



Quarterly Magazine of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Issue 181 December 2017/January/February 2018



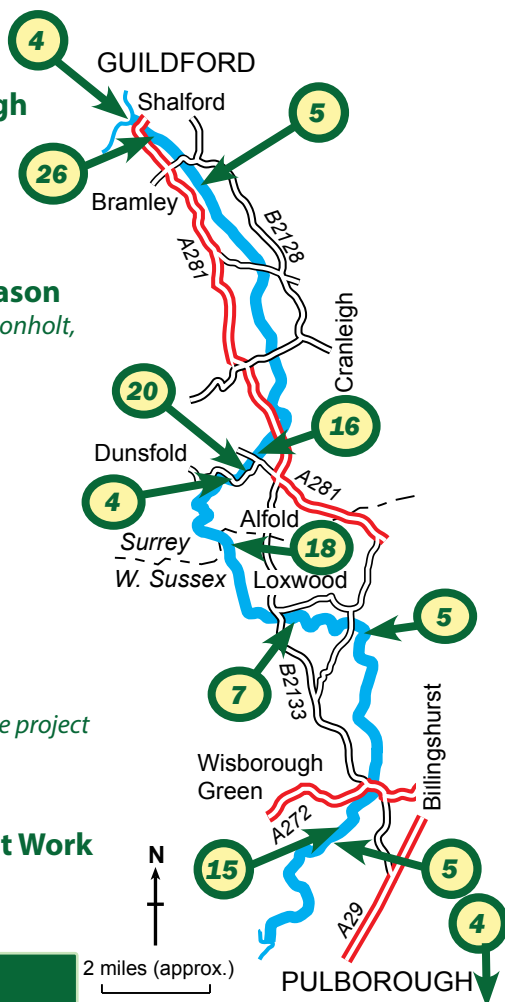
Above: A happy passenger on Wiggonholt approaching Brewhurst Bridge. (Julian Nowell)

Below: Our Mobile Display Vehicle attended the National Trust's Wey River Festival at Dapdune Wharf in Guildford on 23rd September. (Julian Nowell)



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Loxwood Office (All Boat Trip Enquiries)

Mon-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm

01403 752403 (office@weyandarun.co.uk)

**The Granary, Flitchfold Farm, Vicarage Hill,
Loxwood, Billingshurst RH14 0RH**

**Shalford (Northern) Office (Administration, Accounts
and Publicity). Visitors by appointment only.**

01483 505566 (support@weyandarun.co.uk)

Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Guildford GU4 8EQ

Wey-South team:

**Sue Batey (proofreader),
David Jessop (proofreader),
Julian Morgan, Bill Thomson
(Working Party Roundup)**

Trust website:

**www.weyandarun.co.uk
Facebook: weyandaruncanal
Twitter: @weyandarun**

**Front cover: Pouring concrete to form one wall of the Sydney Thriscutt
Slipway on October 27th, during the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) camp.**

Our Autumn Meeting at Pulborough - 28th October

Reporting to our membership was the name of the game at our Autumn Meeting. Business matters such as previous minutes, apologies for absence and finance updates were swept out of the way, in favour of a packed programme of project reports. Initial reactions from the 150 or so members present seemed to be positive but as usual comments are welcome. Some highlights from the afternoon follow.



TSG/Gennets Bridge Lock (Eric Walker)

Gennets Bridge Lock is practically complete (apart from gates and pumping equipment which will be fitted when navigation is possible) and looks excellent. The team has started to clear and landscape the site. A team from Natural England visited in August to inspect the Great Crested Newt conservation work and said it was exemplary. They could not believe that the pond volunteers had constructed near to the lock had not been installed by professionals. Eric briefly introduced options for the team to work in the Bonfire Hanger area, north of Gennets Bridge.

Summit Level (Tony Ford)

Of the several major projects needed on the Summit Level, Tickner's Heath Crossing is closest to being achievable. The problem is that the Dunsfold-Alfold road crosses the canal route on a causeway about one foot above the target water level (the original canal bridge was slightly nearer to Compasses). For a number of reasons, building a new canal bridge near to the causeway is not feasible. However, we have a 'cunning plan' to cross the road at a completely different point. Planning for this project is well advanced. We aim to use a similar design to Compasses Bridge and the estimated cost is in the region of £750,000.



Bramley Link (Philip Oliver)



There is plenty of work in progress at the moment and Philip broke it down into four sections (from north to south):

1. Gun's Mouth Island - our plan is to establish a navigable channel past the island, near to the junction with the River Wey. Unfortunately this has been a 'sorry tale of inexperience'. We initially thought it was simple but the project has been beset by official changes of mind. Now we are about to submit a planning application and hope to start work in summer 2018. The cost will certainly be higher than the original estimate of around £20,000.
2. Phase 1 (A281 to Gosden Meadow) - this is the main part of the plan to establish about 1km of new waterway

connecting to the River Wey. We are working towards public consultation and a planning application in early 2018. The cost is likely to be in the region of £3m and we plan to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for about 50% of this.

3. Phase 2 (Gosden Meadow to Birtley) - this critical section, where the canal route is permanently blocked by a housing development, is for the long term in our planning. However, recent work to develop a Bramley Neighbourhood Plan has pushed us into showing our conceptual design for this section earlier than we might have wished. If the canal does not feature in the Neighbourhood Plan then we will have an uphill struggle with any future application. Our preference is now for a new canal route following the Downs Link (the former railway line).
4. Birtley Reach - south of Bramley village we are hopeful of acquiring a 1km section of canal, where the Trust successfully repaired a major breach as early as 1976. Our plan is to restore the waterway, install bridges and create a circular walk.

Harsfold Bridge (Nigel Yarwood)

Currently a causeway blocks the canal route at the site of Harsfold Bridge, near Wisborough Green. Removing



this blockage is the key to opening up a stretch of about 2km between Lordings/Orfold and Lee Farm. The causeway carries a farm track and a public bridleway. We have been working on this project for about two years and now we have submitted a planning application to Horsham District

Council. The plan is for a simple bridge that could be largely constructed by volunteers.

Drungewick Lock (Brian King)

The lock is at the southern end of the Loxwood navigable section. Roy Sutton, Honorary Consultant Engineer with the Inland Waterways Association has advised us that there is a significant risk that the offside (non-towpath) side of the lock could fail. The lock is currently closed to

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The Wey & Arun Canal Trust

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The aim of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust is the preservation and restoration of the former inland waterway route between the Rivers Wey and Arun, with a view to reopening this to navigation.

All communications and copy

either by post to:

Wey-South, Wey & Arun Canal Trust
Bridge End, Somerswey
Shalford, Guildford
Surrey
GU4 8EQ

Or e-mail to:

weysouth@weyandarun.co.uk

Address changes, non-delivery, etc:

please notify the Membership Secretary at the address above or e-mail to:

membership@weyandarun.co.uk

Material published in *Wey-South* represents the views of the contributors and should not, unless specifically indicated, be assumed to be the policy of the Trust.

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Wey-South is normally published in the 2nd week of March, June, September and December. Please submit copy by the end of January, April, July and October.

If at all possible please e-mail copy by attachment in Microsoft Word format. Typed copy is also acceptable. Photos are always welcome – prints or hi-res digital please.

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navigation. Roy has pointed us to a similar lock (Woolsthorpe Top Lock 18 on the Grantham Canal) which did actually fail in similar conditions. Currently we are carefully monitoring the movement in the wall. Although there are a number of ideas for possible remedial measures, so far we have no definite plans. We are carrying out a feasibility study covering a range of options.

***All Autumn Meeting pictures
by Stephen Batey.***

Trust News

Finance, Legacies and Grants

The Trust has spending and saving years. Unless something really unexpected happens, 2017 looks like a saving year, when we build up our resources for future projects.

In 2017 up to the date of the Autumn Meeting our income (including money raised by the Boat Group) was £406,000 and we have spent £191,000, so we have added £215,000 to our reserves. In 2016, we ran down our reserves by £192,000.

We are grateful for all support, but some of the most valuable contributions have included:

- A grant of £75,000 from the MJ Camp Trust, a long-term supporter;
- A legacy of £48,400 from former members Mr & Mrs Holland and other legacies totalling £20,000;
- £66,000 raised by our hardworking Boat Group.

Richard Stephens leaves Board

Richard Stephens has stepped down from this position as a Director of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust. We are most grateful to Richard for his contribution and pleased that he will continue to work as a valued member of the Bramley Link team.

Rob Searle retires

During October, Rob Searle retired from the staff of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust. Rob was appointed as Fundraising Assistant in 2014 but his expertise from many years in journalism was too valuable for us to ignore. Rob took responsibility for our press relations and contributed extensively to our publications. When the pressure on volunteer resources became too heavy in 2015/16, Rob acted as a key member of the *Wey-South* team.

In his fundraising role, Rob succeeded in winning some significant grants for the Trust on projects including Compasses Bridge and the Shalford Visitor Centre. Rob's work for the Trust was not limited to the back office; he also led walks and staffed our publicity stand at a variety of events. Often working as a volunteer, Rob helped to organise events



including the concert by the Bourne Concert Band in February 2016.

From WACT HQ we would like to thank Rob for his exceptional contribution to the Trust's work and wish him a very happy retirement.

Volunteer Opportunities

As members heard at our Autumn Meeting, opportunities are increasing to extend the restoration to further areas where we have either acquired land or have achieved permission to do so. This means that the size of our teams needs to be enlarged if we are to maintain (and, we hope, accelerate) our rate of progress. We need to prepare for work at each site by drafting technical information, making planning applications, setting terms for contracts, etc.

Do you think you could help? Some of the jobs on our planning checklist can be done from home, some need to be more mobile, likely entailing visits to sites and third-party providers from time to time to gather information, undertake research, check on progress and attend meetings. You will gain personal satisfaction from involvement in constructive team-working leading to benefits for the local community, wildlife and heritage, all at the same time and on your doorstep!

This appeal for help relates not only to preparations for canal restoration. We also

need more volunteers to assist the *Wey-South* magazine editor (either sourcing a news item that deserves to be reported, taking photographs of a specific news item, or editing a submitted article ready for design work). Similarly, we are short of members to help with our various events – could you organise an opening event perhaps? I emphasise that you will be given a full briefing for the task, and support as you find your feet.

The continuing success of our project will depend on the amount of volunteer assistance we can call on. Of course, the option exists to recruit paid staff, but experience suggests that the deepest loyalty to restoring and sustaining the canal is from our volunteers. We are proud of our many achievements and the resilience we have established over more than 45 years as a volunteer-led enterprise, not only because of the personal satisfaction gained from involvement, but also the camaraderie that isn't always a hallmark of paid work.

If you would like to have more details, or can offer help – please contact me:

Sally Schupke (support@weyandarun.co.uk,
01483 505566)

Boat Group - celebrating a successful season

Our Boat Group has had an excellent season, with another welcome increase in the funds raised for the Trust's restoration and maintenance work. It is no secret that the pressure on the team has been exceptionally heavy at times, especially with a limited pool of trained skippers. Several times the Granary office has resorted to calling every skipper on the list to fill a slot. So far it is the team's proud boast that no promised charter trip has been cancelled, but frankly it has sometimes been fairly close.

One of the reasons for the good financial results is that we increased some of the prices substantially for this season, expecting that the demand might reduce. Realising that we were close to capacity, we also limited the number of charter bookings we accepted. We are delighted that our customers have still been keen to book, even if it sometimes meant changing their trip date.

Of course we are doing everything we can to increase the number of skippers and crew so

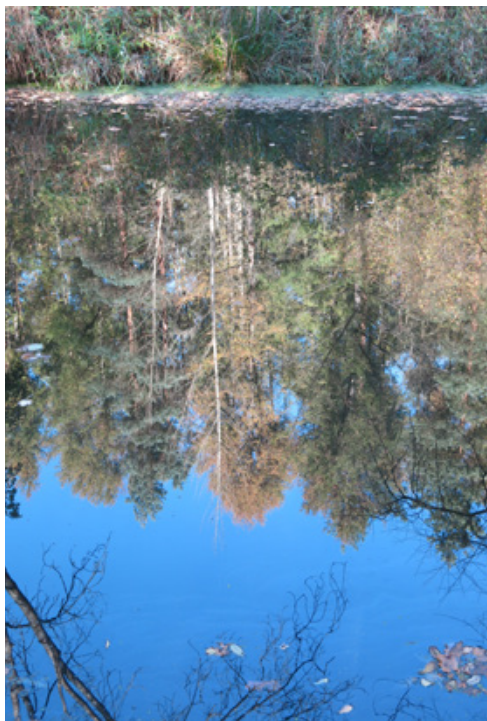
that we can run more trips. Thanks to a huge amount of work by the Training team, led by Mark Eyre, 25 new crew have qualified this year and nine potential new skippers have started training.

Late News: We congratulate Martin Smithers who obtained his Boatmaster's Licence on 1st November and is now a fully qualified skipper.



Essential to our operation - Julian Nowell captured these shots of some volunteer crew hard at work on boat trips in late July.





Above left: Geoff Thomas is at the tiller of Wiggonholt in September. (Stephen Batey)

Above right: Reflections of trees near Barnsill Bridge. (Jackie Blizard)

Below: The annual Wiggonholt Association boat trip was in August. As usual, it included a picnic - skipper Rod Smith is reversing towards the Heavy Plant Crossing at Drungewick.



**Pirates & Princesses
2017**



As popular as ever this year and a godsend to parents in the long summer holidays - Dave Verrall contributed these shots of Pirates & Princesses Adventures on 24th August. Kathy McConnell was the princess - and yes, she did end up getting rescued from the pirates.







Above: After nine seasons of service, our flagship Wiggonholt is looking much smarter with a complete set of new chairs for our passengers. Responding to feedback, the Boat Group decided to invest in more comfortable seats that are also slightly higher so that customers have a better view. The colour scheme is also easier on the eye... (Picture by Sandy Henney)

Below: The old seats (Picture by Stephen Batey)



Left: Since 2009, the chairs seem to have acquired a darker colour, as shown in this archive picture of the almost brand-new boat. (At the dress rehearsal for the opening of Loxwood Bridge, Jim Phillips and John Miller are at the front of the boat while in the foreground Peter Wilding looks as if he is handling some paperwork.)



Boat Group members kindly volunteered to put on a riverside Wey & Arun display for National Heritage Open Days in Guildford on 9th September.

***Above: The unique treadwheel crane (left) was open to visitors next to our stand.
Below: Jonathan Mitchell (left) and Karen Brent (right) in appropriate costume.***





Passengers rejoin Wiggonholt after a leg-stretching break at Drungewick Slipway during a public boat trip in July. (If you recognise some people in this picture, they are not crew members who forgot to put on their uniform T-shirts but were actually on the trip as passengers with friends and relations.) (Julian Nowell)



We were delighted when the North & East London Branch of the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) decided to donate £1,000 to the Trust. Here Tim Lewis, Branch Chairman, is seen with our Chairman Sally Schupke at the site of the Sydney Thriscutt Slipway. Tim was with us for the weekend as leader of a visiting Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) team.



Over the weekend of 16th/17th September a visiting team from Waterway Recovery Group Bit in the Middle (BITM) kindly carried out extensive seasonal maintenance in the Lordings/Orfold area. The picture below shows the small boat slipway (just behind the fence in the foreground). (Matthew Carpenter)



Compasses Bridge



*Above: A new sign on Compasses Bridge at road level.
 Below left: The Compasses Bridge plaque installed next to the public viewing area.
 Below right: A new plaque on the wall of The Three Compasses, updating the previous plaque that the Trust installed in August 2005.*





Compasses Bridge



Finishing the job at Compasses - over the weekend of 23rd/24th September volunteers kindly ticked off a variety of outstanding tasks around Compasses Bridge.

Top: Bringing in the new bench in memory of former member Arthur Dalby.

Above: The viewing area, now with the Dalby memorial bench and mooring bollards.

Below: The steps leading down to the landing stage are complete.



Gennets Bridge Lock



***Above: Geoff Thomas lays the last brick for the walls of Gennets Bridge Lock.
Below: Edward Stratton-Woodward laying bricks along the curved wall
at the top cill of the lock. (Pictures by Geoff Thomas/Len Hasler).***





***Above: Some of the Thursday & Sunday Group (TSG) pose at the top cill of Gennets Bridge Lock. Behind the team the new stop planks are in place.
Below: The team seen from the canal below the new bridge. (Eric Walker)***



Summit Slipway



***Volunteers made great progress on the Sydney Thriscutt slipway on the Summit Level during October. This page shows the scene on 21st October, with a hole ready for the slipway walls.
Top left: Northern Working Party volunteers prepare for the wall construction.***





A week-long Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) camp concentrated on the south slipway wall.

Above: Looking across the site on 27th October, towards the end of the week

Below right: Concrete being poured for the slipway wall.

Below left: Piling is in place for a future wharf alongside the slipway.



Living Waterways



The Compasses Bridge project was honoured with a Commended award in the 'Community and Volunteering' category of the 2017 Canal & River Trust Living Waterways Awards, presented at a gala dinner in Birmingham on 27th September.

Above: Bill Nicholson and Sally Schupke with the award certificate.

Below: Bill Nicholson, Tony Ford, Sally Schupke, Julian Morgan. (Pictures by courtesy of Canal & River Trust). WACT did not incur any expenses for its entry or attending the ceremony.





Members of the Northern Working Party team show off the Living Waterways award for Compasses Bridge.

Working Party Roundup

The progress made on the ground by our volunteer workers continues to astound. As well as a large number of the Trust's own volunteers, we continue to be grateful to the itinerant groups who regularly include the Wey & Arun Canal on their programmes – most notably the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and the Newbury Working Party Group.

Nationally, WRG, which is part of the Inland Waterways Association (IWA), organises work camps on various canal and river restoration projects. We have hosted several of these in past years, and this October we received a very welcome bonus when a week-long camp was unable to work on the originally-planned sites. The influx of skilled volunteer labour provided a most welcome kick-start to the Summit Level slipway project.

Don't forget, either, the people behind the scenes who carry out the planning and

background negotiation for the often complex projects undertaken by our volunteers. Without them, there would be no work to do.

The frequency of *Wey-South* means that news of what is going on is often rather old by the time you read it here. You can keep abreast of developments, through news contributed by those actually doing the work, by subscribing to *Working Party News*, our monthly email newsletter. It is available on the Trust's website, but by subscribing you get it as soon as it is released, straight to your inbox. Just send a request to listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk. Paper copies are available too – if this is your preference, please send a supply of stamped addressed envelopes to the Loxwood office.

Bill Thomson

Midweek Working Party

August was a busy month for our working party with record numbers attending on some weeks and very low numbers on others due to the different weather conditions

We had three separate weeks at Loxwood clearing the canal of timber and reeds as far as the slipway at Drungewick, clearing the towpath of brambles and weeds and also working on the car park at Loxwood. This should make it easier for boats to navigate and the boat customers to have a better view as well as making the area look much tidier. In between we have been back to Hunt Park where we took out more of the Gosden Aqueduct bricks from Cranleigh Waters, ground down a large trunk to clear the end of the aqueduct, cleared a great deal of Himalayan Balsam and reseeded one of the Cranleigh river banks where flood repair had been completed.

We have been back to Haybarn where some of the group reduced the height of 50 yards of a hedge to 5ft 6 in. This job is made more difficult by most branches having to be lopped as they are very thick, having been left rather too long. Others in the group continued to clear the bed of the canal and banks. Eventually we will clear the whole length between Haybarn and Harsfold bridge.

September and October saw the group busy in different places, including Rooks Hill Farm, Rushetts, and two different sites at Haybarn. At Rooks Hill we had one person digging test holes to see what the filled in part of the canal contained. Six of the group cleared saplings from the base of the canal while others cleared the base of the canal at Rushetts of bramble and other shrubs. Meanwhile, at Haybarn, some of the group continued to clear the base of the canal of willows and other shrubs and others cut the hedge. This is a long job which I think will take most of the winter to complete. The latest outing was to Birtley where we are clearing the north east side to establish the state of the bank. Many

of the group have not worked on this part of the canal before, and it is good to be on a part of the canal that is still in water.

**Contact Margaret Darvill, 01483 894606,
margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk**

Hedgelaying Group

The Hedgelaying holiday season was broken by me giving the Southland Lock hedge a trim on 15th July which took me all day.

The Group has since re-formed on 26th September for the 2017/18 season. We have now spent six days at the Slinfold site. This work is mainly for obtaining stakes and binders but also entails some hedgelaying as a quid pro quo. We have now almost completed



Examples of more than 200 original canal bricks from the downstream face of Gosden Aqueduct that the Midweek Working Party retrieved from the Cranleigh Waters river in late August. These hand-thrown bricks are quite heavy and surprisingly precise for their manufacture date of c.1815. They will help with repairs to the aqueduct.

pollarding five rows of hazel trees. This work has produced 200-plus stakes and binders. 40 stakes and binders have gone into the 20 yards of hedge we have laid so far this season.

A lot of brash has come out of the hedge as the plants are 20-30 feet tall with a lot of heavy branches bent over to overhang the next property. We have also had to fell eight overlarge trees and remove lower branches from four major trees. The bonfire has been

going non-stop on every visit and has only just coped with all of the material. It produced so much fallout of airborne ash that our cars looked like they had been parked at Pompeii.

I really need another 100 stakes and binders before starting the canalside laying between Haybarn and Harsfold which I hope we will obtain before Christmas.

Another problem is that we have lost three competent members of the team to ill health. This brings the group down to six as we welcomed a novice, Alistair, who joined us this season. I am working him in slowly on all the aspects of coppicing, pollarding and laying. These are all very labour-intensive tasks so a stable group is worth its weight in gold or bacon butties.

**Contact Keith Nichols, 01403 753882,
hedging@weyandarun.co.uk**

Northern and Summit Working Party

Work at Compasses during August concentrated on tidying and dismantling the site support facilities, so that the area can return to nature. Additionally, the improvements to the towpath have continued. All materials stored on site have been salvaged pending their use in the next major project.

In September we had a visit from London Waterway Recovery Group who, as well as very kindly presenting a cheque to the Trust from London IWA, installed the concrete footing for the final retaining wall at Compasses and concreted the steps to the landing stage.

October saw the start of big plans. The first long weekend visit from Newbury Working Party Group (NWP) was followed by a WRG week-long work camp from 22nd to 28th, diverted from the Grantham and Chelmer navigations. The NWP visit was split between sites. At Compasses, JJ Price has now finished the fourth and final retaining wall for the bridge, meaning that there are only a few small tasks outstanding.

At Hunt Park, the uncompleted work from the June working party was tackled. We

successfully finished the job and we hope the path should be protected from any future flooding. The Sunday was a glorious autumn day and it was pleasing to note that the park was being well used by picnickers, people fishing, jogging and strolling - a real amenity for all.

The work camp gave us a great opportunity to kickstart the new slipway. NWP had spent three days digging a vast hole for the structure which revealed the incredibly thick layer of blue clay that lies under this section of canal. Our local team prefabricated the steel reinforcing cages to support the concrete side walls. This readied the site for the camp, led by Rob Nicholson, to set the cages into the hole, casting them in concrete at the correct level. The second part of the week was spent building and fixing the shuttering for the southern wall of the slipway, a lengthy and complex task. The target was the booked concrete delivery for lunch time on the Friday. The team worked under lights until 19.30 the previous evening and had about five minutes to spare between completing the frame and arrival of the concrete. The pour went smoothly, with the results due to be revealed when the shuttering comes down in early November.

Next to the slipway, a row of piles is being driven along the canal bank to provide an unloading wharf for spoil when we recommence the desilting operation.

We have much to keep us busy over the winter months. In November, London WRG will progress both the wharf and the northern side wall of the slipway. If you would like to help us in this interesting project please let either Bill Nicholson or Dave Evans know and we can provide more details of the plans for any particular day.

**Contact Bill Nicholson, 0779 1097773,
bn@weyandarun.co.uk**

Hunt Park Bank Protection



Over the weekend of 7th/8th October the Northern Working Party completed bank protection work to safeguard the riverside path in the Hunt Nature Park at Shalford.

Above: The viewing platform is just visible in the background.

Below: Some of the team pose on top of the newly reinforced bank. (Pictures by Bill Nicholson)





Our temporary works compound on Dunsfold Park land at Compasses Bridge lasted nearly three years but by late September 2017 it had almost disappeared.



Thursday and Sunday Group

The work at Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) has gone on frantically to avoid the winter weather while closing the site down. As the brickwork came to the top of the lock wall, the copings for that part were made. The lock side at the back of the copings could then be brought up to the coping level with clay and top soil. Eventually the fence along the towpath side was erected with provision for a hedge to be planted, this November, on the path side of the fence. When the top sill wall was finished with the ekki bump block and blue engineering brick around the rim, the scaffolding in the lock could be removed and returned to Tickner's Depot. [Ekki is a very hard timber favoured for waterway uses. The bump block protects the wall from damage if the bows of a boat bump into it.]

With both sides of the lock completed, the hard-wearing grass seed could be sown. With 180m of new hedging to be planted on the site, the Trust is buying 770 plants (mainly hawthorn and blackthorn, but also rowan, hazel, silver birch, oak and other species) and getting 420 plants from the Woodland Trust.

We were amazed, some of the horse fraternity are calling the bridge at GBL 'Tilly's Bridge', because Tilly was the first horse across it. Generally, the comments from the users of the bridge, including the horse riders, are very complimentary.

In August we had a visit by the senior officer for Natural England (NE) in Kent and Sussex with a group of five of his team members. They were *"Really impressed with the works the Trust have undertaken and pleased with the newt solutions you implemented."* They recommend for the future *"An organisation licence could be considered for the Trust ..."* That's all good news for the Trust where at GBL using the site licence system, which was the only one available at the time, cost £20,000 and a delay of two years.

As part of the newt hibernacula, now taking shape on the site close to the bridge, it is

hoped to introduce some insect hotels. As all three newt ponds we built, as required in Natural England's European Protected Species Licence, were accepted by NE during their visit, the temporary newt pond in the canal was removed. The silt was removed from the canal section between the pond and the lock, which is ready for refilling by the winter rains.

Len Hasler and his group are preparing to pour concrete at the last bit of the lock, the bottom training walls. What a really mucky, muddy, wet job that is and they are to be thanked for sticking to it, that is the task in hand and the mud.

Kev Baker came and put the stop planks in at both ends of the lock, another major milestone achieved. He has replaced the stop planks in Gennets Sluice, so when water starts to flow from the lakes, which - surprisingly with the amount of rain we have had recently - has not started yet, the canal will fill.

There are two spoil heaps in River Drive, the woodland between the canal and the River Lox. Terry Spiller has profiled one and covered it with the silt from the canal bed, 'slop on the slope' you may say, anyway a very skilled job. A similar task is to be done next month on the other spoil heap. There are a number of oak saplings in the woodland that will be transplanted this winter onto the spoil heaps. Might they use this timber in 75 years' time to make a set of gates for GBL?

**Contact Eric Walker, 07717 855340,
tsg@weyandarun.co.uk**

Monday Group

Nick Wood writes: In August we gave four of our regular sites a real 'going over'. In addition to the usual mowing and strimming, at the Drungewick aqueduct site, we repaired and modified the gate to Roger Dimmick Lane to prevent it being lifted off its hinges again by future miscreants; at Loxwood we cleared the ditch at the bottom of the canal bank and cut the overflow car park and kept up appearances at Devil's Hole and Southland Locks. We have been asked to 'look after' Gennets Bridge Lock

and its immediate environment too when Eric and his team move off site.

At the request of the landowner and working in co-operation with MWWP, our second August work party saw eight of us spending all day at Haybarn continuing cutting and trimming the hedge south of the swing bridge (as well as doing our usual tidying up around the swing bridge). The hedge was very thick and dense with long brambles mixed up with hawthorn etc. In October we continued with the hedge. We reckon we 'did' 80 yards which, given the large amount of work undertaken by MWWP on this site, leaves us only 90 yards short of Lee Farm causeway.

The October calendar gave us three Mondays in the month for our meetings. With the mild and sometimes damp weather our regular sites needed much attention with the result that our first two outings were spent working on them. As part of this we replaced two rotten fence posts at Devil's Hole Lock and tidied up Birch Copse. At Loxwood we cut all the overflow car park and cleared the ditch at the bottom of the canal bank. In addition, we mowed and strimmed Brewhurst Lock.

In fact we got out four times in October. On the 23rd the group spent all day at Lordings and once again cleared from the lock all the way to the flood gates and bridge. The towpath 'chain' stile (south of the bridge) was re-installed following repair by Tony Clear.

We are finding that our current workload demands more than our regular fortnightly meetings (occasionally three in a month, depending on the calendar), so we have decided, subject of course to the availability of group members, to increase our outings to four per month. This will be essential once we take responsibility for the Gennets Bridge Lock site. So we shall now be meeting every Monday to 'Keep up Appearances' and maintain our 'Mrs Bucket' title. As well as our regular sites we have to complete the outstanding work at Malham Lock, then an early start in Sidney Wood is on the cards. The

culverts there will no doubt need unblocking following the end of the leaf-fall season.

**Contact John Empringham, 01483 562657,
mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk**

Tickner's Heath Depot

Over the past quarter most of our time has been spent getting the depot ready for the influx of items coming from Gennets Bridge Lock. Racks have been erected to house the large amount of Kwikstage scaffolding and Acrow props. JJ Price kindly used the Trust's 360 to clear the piles of old concrete rubble and other items around the depot to give us more space for what was to come. JJ managed to clear areas of the depot not seen by human eye for many a year. Eventually items began to arrive and were put in the space he had created. We now await the really large items i.e. the storage containers, but after JJ's efforts we now have plenty of room to house them.

On one of the better days in August, we decided to look at the old work boat which has been languishing in the depot for years. It was



The 'yellow brick road' to the Granary office. (John Smith)

covered with a tarpaulin but this had become rather religious (holey - get it) so we removed said tarp and pumped the old girl out. Now we need to decide what to do with her.

Also in August one of the jobs we had kept on the back burner, was to improve the anti-slip on the

stairs leading up the Granary Office. This task had to be done when the weather was fine and dry. Unfortunately it proved a long wait,

but eventually in October the right type of weather was booked and we managed to fit new anti-slip strips.

October was mostly spent disposing of the vast amount of timber which has been cunningly camouflaged under the depot vegetation for eons and was therefore no longer useable. This was burnt on bonfires supervised by our resident pyromaniacs Richard Powell and John Piper who were ably assisted by David Robson, who always ensured that they conformed to the Trust's code of conduct regarding the safe use of bonfires. Luckily some kind soul had deposited half a dozen fire extinguishers in the ferrous skip. The full CO2s were very useful in preventing the fire spreading and putting it to bed, but once

again we had to take the empties to a local tip as they cannot be put in the skip.

We have, though, managed to do a bit of work of a technical nature. Some months ago a yellow trailer was donated to the Trust which was utilised as a second skip. Unfortunately its former owner, after consultation with yours truly, decided that it had a use after all, so Mick Jones set about restoring it to full health. Tyres were pumped up, electrics checked, bulbs and plugs replaced ensuring that it was once again useable. With luck Tony will be able to use it for many years to come.

Well I think that is all for this edition. Keep smiling.

**Contact John Smith, 01903 235790,
depot@weyandarun.co.uk**

Membership Report

Our membership stands at 2,999. We would like to issue a warm welcome to all those who have joined us over the three months to the end of October. .

Ian & Mariella Alexander
Peter & Jan Allsop
Margaret Bailey
Paul & Julie Bentley
Tanya & Peter Booth
J Chowen
Julian Coulbert
Stephen & Maxine Dakin
Paul Driver
Brian & Brenda Gilbert

Nick Hamson
Anne Hindmarch
Jeremy & Amanda Hughes
David Kitching
Simone & Steve Leopold
Gareth & Jo Lewis
Alistair Loughrey
Flavio & Janice Muller
David Murrell
Jane Paul

Gareth Plunkett & Alison Self
James Prior
Iain Richardson
Kevin & Sharon Roberts
Pim & Tineke Sierks
Barry & Jan Sisson
Ian Stewart
Nigel Taylor
Richard & Margaret Whitaker

We have learned with regret of the death of:

John Barker
Rex Moore

Errol Field
Judy Pedgrift

Wayne Gilbert
Eric Weller

Davina Lewis

If you would like to receive your *Wey-South* magazine by e-mail instead of by post, then please e-mail me. Abandoning paper for the PDF version helps keep our postage costs down.

Alan Dyer, Membership Secretary
(membership@weyandarun.co.uk)

Numbers Game

The Numbers Game makes a very useful contribution to Trust funds as well as giving subscribers a monthly chance to win £100. There are three winners



every month and members contribute £3 by standing order for each number they hold.

If you would like to join in, Tim Lewis, the game's administrator, will be pleased to hear from you. Contact him via the Northern Office (details on page 3) for an application form.

Raffle tickets still on sale

Members and supporters have kept our Raffle Organiser Tim Lewis busy by buying large numbers of tickets. Please remember that you have until 9th January 2018 to return your tickets and the draw will be on 16th January 2018. If you would like more tickets please visit the Loxwood Canal Centre or contact the Northern Office (support@weyandarun.co.uk, 01483 505566).

Letter to the Editor

Member John Chambers, who was Head of the UK Time Service from 1993 to 1996, writes:

Although the information on the plaque on p27 of *Wey-South* 180 may well be true ["on this site Sept 5, 1782 nothing happened"], I suspect that the date was meant to be in 1752, when September 2nd was followed by September 14th in England, Wales and Scotland.

"In seventeen hundred and fifty-two the Calendar changed from old to new. Eleven days were lost, you will remember, from the month of September"

It is an intriguing suggestion, especially as in November 2017 we mark the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution in Russia (Russia did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until February 1918, by which time 13 days had to be skipped).

Dates for your Diary

**Sundays 10th and 17th,
Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and
Saturday 23rd December ***

Friday 15th December *

Tuesday 26th December *

Monday 1st January 2018 *

Sunday 11th March 2018 *

**Friday 30th March, Sunday 1st
and Monday 2nd April 2018 ***

Saturday 21st April 2018

Saturday 30th June 2018

**Santa Special Boat Trips from Loxwood at
11am, 12 noon and 2pm.**

Santa for the Grown-ups Boat Trip at 7.30pm.

Boxing Day Special Boat Trips at 11am, 12 noon and 2pm.

New Year's Day Special Boat Trips at 11am, 12 noon and 2pm.

Mothering Sunday Relaxer Boat Trips at 11am, 2.15 and 4.30pm.

Easter Bunny Special Boat Trips at 11am, 12 noon and 2pm.

Annual Meeting at 2.30pm at Loxwood North Hall.

**Coach Tour to Kennet & Avon Canal, organised by Mark Anderson
- see page 31 for more details.**

*** For all boat trip information please contact the Loxwood Office (details on page 3).
Bookings can be made with the office or online at weyarun.org.uk/trips. Booking is
recommended for Boxing Day/New Year's Day trips and essential for all other special trips.**

However, we suspect this was simply a randomly chosen date and an ironic comment on the number of blue plaques appearing across the countryside - Ed.

2018 Coach Tour to Kennet & Avon Canal

A date to put in your diary now is Saturday 30th June 2018 - our member Mark Anderson is organising a full day out by coach to the Bath area. Pickups are at Billingshurst (8am), Loxwood (8.15) and Guildford (8.45). The fare includes a guided tour of Claverton Pumping Station, a buffet lunch on the broad-beam boat *John Rennie* and a 1½-hour boat trip, as well as a donation to Wey & Arun Canal Trust funds.

The Claverton Pumping Station is a rare surviving example of the technology of the late Georgian period. The pump started work in 1813 and operated continuously until 1952. This amazing piece of engineering uses the power of the River Avon to lift water up 48ft into the Kennet & Avon Canal above. Burning no fuel and making no waste, it is the ultimate in environmentally friendly technology.

The fare is £49.75 for adults and £44.75 for under 18s. For bookings and enquiries please contact Mark Anderson (01403 784934, markwanderson@hotmail.co.uk).



***Above: Members during the refreshment break at the Autumn Meeting in Pulborough.
Below: Pulborough Village Hall has an unbeatable position with spectacular
views over the Arun Valley. (Both pictures by Stephen Batey)***



WEY & ARUN Canal Trust

Boat trips 2018

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

MAY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29




AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

 Public trips - see over
  Special events - see over
 Boat chartering available April - October (including weekends)

Wey & Arun Canal Trust
Telephone 01403 752403
www.weyandarun.co.uk

Public trips - April to October Saturdays from the Onslow Quay

35 minute trip departing at 12.15: Onslow-Brewhurst Bridge

50 minute trip departing at 13.15: Onslow-Devil's Hole

3½ hour trip departing at 14.30: Onslow-Slipway-Onslow-Devil's Hole

Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays from the Onslow Quay

35 minute trip departing at 12.30: Onslow-Brewhurst Bridge

1½ hour trip departing at 13.30: Onslow-Southland Lock

1½ hour trip departing at 15.30: Onslow-Baldwin's Knob Lock

Special Events

1 January - New Years Day Cruises

11 March - Mothering Sunday Relaxers

30 March, 1, 2 April - Easter Bunny Specials

24 May - Cream Tea Voyage

31 May - Pirates & Princesses

8 June - Picnic & Pimm's Sunset Cruise

13 June - Cream Tea Voyage

17 June - Dad's Bacon Butty Brunch

22 June - Midsummer Supper

28 June - Cream Tea Voyage

6 July - Ploughman's & Pimm's Special

17 July - Cream Tea Voyage

20 July - Picnic & Pimm's Sunset Cruise

26 July - Pirates & Princesses

3 August - Ploughman's & Pimm's Finale

7 August - Cream Tea Voyage

9 August - Pirates & Princesses

17 August - Quiz & Nibbles

22 August - Pirates & Princesses

5 September - Cream Tea Voyage

19 September - Cream Tea Voyage

9, 16, 21, 22, 23 December - Santa Specials

14 December - Santa for Grown-ups

26 December - Boxing Day Specials

1 January 2019 - New Years Day Cruises

For more information and to book on-line, log onto our website or call the number overleaf.