

Editorial

Not too much reported this month; no doubt everybody is thinking of holidays. Some people of course take a working holiday, and in the very recent past WACT has been pleased to host a Summer Camp, which spent a week carrying out various tasks in the Southland Lock area. The following week, another visiting team, led by Bill Nicholson, was scheduled to work on the summit section between Compasses Bridge, Alfold, and Fast Bridge. The immediate aim is to allow public boat trips on this section.

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

July 1st, and it is one year since work started at Southland Lock. At the lock the brickwork is up to the top of the lock on the offside, and in places along the towpath side. Casting the copings continues with the first on the towpath side done. The top sill brickwork has started. The lock gates have been ordered and scheduled for delivery in August. We are trying to get the brickwork and copings finished before the gates come, and to remove all the scaffolding within the lock. It is then intended to load the gates into the lock by the top sill before moving them into position. With the gates in position there are then a host of jobs to do before winter sets in.

Early in the month WRG Forestry group came and moved two massive trees across the Loxwood stream. They were part of the 12 blockages in the river we were trying to remove in order to lower the



The river blockage after initial clearance and we could see the extent of the problems



"Keeping cool in the river" - all four pictures by Jo Alderman



"Look at the size at this tree; the other is the same size"



After clearance: "A good day's work"

river water level to enable better access to the underside of a bridge we want to repair. Failure to lower the river level was in part due to the weather but the upside of this was the extra effort the WRG summer camp gave to the building of Southland Lock. **Join us:** The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at Southland; 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.

Eric Walker



Three images of recent work in the Southland area (Eric Walker)



The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

With all the rain and sun we have been having it has been important to concentrate on keeping up appearances at our nine regular sites. We have, however, expanded our responsibilities at Drungewick to include the areas around the slipways and the stop plank shelter, both of which had become rather overgrown. The six monthly visit to Malham lock remains outstanding.

We meet again on 16 July if anyone would care to join us.

Nick Wood

Hedgelaying group - Harsfold Hedge

Weather report from the Hedgelaying Group (just in case anyone hasn't noticed) yes! It has been the wettest drought for 300 years. So once again we were delayed by one week, due to a dampness problem, before we could finish off.

Finally on Friday 15 June, three of us finished the last bit of binding and had two bonfires which left the site clear. One of the bonfires produced enough heat to fry bacon and cook baked potatoes in record quick time. Ah! the smell of bacon frying in the open air - doesn't it just make your mouth water?

Working Party Diary		
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	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
Thursday and Sunday	Eric Walker's Group (construction)	Contact Eric Walker for details
5 July	Cream tea cruise 2.30pm	Details from WACT office
15 August	Pirates & Princesses cruises	Details from WACT office

This ends this season's work for the Hogslaying Group, so I'd like to thank Dave Kersley and the team: Bob Potts, Bob McHardy, Dave Picknell, Jeremy Simpson, John Kennett, Liz Sutton and Bob Brotherton, for their support on this 300m section which has taken a total of 34 days to do, plus two days for me, cutting some extra stakes and binders. Materials transferred to the site were 35 bundles of stakes (in bundles of 10 x 5ft lengths) and 16 bundles of binders (in bundles of 25 approx 10-14ft lengths), with thanks to the MWWP.

So what for the next season of 2012/13? Apart from trimming at Harsfold and possibly some other areas which didn't see our attention this season, we should be completing the offside section at Drungewick between the Heavy Plant Crossing and Slipways, plus a 30m section at Baldwins Knob Lock. If time permits there is also about 55m on the northern part of the Harsfold section (laid in 2007 and 2008) that needs relaying.

A final point I wish to make is for anyone mowing/strimming along the towpath. I would prefer to see a strip about 2 ft from the hedge left between early spring and the end of September for wild flowers if the width of the towpath permits. Is this possible?

That's it from me until September.

Keith Nichols; 01403 753882 or 07817 798865

Tickner's Heath Depot

Due to quite a few of the team taking trips into foreign parts, we have been a trifle short-handed here at Tickner's recently. So much so, that when the opportunity for a slight divergence in our *modus operandi* appeared we had to draft in Richard Watson from the MWWP to help. Eric's team were a bit over-subscribed in the work department, and he asked if we could help putting a fence around the outside area of the 'Onslow', so never ones to refuse a challenge off trundled Ken Bacon, Mick Jones and Richard Watson to erect said fence which is now there for all to see. Mind you we couldn't have done it without the assistance of Dave Kersley who managed to obtain the relevant woodwork so that the job could be completed.

Meanwhile, back at the depot, Francis Wellerd and Peter Andrews were still trying to fathom out what was causing the Green Goddess to misbehave. They had, by various methods far too complex to explain, managed to eliminate an electrical fault, so turned their collective minds to the fact that the old girl might just be getting a trifle over warm. This theory was borne out when it was discovered that only the top part of the radiator was getting warm, so it was decided to test the thermostat, but in removing the housing the xxxxxx thing cracked. Luckily Peter knew a tame Thermal Bonding Technician (welder) who managed to repair the housing in double quick time and at a minimum cost (Don't ask Jim). The engine was reassembled and after a short static test seemed to be operating normally. All that remains is for the old girl to be dragged down to the canal so that we can give her an extended run with hoses attached. This, though, will have to wait until Dave K can fit us into his busy schedule as at the moment he is knee deep in support for the various work camps.

So other than sorting out the shuttering coming back from the bridge parapets, pumping out the dredger, and a scrap run, that's about it for this edition. All the best to you lot at the sharp end.

John Smith

Help wanted

Can anyone help the Trust by offering to man the Mobile Display Unit on Saturday 18 August at the Ashington Festival, starting at 2pm? If there is someone who could help out, please contact Sally Schupke sas@weyandarun.co.uk 01483 503029.

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
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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
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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
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