

Editorial

Greetings from snowy Aylesbury. Is it too much to hope that the current white patch is setting the scene for the coming season? The canal close to us looks very attractive, though the ducks are less impressed. I hope the snow is not holding things up too much on the Wey & Arun canal, though winter work always carries a degree of uncertainty.

With a brand new work site (Gun's Mouth Island) there is plenty to do, although there are still far too many formalities to go through before Southland Lock can begin in earnest. Peter Jackman urges those who are not on an official work party to respect the parking restrictions at Guns Mouth; having got so far with this important site we cannot allow a few thoughtless individuals to put the negotiations back several steps. And the same applies to all work sites on or near private land.

With my taking over this newsletter earlier in the year, and with Di Miles succeeding Colin Gibbs with collating the attendance figures, I am aware that the mailing lists for this newsletter are maybe not as up-to-date as they should be. So please, if you are aware of anybody who is a regular working party participant who should be receiving it, either by post or e-mail, but who is not, please drop me an e-mail and we can get the list amended.

Bill Thomson

Thursday and Sunday group

"When will we be able to start on Southland Lock?" lots of the TSG and the wider WACT membership must be asking. The bottom line must be what the licence from Natural England (NE) allows us to do, and when the acceptance is finalised by Chichester District Council (CDC) of our latest non-material minor amendment to the planning application. Since we had our meeting with NE the lock has been re-designed and the redesign submitted to CDC. However, with government cutbacks reportedly threatening the loss of some 500 jobs at NE, plus changes locally at CDC, who knows when this will be resolved? Maybe as I write, but then I am an optimist.

With the gate onto the towpath installed the next job was to remove the tree and then the stump alongside the gate. Further clearance of the DHL site has been done. The stop plank shelter at DHL is now awaiting a warm, dry period to finish off the roof. This also true for the bollards that have been installed recently.

Profiling along the Loxwood Pound is almost finished, how often have I written that, but it will get done before the boat season starts again (he said).

The towpath repairs between Brewhurst Lane and Birch Copse were terminated as the wet weather closed in; this will be continued in the spring. There is, however, the sealing with clay along the edge between the path and the canal if we can possibly do it before the wet weather that we often get in January.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, we are putting in the haul road to get access to Southland lock site. This could continue for a few weeks more.

At the site of Gennets Lock the landowner is arranging removal of the trees by a professional tree surgeon. Provisional dates for this work are - at the moment - between 18th December and 3rd January. Please let me know if you are able to assist as a lookout as two paths cross at that point.

Julian Cheek is distributing cards produced by the HSE to our group for Weil's disease, which is a notifiable in the UK. See also [http://www.patient.co.uk/doctor/Leptospirosis-\(Weil's-Disease\).htm](http://www.patient.co.uk/doctor/Leptospirosis-(Weil's-Disease).htm)

How about this? Search www.Streetmap.co.uk for location 502498,133347

The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at the Onslow car park, if we are not there ring 07717 855340. To contact the group leader try 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. Julian Cheek is helping to run this facility.

Eric Walker

Hedge Laying

Greetings, nay, Festive Greetings, if you so wish, to one and all, including the Andrews Sisters (Wendy & John).

We have moved on from hedge trimming and spent three days in Barnshill Coppice cutting some very overgrown Hazel stools. This produced 125 stakes and 125 binders that were needed at the Drungewick Heavy Plant Crossing. Not 60 of each as previously stated as I had lost my notes stating that the hedge was 50m long.

Monday 14th November saw us move the above to the above (if that makes sense) and we laid the initial 6m, being a hedge layer nightmare of too much material to lay followed by a large gap. The 23rd was split between tidying up in the coppice and laying another 9m plus binding 8m so that it is now starting

to look like a layed hedge. Weather permitting, we should be finished at the aqueduct/H P Xing by Christmas or early January when we will hopefully move south to Harsfold.

Thanks to Peter Foulger for his help in moving coppice material and to the Tickners Heath group for their assistance with some unusual requests.

My office (Jolly Farmer, Bramley car park!) has now got too cold to write any more, so have a good one!

Yours cheerfully, Keith, Phone 01403 753882 / 07817 798 865

Dates:

January - (03 - 07?), Wed 12, Thurs 20, Fri 28

February - Mon 07, Tues 15, Wed 23

March - Thurs 03, Mon 21, Wed 29

Plus - the odd Sunday

Keith Nichols



**Hedge laying on the canal
(Penny Line)**

The Winston Harwood group (Thursdays)

Our team leader - and all of us- were much relieved that we managed to completely remove the water-wheel, just before winter rains made the fields impassable to ordinary cars, and get it all to Tickner's Heath depot.

The vanes, quadrants and spokes are reusable, after galvanising. Further work means they are now numbered and ready for sand-blasting before galvanising. Holes for the stainless steel spillways have been drilled in the vanes - that took quite a time!

The group also did further 'jungle-bashing' between part of the Newbridge to Rowner section on the non-towpath side. Nearly ready for the chain-sawing of several large trees, some needing removal from the canal.

Tony Clear

Tickner's Depot

Well, just as we thought things were on the up along comes some ??????? toe rag and destroys the tranquillity. He or she and their cronies obviously thought that their need of expensive trust equipment was greater than ours, and so decided to relieve the Tickner's team of the need to store and maintain vital pieces of trust kit. Luckily they had not planned on the vigilance of the Dunsfold security guys who happened upon their efforts and managed to salvage all of the vital stuff. Unfortunately they left behind a mess of broken hasps, staples discarded and broken locks plus an insecure Landrover which will have to visit our sponsors Harwoods to get the rear window replaced. Words fail me and I cannot adequately describe to you gentle reader my true thoughts as to their parentage etc! Where's Mr Pierpoint when you need him? Luckily Mick Jones and Dave Kersley of the Tickner's team were available to rectify the damage and make sure that the buildings were as secure as possible - thanks guys.

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
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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	01296 423033	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

'You Bend It We Mend It'



Members of the Tickner's Team Francis Wellerd and Peter Andrews with 'The Pump' who along with Dave Kersley (missing) managed to bring new life into the old girl.

But less of that let's get back to the positive. The old depot is looking quite spick and span, mainly due to the effort of the Monday group who have done a wonderful job of cutting back the vegetation. We now have more outside storage space than was previously though possible. This is a vital improvement, especially as more equipment is finding its way back to the depot from the canal side. I should also thank the Thursday group who have also been quite active in reducing the amount of vegetation around the Nissen Huts etc.

As you will see from the photo (left), the team has been actively restoring some of the Trust's - shall we say more mature - equipment. We have not only repaired the pump shown but have got numerous lawn mowers, mixers and generators up and running and have now turned our attention to the 'Green Goddess' 6in pump which has been languishing in the double shed for some time. So far it has resisted the best efforts of Peter Andrews and Francis Wellerd but I am confident the time is fast approaching when it will roar into life you will probably hear the cheer as far afield as Southland.

Ken Bacon and Mick Jones who are forever on the look out for more projects have turned their attention to the scaffolding shed. Some time ago it was found that one of the corner posts had rotted and the whole structure was in a rather precarious state. After close encounters with some of the local wildlife, they are now well on the way to producing a stable shed so that one can enter the area without fear of it collapsing around one's ears.

Well I think that's it for now. All that is left is to wish you and yours all the very best for the festive season from the Tickners team.

John Smith

Recycling News

Good news! We collected 27.243 tonnes of paper during the 3rd quarter of 2010 (July, August and September) which is a big increase from the 15.074 tonnes collected in the 2nd quarter. We should receive £2,998.71, including recycling credits from West Sussex County Council.

As of the 19th October, the recycling of inkjet cartridges and mobile phones has made £359.26 so far this year. Who knows, we might make £500 by the end of the year.

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
13 December	Navvies Christmas Lunch, Three Compasses, Alfold	Contact Geoff Perks 01403 262855
18-23 December	Santa Cruises, Loxwood	Details from WACT office
26 December, 1 January 2011	Special boat trips	Details from WACT office
16 April 2011	Annual meeting, Shalford, 1430	See <i>Wey-South</i> magazine

We continue to save postage stamps. Please send or take to the Granary office at Loxwood.

Alongside the steps leading up from our canal car park at Loxwood to the towpath, there is now an eye-catching framed poster asking those dog walkers and others, encouraging them to bring their old newspapers and magazines with them the next time they visit.

Earlier in the year I asked for volunteers to help load at Worthing and unload at Loxwood the occasional supply of unwanted catalogues to help fill our paper banks. Unfortunately at the Worthing business park where these are now housed, all unwanted paper is collected and recycled by a large specialist company, so we will not be offered any more from that source., but may I thank those persons who offered to help.

Many thanks to all those members and friends who support our recycling initiatives.

John Wood

The Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

After a supreme effort early in the month by almost all the regular members of the Group, all our nine sites, including the towpath north and south of Haybarn Bridge, have been prepared for the winter months and will not now require any more attention until the spring. We have also cut more of the hedge near Baldwin's Knob lock for Keith Nichols.

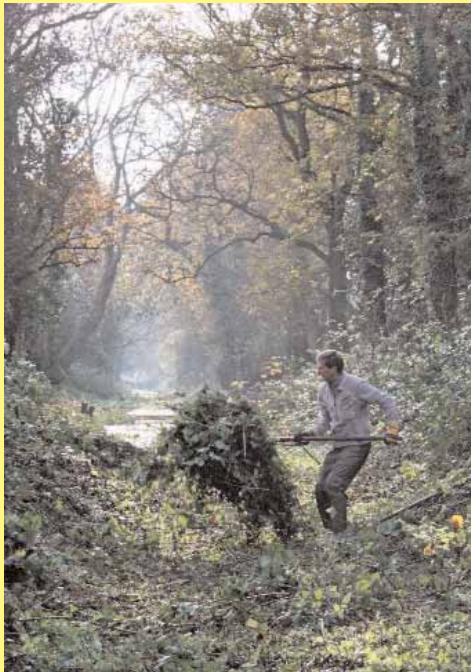
As a result we were able to spend another day meeting John Smith's request, in last month's WPN, to undertake scrub clearance within Tickners depot. On a very cold last Monday in the month we started on what has become our annual winter task in Sidney Wood, clearing the first culvert, which was almost blocked with autumn leaves, and continuing cutting the brambles and other undesirables along the banks and towpath. As there is about 1500 yards to do between Firtree Copse and lock 16, we shall continue with this work in December (13th) and in January.

Nick Wood

Mid-Week Working Party Group



The MWWP has now turned its attention to Gun's Mouth Island. Access is by 'ferry' and because of the proximity of an SSSI, some of the work can only be undertaken from a pontoon. Another recent MWWP project was clearance at Elmbridge (right). Pictures by Janet Phillips.



Weekend camp

A successful weekend's work was completed by NWPG led once again by Bill Nicholson. Starting at Baldwin's Knob, the team adapted well to the cramped conditions with a team of at least 13 (I think) and completed three of the concrete quadrants on the Saturday having scraped over every local source of ballast to cover some under measurement, This left just one quadrant for Sunday with just sufficient material. The large team was able to help Kevin Baker and Peter Foulger on their survey of Baldwin's Knob in its drained condition.

The team split on Sunday leaving four at Baldwin's Knob to finish the last quadrant with the remainder assisting Eric Walker at Birch Copse to extend the towpath repairs and some rather soul-destroying work on the beautification of the completed work. In the end the reward was that this looked good

We would like to thank the team for their flexibility to bend to these late adjustments to our programme and to add to the appreciation for the much needed work at Baldwin's Knob

Allan Chambers

Free to a good home

Martin Turner wishes to dispose of a near-complete set of *Wey-South* magazines dating back to the early 1970s. He also has many copies of *Navvies*, and also the Basingstoke Canal newsletter, from the same period. Generously, he is not looking for any payment, though I am sure a donation to WACT would not go amiss.

Martin can be contacted on 01737 352041.