

Editorial

As it's now December, may I be one of the first to wish you all the best for the coming Christmas season and for 2012. There is a lot to get through this time (including a couple of very late items), necessitating a further page which I hope won't cause too many problems with the distribution.

Two bits of particularly good news - the Loxwood Bridge project was top of the poll in the local NatWest Community Force awards, resulting in a grant of £6,275, which is a very valuable contribution towards the full amount required. And our sponsorship arrangement with Harwoods is continuing, which means a replacement Landrover is about to be delivered to the Trust.

A couple of extra things I have been asked to mention: Numbers are looking a little thin for the Arundel dinner on 6 January, full details of which appeared in the last *Wey-South*. If you want to go, please get in touch with Vanessa Lamey (01372 275640) as soon as possible.

And although the main part of the building work for the Canal Centre is complete, there are a number of issues outstanding - including the 'green roof' - that have to be resolved before we can make use of it, so it appears that the Santa Cruises, which are almost upon us, will have to operate as before from the black shed.

Bill

Winston Harwood Group

The jungle-busting of the very overgrown Rose Walk has continued. This narrow spit of land between the canal and river now has a clear central 'green road' sufficient for driving the nearby heifers north without transporting them by road. I hope we can get involved - I like cows!

A good example of group co-operation has been involved, thanks heavily to the Mid-week Group with their chain sawing, tree extraction from the canal and more brush cutters.

Rose Walk differs from other restoration sites in that the land owner wanted us to leave not only the usual wild roses but also Mock Orange, lilacs, spindle trees and field maple. The whole site is now opened up, looks more like a canal and should be finished by Christmas.

Tony Clear (for David Junkison)

Mid Week Working Party

The Mid Week Working Party has been in good form this month. Not only have they finally been able to recover the fruits of their labours from Sidney Wood, but they have returned to the things that they do best: cutting and burning their way through jungle; and, in particular, the deft application of the Tirfor to resistant root balls. Not only that but they even deployed to keep the Halloween show on the road (well, canal) at Brewhurst winding hole.

Yes, after some misunderstandings, agreement was finally reached with Forestry Enterprises and their contractors to send a crack squad into the depths of Sidney Wood to recover all the stakes and binders previously cut and crafted by the team back in September. This was finally achieved in broad daylight, and without the need for the helicopter and/or packhorses mooted in last month's *WPN*. This episode has been frustrating and unfortunately may point to the need for particular care in maintaining good

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 Ray Pick for confirmation of venue
Every Wednesday Thursday & Sunday as required	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Every Thursday (currently Fridays)	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
Various dates	Santa Cruises	See WACT website
9 January 2012	Annual Dinner - Arundel	Contact Vanessa Lamey (as above)
16 January	Navvies' Christmas lunch	Contact Geoff Perks



Mid-Week Working Party in action at the Rosewalk (pictures by Chris Richardson)

working relationships as forestry policy is reviewed and reshaped by government. The material has only got as far as Tickner's to date but plans are in place for shipping on.

Elsewhere the group returned to its roots in some serious clearance and husbandry around the 'Rosewalk'; the thin margin of land between canal and river cut north of Love's Bridge between Malham and Rowner locks (see Sketch Map 8), and the scene of some of the earliest restoration back in the 70s. The channel is still there but the former towpath is private, and was planted at some stage with roses and other shrubs including Syringa and/or Lilac, and also Field Maple and Spindlewood. The work here, therefore, has not only involved the wholesale removal of standard trees and scrub from the bed but also the rather more sensitive removal of brambles and other weeds, and clearance around and trimming back of the more cherished flora. In tackling these uncharacteristically delicate tasks the group has been greatly assisted by the diagrams and guidance provided to them by David Junkison.

After all the cutting back comes the need to remove the residual stumps and rootballs calling, once again, for much digging (grumbling) and mattocking and the application of 'Monsieur Tirfor', probably the best thing to come out of France for quite some time. That packhorse might have been useful here too in fetching this heavy gear over quite some distance, and far preferable to the actual transit by wheelbarrow with flat tyre (eh, Ray!). Some of the boys really do seem to take on this tirfor-ing with something approaching relish, and a good time appeared to be had by all as may be seen from Chris Richardson's photos above. Again I would point to the wealth of other photos and supporting information on Chris' website (http://www.myweyandaruncanal.com/mwwp_rl_to_rw.html). The place did begin to look a bit like the Somme afterwards but that suggests that the clay lining, under layers of sediment, is still relatively intact here

Finally, the group has welcomed members from other working parties working with us on separate occasions recently, notably from the Winston Harwood and Loxwood Link groups. We should do more of this sort of thing!

Peter Lander (for Ray Pick)

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Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Ray Pick	MidWeek Working Party	01483 272443	anne.pick@btinternet.com
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Kev Baker	Loxwood Link	02380 861074	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston's Group	01903 774 301	winstongroup@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	07777 668 928	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

Thursday & Sunday Group

Southland Lock: we continue to be amazed how dry the weather continues to be. There have been some wet periods but the dam above the lock keeps most of the water out of the lock. A siphon from the canal beyond the dam feeds water through at a constant low rate and a pump at the bottom of the lock pumps it out as necessary down towards Loxwood. Of course the lock invert is not flat and there are a couple of inches of water in most of the lock, but we can live with that. A narrow channel has been cut from the Southlands causeway to DHL this will help to dry out the silt now at the side of the canal.

By the end of November the first four courses of blocks will be in place and a start made with the first course of bricks. We will then be putting in the scaffolding. The quoins were duly put in place and secured; there remains the grout to be poured down the back of them.

The formwork has been prepared for the ground paddle sluices and the walls on the top sill (off side) and concreting will start in early December.

Join us

The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at Southland. If we are not there, or if you need directions, please ring 07717 855340 for the latest info.

Thursday is presently very popular but there is scope for more volunteers on a Sunday with lots of jobs to do. At this time of year the early sunsets mean we have to finish before it goes dark.

For December 2011 we are meeting on 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 & 23. After that the next meeting is Thursday 5 Jan.

Eric Walker

Mrs B in the woods



The Monday Group working in Sidney Wood on 21 November. The aim, starting at the northerly limit of our remit at Firtree Copse, is to cut the bank on the towpath side, tidy the bed of the canal where needed and trim the far side bank of any small branches, etc that are overhanging the canal, all the way down to the winding hole. It's obviously going to take a few visits before arriving at Lock XVI. Also shown is the culvert under the canal being cleared of leaves to prevent it blocking. (Chris Richardson)

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Help wanted

During the summer with the Summer Camp, and then again with a Weekend Camp, we attempted to paint Northlands Lift Bridge near Billingshurst, but were eventually defeated by the weather. We have however completed most of the undercoat and the finish coat on the lower sections. The work on the upper sections was carried out with the aid of a cherry picker and we now believe we have the offer of the use of suitable plant but we need three able painters who might be available at a suitable time as weather improves i.e. DRY.

These painters will work on the cherry picker, some 5m high, in shifts.

I am looking for four or five able fit painters who might be available at one or two weeks' notice, so that I can coordinate plant and painters within a reasonable weather slot for a working team of three.

Contact me, please, if you can help, on allansonia@btinternet.com and 01403 820607

Allan Chambers

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

Couple of successful outings in November. With landowner permission we finally got round to doing our 'keeping up appearances' bit at Malham lock. It was really overgrown despite our visit last February, but after five brush cutters in use, a fire raiser and three others shifting all the cut stuff to the bonfire, it looked a lot better than when we started. We also took the opportunity to tidy up around Bignor Bridge. After watching the hunt (which one would it be?) passing through Malham Farm, we adjourned to Loxwood where we trimmed back the hazel bushes in the car park and cleared the ditch at the base of the towpath bank.

Our second meeting saw almost all the regular members out and we made a start on our usual winter job of clearing the towpath in Sidney Wood and, at Steve Jones' request, removing saplings on the other side of the canal. So far we have cut the first 300 yards from Firtree Copse, the difficult bit(!) and cleaned the leaves out of the first culvert. That leaves about 1,200 yards to lock 16, so that will keep us busy in December unless a more urgent job rears its head.

Nick Wood

Hedgelaying group

Festive greetings to you all from Harsfold. We have had another three days hedge preparation (possibly four by the time you read this). Thanks Bob for liaising. So even if the materials haven't arrived, courtesy of Dave's Removals, we should have finished the preparation.

We have had assistance from Mrs Scrase's two young horses, very friendly they are too, in fact too friendly for some of the group. So hopefully by the time I'm back in the harness on Monday 28th, Dave K might have made a delivery so we can crack on with the actual laying.

So, from my large office just outside Loxwood (I wish people wouldn't park their cars in my office) Sir Roger and I wish you another Hoppy New Beer.

Possible future dates for me are:

Dec Tues 06, Wed 14, + ?;

Jan Mon 09, Tues 17, Wed 25, + ?

Feb Mon 13, Tues 28, + ?.

Note: ? = Bob Potts

Keith Nichols

Tickner's Depot

For once November has turned out to be quite a quiet month for us up here at Tickner's and we have at last been able to turn our attention to tasks which have been on the back burner for some considerable length of time.

Mick Jones and Francis Wellerd have turned their considerable skills to servicing the reed cutter boat - a task which has been put off and put off as more pressing jobs have come our way. They have even managed to find out where the leak is coming from, but as it will mean a considerable amount of work, not to mention the cost of obtaining spare parts, it has been decided to leave things as they are. Dave Kersley assures us that it only leaks excessively if left in the water overnight, so we will let sleeping dogs lie, so to speak.

Ken Bacon and John Smith have turned their attention to improving security on the site; hopefully their efforts will make a similar incursion to last year's more difficult.

Pleased to report that we have a new team member in Richard Powell (no, he isn't certifiable). He comes to us on the highest recommendation (the Chairperson no less), and has already proved his worth, as he has started updating the inventory, Richard is a retired solicitor and was personally selected due to him being one of the few team members what can spell and write legibly. Welcome Richard, we hope your association with us will be long and productive.

The whole team was called into action on the 23rd to fix a major electrical fault on one of our trailers. The team slaved long and hard and, in the end, got all the lights working as they should, much to Dave Kersley's disgust as he used the broken rear fog light as a reversing light. Hey ho, you win some, you lose some.

Dave has of course been everywhere and anywhere the Landrover is required; he has had a trip to Muddles with the scrap, which added a few pounds to the Trust's coffers, but was most disappointed not to have received his brand new shiny mode of transport yet. Hopefully by the time this goes to press he will be in receipt of the Trust's new vehicle.

Well that's about it for now, all the best from the Tickner's Team

John Smith

Navvies' Christmas Lunch

The refurbishment of the Three Compasses appears to be complete, at least for the moment, but their dining room will now accept only 20 people. It was suggested that any overflow could be accommodated in the main bar area but, remembering the adverse comments when we used two rooms in 2008, this option was declined. Apparently it is planned to extend the dining room, and indeed to put greater emphasis on the food side of the operation, but this will not happen until some time next year at the earliest. Consequently our booking for Monday 16 January 2012 has been switched to the Sir Roger Tichborne (SRT).

Because we have opted for a date in mid-January the SRT will offer its usual menu rather than one with a Christmas theme. We are invited to choose our starters and main courses from the menu below, and I have been asked to collate these orders and to collect the necessary payments in order to simplify life for everybody by not have 30 or so people all trying to settle bills at the same time. Desserts, coffee etc can be ordered, and paid for individually, on the day. Any tipping will be a matter for individuals. The timing of the lunch will be 12.30 for 1.00pm.

Would all those wishing to attend the lunch please indicate their choices of Starters and Mains on the form below (or a copy thereof), tot up the cost and send the form and a cheque for the relevant amount, made out to "G R E Perks", to me at 61 Ashleigh Road, Horsham, RH12 2LE. Our order has to be passed to SRT by Monday 9 January 2012.

Name

Telephone

Please reserve me a place at the **Navvies Lunch** on **Monday 16 January 2012**.

I have ticked my selected Starter and Main Course on the list below and enclose a cheque made out to "G R E Perks" for the total amount of:

£.....

STARTERS

- Soup of the day with crusty bread £4.95
- Smooth chicken liver & thyme pate with sweet & sour cranberries and granary toast £5.95
- Soft herring roes on toast with a lemon & flat parsley butter £6.25
- Caramelized red onion & goat's cheese tartlette with crisp dressed leaves £5.25

MAIN COURSES

- Chargrilled rib eye steak (with or without pepper sauce), chips and a roasted sweet vegetable salad £15.95
- The Tichburger 8 oz (with or without cheese) served with chips and tomato chutney £10.25
- The Tichborne veggie burger served with chips and salad £9.25
- Real ale battered fish & chips with crushed peas & tartare sauce £10.25
- Toad in the hole on creamed mashed potato with a rich onion gravy £10.25
- Lamb & kidney hot pot served with crusty bread £11.95
- Chicken & wild mushroom tagliatelle with shaved parmesan and toasted pine nuts £11.95
- Chargrilled vegetable moussaka with a mixed leaf salad and crusty bread £9.25
- Steak sandwich with onions in ciabatta with chips and salad garnish £9.95

PLATTERS TO SHARE

- Smoked salmon, tiger prawns, smoked applewood & pastrami with ciabatta, chive aioli & hummus £11.95
- Crisp potato skins with cheese, bacon & sour cream or chilli con carne & mature cheddar £8.15

SIDE ORDERS - £2.15 each

- Chips *** Garlic or Olive Bread *** Mixed Leaf Salad

Geoff Perks