

WACT Statement:

The Trust has in error published various remarks in the *Working Party News* and wishes to draw the attention of all readers to the correct versions, in particular of the August and December 2010 editions below. We thank those who reported our errors and apologise unreservedly to any who were offended in any way by these.

In future, the Council of Management (CoM) will spend more time in reviewing each step towards realising our restoration of the entire waterway with fuller consideration of the ramifications of the planning process, including input from Parish Councils, local Conservation Societies and other appropriate bodies. The CoM will also continue to ensure that the Working Parties are fully informed about those planning applications and local inputs.

Sally Schupke, Chairman

August 2010 - Thursday and Sunday Group

The harvest at Southland 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.

December 2010 - 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 amendments 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 able to assist as a lookout as two paths cross at that point.

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

Editorial

Circumstances dictate that this issue is nearly three weeks later than planned, so we bring you a combined Jan/Feb issue to start 2011. We hope normal service will be resumed in March.

Sadly, since the last issue appeared we have lost two prominent, long-serving, stalwarts in Colin Gibbs and Peter Wilding. Both had been ill for some time, and we extend our sympathies to those close to them. Turlough Bamber's notes appear on page 4.

I shall sign off by wishing all readers every good fortune and favourable weather in 2011.

Bill Thomson

Thursday and Sunday group

Southland? December - and we got the licence from Natural England, so then the weather clamped down with the general holidays for Christmas and the New Year that was it for 2010. At any rate we should now be able to do some planning. Mild weather at Christmas would have been very frustrating. Of course we await the outcome of our latest to planning application to CDC, which is a minor amendment.

A major job now is to cut the copings waiting at Tickners, to make them suitable for the headwall at Southland. Simple to say, but will take a few weeks.

At Southland we can build up the causeway and the roadway where it does not involve bringing material through Ifold. Hopefully the electricity will be connected during January. With the days getting longer it won't be long before we can work on without lights!

Sunday 9 Jan we were scheduled to go to Gennets lock to tidy up after tree felling by the landowner. Weather permitting, we still have jobs to do at Drungewick, Brewhurst and the Onslow wharf. There are other jobs at BKL in Jan & Feb, assuming the Lox is not in flood, so keep a lookout for notifications.

The discussions with Natural England led to a rule that access to the non-towpath side of the lock is to be limited to only the very essential. We had decided that the back pump is to be along the towpath side some time ago. Within this rule the boat crew are not to go to the non-towpath side to operate the gates or paddles. Remote operation of the gates and paddles was offered to make their operation easier. The boat group have said, informally, that they don't want Southland lock to have hydraulically operated gates or paddles. Both the bottom and top gates will have walkways on to meet the IWA requirement. On the bottom gates there will be two paddles on the towpath side gate. To operate the other gate, the crew will reach across with a pole to open or close it.

Julian Cheek has been distributing the cards produced by the HSE relating to Weil's disease, which is 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)

If your card gets lost please ask Julian for a replacement. Animals other than rats, for example dogs or cattle, can transmit the disease.

The Thursday Sunday Group generally meet at 09:30 at the Onslow Arms car park, if we are not there, ring 07717 855340. A group email 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

The Mrs Bucket Group - Keeping Up Appearances on Mondays

Only one meeting in December where we continued our work in Sidney Wood. We have completed about 40% of the task including tidying up around the large tree which fell across the canal in 2008 and awaits cutting up (pictures on Chris Richardson's website www.myriverarun.com). Our next outings are scheduled for the 10th and 24th of January, likely to be in Sidney Wood. Please contact John Empringham if you would like to join us.

Nick Wood

Heritage Heroes

Wey & Arun Canal Trust volunteers were thanked on 8 December in the splendour of the Banqueting House, Whitehall. The Trust had gained a runner's up award for the volunteer work involved in the B2133 road crossing at Loxwood. Jim Phillips represented the Chairman of WACT at the presentation.

The Heritage Heroes certificate was presented by Loyd Grossman OBE, the Chairman of The Heritage Alliance. This was followed by a speech by Jeremy Hunt MP, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. He paid tribute to the WACT volunteers who are working on a project which few, if any, will see completed in their lifetimes. It was good that Jeremy Hunt, as the MP for SW Surrey, knows something of the Wey & Arun and has been on a trip-boat. He was able, therefore, to include praises for the volunteers' work from his own knowledge rather than from a prepared script.

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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
Vacant	Loxwood Link		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

Hedge Laying Group

Greetings for the New Year AD 2011 to one and all. Well ladies, gentlemen, children, small furry animals and mythical beasts. This formidable team of healthy young men have been sunning themselves in WACT-supplied deck chairs so much over the past month that hardly any laying has been done. They have used all the usual poor excuses of age, ill health, steep, slippery slopes and even more ridiculous, SNOW. Can you believe it?

The team leader has had so little to do over the past month that he is contemplating getting a job as well, as he is fat and bloated and therefore in need of some exercise.

So, to date we have only layed 15m and bound 6m, leaving 35m to do before moving down south to Harsfold. What a poor show.

And now for the apologies and corrections. You will have noticed that in my last piece "existentialism" was miss-spelt, as there is no "f" in "existentialism". Also, the photo credited to Penny Line in the December WPN was actually one of our Treasurer's little treasure's (Janet Phillips) photos. It's still me though. Plus the photo in issue of 153 of Wey South credited to 'er indoors again, was actually one of erstwhile team member and man about town, Richard Emsley. Hedgelaying Group at work? I think not! One person is tying his wellington boot laces, one is reading the Sunday Sport and the other is contemplating his navel and the meaning of life which, of course, happens to be 42.

As you may be able to tell, I am lost for words.

Just call me Susan -

Keith Nichols, Phone 01403 753882 / 07817 798 865

Hedging 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

Colin Gibbs

Jean Gibbs (Colin's widow) writes: I am so sorry that we had to postpone Colin's Thanksgiving Service before Christmas - the extreme weather conditions finally defeated us, especially with many people having long distances to travel. Even Colin, who was a real organiser as you know, would not have been able to control the weather!

However we have finally re-arranged the service for Saturday 22nd January, 2.00pm at St Paul's Church Centre, 15, Northey Avenue, Cheam, Surrey. SM2 7HS

We would be delighted to see any of you if you would like to come. Please give me a ring on 0208 241 7736 or email me if you have any queries, or just to let me know if you can make it.

Thank you too for all the cards, messages, letters and support during such a difficult time for the family.

Baldwin's Knob Lock refurbishment

23, 30 Jan; 6, 13, 20 Feb

Volunteers are needed to help us achieve the refurb of the paddle gear and gates at BKL. The work will consist of removal and replacement of timber and heavy paddlegear. Wellies will be a definite advantage as the majority of the work will be in the lock itself.

The work will involve a lot of physically demanding work but also an amount of less strenuous stuff like passing down materials etc. If you wish to come along and help then it will be very much appreciated. Start time each day will be approx 9.30am and finish when we have had enough, around 4.30 I would think. No commitment to start early or stay all day, whatever time you can spare would be excellent. Don't leave it to Peter Foulger and me to do it all!

Kev Baker, Maintenance co-ordinator

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	
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Every Thursday	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
16 April	Annual meeting, Shalford, 1430	See <i>Wey-South</i> magazine

The Winston Harwood group (Thursdays)

A quieter than usual Christmas month due to rain, ice and snow making driving and working impractical. Our one 'Canal day' had to be modified due to previously cut scrub and woody material etc being underwater and unburnable.

In the background, progress indeed with the water-wheel, with the old spokes being shot-blasted and galvanised and to be returned within a fortnight from now. Roll on Spring!

Tony Clear

A Tribute to Tim Jolly, Colin Gibbs and Peter Wilding

The year 2010 saw the passing of three long-standing stalwarts of the Trust: all from serious health issues: Tim, Colin and in December Peter. Each one has left his legacy to the Trust, in faithful service. Each one soldiered on in their own quiet way. One could say much of them all but this is not the place.

Tim was formerly a working party volunteer and subsequently as a member of CoM and editor of *Wey-South*. So often he was meeting visitors at the Loxwood 'black shed' over weekends and bank holidays, and encouraging them to join us in our vision to restore the canal by being in membership of the Trust.

Colin led the MWWP, and latterly managing the Tickners Heath Depot and recording volunteer inputs to substantiate matching grants. His most recent major contribution was as editor (with others) of the new edition of 'A Guide to Restoration Progress of the Wey & Arun Canal': a magnificent document of reference.

Peter Wilding was a member of CoM and in the field maintaining the 'operational section': primarily going south from the Onslow Arms, Loxwood, to Drungewick where we have a window on what we trust will be the future between Shalford and Pallingham: a peaceful canal-boating environment.

All three joined us in seeing the potential challenge of linking the Wey to the Arun. Each one had a very special peacefulness, as they went about their roles. I feel it has been a great privilege to have known and worked with them.

So 2010, has seen the passing of three great guys and I am sure everyone would join me in thanking their families for the time they gave the Trust, in their dedication to the vision of the restoration of Wey & Arun Canal, as a through waterway linked to the rest of the English waterway network.

We will miss all three men.

Turlough Bamber, Restoration manager

Navvies' Christmas lunch



Back Rows:

David Kersley,
John Steeds, Peter
Topp, Tony Lewis,
Richard Watson,
David Pegg,
George Breach, Nick
Houston, Phil Broadley

Middle Row:

David Picknell, Ken
Bacon, Doug Nurse,
John Empringham,
David Junkison,
Brian Crossley,
John Frankland,
Peter Jackman, Peter
Lander, Ian Edwards,
Alan Jennings

Front Row

Janet Phillips, Fred
Mills, Geoff Perks,
Chas Shaw,
George Bradshaw,
Viv Bradshaw,
Ann Pick, Di Miles,
Beryl Jackman,
Judith Breach,
Betty Mills, Ray Pick,
Martin Turner

After drinking a toast to the memory of Colin Gibbs, the founder of the Midweek Working Party and also the initiator of these annual celebrations, 31 people sat down to lunch at the Three Compasses on Monday 13 December.

The party continued for almost 2½ hours, during which full justice was done to the largely traditional menu. After the meal Peter Jackman announced that 29 was the highest attendance to date at any previous MWWP working session and hoped that this would be raised to at least 30 when the Group starts work on defining the boundaries of the Hunt Memorial Park alongside the Cranleigh Waters at Gosden - a job to be tackled from 15 December onwards which will no doubt be reported in forthcoming editions of this Newsletter.

Geoff Perks