

Editorial

Quite a short newsletter this time. Must be because of the holiday season which is fast approaching. Some lovely people are giving up part of their holidays to work on the canal, at the WACT Summer Camp which has just begun. The main task is to improve the riverside path beside the Cranleigh Waters in Shalford, representing the important first stage of construction work for the new Hunt Park. WACT is



The result of the recent reprofiling at the Devil's Hole Pound (Geoff Thomas)

indebted to Bill Nicholson, camp leader, and Rob Nicholson, who has helped with the engineering. Other visiting navvies have been helping out elsewhere, with Waterway Recovery Group Bit in the Middle (WRG BITM) and Newbury Working Party Group (NWPG) assisting Eric and his TSG party with profiling the canal between Devil's Hole Lock and Southland Lock, over a long weekend in mid-June.

On the previous weekend, 178 walkers took a stroll around the Arun valley in good walking conditions on the annual 'Poddle' (sponsored walk), expected to bring in about £8,000.

Contractors have begun work on removing silt between Compasses Bridge and Tickner's Heath, thanks to a grant from the Surrey Hills 'Leader' scheme. Please note that there is no public access to the work site.

The dreaded Great Hogweed has been appearing again in the Loxwood area. Not only does it grow

Bill

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

At our two meetings in June we continued to 'keep up appearances' at our nine regular sites and, in addition, with Peter having obtained permission, we visited Malham Lock and Bignor Bridge as hoped. With all the rain and sun the vegetation had 'taken off' and much work was required to bring these two locations 'up to scratch'. We look forward to meeting again on 1 July and 15 July and possibly on 29 July if necessary.

Nick Wood

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

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Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

At Southland lock the construction of the training wall on the towpath side is finished and landscaping is now in hand with only the steps to go in. Connection of the back pump to the pipework (to take the water to the top of the lock) has been completed, and the group is now working on the completion of the shelter for the pump.

Clearing the silt from DHL pound continues. This will take a long time and we just (there's that 'J' word again - just do this and just do that) keep at it. Despite the help from WRG over a very extended weekend, we are probably only 30% done. This work was given the priority over the Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) haul road. The weather, being dry, is excellent for the work - long may the good weather continue. The corn in Southland field is growing fast and harvest is expected to be not too late despite the cold spring. But more of that - the harvest, not the cold spring - next time.

At Loxwood Lock the coping stones are being replaced on the horse bridge. Behind the Onslow the fitting of the fenders for the safety ladders continues to be on hold.

At GBL we are making plans for the installation of the electrical supply to the lock. No date has been set for the start, yet. The design changes are nearly finished, ready for submission to WSCC; however the contractor and the ecology aspects are still posing a problem or two.

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

Mid Week Working Party

At last we managed to get some of our list of works completed as the weather has generally improved. We returned to the Rosewalk to clear trees lying in the canal and started pruning the wild rose hips. In addition, following a telephone conversation with the landowner, we agreed to prune a number of trees in the river at the far end of the Rosewalk to speed up the flow of water. We then cleared the far bank between Loves Bridge and Rowner so that if the canal flooded again the water would flow freely.

Our leader managed to arrange a meeting with the landowner to assess the works needed to clear the canal below Northlands Farm of dead trees and shrubs below the waterline.

However, our first job was to retrieve a punt from the canal by the Lift bridge. The punt was pulled onto dry ground and taken up the field through the farm gate at the top for collection.

Following this the team cleared old trees in the canal in the area and brush-cut the edge of the canal, all timber being stacked on site above the high water mark. We are indebted to the landowner for allowing us to use his boat to get to some of the trees. Further work may be required in July or August

Ray Pick



Malham Lock after attention by the Monday group (Nick Wood)

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