

Editorial

As well as the volunteer work detailed here, we are pleased to report that the Trust's contractors are now more than halfway through the job of desilting and profiling the canal summit level between Tickner's Heath and Compasses Bridge. Volunteers, in the form of visiting working parties from NWPG and WRG BiTM, were scheduled to join the contractors on site at the end of October, to undertake tidying up and wildlife protection tasks in the area.

The latest 'Grow Your Tenner' campaign from localgiving.com is benefiting WACT's work handsomely. There is, apparently, a total of £500,000 in matched funding available. After 11 days, roughly one third of this total pot had been used up, with about £2,000 of this being earmarked for the Canal Trust. If you have not already done so, please consider visiting www.localgiving.com/charity/wact. You have a choice between a single donation, or to give on a regular monthly basis - the monthly option benefits us more. Up to £10 of each donation will be matched by the fund.

The Gennets Bridge Lock appeal continues to creep ever nearer to its target - localgiving.com can help it get there faster.



The summit level after desilting and profiling (Photo: Julian Morgan)

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group

This last month has been very much a period of consolidation. Much of the time was spent setting up the Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) equipment storage site enabling us to work there if the weather is bad. The electricity meter went in last week and by the time this is sent out, Colin Durbridge will have made the final connection to the site.

The access haul road has been made suitable for the horses but we will probably need to continue tidying the edges for a few more weeks. The bridleway diversion has started but there is still some way to go.

The clearance of the pound north of Devil's Hole Lock (DHL) is progressing well, but this too will be going on for some time yet.

Join us: The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 For November we will probably be meeting at Gennets and at the end of the month could return to Southland, please ring 07717 855340 for the latest info.

Eric Walker

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

With the mild and wet weather at the beginning of October, growing resumed after slowing down in September! So our first meeting of the month was spent going round all our regular sites yet again. With Eric's support we have agreed to seed both sides of Southland lock now that his team has finished work there.

So at our second outing we made a start on the off side removing the weeds, levelling, spreading topsoil and then seeding. We reckon we have completed just over half and we intend to continue on 4 November (we were going to meet on 28 October but thought it prudent not to in view of the forecast storm and tempest!).

We are planning to tackle the fallen tree at Newbridge on 18 November; that will depend on the progress we make at Southland. The common land at Tickner's requires another visit and our annual winter sessions in Sidney Wood are looming. So we have plenty of work in prospect.

Nick Wood

Mid Week Working Party

The month started with MWWP having their rather late mid-summer lunch on the first Wednesday at the Sir Roger Tichborne pub in Loxwood. It was well attended and very much enjoyed by 30 members who had first taken a convivial cruise along the canal to Drungewick from the Onslow Wharf. Everyone was able to admire, from a position of comfort, all the hard work they had been doing cutting rushes and pruning trees.

For the next two weeks work was carried out at Northlands Farm, near Newbridge, clearing old trees from the water near the banks and generally clearing the bank sides with brush cutters.

More clearance was undertaken at Dunsfold from Tickner's corner to second bund for the last two weeks of October. As usual the banks are being cleared of vegetation and branches. One silt trench has been freed up.

Due to the seasonal wet weather, attendance has fallen slightly but this is only to be expected and the group continues to achieve considerable amounts of completed work. This may be helped by the possible purchase of two hedge cutters and two strimmers. In addition they are looking into the question of purchasing a second hand mower. However, as these items are fairly costly a decision has yet to be made.

Anne Pick

Hedgelaying Team

Hello to all readers of the newsletter. Firstly, apologies for nothing from me for the October production. So, here is the news so far. September was reasonably productive for the team with three days being worked. This produced stakes and binders for finishing off Southland and also some trimming around Drungewick slipways. Then, everything stalled due to lack of people, ill health and unhealthy weather, so four days were lost.

It's funny how Murphy's Law (also known as s**s law) strikes in unusual ways. I cut back on intended work for this season due to the group being somewhat diminished. So it's obvious isn't it, that just as the season starts, no fewer than four new people contacted me, showing interest, plus one old member of the team. I do hope to see you all soon. I am going to stick to my plans though, as if I change them, the Law will strike in a detrimental way. Ho Hum! Enough of these dark thoughts, so here are the dates left for this year:

Nov: - Fri 1 Nov, Mon 11 Nov, Tues 19 Nov, Wed 27 Nov.

Dec: - Thur 5 Dec, Fri 13 Dec.

Yours in hope

Keith Nichols

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well, the Kubota tractor has been put back together after the valves and seats were reground, a new head gasket was fitted, plus other bits and bobs. As the old girl was in bits we took the time to reorganise the wiring, as there seemed to be endless amounts of superfluous stuff. It would be nice to report that the beastie burst into life on first pull of the starter, but I'm afraid life is not like that. It was the second. The team has now turned its attention to the mowing attachment.

During the month we saw the long-awaited return of the work punt to Tickner's. Here we need to give thanks to our chums from the MWWP who helped load the thing onto the trailer before its dispatch to Tickner's. Now, after a lot of straining and no little complaining by the Tickner's team, she resides by the fence awaiting onward transmission.

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
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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

We are pleased to report that the painting and decorating team - in the form of Ken Bacon - has been busy sprucing up the steps at the Granary. As he has made such a good job of it he has been prevailed upon for a return visit, this time to give the loo the once over. Well done Ken, you're a star (Ken is available during normal Tickner's hours at reasonable rates: contact the depot manager for an estimate, make cheques out to JF Smith, all work guaranteed).

We had planned to slip in a visit to the Cactus Farm at Ashington to remove the build-up of paper and take it to the skips at Loxwood, but Dave Kersley got there before us, saving us a lot of hard graft. Thanks Dave.

Well other than helping the TSG boys with some supplies, that's about it for this month. All the best.

John Smith

Newspaper collection

The Trust is still collecting newspapers for recycling, a valuable source of income. We have not been able to report on this recently because of some administrative issues further up the chain.

Please take your newspapers either to the WACT car park behind the Onslow Arms in Loxwood or to the Family Cook Farm Shop in Crawley Down (RH10 4HG).

Workers' Lunches

Rather later in the year than is customary, some 30 of us boarded *Wiggonholt* for a morning cruise. Unfortunately the water supply situation precluded the planned visit to Devil's Hole but everybody seemed to enjoy the trip from the Loxwood Wharf down to the Drungewick Slipway and back.

The group then moved on to the Sir Roger Tichborne where a lone barman was besieged by this mass arrival. About half an hour was spent on pre-lunch drinks and then a very good lunch arrived in quantities which, in a schoolboy phrase, filled most of us to bursting - certainly I noticed that only one brave soul ordered a pudding!

Because this "summer" event was held rather later than usual it is already time to think about the traditional Christmas gathering. This has now been arranged for Tuesday 7 January 2014 at Foxbridge Golf Club where we were so well looked after last January. Full details of the menu, prices and timing will accompany the December edition of Working Party News. As the venue can cope with up to about 60 people this invitation will be open to all past and present navvies, and their partners, perhaps necessarily on a first come first served basis.

Geoff Perks

Leaflet and Poster Volunteers needed

Are you able to help publicise the Wey & Canal Trust's work, including the boat trips, by delivering leaflets & posters? Thanks to a trusty band of volunteers, we already have many sites covered in West Sussex & the south-eastern corner of Surrey. But we would love to have more to cover other sites in Petworth, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire & Kent borders.

There are all sorts of opportunities for getting our literature into the public eye - hairdressers, dentists, libraries, local shops, sports centres, clubs, hotels, B&Bs, campsites, pubs, noticeboards, etc.

We have stocks of most material in both our Loxwood & Shalford offices. But if that is not convenient, they can be posted to you. If you are able to help or would like more information, please email: Bernard_ashley@weyandarun.co.uk

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
30 November	WACT Christmas Lunch	Please see latest edition of <i>Wey-South</i>
6 December	Northern Dinner	Please see latest edition of <i>Wey-South</i>
8-23 December	Santa Cruises on the canal	See www.weyandarun.co.uk/santa/
7 January 2014	Navvies' lunch, Foxbridge GC	Contact Geoff Perks, 01403 262855