

## Editorial

Not a lot of news this month, but that's not to say there isn't still a lot of volunteer activity on the canal. Visiting groups from WRG Forestry and NWPG have made a valuable impact at the Northern end. Attention is now turning towards raising money for the next big project after Gennets Bridge Lock, i.e. Compasses Bridge.

Tony Ford, WACT's bridge engineer is looking for someone to help him in implementation of work for Compasses Bridge and the current project along the summit section at Alfold/Dunsfold. He is looking for someone to undertake day-to-day liaison with the contractor, landowners and local residents, Waverley Borough Council and other interested parties such as the Parish Council. Someone with engineering understanding, but more especially someone with organising abilities and people skills. If you are interested in learning more, please contact [Tony\\_Ford@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:Tony_Ford@weyandarun.co.uk).

Talking of assistance needed, we are in urgent need of a Fundraising Manager, while if anybody feels they would like to give the current editor a rest from compiling WPN each month we would love to hear from you. Please contact Chairman Sally Schupke if interested in either position.

*Bill*

## The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

As anticipated in the last WPN, we have rebuilt the fence at Baldwins Knob lock and replaced the rotten fence post by Drungewick aqueduct, all done at an additional meeting called specially by our leader on the last day of March.

At our two April meetings we turned our efforts to start giving our nine regular sites some TLC; they required a lot of attention with all the rain we have had. Not unexpectedly, we found the usual fly tipping at Run Common, this time three big rolls of soaking wet loft insulation; so we contacted Waverley Borough Council who had them removed. At Fastbridge we started work on the tree which had fallen across the canal (shown on the picture of the small boat rally on the former home page of the website), but had to cease work almost immediately as a newly hatched moorhen chick made its appearance. We noted that a further large tree has fallen across the canal since the small boat rally; this is some 100 yards south of the first tree. We will have to leave that for others to remove.

*Nick Wood*

## Hedgelaying Team

Salami all? The warmth and wet has made everything go berserk with the bluebells being absolutely stupendous. Suddenly, the migrant birds, which have been held up due to cold and windy weather, are appearing in a rush. Bees and butterflies are going manic but the team, in their usual way, plod on.

Since 25 March we have finished laying at Drungewick slipways and also did some selective coppicing at Roger Dimmock Lane to stimulate new growth by mainly taking out very old sticks that were bent out into the adjacent field. The plan is to layer new stools just below the top of the bank to get a double row of stools so coppicing for regeneration won't affect the cover/windbreak that the stools afford the boat maintenance.

We spent eight days up to 24 April on the work above, while on 17 April we started laying on the off-side at Brewhurst Lock, just in time for Easter. The plan for Brewhurst Lock is spread over this and the next two seasons so I do think and think ahead, despite what some might think. That's a big think, that if you have a speech impediment, you could have a bath in and do the washing up at the same time!

| 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  |
| 8 June   | Annual 'Poddle' sponsored walk                | Help needed, contact <a href="mailto:poddle@weyandarun.co.uk">poddle@weyandarun.co.uk</a> |

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It is interesting working on such a high profile site, with walkers, with and without dogs, horse riders, boat trips and wildlife (no, I don't mean the team but we are wild?). Some ignore what we are doing but on the whole the majority interact with us. Shame about the amount of dog excrement though.

Well, buzzards abound, woodpeckers drum, nuthatches and tree creepers call and the nightingales sing occasionally drowned out by the odd Easyjet flight? or the very occasional thump of a low flying Chinook and I won't mention the mower. Damn, I did!

Well, that's it for now but we won't stop laying until the fat lady sings. Oh! & I wish you all well, from a Well Wisher.

**Dates in May:** Tues 06, Wed 14, Thurs 22, Fri 30. Ta ta.

*Keith Nichols*

## Tickner's Heath Depot

Not much to report this month other than the weather seems to have taken a turn for the better. As reported last month we managed to salvage one barbecue out of the two donated, and it is now awaiting a call for use.

We spent a bit of time trying to get one of the petrol driven pumps to operate normally. After quite an effort to prime the beast we managed to get it pumping but as it is rather difficult to get into operation we will keep it on the 'last resort' shelf. This can also be said about a 2in submersible which we tested. Once we cleaned the beastie its performance was less than ideal, so it now languishes on the same shelf.

As there has been quite a lot of weekend activity, we have spent a bit of time making sure that the work camps have what they need to carry out their many and varied tasks.

So all in all another quiet month. All the best

*John Smith*

## Mid Week Working Party

For the first two weeks of April the MWWP continued with clearance of the overhanging vegetation on the offside bank of the canal near Drungewick slipway. After many weeks working here, the clearance of this section has now been completed. This should make a much easier passage for our trip boats. The MWWP would like to thank Derek Heath and Graham Lewington for their help with the work boat *May Upton*.

For Easter, as an alternative to giving each member of the MWWP an Easter Egg, Ray kindly gave us all a day's holiday on the third Wednesday of the month. For the last Wednesday of the month, the MWWP moved to Gosden aqueduct to clear fallen trees and branches and to tidy the appearance of the area.

*Dave Verrall, on behalf of Ray Pick*

## Thursday and Sunday Group - Southland and GBL

**Join us.** The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30. For some time now there has been a job list circulated to the TSG members, this is to enable the volunteers to know where they will be working as the group has been split into up to six sub groups. For information about where we are and what we are doing or to get the latest job list, please ring 07717 855340.

*Eric Walker*

| Name            | Group/Project            | Tel                                     | e-mail   |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| WACT Office     | General enquiries        | 01403 752403                            | <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a>               |
| David Daniels   | Visiting working parties | 01483 505566 Mon-<br>Thurs 8.30-12.30pm | <a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@weyandarun.co.uk</a>             |
| Michael Bates   | Health & Safety Officer  | 07786 323515                            | <a href="mailto:michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk">michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk</a> |
| Eric Walker     | Loxwood Projects         | 07717 855340                            | <a href="mailto:tsg@weyandarun.co.uk">tsg@weyandarun.co.uk</a>                     |
| Ray Pick        | MidWeek Working Party    | 01483 272443                            | <a href="mailto:anne.pick@btinternet.com">anne.pick@btinternet.com</a>             |
| John Empringham | Monday Group             | 01483 562657                            | <a href="mailto:mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk">mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk</a>     |
| Kev Baker       | Loxwood Link             | 02380 861074                            | <a href="mailto:loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk">loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk</a>     |
| John Smith      | Tickner's Depot          | 01903 235790                            | <a href="mailto:depot@weyandarun.co.uk">depot@weyandarun.co.uk</a>                 |
| Tony Clear      | Winston's Group          | 01903 774 301                           | <a href="mailto:winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk">winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk</a> |
| Keith Nichols   | Hedge laying             | 01403 753882                            | <a href="mailto:hedging@weyandarun.co.uk">hedging@weyandarun.co.uk</a>             |
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