

Editorial

One particular bit of good news is that the Gun's Mouth Island dredging appeal has been a success, meaning that enough has been raised to enable the contractors to start work soon. Early December will see our Northern group involved in preparatory work at the site, and we expect a further visit from the WRG forestry people to continue tree clearance.

There is probably just enough time for last-minute bookings for the WACT Christmas Dinner, details of which were circulated in *Wey-South*. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Vanessa Lamey if you haven't ordered your tickets yet.

Then, shortly afterwards, the Santa Cruises begin. Rosie Sugar is looking for shoreside helpers, as well as people to provide mince pies.

Finally (apart from the customary seasonal good wishes of course) we understand the 'Grow Your Tenner' campaign is still active. This has produced almost £9,000 so far for WACT, and is particularly lucrative because, with gift aid, every £10 donation is actually worth £21.53. You can donate at www.localgiving.com/charity/wact.

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

November, more of the same weather, wet and windy - but the volunteers continued in hardworking and enthusiastic mode. The work on the fitting of the bollards finished and training walls at the top and bottom of the lock continued, filling behind the walls as they go up. The chamber for the back pump was finished ready for it to be brought in from Devil's Hole lock (DHL).

Peter Reeve had finished relaying the site electricity cable when he had a mild stroke, so we wish him well and a full recovery.

The completion of the sale of Paddock Wood took place in November and the new owners are supportive of our work by allowing us access through their property.

In December we will fit the bridges on the lock gates at Southland and the top gates at Loxwood lock. Subject to the flooding conditions the ground paddles will be fitted. Work on the training walls at the top of Southland lock will continue to bring them up to coping level. The work at the bottom of the lock will continue on the training walls subject to being able to get there because of the floodwater and the generally muddy conditions.

In anticipation of starting work at Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL, lock number 8) survey work (levelling) is to be done. Also in preparation for the piling by our contractor Burras, they will be on site in early December to establish what is below the shale layer. We will eventually find out whether the original canal builders had to remove that layer to put the lock in place.

At DHL the pump chamber work will require the pound to be empty, and the November window having been missed it is now hoped to do it in the New Year. Behind the Onslow there are the safety ladders to be put in and the safety rope, again delayed until after the Santa Cruises.

Join us: The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meets at 09:30 at Southland; if you need directions please ring 07717 855340 for latest info.

Eric Walker

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
	Working party coordinator		restoration@weyandarun.co.uk
Michael Bates	Health & Safety Officer	07786 323515	michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Ray Pick	MidWeek Working Party	01483 272443	anne.pick@btinternet.com
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Kev Baker	Loxwood Link	02380 861074	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston's Group	01903 774 301	winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	hedging@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Nicholson	Northern working parties	01844 343 369	bill@nwpg.org.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	07777 668 928	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

In fact we had an additional outing on 29 October when four members of the group with Keith Nichols and his team, started work on clearing the towpath and cutting the hedge from Harsfold bridge/causeway northwards towards Lordings flood lock.

The two scheduled meetings in November continued with this task and by the end of the second session having reached Lordings, the work was completed despite the flood waters nearly lapping at our feet on the other side of the hedge. The whole area looks a lot better and cared for now.

In addition we completed the clearance of the ditch at the far end of the overflow car park at Loxwood and moved the debris around the overflow grating at the Tickners causeway to the yard for burning. All good maintenance stuff!

We meet again on 3 December and 17 December in Sidney Wood.

The group sends all our canal colleagues best wishes for Christmas.

Nick Wood

Hedgelaying Group

Bah Humbug: which is "Greetings for the season" i.e. one very wet season rather than the usual "Four Seasons" (courtesy of Vivaldi).

The erstwhile group has, through November, done a bit of coppicing and a bit of laying at Baldwins Knob Lock. We were kick started after having had assistance finishing the trimming at Harsfold, by the Monday Group. Thanks all for that help. With only two more days, possibly, this year to go, we will probably still be at Baldwins in the New Year. Then on to Drungewick Slipway/Heavy Plant Crossing to finish off what we started a couple of years ago.

Advertisement: "Arks 2 U" (can be used on canals and inland seas) - my new company if the present weather conditions prevail.

Future Dates:

December - Mon 10

January - Thurs 03, Fri 11, Mon 21, Tues 29

February - Wed 06, ?, Fri 22

Merry Christmas All

Keith Nichols Tel: 01403 753882; Mob: 07817 798865

Tickner's Heath Depot

A very quiet month indeed. So quiet that I only felt the need to turn up for half the month. Richard (Powell) and Ken (Bacon) continued with the work to produce doors for the dredger. All that now remains is to make our way down to the canal and fit them - once, that is, we have established what type and size of hinges are required.

As it was found out last month that the light petrol mixers had proved a trifle difficult to start and so needed a service the team quickly put their collective skills together and, lo and behold, after seeing the determined look in Francis (Wellerd) and Mick (Jones) eyes the beasts started first time - job done. They then turned a jaundiced eye towards the 2in pumps, one of which had the temerity to need a repair. This was quickly accomplished and it burst into life first pull - yet another success. (I know self-praise is no praise).

Working Party Diary		
Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Check with Ray Pick for confirmation of venue
Every Wednesday Thursday & Sunday as required	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Every Thursday	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
Thursday and Sunday	Eric Walker's Group (construction)	Contact Eric Walker for details
7 December	WACT Christmas Dinner	See the current <i>Wey-South</i>
14 January	Workers' Lunch	Contact Geoff Perks 01403 262855

At the end of the month the team was called into action to make sure Bill Nicholson and his team had what was required for their weekend camp, hopefully we managed to fill his requirements. Here I should add our thanks to the boys and girls of the MWWP who off-loaded the kit at the Shalford end saving us a journey.

Just one final thing: the team will be taking a short break over the festive period. Our last day of the year will be Wednesday 19 December and we will return refreshed on Wednesday 9 January 2013. That does not, of course, include our long suffering delivery boy Dave Kersley.

Well, I think that's about it; all the best.

John Smith

Recycling

Between 07/07/2012 and 20/09/2012 we collected 30.171 tonnes of old newspapers & magazines. This has resulted in another substantial payment, including recycling credits, from WSCC. A very good result. Many thanks to those members and friends who support this easy method of fundraising.

For more information, contact me on 01903 753099 or email John at johnr.wood@lineone.net.

John Wood

Navvies' Festive Lunch

MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2013

As indicated last month the traditional Workers' Lunch will be held on Monday 14 January 2013. This time the highly recommended venue is the Foxbridge Golf Club which can be reached by car from Loxwood High Street, viz. from the Onslow Arms drive about 1/2 mile south (towards Billingshurst), turn right (signed to Foxbridge Golf Club) for almost 1 1/4 miles passing two turnings and the Oaktree Stores on your right before finding and taking the first turning on the left (also signed to the Golf Club) for some 600 yards before turning left into the Club's large car park.

The event is timed at 12.30 for 1.00 pm and you are very welcome to bring your partner to meet your fellow navvies. The menu is set out below and those wishing to attend are asked to complete and return the following form (or a copy thereof) to Geoff Perks, 61 Ashleigh Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2LE together with a cheque for the appropriate amount - this should be made out to "G R E Perks".

You may opt for either two or three courses, the relevant prices being -

2 courses £14.25

3 courses £17.55.

These prices include the customary tip.

Geoff Perks

Navvies' Lunch, 14 January - Booking Form

Name

Telephone

Please reserve a place for me at the Navvies' Lunch on Monday 14 January 2013.

I have ticked my selections on the menu below and enclose a cheque for the appropriate amount made out to "G R E Perks".

S T A R T E R S

Broccoli & Stilton Soup with Rustic Croutons
Breaded Butterfly Prawns served with Chilli Jam
Duck Pate served with Onion Chutney & Melba Toast

M A I N C O U R S E S

Slow Roasted Belly of Pork on a bed of Red Cabbage
Coq-au-Vin
Smoked Haddock Gratin
(All served with Creamed Potatoes & Fresh Vegetables)

D E S S E R T S

Baked Cheesecake with Red Berry Compote
Lemon Meringue Pie
Cheese & Biscuit Selection
Coffee & Mints

The selection for any partner should be included on the same form.