

Editorial

Well, the first boat trips on the summit level at Dunsfold went off very well and provided some excellent PR for the Trust. That, after all, is why we are doing this - a canal is nothing unless it is being used for the purpose for which it was intended.

We certainly don't intend to stop there; an appeal has been launched for dredging and widening the channel on the south side of Gun's Mouth Island in Shalford, as a first tangible step in linking the canal to the national system. The target for the appeal is £23,000 which sounds a lot, but given our past successes should be achievable even in these hard times.

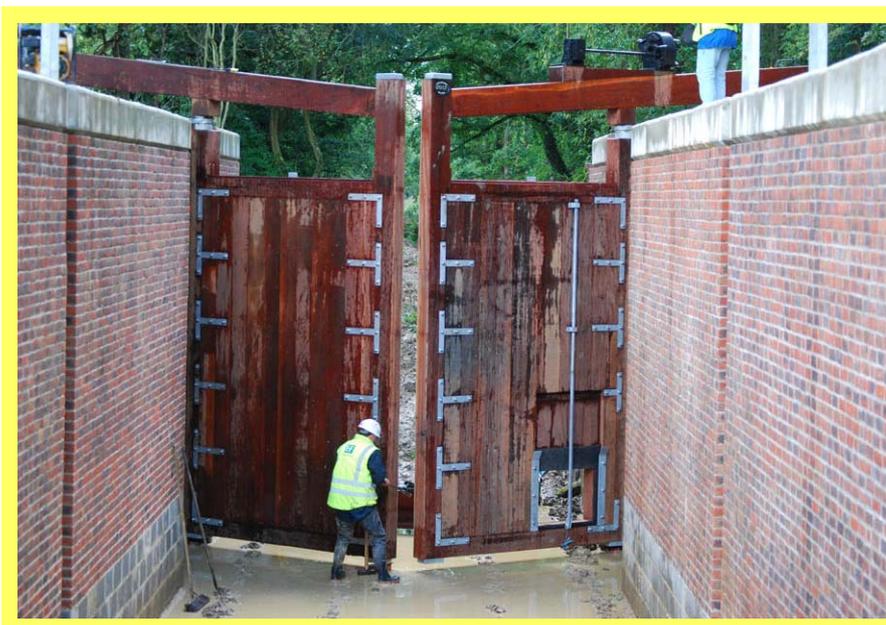
Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

The lock gates for Southland were delivered on 25 September. Prior to that the scaffolding had been removed and most of it taken back to Tickners for maintenance and storage. The lock base had been cleaned and pumped dry.

As scheduled, the basic preparations putting in the heel-post pivot pots and the gate straps, which hold the gates to the coping, were done on the Monday afternoon by the lock gate makers Hargreaves of Halifax. The 24t tracked excavator duly arrived at the Onslow at about 7:30am on Tuesday morning to be met by Robin Gardner and Phil Broadley. The low loader reversed up the road and straight into the entrance to the canal path. Off loaded the excavator had only a half-inch on either side to get through the gate by Loxwood Lock! At Paddock Wood it was impossible to get it along the track, so across the canal and down the field it went.

The lorry with the gates on arrived at 8:30am. The delivery lorry Hiab lifted the bottom gates and beams into the lock and the excavator took them down the lock and put them in place. The Hiab then put the top gates and beams in place and the gate installation was finished by 10:30am. The excavator was off-hired and sent on its way back to the Onslow.



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Southland gates installation (pictures from Sally Schupke)

The Wednesday and morning of Thursday the gates and mitre planks were fitted into position. On Wednesday we put up the viewing platform across the head of the lock. With the snags cleared, on the Thursday afternoon the gates were formally accepted by WACT in the presence of Sally Schupke, Julian Morgan, a BBC reporter and the TSG working party. A grand and well deserved celebration for the group.

On Sat 22 Sept the WRG Forestry group finished clearing the Loxwood Stream so that the brick repairs to Ifold Bridge Lane can be undertaken, when the stream returns to a low level again.

For October there are a number of jobs both at Southland and Onslow and of course the logistics to get the kit off the site.

The usual question is when are you moving to the next lock? First we have to finish the lock and clear the pound to DHL. We have planning consent for Gennets but we are awaiting the funds. There is a donor ready to match your cash donations - see 'Grow Your Tenner' below.

Another aspect of fundraising is ebay sales. Here we have made a tentative start and are looking for another sales outlet person and like 'Cash in the Attic' are looking for initially small items including books, which can be sold towards this project. Call me (07717 855340) for info.

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

Eric Walker

'Grow Your Tenner' Campaign

If you feel generous enough to support the Trust with a donation of up to £10, then the charity website www.localgiving.com will match your donation until their allocation of £500,000 has gone. Please go to www.localgiving.com/charity/wact and click on one of the "Donate" buttons. If you are a UK taxpayer then your matched £10 donation will be worth £21.53 to the Trust. If you are even more generous and would like to give more than £10, or make a regular monthly contribution, then it will help the Trust most if you donate directly; please contact the Treasurer (treas@weyandarun.co.uk).

Working Party Diary

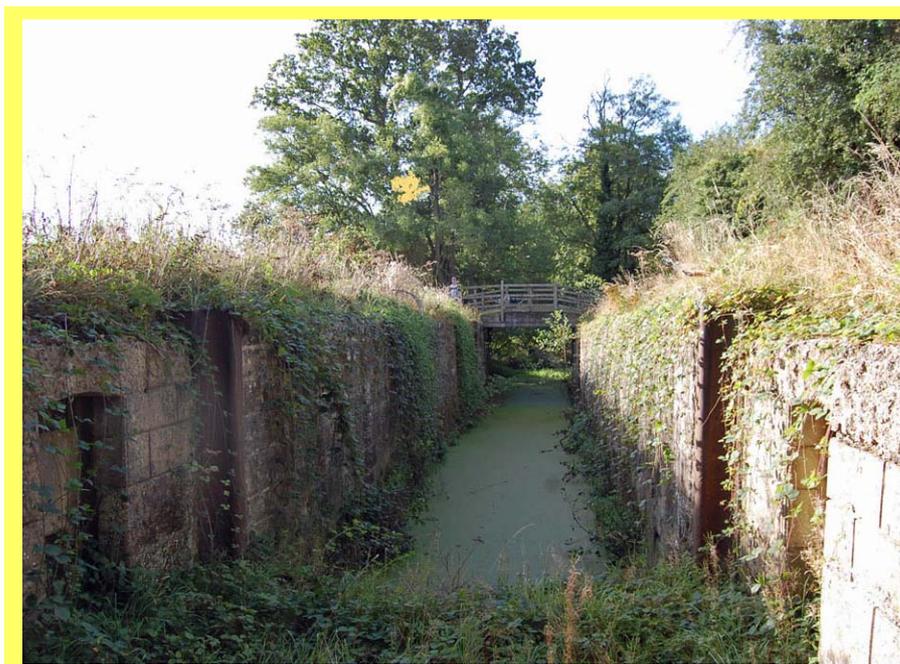
Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Check with Ray Pick for confirmation of venue
Every Wednesday Thursday & Sunday as required	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	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
27 October	Dunsfold Small Boat Rally 11am WACT Annual Meeting, Alfold	See this issue of WPN See www.weyandarun.co.uk/egm2012.php

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

Having brought our regular sites up to our self-imposed standard after a lot of hard work in August and early September, we decided that we should concentrate our efforts at our second outing in September at Malham lock. A long overdue visit as anticipated in our report in the last edition of WPN. It was in a bad state as you can see from the photograph, but we managed to tidy it all up including removing a sapling from the lock wall. The water and silt was too deep to allow us to clear the all the vegetation from the bottom of the lock, we shall need an inflatable boat for that. Has anyone got one we could borrow for the day? We also took the opportunity to tidy up around Bignor Bridge.

A work party was scheduled for 1 October, with the intention of redeeming our promise made to Peter Foulger to clear all the reeds etc from the slipways at Drungewick.

Nick Wood



What awaited the Monday group at Malham (Chris Richardson)

Hedgelaying Group

Hail Citizens! Our first meeting was a non-event and so on Tuesday 25 September our large group finally met. The two of us trimmed the first 90m of the Harsfold section so only another 250m to go before laying starts! Rain! What rain? There were only six brief showers and there is still a drought, isn't there?

It looks like we shall now be laying in the Haybarn area with Baldwins Knob Lock as a back-up in times of flooding.

So here are some future dates:

October - Wed 03, Thurs 11, Mon 29

November - Tues 06, Wed 14, Thurs 22, Fri 30

December - Mon 10, Tues 18

If anyone fancies doing the odd Sunday, please tell me.

Keith Nichols Tel: 01403 753882; Mob: 07817 798865

Tickner's Heath Depot

An even quieter month at the depot than last, due mainly to holidays. In my absence Ken Bacon has been keeping things ticking or should that be Ticknering over, so my thanks to him.

As previously mentioned most of this month has been spent making room for the vast quantities of 'Kwikstage' scaffolding coming back from Southland. Hopefully we now have enough space to fit it all in.

We have also been assisting Dave Kersley to repair one of the larger cement mixers which broke down whilst being used on the canal. If it is not already finished it should be soon.

At long last we have finished cleaning the pallet of old bricks which came back from the canal some months ago, whether they are usable is another matter as they are rather irregular in size and shape.

Well I think that's about it for this month - not much to report I'm afraid, so all the best.

John Smith

Small Boats Rally

On the newly-restored section at Dunsfold - Saturday, 27 October from 11am onwards.

Come and see the new section at Dunsfold on the morning of the Autumn meeting. We will meet outside the Three Compasses pub (just off the Dunsfold Road, Alfold) and walk the short distance down to the towpath where you will be able to see the new landing stage and walk along to Farnhurst Bridge. Suitable only for kayaks, canoes, etc. because of the width of the entrance gate. For larger boats we will need to make special arrangements with Dunsfold Park. Please contact John Taylor Cram rallies@weyandarun.co.uk for further details. If you haven't got a boat - you are still very welcome to visit and we look forward to seeing you. Opening time - 11am-1.30pm.

General enquiries to David Daniels on 01483 505566.