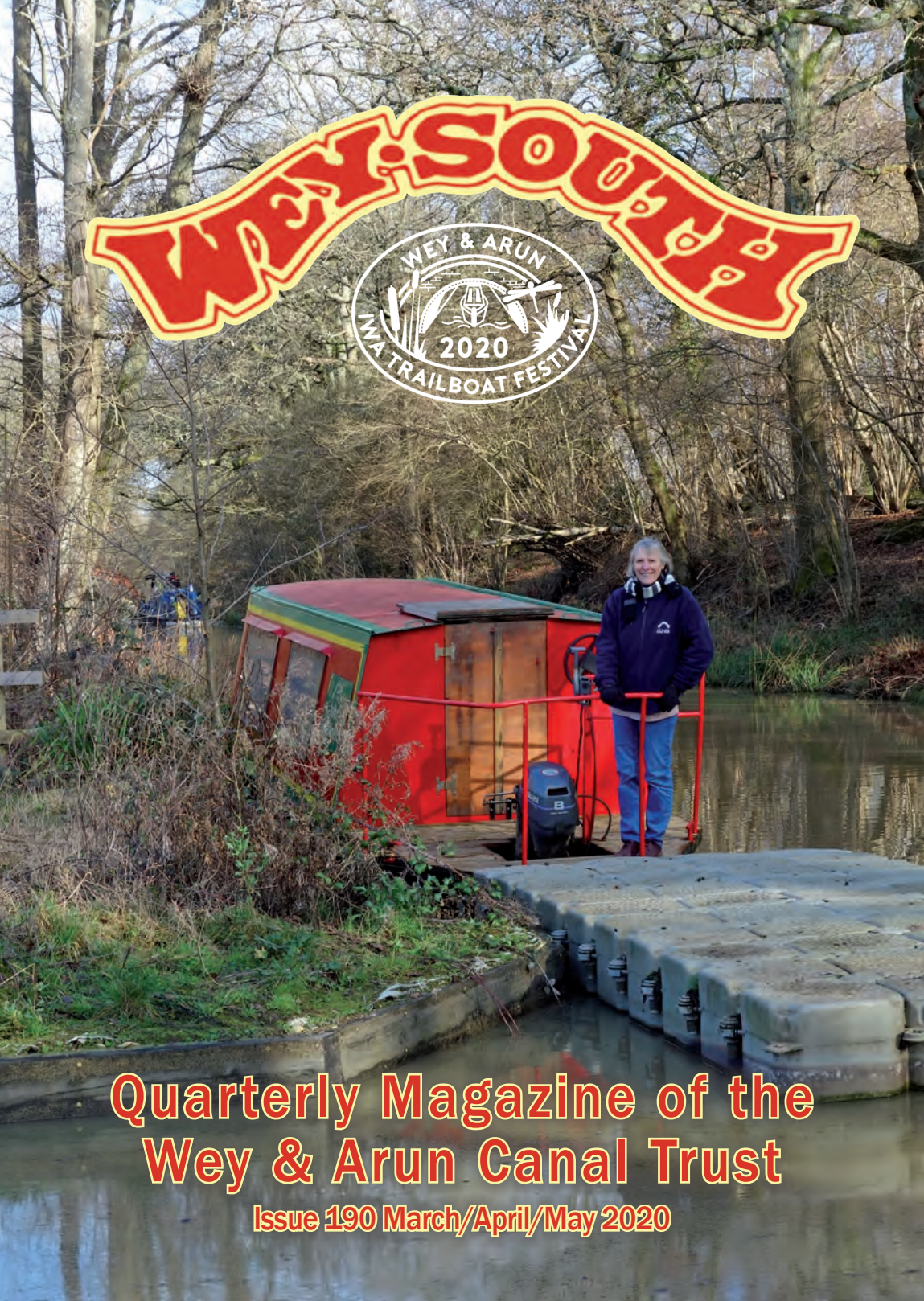


WEY & ARUN



Quarterly Magazine of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Issue 190 March/April/May 2020



It's all go at the Summit as preparations step up for the IWA Trailboat Festival being held here over the bank holiday weekend of 23-25th May. Northern Working Party and NWPG volunteers have been extending the Thriscutt Slipway to make it easier for trailboats to use, while desilting between the slipway and Compasses Bridge has resumed. The mound of spoil created during the slipway's build is also being moved to make space. For more on the festival, see page 14.



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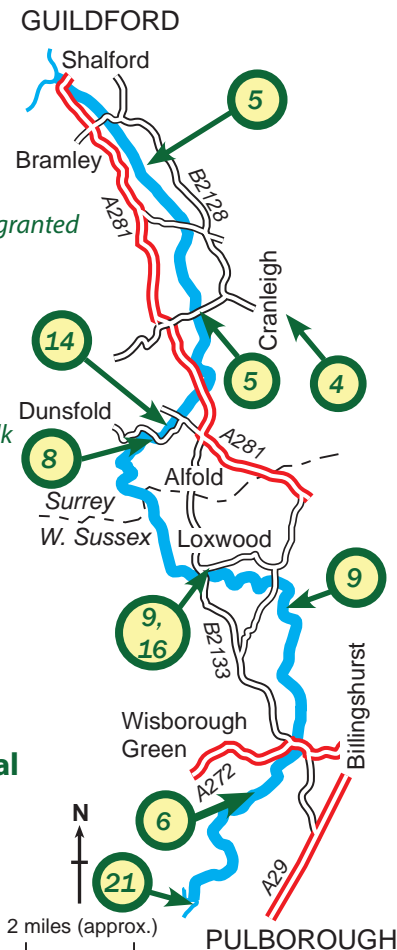
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Working Party Roundup



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

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Front cover: Chairman Sally Schupke at the Thriscutt Slipway, where the Trust will be hosting the IWA Trailboat Festival in May.

Notice of Annual Meeting at Cranleigh, 25th April

The 47th Annual General Meeting of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd will take place at the Cranleigh Village Hall, Village Way, Cranleigh GU6 8AF, on Saturday 25th April 2020 at 2.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence [see note 1 below].
2. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2019 [see note 2 below].
3. To receive the Chairman's Report.
4. To adopt the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2019, together with the Directors' and Independent Examiner's Reports [see note 3 below].
5. To appoint the Independent Examiners for 2020 and to authorise the Council of Management to determine their remuneration.
6. Election of Directors. Tony Ford and Tony Coles retire in accordance with section 42 of the Trust's Articles of Association and are eligible for re-election [see note 4 below].
7. To receive a Report from W&A Enterprises Ltd.
8. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting.
9. Date of next meeting - date and venue to be confirmed.
10. Close of formal meeting.

At this point the meeting will break for refreshments. You will have the chance to visit displays, project plans and sale stands

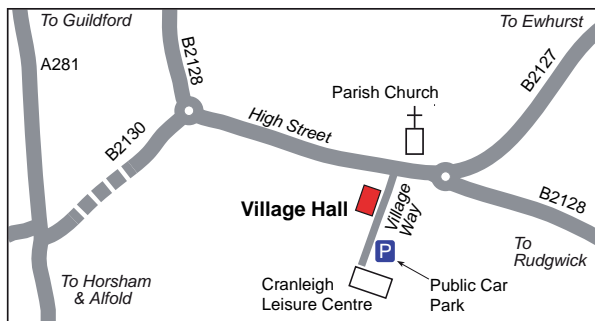
and to talk with project and group managers. After the refreshment break the programme is planned to be:

1. Birtley project update
2. Drungewick Lock update
3. Summit Update
4. Harsfold Bridge Update
5. Conservation matters
6. Boat repairs update
7. Celebrating 25 years of boat trips
8. Presentation of the Jack King and John East Cups.

Notes

1. Apologies for absence should be supplied to the Hon. Secretary before the start of the meeting.
2. Copies of the previous (2019) Minutes will be available at the meeting.
3. Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available at the meeting; if you would like a copy in advance, please contact support@weyandarun.co.uk.
4. The Trust warmly welcomes new candidates for election as Directors. The formal requirements are:
 - a. A paid-up member of the Trust must propose your election in writing (and you must agree to the proposal).
 - b. The proposal must reach the Hon. Sec at least 14 days before the meeting – that is, by 11th April 2020 (the Secretary has a proposal form, although you are not obliged to use it).

How to get there: The Village Hall is in Village Way, just south of the High Street. If you are coming from the Guildford/Elmbridge/Shamley Green direction, Village Way is the turning on the right immediately after passing the post office (on the left). If you are coming from the Ewhurst/Rudgwick direction, Village Way is the turning on the left just after passing the Library (also on your left). There is a large pay & display car park in Village Way, just beyond the Village Hall. Cranleigh has frequent bus services from Guildford and Horsham.



Make a day of it

Activity one



Join a circular walk from Birtley to see one new bridge and the site of the next. From Birtley there will be a visit to Whitley and Rushett Farm – the subject of our latest planning application to Waverley Borough Council. On the return take in the remains of the swingbridge near Fanesbridge.

Activity two



A visit to Elmbridge to see the site of our latest project to replace the existing bridge with one that will provide enough height to allow navigation.

For more information on both events, see the leaflet with this issue, or go to <https://weyandrun.org.uk/events50>.

The Quarterly Magazine of The Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Registered Charity no. CC265331

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

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Bridge End, Somerswey
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GU4 8EQ

Or e-mail to:

weysouth@weyandrun.co.uk

Address changes, non-delivery, etc: please notify the Membership Secretary at the address above or e-mail to:

membership@weyandrun.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.

**Issue 190
March/April/
May 2020**

Weather fails to dampen spirits at Harsfold Bridge

Thanks to the deluge of rain and storms seen over December, January and February, recent work on Harsfold Bridge near Wisborough Green has been “hard going”, according to Dennis Gillen, Harsfold Bridge project manager.

The compound, which is close to the River Arun, escaped being flooded out, but the mix of clay and rain has meant the construction site is something of a mud bath and delivery trucks and lorries have struggled to reach the site.

“Water runs down the lane and onto the site,” says Dennis, “and we have constantly had to maintain the access lane.”

Despite the setbacks, the EWG have made good progress. “We’ve got the critical parts out of the way,” reports Dennis.

The main foundations have been laid and both abutments built, with the wing walls now under construction and the blockwork underway.

Despite the setbacks, the project is only a few weeks behind schedule and Dennis paid tribute to the volunteers for their efforts. “Everyone comes and gets on with it and does a good job. They are all very skilled and great volunteers.”



The mud has made construction work slow going at Harsfold, but both north and south abutments are in and the blockwork and brickwork is underway. The next step will be to install nine 7.7m long structural steel members and add permanent formwork.



Planning permission granted for Tickner's Heath Road Bridge

Tony Ford, Summit Level project manager, provides an update on the exciting development set to be the Trust's next big restoration initiative.

The Tickner's Heath project is slowly gaining momentum. The area where the construction compound will go has been cleared (under ecological supervision) and the topsoil stripped and stockpiled.

A new access gate has been installed and a start has been made on installing land drains (as the site is on clay and retains water quite happily).

The project also passed a major milestone on 10th January when planning permission was granted by Waverley Borough Council. However, while the Council agreed that the project will be of long-term benefit, there is concern about the short-term ecological impacts, such as loss of trees and hedgerows. Accordingly, we have quite a long list of planning conditions to satisfy, particularly regarding details of our ecological management, mitigation and enhancement.

As a result, there won't be much progress on the physical work for a little while yet while these conditions are satisfied. Moreover, we also need Common Land Consent from the Secretary of State (his inspector is not due to visit the site until June) plus we need our "Section 278" legal agreement with the Highway Authority



Volunteers have been working hard painting fence panels to provide screening at Tickner's Heath. Some 120 panels measuring 8ft x 4ft have been given several coats of protective paint on each side.

(the process for which couldn't start until we had planning permission).

Our plan is, therefore, that the first stage of the main construction will be during this summer and autumn, commencing with a temporary diversion of the road to enable us to install the footbridge. To start with this bridge will look rather odd as it will be sitting at ground level and won't become a proper bridge until the canal is excavated below it. In the meantime, however, it will perform an important role in that it will carry the diversion route for Thames Water's main, which has to be done before we can start the piling for the road bridge.

Current plans are that after completion of the footbridge in the autumn we will give Thames Water the whole of the winter to do the diversion then bring in the piling contractors for the main bridge in spring 2021.

Update on Drungewick Lock

After a positive result from testing Platipus anchors as a solution for shoring up Drungewick Lock, a final design has been approved and a performance guarantee provided.

A legal agreement with the landowner is currently being drawn up, needed due to the close proximity of an outbuilding to the proposed anchors.

The EWG will also have to replace the west wall coping before work can begin. A reinforced concrete capping beam is required ahead of installing the 37 anchors needed.

The anchor work, undertaken by contractors, should take two to three weeks, after which the painstaking job of repointing the lock's joints can begin.



Loxwood car park given an upgrade to prevent flooding

Hard work by maintenance manager Kevin Baker and his team has meant that flooding seen at the entrance to the car park in Loxwood during periods of heavy rain should now be a thing of the past. (The whole car park will still flood if the river overflows - this is beyond our control.) A new drainage grille has been installed at the entrance to the car

park behind the Onslow Arms and Canal Centre (see pictures above). Currently this area gets quickly flooded in heavy rain. Hall & Woodhouse, owners of the Onslow Arms, have met the cost of materials.

Alongside the grille a silt trap has been fitted and four inspection pits will be added along the length of the car park.



**Volunteer
Taster Days**

Recruitment drive attracts plenty of interest

Following last year's successful Volunteer Taster Days another series has been running in the first three months of 2020.

The events are being held over three separate days in January, February and March. The first two attracted a good number of interested parties, from members looking to do more to others hoping to find an active role after retirement and those wanting to use their skills

or take up a new hobby. All were impressed by the scale of plans for the future and restoration projects currently underway.

The Trust has almost unlimited opportunities for volunteers. Whether on the front line of restoration or behind the scenes, we are always looking for more people to boost our activities. For more on current roles available, see page 30.

This year's Poddle on June 7th will take in Brewhurst, Devil's Hole Lock and Gennets Bridge Lock.



Keep the date for the annual Poddle on June 7th

The annual Poddle this year will be held on Sunday June 7th and based in West Sussex, giving walkers a chance to enjoy the stunning scenery in the restored section, and see how the completed Gennets Bridge Lock is growing into its surroundings almost two years on from its official opening.

The 48th sponsored walk is the Trust's major fundraiser of the year and it played an important role in generating funds for the £375,000 Gennets Bridge Lock back in 2018.

This year's event will begin at Loxwood North Hall and continue to the canal as far as Brewhurst, where the route will wind through beautiful meadows and woodlands to reach Plaistow Winterton Hall, where lunch will be served. In the afternoon the return leg will enable walkers to see the completed Gennets Bridge Lock. The walk covers about 12 miles, with the return leg being slightly shorter.

Walkers can do either or both sessions. Lunch and mid-morning and mid-afternoon tea stops are provided.



The event is open to both members and non-members (and well-behaved dogs) and a bonus for community groups is that they can raise money for their good causes through a 50/50 sponsorship option. Teams that collect more than £200 (a minimum of £20 raised each), can split their proceeds equally with the Trust.

For more information on how to take part in the walk, see the leaflet provided with this issue of *Wey-South*, or email events@weyandarun.co.uk.

Tunnel vision: the fight to protect Hardham Tunnel

A tug of war is how Paul Messis, Wey & Arun Canal Trust supporter and self-proclaimed history buff, described his battle with Historic England to get the agency to grant the disused Hardham Tunnel in Pulborough listed status. After nearly three years of determined effort, however, he has got his way and the importance of this unique structure has now been recognised.

Completed in 1790 Hardham Tunnel is one of very few purpose-made canal tunnels surviving in south-east England. The 357m tunnel carried the Arun Navigation under Hardham Hill and is part of the Coldwaltham Cut, which by-passed the sinuous river channel via Pulborough, shortening the distance between Arundel and Newbridge by three miles. In 1859 the Midhurst Branch of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway was built over the top, followed in 1863 by what is now Network Rail's Arun Valley Line.

Sealed off

The last barge passed through in 1889 and the tunnel was officially closed in 1898, after which the railway company decided to reinforce the tunnel bore by filling a short section with clay. Since then it has been left abandoned and largely shut off to the public, sealed at its southern portal by an iron grating.

Its presence became a fascination for Paul, who lived in Billingshurst at the time. "I've always been intrigued by the geography of the landscape and often try to imagine what was in a certain place before in history. When I came upon the initial depression in the landscape, I was curious about it and investigated further when I went home," he says.

His reading led him to PAL Vine's *London's Lost Route to the Sea* and when working near the northern portal his interest in both the tunnel, the disused canal and related railway lines became "almost an obsession". Paul relished the challenge of making an application to Historic England for listing of the tunnel.

"I feel it was important for me, because I guess I had a soft spot for Hardham Tunnel. It became one of the structures that seemed to me to be so mysterious and so uncared for, I wanted to get it listed for it at least to have some kind of protection and I suppose have a light shone upon it in some way."

Many email exchanges and much form-filling followed – with nine landowners along the tunnel it was never going to be easy. "To begin with, one simply had to email, fill out a lot of forms and then the process begins. I had to put together a portfolio giving a reasons the Tunnel was important and why it deserved listing and this then had to be reviewed (a few times)."

WACT Vice-Chairman Alan Johnson provided Paul with some of the historical points and eventually Historic England went to view the tunnel. They subsequently submitted their own assessment to the Secretary of State.

Paul adds: "I was genuinely elated when the email came through to say it had been granted Grade II listed status. I was happy that I could do this for the local area and happy the structure finally got protection. My sincere hope is that it can be restored and opened up to the public so that other local history buffs like myself, weekend ramblers, tourists,



Paul Messis' perseverance has paid off with Grade II listing granted for Hardham Tunnel and its future now secure.



Stalactites have formed along the disused tunnel. Below: the northern portal (left) and southern portal.



schools and other people from the local area can enjoy, learn and experience it.

"I also have selfish desires, because I also hope that one day the Coldwaltham Cut could be restored. I feel that stretch would make for a very beautiful and serene canalside walk. So who knows? Perhaps the Tunnel could become fully operational one day, with its locks functional, giving access once more to the Rother/Arun confluence. I think it would be amazing if that occurred. We can all dream I guess..."

[Editor's note: The Canal Trust has an obvious interest in the whole historical waterway route

to the sea, but our formal scope is the section between Shalford and Pallingham, which does not include Hardham Tunnel.]

The Tunnel

Historic England deemed the tunnel to have both historic and architectural interest. Historically it is a complete example of an early canal tunnel, as well as an unusual example of a canal tunnel built on an artificial cut forming part of a river navigation. Architecturally it is a good example of early canal tunnel construction, with simple portals reflecting the modest nature of the canal.

A special event that's not to be missed

2020 marks 50 years exactly since a small group of enthusiasts met with the common ambition of restoring the Wey & Arun Canal, so it's only fitting that the annual IWA Trailboat Festival is being held where it all began: the site of the canal's official opening in 1816 at the Summit Level.

Canal restoration has moved on apace since the Wey & Arun Canal Society formed back in the 1970s (later becoming the Wey & Arun Canal Trust), and hosting the festival provides the Trust with a perfect opportunity to show off to the public the modern face of a canal in renovation.

Trailboat owners from across the country will head to Dunsfold Park over the bank holiday weekend of 23rd-25th May, making use of the Thruscott Slipway built by volunteers in 2018.

A highlight of the event is a decorated boat competition and this year trailboat owners are being invited to decorate their boats in a World War 2 theme to mark the setting's historical links with the Canadian Army who built Dunsfold aerodrome and its role as a repatriation centre for prisoners of war.

The weekend is free and promises fun for all the

family, both on the water and off. The event will be officially opened by new Guildford MP Angela Richardson.

Boat trips will run on the canal onboard *Josias Jessop*, over all three days and there

will be live music, food and drink, along with stalls to browse. Children's rides and a programme of entertainment will run on the Saturday and Sunday. So invite friends and family and help make the event one to remember.



**INLAND
WATERWAYS**
ASSOCIATION

IWA Trailboat Festival

**May
23rd-25th**

**Dunsfold Park
Stovolds Hill,
Cranleigh
GU6 8TB**

10am-6pm

**Open to
members and
non-members**

Entry FREE



***The festival will be
opened by Guildford MP
Angela Richardson.***

***The festival at
Moir, Derbyshire,
in 2017.***



There's fun to be had on and off the water at the IWA Trailboat Festival, this year running on the Wey & Arun Canal. Boat trips, music, food and stalls will be on offer over the bank holiday weekend of 23rd-25th May. For more details go to: www.weyarun.org.uk/trailboat-festival.

Photographs by Phil Sharpe.

***A procession
of decorated
trailboats is
a highlight of
the event.***



Seasonal boat trips



The weather may not have been particularly festive, but that didn't stop the Santa trips, Boxing Day and New Year's Day trips from being a huge success. Nearly 1,000 passengers enjoyed a seasonal cruise, and extra 3pm Santa Trips were added due to demand. Bookings are now being taken for Mother's Day and Easter.





Jonathan Mitchell takes a bow

December's Santa trips marked Jonathan Mitchell's last as Chairman of our Special Events Group (SECom), as he has decided to take a break from the job. Jonathan has been involved with the Trust for 20 years, joining the Publicity Group when he retired and eventually becoming its chairman. His involvement led to crewing and in 2012 he was asked to chair SECom. In those years he introduced many successful events, including the Cream Tea cruises, and last year ran more than 60 separate trips, looking after several thousand passengers.

His role hasn't just been an organisational one though as Jonathan could usually be seen getting into the part in various guises, as these photos show. The Trust would like to thank him for all his hard work and commitment over many years.



Boat repairs



ZK embarks on a journey to full health

The annual inspection by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency gave *Wiggonholt* a clean bill of health. Sadly, *Zachariah Keppel* did not fare so well.

The inspection late last year on the 45-year-old vessel revealed rusty steelwork and the decision was made to appoint professional boat repairers to carry out the work required to allow ZK to be deemed passenger-worthy.

In January ZK was lifted out of the canal at Loxwood by a 76-tonne crane onto a waiting lorry, to be taken off to Penton Hook Marina. From there it was floated along the River Thames to the 4 All Marine yard at Chertsey, where the repair work is to be carried out.

The repairers will clear off the bottom of the boat, apply a new coating of two-pack epoxy and carry out a survey. The rusty plate near the boat's shaft will also be replaced.

The work should give ZK another 10-15 years of life and it will be back in operation by May.

Clockwise from top left: ZK makes it safely out of the canal and onto a waiting lorry; it will certainly have turned a few heads as it travelled to the marina at Chertsey, where it was put into the Thames and finally reached the repair yard.





ZK's history

The first owners of ZK were Cyril & Thelma Wood and their son Leslie, from Guildford. The boat was originally named Elsetee, a combination of their three first names – Leslie, Cyril and Thelma.

The family sold the boat to Nigel Thorne of Ash, who moored the boat at Gun's Mouth in Shalford, Surrey. It was donated to the Wey & Arun Canal Trust in 1993, by which time the boat was disused and in a sorry state.

The Trust transported the boat by road to Redlands Farm in Plaistow, Sussex, for extensive refurbishment by volunteers and refitting as a public trip boat.

The Trust renamed it Zachariah Keppel to commemorate the contractor appointed by the Wey & Arun Junction Canal Company to construct the canal. It made its debut on the canal at Barnsill Bridge, near Loxwood, in 1994.

Vital statistics

Length: 50ft (15.2m) without fenders

Beam: 6ft 10in (2.08m), the normal width of a narrowboat on the British inland waterways system.

Weight: Approximately 11 tonnes (without passengers).

Draught: Approximately 2ft (0.6m).

Engine: Beta 35 diesel which is a marine adaptation of a Kubota BV1305 4-cylinder engine. Capacity 1498cc. Air-cooled. Fitted in 2008 to replace the original engine. Fitted with single-lever Morse-type control and exhaust silencer.

Speed: Typical cruising speed is about 3mph (5km/h).



Canal guide gets a refresh for 2020

The Trust has updated its essential guide, *Visiting the Wey & Arun Canal*. The latest publication has been revised to include recent restoration projects such as Compasses Bridge, Gennets Bridge Lock, Southland Lock, the circular walk at Birtley and the Thruscott Slipway at Dunsfold.

With handy maps and photos, historical background and practical advice on accessing the canal, the guide is an essential for those who want to get more out of their exploration of the Wey & Arun Canal.

The guide covers the canal route in detail, with maps and colour illustrations. It also highlights the beauty spots, areas of restoration and original features, as well as explaining the next steps needed to bring each section of the canal back into use.

The 72-page guide, priced at £6, was first printed in 2012 and has been written and edited by volunteers Julian Cheek and Geoff Thomas. It is available from our website (<https://weyarun.org.uk/shop>) or from the Loxwood Canal Centre.

River Arun Rally to set sail on 10th May

This year's River Arun Rally will take place on 10th May, when boats will be launched from Pulborough Slipway and Stopham Bridge in West Sussex with a view to getting upstream to Pallingham Quay, near the original junction of the River Arun and the Arun Navigation.

Last year's event attracted a record number of canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

The River Arun Rally began in 1983 and the annual event has been run by the Wey & Arun Canal Trust since 2011.

The aim is to ensure that when restoration of the Wey & Arun Canal is complete, there will be no legal reason that boats cannot venture from the canal into the Arun.



Behind the lens of volunteer photographers

This year's calendar featured some stunning shots of wildlife and landscapes along the canal, taken by members Dave Verrall, Julian Nowell and Julian Morgan. *Wey-South* spoke to them to find out how they manage to get that perfect picture, and what led them to their hobby.

Dave Verrall is the Trust's regular contributor of wildlife photos for *Wey-South*, but came to wildlife photography only fairly recently. "I first became interested in wildlife photography about six years ago. I was walking along the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal and took some photos of butterflies and dragonflies with my pocket digital camera. But I could not get close-up shots. So when I returned home I purchased a bridge camera and I then took much better photos of all sorts of wildlife."

Wanting to improve further he bought a DSLR camera and a zoom lens. "I also read books about photography and learnt a lot from other photographers at Warnham Nature Reserve."

As a regular volunteer at the Canal Centre, many of Dave's photos are taken in the Loxwood area, and he has become expert at spotting the resident kingfishers and heron. "During autumn and winter I often see different bird species on the offside of the canal between Brewhurst Lock and Brewhurst Bridge," he says.

Damselflies and dragonflies have become a particular favourite for Dave. "During the spring and summer I visit Devil's Hole and Drungewick to take photos of damselflies and dragonflies," he explains. Another of his favourite summer locations is Lordings Lock.

It's not just the West Sussex reach of the canal that proves good for wildlife spotting, though. "Wildlife can be seen along all of the canal route," Dave points out. "One of the best Surrey locations though is Hunt Nature Park at Shalford, where I enjoy walking along the riverside path and stopping for a while on the viewing platform."



Dave Verrall.

Julian Morgan is a frequent visitor to Hunt Park. "It is on my doorstep and has become a paradise for butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies," he says. "I tend to concentrate on butterflies, moths and other insects - my knowledge of birds is not so good," he admits.

Julian M says he got involved in the canal and digital photography at about the same time, in the early 'noughties. "It was our revered former Treasurer Jim Phillips who recruited me to the Trust. I have never owned a proper film camera but as a technically-minded person I was fascinated by the potential of digital."

Julian Nowell's interest in photography came from a very different track: the race track and "years of motorsport work, travelling around the world, snapping fast cars". "I find now that the Wey & Arun gives me a similar buzz," he says. "I got involved in the Wey & Arun Canal Trust about 10 years ago, after I had retired, and felt I wasn't really doing enough," Julian N says.

His speciality is landscapes, and as such he doesn't really have a favourite spot on the Canal



Julian Morgan.



Julian Nowell.

"as it's all so picturesque". But he adds: "I do particularly enjoy the autumn colours along the Gennets to Drungewick stretch."

All three agree that getting that perfect shot requires patience and practice. "In between excellent shots can be many hours of frustration and hundreds of failures," says Julian M.

"Don't be afraid to take lots of shots so that you learn what works and what doesn't. Magazine editors often need photos in portrait orientation, especially for their front covers - you can take a brilliant landscape shot but it might not be used because it's the wrong shape, so turn the camera round from time to time."

Fieldcraft is also very important, says Dave. "I wear dark-coloured clothing and I always approach the wildlife slowly. I also slowly raise my camera as sudden movements and the reflection of the camera lens can often spook the wildlife.

"There is a lot of luck involved with wildlife photography. Often it is all about being in the right place at the right time."

The equipment

Dave: "I use a Nikon DSLR camera with a zoom lens."

Julian M: "I have been a Canon user for 10 years. I use a 7D MkII DSLR and an M50 mirrorless camera. My favourite lenses generally are the EF-S 17-55mm and the EF 100-400mm. For insects that are not too shy I like to use a 100mm macro lens."

Julian N: "All I have is a compact Olympus Digital, with a 10 times wide optical zoom, 4.2-42mm, which seems to cover most of my requirements, and gets me the shots I want."

The Trust would like to thank all those who submit photos – they are extremely valuable in helping us publicise our work. If you would like to send in images, please contact gill_davies@weyandarun.co.uk.



Hedgelayers pay tribute to the late Keith Nichols

Trust members gathered at Brewhurst Lock in Loxwood in February to remember Keith Nichols, founder of the Hedgelaying Group, who died in 2018.

Keith's partner Penny Line and members of the Hedgelaying team planted a native oak and laid a plaque in his memory. The tree was toasted with a splash of beer and Trust chairman Sally Schupke planted a purple violet alongside the oak. The plaque features a billhook, symbolising Keith's passion for hedgelaying, along with a nod to his love of the eccentric, care of *Round the Horne* and its famous nonsensical dialogue.



Working Party Roundup

The weather has been a bit challenging over the past few months, but it is quite remarkable how the various WACT teams have buckled down to get on with the many tasks that advance the restoration work and keep the canal looking good. This is essential to ensure that we retain the support of the public and so that their visits to the canal are a great experience, whether that be walking the towpaths or cruising on our trip boats.

One benefit of the rain was that many sections of the canal were in water and we were able to get a preview of how things might be as restoration progresses.

Peter Winter

peter_winter@weyandarun.co.uk

Monday Group

Following our visit to Drungewick Lock in October, we spent two more days there in November in order to complete the work, with the result that not only is the lock looking tidy ready for the remedial work, but the whole of the banks of the winding hole below the lock have been cleared; a difficult task because the brambles had grown very thick in places.

We visited Haybarn as well and completed clearing and widening the last 150 metres of the towpath to the 90-degree turn in the canal. Also, at the request of the landowner, we have started to tidy up the field side of the towpath hedge. However, flooding of the field has now precluded visits in the immediate future.

Finally, three of the Group visited Fastbridge, cleared all the ivy off the bridge and cut back the overgrown vegetation around the steps and the branches overhanging the canal.

As the fields continued to be flooded at Haybarn in early December, we managed to clear 800 yards of the towpath south of Brewhurst Bridge. In mid-December, during a lull in the floods, we returned to Haybarn and continued with the task of clearing the field



Keeping up appearances at Sidney Wood and Drungewick Lock.

side. We reckon we cleared 60 yards, including lots of thick blackthorn.

Finally, we returned to Gennets and tidied around the lock and winding hole and the towpath north of the lock as far as the overspill weir, before decamping to the Onslow Arms for our Christmas lunch.

We started the year off by clearing all around Barnsill Bridge and, having received permission to work in Sidney Wood now that the logging has finished, spent three January outings clearing the towpath and, where necessary, the offside bank all the way from Fir Tree Copse to Lock 16, a usual winter task. It was good to see the canal in water for a large part of this section.

Nick Wood

mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk



The hedgelayers in action at Brewhurst.



Whitley before...

Hedgelaying Team

The first two weeks of our season were engaged in coppicing to provide materials for the next stretch of hedge to be laid at Brewhurst – and our thanks go to Peter Foulger for allowing us to again work his hazel woods. Last year's laid hedge has responded extraordinarily well.

The signs pointing out that there is no such thing as a dog poo fairy have been removed. Unfortunately, this does not mean that there is now a helpful fairy looking after the stretch beyond Brewhurst Lock! You will appreciate that hedgelaying involves kneeling at the base of the hedge and dragging a lot of cut material by hand – neither pleasant when the site is essentially a dog toilet.

On a more positive note, we have started to lay the next section of hedge, and have extended our hedgelaying skills to include sorting out electric bilge pumps and battery chargers, as we are dependent on the *May Upton* to move cut material to the burn site.

Nick Baxter
hedgelaying@weyandarun.co.uk

Midweek Working Party

MWWP had a very busy time in November, cutting the side of the hedge from Harsfold down to the flood gates so it looks

very smart all the way to Lordings. We had good numbers every week and the weather was kind to us.

While most of the group were hedgecutting, the rest were tidying up Hunt Park and marking out the visitor centre, boardwalk and lock sites so people are able to see where everything is planned. Due to the high winds in autumn there were a lot of branches blown down, which needed to be cleared. The last week of the month we all came back together at Fastbridge and cleared the canal bank southwards. One of the group spent a day clearing land at Whitley Bridge.

The first two Wednesdays in December were spent working at Haybarn southwards, cutting the hedge and clearing the path. A few people were clearing the thicket north of the swing bridge in preparation for a mechanical method of cutting the hedge next year. Meanwhile a small group continued to work in Hunt Park, preparing for the new visitor centre.

The week before Christmas saw 22 volunteers at Run Common. The land owner gave the team a box of biscuits and walked down to Whitley Bridge with a small group. The working party enjoyed their lunch with mulled wine and sausage rolls and mince pies.

In January, time has been spent at Haybarn and further south towards Lee Farm Lock,



...and after the MWWP treatment.

clearing the towpath and cutting the hedge. The volunteers have had to work in some very wet weather but have persevered and now the towpath is totally clear for the landowner. The hedge is now clear on the towpath side, but we have still a lot of work to do in the field. It may not get completed this side of bird nesting.

We also have had several splinter groups working. A group have been working in Hunt Park under the auspices of Hunt Park Manager Ian Joyce, clearing branches that have come down in the winds. Others have been working with Dave Evans at Compasses, clearing the canal of trees that had come down.

Margaret Darvill

margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk

Eric Walker Group

The group has been working at two sites. Most activity has been at Harsfold Bridge while also supporting the project at Drungewick Lock.

At Harsfold, progress has been hampered by severe wet weather, resulting in the flooding of the nearby River Arun, with the water coming to within a few metres of our site compound.

Initial work focused on the north abutment where the excavations for the concrete foundation exposed the substructure of the old bridge. The formwork for the north abutment



The EWG at Harsfold on a rare sunny day.

was completed by mid-November and concrete was poured the following week. Following considerable pumping and despite the very thick mud, we were able to excavate the north flank wall foundations and the foundation for the south bridge abutment, unearthing the old bridge foundations, as we did on the north side.

During two unusually dry work days we managed to pour the concrete to both the north flank wall foundations and the foundation to the south bridge abutment; 22 cubic metres in total.

The improvement in the weather after Christmas enabled us to make good progress on the south side, excavating and concreting the south bridge abutment foundation and we were also able to complete construction of the south abutment itself. Some 45 cubic metres of concrete have been poured for the foundations and abutments so far.

On the north side of the canal we are progressing the flank walls, which consist of skins of blockwork/brickwork with reinforced concrete infill. With the kind permission of the landowner, we also laid a considerable length (300m) of new water main, connecting his supply to a point in the site compound, thus providing a supply to the welfare cabin/toilet and for mortar mixing operations.

Dennis Gillen

dennis_gillen@weyandarun.co.uk



Electricity at Tickner's Heath has meant the team can get creative. These wooden Easter eggs will be painted and used on the forthcoming Easter trips.

Tickner's Heath Depot

In November most effort at the depot was directed to manufacturing the parking signs for the IWA Trailboat Festival in May. We have given them multicoats of an environmentally-friendly wood preservative, now all we have to do is design a system for attaching the numbers in such a way that after use the signs can be used for other events the Trust may hold.

A task we managed to fit in during November was to pump out the water from the boiler of the shower unit to ensure that it doesn't freeze up during the cold months. We have still managed the odd bit of support for the working parties, though; waders have been found, metal cutters and generators supplied, and the normal odd items made ready for use.

Having electricity means that we can at last make things, so we were tasked with making a handful of Easter Egg boards of varying sizes for the Easter cruises. We hit the ground running after the break and produced the full set in no time.

John Smith
depot@weyandarun.co.uk

Northern and Summit Working Party

In November we concentrated on clearing-up operations at Birtley. This involved moving a large quantity of materials and equipment from the lift bridge site back to base camp at Birtley Courtyard. It's amazing how much stuff you accumulate over just 12 months.

As well as moving out, we also had to unbolt and lift all the plastic road sheets that have provided our essential access to the site. Some were covered in mud and hardcore and had to be dug out by hand. Subsequently, a small team comprising Dave Evans, Roger Beazer and myself spent two days taking about 10 trailer and pick-up loads back to the slipway and Tickner's Depot.

My optimism that we would have until the end of December to clear Birtley was misplaced – as we had to clear it by the end of the first week! A callout produced 10 volunteers who lifted and cleaned off the remainder of the temporary track, and the whole compound was cleared back to Dunsfold by mid-afternoon.

The pre-Christmas work party on 21st was spent sorting and tidying up at the slipway. An



ZK needed to be stripped and its ballast removed ahead of its trip to the repairers at the end of January.

additional task was to lay a water pipe from the Tickner's Depot to the slipway to provide fresh water for the IWA Trailboat Festival in May.

January's activity involved the hard work of concreting the slipway access road with two more sections poured over three days of work. The penultimate section has been dug out and shuttered ready for another hand-mixed concrete pour in February. This will take the road to the top of the slope. The road has been a big job and a consequence of building the slipway in a cutting. We should make sure that the next one is on level ground!

Other work has focused on preparations for the Festival and the associated compound move to the new Tickner's Bridge site. The new toilet cabin was plumbed in and a set of access steps constructed. A water supply (about 550 metres pipe run) from Tickner's Depot has been provided, which means that the site has mains water for the first time. Two days with a digger and dumper were spent moving spoil away from the compound entrance to create more space for the rally facilities. Last, but not least, 120 plywood sheets were painted green.

Bill Nicholson, bill@nwpg.org.uk

Boat Maintenance

After the successful Christmas and New Year trips we fendered the starboard bow of *Wiggonholt* with some old, green rope which has been mouldering by the slipway for some years. Impacts with the lock walls should be somewhat more cushioned in future.

Meanwhile, on the 29th January *Zachariah Keppel* was lifted out of the canal and transported to Penton Hook Marina where she will be repainted, the hull surveyed and electrically checked for thickness, new shaft bearer plates welded in and the shaft drawn and inspected, all as required by the MCA surveyor. Prior to this we had to strip her of flooring and ballast, vacuum the interior hull and measure her up for new, more spacious seating.

Our next big job is to slip *Josias Jessop* and give her hull a few coats of primer and bitumastic paint. We intend to replace the four injectors in her engine with reconditioned ones to reduce the smoke she produces when running.

David Arnold
david_arnold@weyandarun.co.uk

PEST

Following November's storms key work was ensuring that the canal between the Canal Centre and the Brewhurst Bridge winding hole was cleared of fallen tree debris ahead of the festive cruises. We use both the *May Upton* work boat and *Josias Jessop: MU* for the heavier work such as lifting trees and logs, *JJ* for lighter work. As *JJ* serves principally as a trip boat and the PEST volunteers also serve as her crew and maintainers, they take great care when using her, protecting her paintwork with blankets and scrupulously cleaning her after each outing.

Activity in December focused on Devil's Hole Lock to the Canal Centre. Outgrowth was cleared from the offside bank, particularly around the winding hole and approaches to Devil's Hole Lock. The canal was cleared of fallen tree debris following the earlier stormy weather.

Chris Jones
chris_jones@weyandarun.co.uk

Christmas draw winners

Trust Chairman Sally Schupke picked the winning tickets for the Christmas Draw earlier this year.

Mr Philip Sharpe scooped the top prize of £200, with runners-up Bill Nicholson winning £100 and Jane Bond scooping £75. Prizes of £50, £40 and £30 were also won. The draw raised over £4,600 for Trust funds. We thank volunteer Tim Lewis for administering the raffle and sponsors who provided prizes and paid for ticket printing.

Go green and help boost Trust coffers



Recycling is not only good for the planet, but it's also a great boost for the Trust's finances. Last year nearly £3,000 was raised from newspaper collections, and thanks go to all our collectors.

There are collection points in the car park next to the Canal Centre at Loxwood. Alongside newspaper, Canal Centre Manager Lyn Nash collects postage stamps, foreign bank notes, coins and jewellery for sale on behalf of the Trust.

Location, location, location on the Wey & Arun Canal

Plans are afoot to relaunch the Property Alert service that will notify anyone interested when properties on or near the canal route come up for sale. There are several key properties where it would make a huge difference to have a sympathetic owner and canalside properties are often sought after.

The Trust will be contacting everyone who was previously on the property alert list, but if you would like to be included please contact support@weyandarun.co.uk.

Volunteer posts available

For the new boating season the Trust is looking to expand its team of cabin crew to serve refreshments on board boats.

It would also like to add to its band of helpers who man the Canal Centre when it re-opens on 6th March. Volunteers will be supported with any training needed. Please contact support@weyandarun.co.uk if you can help.

Electrician required

Are you a qualified electrician who could help the Trust by carrying out some safety checks?

The Trust has installed some electrical equipment along the restored section of the canal around Loxwood. For example, there are electrical supply cabinets and back pumps at the locks, and to extract some water from the Rivers Arun and Lox. We need to be confident that these remain safe to use, so they are checked annually.

At the moment there are 49 such annual checks. Could you help the Trust by carrying them out? If so, or you would like some further information, please contact Julian Cheek at julian_cheek@weyandarun.co.uk or on 01483 505566 on Thursdays between 10am and 4pm.

Drivers needed

The Mobile Display Vehicle plays an important role in spreading the word about the Trust's work and publicising boat trips, but it needs towing to and from the many events it attends each year and so more volunteer drivers are needed.

There's no need to use your own vehicle or get additional insurance as the Trust has that covered with its own Land Rover, however drivers will have to undergo and gain certification in towing and parking. If you can help or would like more information, please email support@weyandarun.co.uk.

Membership Report

Our membership stands at 2,915. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members.

Anthony & Vanda Bell	Robert Bristow	Jonathan & Tracy Burns
Mark Tyrrell	Steven Cook	Gayle Davis-Tyrrell
Janet & Robert Harley	Johnny Hobbs	Charlie Houston
Valerie Jolly	Clifford Jones	Carol & Keith Knight
Lara Milne	Marion Minson	Rog Ness
Rosalind Paxman	Lucy & Simon Penn	Joan & Peter Phelan
Annette Sterr	Ann Stockdale	

We have learned with regret of the death of:

Michael Garwood	Peter Taylor	Pat Perry-Barton
David Pollard	Thomas Veasey	Seb (Thomas) Welford

For those members who pay by standing order, please remember to adjust your standing order to the new rates if you have not already done so. That is £15 for individual and £20 for joint members.

John Tovell, Membership Secretary
(membership@weyandarun.co.uk)

Dates for your diary

* Sunday 22nd March

Mothing Sunday Relaxers

Treat the one you love to a Danish Pastry Cruise departing at 11am or Cream Tea Cruise leaving at 2.15pm

* Saturday 4th April

Scheduled boat trips resume. See <https://weyarun.org.uk/content/public-trips> for more information on the new timetable.

* Friday 10th, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April

Easter Specials

Celebrate the Easter holiday with a boat trip on our peaceful canal. Included refreshments are Buck's Fizz for each adult and a Fruit Shoot for each child together with a chocolate muffin for everyone. Departures at 11am.

Saturday 25th April

Annual Meeting. Cranleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm.

Sunday May 10th

River Arun Rally. Email events@weyandarun.co.uk

Saturday 23rd - Monday 25th May

IWA National Trailboat Festival, Thriscutt Slipway. For more information, go to www.weyarun.org.uk/trailboat-festival

* Thursday 21st May Wednesday 10th June

Cream Tea Voyages

Sit back, relax and enjoy a delicious cream tea trip on our canal boat Wiggonholt, while watching the countryside drift by. 90 minute trip. Departures at 2pm.

Thursday 25th June

Tuesday 14th July

Tuesday 4th August

Monday 17th August

Wednesday 2nd September

Wednesday 16th September

Sunday June 7th

Annual Poddle Sponsored Walk. Email events@weyandarun.co.uk

*** 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 essential for all special trips.**



Heavy rainfall throughout December, January and February resulted in some spectacular scenes as the water levels rose dramatically in rivers surrounding the canal.

Clockwise from top: an overflowing Devil's Hole Lock; Maintenance Manager Kevin Baker made sure the boats were safe by tethering them in the middle of the canal so they could rise and fall safely with the changing water levels in the River Lox; trees were submerged at Hunt Nature Park in Shalford; the site at Harsfold near Wisborough Green just escaped being engulfed by water from the River Arun.

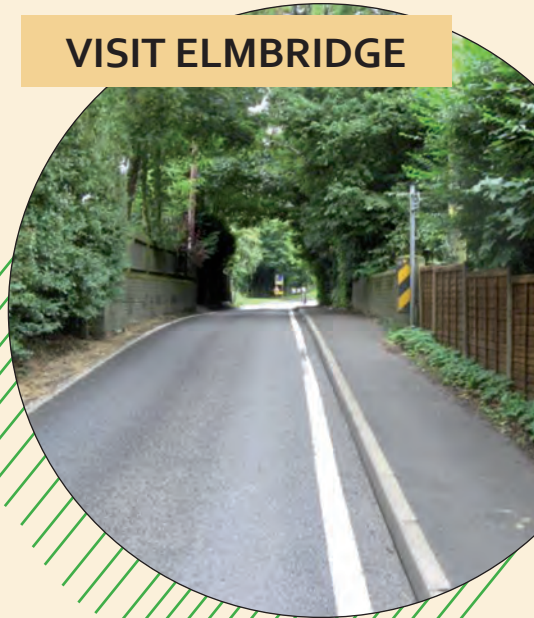
MAKE A day of it

VISIT BIRTLEY



Take the opportunity to join in one of our activities on the morning of the Annual Meeting, then grab some lunch before attending the meeting in Cranleigh at 2.30pm.

VISIT ELMBRIDGE



Annual Meeting
April 25th 2.30pm
Cranleigh Village Hall
The Village Hall is in Village Way,
just south of the High Street.



For more details and to register for these events, head to our website,
<https://weyarun.org.uk/events50>.

1 WALK TO BIRTLEY BRIDGE

Start: 10am. The route will take members along the Downs Link, the former route of the Guildford to Horsham railway which was axed in the 1960s as part of the Beeching cuts. The picturesque path will reach the site of the circular towpath walk being created by Trust volunteers. Members will get to see the site of the next bridge being proposed and a close-up view of progress on the first bridge.

2 VISIT ELMBRIDGE, CRANLEIGH

Start: 10.30am. Elmbridge Project Manager Tony Ford will take members on a visit to the site where there are plans to add a new canal bridge at Elmbridge in a road improvement project with Surrey County Council. Members will hear how the proposed road widening will create a new canal bridge and allow the Trust to renovate the canal beneath. The plans will also involve the creation of a new lock.

3 FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK

Please register online for a place on these special members-only events. For details of how to find each activity via public transport or by car, including parking details, please go to: <https://weyarun.org.uk/events50>.

HELP US GUARANTEE OUR INCOME

Most of the Trust's income is from unpredictable sources such as donations, legacies and grants, which makes budgeting for restoration projects uncertain. But there is a valuable source of money which members may not know about – the Milestone Club, formerly called the Restoration Fund – in the form of monthly contributions. Being part of the Milestone Club means that as well as knowing you are helping the Trust achieve some financial security, you will benefit from invitations to members-only special events.

Email support@weyandarun.co.uk for more information.

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEERS

Do you have some free time you'd like to fill in a worthwhile way? There are roles with the Wey & Arun Canal Trust to suit all skills, whether it's hands-on with working parties, meeting the public at our Canal Centre, or helping behind the scenes. For more details, please email support@weyandarun.co.uk.

WEY & ARUN
Canal
Trust



Where, when, how?

- ♦ The start is at Loxwood North Hall RH14 0SF. If coming from the north, turn right off the A281 at Alföld Crossways and take the B2133 to Loxwood, through Alföld, and North Hall is on the right as you enter Loxwood. If coming from the south, turn right off the A272 at Newbridge and take the B2133 to Loxwood. Go all the way through the village, continuing for about ½ mile after passing the Post Office, and North Hall is on the left.
- ♦ Arrive between 9am and 10:30 to check in and receive your Route Guide and start walking the whole route, or only the morning route. If you only wish to walk in the morning, we will provide transport from the lunch stop back to the start
- ♦ If you wish to walk only in the afternoon, come to Winterton Hall, Plaistow RH14 0PX. Here you can check in and have lunch. We will provide transport from the finish back to Plaistow.

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust, which is working hard to restore 23 miles of navigable waterway linking the River Arun at Pallingham to the River Wey at Shalford, organises a sponsored walk each year. This is the Trust's most important fundraising event and makes a vital contribution to pushing the restoration effort forward.

This year's Poddle is on Sunday 7th June. We are going to walk from the North Hall, Loxwood to the Winterton Hall in Plaistow where lunch will be provided, and then back to Loxwood in the afternoon. For those who would prefer a shorter walk you can choose to walk in the morning or afternoon only. Morning and afternoon refreshment stops will be provided.

The morning walk (7 miles) takes you along the canal as far as Brewhurst Lock and then through countryside and woodland to Winterton Hall in Plaistow. The afternoon walk (5 miles) takes you north of Plaistow and back to the canal at Bonfire Hanger then to North Hall, Loxwood for a well-deserved cup of tea and cake.

Did you know we offer 50/50 sponsorship? If you enter as a 'Team' and raise more than £200 sponsorship (minimum £25 each) we are happy to split funds equally with another charity or organisation of your choosing. If you or your organisation wish to take part as a team please complete individual sponsor forms as usual but please also contact the organiser, or look on the Trust's web site for a 'group' form.

If walking isn't for you, why not

- ♦ Sponsor the Last Man?
- ♦ Make cakes for the walkers?
- ♦ Help on the day as a marshal or at a refreshment point?

Please contact the Poddle co-ordinator for more information or to offer assistance - all help is greatly appreciated.

PODDLE CO-ORDINATOR

Margaret Darvill

☎01483 894606

✉poddle@weyandarun.co.uk

For more details of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust and its aims, contact the Trust's office.

✉support@weyandarun.co.uk

☎01483 505566



You are invited to take part in

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust's 48th Annual Poddle Sunday 7th June 2020



The opening ceremony at Gennets Bridge Lock in 2018

What is it?

The 2020 Poddle is a 12-mile sponsored walk around Loxwood and Plaistow raising money towards the restoration of the Wey & Arun Canal.

Who can do it?

Almost anyone, with the exception of the very young, infirm and pushchairs as the walk covers stiles and some hills. Dogs are welcome especially if sponsored!

What do I need to do?

Complete the sponsor form overleaf and raise as much money as you can – minimum £25 please (lunch is provided) then just turn up and walk.

Wey & Arun Canal Trust Annual Poddle Sponsorship & Gift Aid Declaration Form

Please hand in this Sponsor Form - it will be given back to you at the finish when you check out.

Please sponsor me to walk the 2020 "Poddle" on Sunday 7th June 2020 in aid of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust.
(name of walker - CAPITALS PLEASE)

We, who have given our names and addresses below and have ticked the box headed "Gift Aid?", want the charity named above to reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown. We understand that each of us must have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year.

Surname (CAPITALS PLEASE)	First Name (CAPITALS PLEASE)	Home Address (essential for Gift Aid)	Postcode (essential for Gift Aid)	Amount £	Date Paid	Gift Aid? (✓)
Remember: Full name + Home address + Postcode + (✓) = <i>giftaid it</i>				£		

(To be completed before arrival - IN CAPITALS PLEASE)

Walker's Details

Full Name

Address

..... Postcode

E-mail address

Gift Aid

Please ensure that if any of the above donations are to be Gift Aided by you or a donor that you / they are a taxpayer, aware of your / their commitments, and that you / they have recorded the first line of their address and their postcode and ticked the Gift Aid box. By doing this their donation increases by 25%, i.e. 25p for every pound. If all are able to do this it will mean that the total amount raised is increased by 25%.

Signature:

Date:

Please tick here if you are a member of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust

☐

Please collect your sponsor money as soon as possible and send a cheque payable to

"Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd" to:

The Treasurer, Wey & Arun Canal Trust,
Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford,
Guildford, GU4 8EQ

If you have more sponsors, please download a form from <https://weyarun.org.uk/drupal/poddle> (or continue on separate sheets of paper).

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Walker Number: