Sun 3?, (11 - 15?), Weds 20, Sun 24?, Thurs 28.

November - Fri 5, Sun 7?, Sun 14?, Tues 23.

December - Weds 1, Thurs 9, Fri 17?

*Keith Nichols*

## Guide to Restoration Progress

A completely new version of former MWWP leader Colin Gibbs' brainchild, *A Guide to Restoration Progress on the Wey & Arun Canal*, has just gone on sale. The new version retains the 10 useful sectional maps, drawn by Hazel Lintott, updated and annotated with full details of all major work carried out by WACT, but has been expanded considerably to 40 full-colour A4 pages. The additional space provides explanatory text and a large number of photographs, many of them previously unpublished photos. Dare I say it's worth the £4.00 (£4.80 by mail order) price for an image of our treasurer in his undies wallowing in the mud at Old Toat Bridge...

Copies available from WACT/WAEL Mail

Order - contact [jw@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:jw@weyandarun.co.uk).



**Summer camp 2010 - work included moving fences, glasshouses, horse troughs etc to provide access to Southland Lock (Allan Chambers)**

## 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 <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>
26 September	'The Pedal' sponsored bike ride	contact <a href="mailto:pedal@weyandarun.co.uk">pedal@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
23 October	Autumn meeting at Bramley	