

Editorial

Thanks to the protracted house-buying (or rather, in our case, selling) process we still haven't managed to get back to Sussex from Buckinghamshire, but I remain optimistic that it will happen before the end of the canal season.

Among the things I have continued to miss have been some very successful boat trips along the canal in the Alfold/Dunsfold area. These have been both open to the public and on an invitation-only basis, each providing some useful PR.

The Gennets Bridge Lock appeal is going along tremendously, with the total - as of today - standing at £148,717. WACT still needs at least another £26,283, so our treasurer will welcome all contributions by post or bank transfer, or via the 'Donate' button on the WACT website. We hear that the 'Grow Your Tenner' scheme, from which we have previously benefited handsomely, will be starting again on 15 October, run by localgiving.com. The rules are rather complicated, so details are available by email; all you need to do is to send an email with the subject "subscribe tennerlist" to listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk. It seems that the most beneficial way to gain from the scheme is to pledge up to £10 per month, which localgiving.com will then match for 6 months. This could benefit the project by as much as £10,000 if enough people sign up.

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

In the last month, the tree roots have been dug out in the new Southland winding hole. The next step will be to get rid of them and to remove the silt to form the winding hole itself. All of the timber has been relocated to the side of the field ready for collection by the landowner when he is ready. When the WRG Forestry team took down the trees they felled it onto the brash so that the timber did not split or have shakes in it. So it was good to hear that the landowner needed a new dining room table, and will get it made from that timber. In fact it probably will make several tables.

Gradually the Southland site is being cleared, significantly all Heras fencing, and the cabins have been moved to Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) along with a good deal of our other equipment.

Silt clearance of the Devil's Hole Lock (DHL) pound is progressing, with the small bank along the edge of the canal, down to Loxwood Lock, now trimmed to shape. Next to be tackled is the large winding hole. It has a very soft base and three times in the past professionals working with have nearly lost their diggers. John Steeds says that while wading in that area, he went unexpectedly up to his armpits in one false move!

The haul road and accommodation site at GBL are basically in place, but we will spend a few weeks making the bridleway look tidier and suitable for horses. The next job is to put in the bridleway diversion, which will involve some 25 dumper-loads of material.

Join us: The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at Southland; if you need directions please ring 07717 855340 for latest info.



The site of Gennets Bridge Lock looking south in late September, following initial clearance. The compound will be to the left. The fencing running from left to right separates the Sussex Border path from the work site. (Photo: Dave Verrall)

Eric Walker

Logs available

The temporary work compound next to the A281 at Shalford has now been dismantled. There was a large quantity of logs inside and these are available for collection from Shalford (donation requested). Please contact David Daniels (support@weyandarun.co.uk, tel 01483 505566).

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

The best laid plans of mice and men and all that! Everything came to nought in September.

Permissions are still awaited for our next tasks, maybe things can start to happen in October.

Anyway, we continued to maintain our regular sites, although it was noticeable that growth has slowed down. In addition we collected and burnt the saplings which had been cut down by our Chairman and Mr Heath approaching Brewhurst lock, and gave the reeds at the Drungewick slipway a good haircut.

We meet again on 7 October and 21 October if you would like to join us. Hopefully we will be able then to tackle some of the outstanding jobs on our list.

Nick Wood

Mid Week Working Party

The MWWP has managed to clear the rushes and bushes down from Drungewick. We hope to return to this area in the spring so that the boats can use it in the summer. We have also cleared the banks and base of the canal northwards from Run Common Road, at Cranleigh.

Work has been commenced clearing the canal to a width of 2.5metres from Cook's Bridge south to the next bridge. Further work has been planned for this area in the New Year.

In the last week of September we returned to Northlands Farm to clear fallen trees in the canal and adjacent banks, and will hope to complete this task by mid October.

All work in September has benefited from sharper organisation, thanks to the appointment of two supervisors working jointly to assist the group leader. This has enabled improved liaison and clarity within the team, so that everyone is better informed as to the work plans for each day.

The Mid-Week Party members are looking forward very much to their late summer lunch on Wednesday 2 October at the Sir Roger Tichborne pub.

Anne Pick

Winston Harwood Group

Replacing the failed bearing of the waterwheel has proved to be trickier than we had hoped - there were also six stud bolts that had sheared off. They had to be drilled out and new threads cut into the stainless steel. We are winning now.

At the same time we have done some scrub clearance adjacent to the towpath, from the river weir to 'Winston's bridge', all of which could not be done during last winter, it being too wet for cars to get through.

We have carried out regular grass cutting and tidying of the lock area, which now looks better - and will be better still when the waterwheel restores the metre of water in the lock.

Tony Clear (for David Junkisson)

Boat (appearance) Group

I am planning to hold the last boat cleaning session for this season on Thursday 10 October 2013 from 9:30am. Our boats have been very busy over the last few weeks and I am hoping to take this opportunity to keep the boats looking smart, and cleaner than our quick sweep up between trips normally allows. Even an hour or two of your time would be appreciated, tea and coffee will be provided.

Anybody able to help with this important task please contact me at sh@weyandarun.co.uk or 07905 670095 or 01273 461729 (please leave a message if no answer). Thanking you in advance for your help.

Steve Harmes

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
David Daniels	Visiting working parties	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	support@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
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	winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	hedging@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Nicholson	Northern working parties	01844 343 369	bill@nwpg.org.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	07777 668 928	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk



A pair of 'interesting maps' of Shalford received from our Chairman

Wey and Arun Canal at Stonebridge – Before the construction of the Railway



Wey and Arun Canal at Stonebridge – Showing the re-alignment of Cranleigh Water resulting from the construction of the Railway

Northern Working Party/Visiting Groups

KESCRG (Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group) and NWPG both visited the Shalford section of the canal during September. KESCRG dug the trial inspection pit at Gosden Aqueduct by hand in the presence of the Trust's Archaeologist.

Nothing spectacular was found, other than changes in the level of clay puddle to indicate the presence of some form of towpath, and somewhat strangely some buttresses on the inside of the parapet wall rather than on the outside as one might expect. We await the official write up.

The remaining time, as well as that of NWPG on their visit, was spent finishing off the work at Hunt Park. This comprised the top surfacing of the path with dust bought at the last minute from Travis Perkins which we used to try and bond the very undusty material supplied to us during the WACT summer camp. This had some beneficial effect and hopefully the path will now settle down and harden up.

We also erected the oak handrails for the small bridge over the ditch at the southern end of the path, installed a new home made log bench and dismantled the compound. The latter included lifting out, cleaning off and transporting all the hoarding across the A 281 to the National Trust car park for re-use at a later date.

Phase 1 of the job is now done for the time being and apart from WRG Forestry there are no further visiting groups due on the canal until 2014. Work is then likely to be split between Shalford and Dunsfold.

Bill Nicholson

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 (plus Thursday and Sunday as required)	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Tuesdays or Fridays	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
26 October, 2.30pm	Autumn meeting, Billingshurst Village Hall	Please see latest edition of <i>Wey-South</i>

Tickner's Heath Depot

This month there is not much to report I'm afraid, so other than soaking up the sun's rays we have had a rather slack month. A good job really, as much of the team has taken advantage of the good weather and had a well-earned rest in pastures new.

One thing we did manage was to start on one of the jobs we had been putting off, which was to have a look at our 1977-vintage Kubota mini-tractor. The beastie has always been, shall we say, a trifle difficult to start, needing a lot of patience and manual dexterity to get her going. So it was decided to take the head off and see what the conditions were like underneath. Francis Wellerd, ably assisted by yours truly, set about the task with great gusto, but in our enthusiasm we managed to snap one of the head bolts, but hey ho such is life. Now, with everything off, the head should have come off with the minimum of fuss, but yes you guessed it, the thing would not move a millimetre. After struggling for the best part of an hour it was decided to leave it coated with liberal doses of WD40 (other products are available) for a week or so. Luckily on our return, so effective was the treatment, that the next time we attempted it the head came off with the minimum amount of fuss.

After looking at the valves and their seats it was decided to get our chums from Alfold Mowers to attempt to refurbish them so now we await the results of their labours, more next month.

Our only other task of note during the month was to recover the Heras fencing from Shalford and the Aqueduct and take it to Gennets Bridge Lock for Eric's team to use as they see fit.

So, all in all, a quiet month. All the best.

John Smith

WACT vacancies

We are, as always in need of additional help. There is a full list of vacancies on the WACT website (see www.weyandarun.co.uk/sitsvac.php), including people to assist with development, administration, press and PR, graphic design, print and advertising, also a 'twinning officer'.

Jobs directly relevant to working parties include:

Visiting Working Parties Co-ordinator. The job is to act as person on the spot for the various working groups who help out on the canal, either for a weekend or a whole week. The task includes organising accommodation, materials and equipment, site access and a host of other things so that the visitors' kindly donated time is put to the best use.

Restoration Manager. We are looking for somebody who may, perhaps, be a recently-retired Chartered Civil Engineer, maybe with experience in inland waterways and canals, earthworks and geotechnical engineering and project management. Ideally, contracting and consulting experience would be valuable, although not essential. However, an essential attribute will be an easy ability to work with others.

Project Managers. We have new projects that involve both restoration of the original canal, and 'new-build' sections where it is not possible to restore the original canal. We urgently need Project Managers to lead small works as well as major projects. You are likely to be at or near retirement, with practical construction and project management experience. You will become involved in planning and subsequent managing of volunteer working parties and/or civil engineering contractors, depending on the project.

Pre-planning Technical Assistant. We need someone who is highly organised and able to assist project managers in making sure that the check list of all the permissions, surveys, reports have been properly and timely obtained and are up-to-date, and any conditions are fully complied with by WACT. This is very much a supporting role to all new restoration projects.

Geotechnical Engineers. One or two Geotechnical Engineers are required with good experience of managing earthworks, including the use and installation of various types of geosynthetics. Tasks will include site supervision and management of: dredging operations and disposal of arisings, reprofiling, identifying and sealing leaks. A working knowledge of current H&S regulations, NEC3 Contracts and preparing Method Statements and Risk Assessments (we have pro formas for these) together with a familiarity with modern earthmoving machinery and general construction site plant, would all be invaluable assets.

If you would like to chat through any of the above and find out more of what is involved, please contact Sally Schupke, sas@weyandarun.co.uk or tel: 01483 503029. All enquiries will be kept strictly confidential.



The path in Hunt Park, with completed foot bridge, following the work camp and group visits (photo: Dave Verrall)