

Editorial

Despite this being the winter season, when some of our working groups are a bit less active, things have been far from static on the canal. At Hunt Park, professionals and volunteers have cooperated to complete the structure for the public viewing platform, which will enable volunteer workers to install the decking later in the year. The same area enjoyed yet another visit from WRG Forestry removing timber that was in danger of falling across the path, or into the river, thus causing bank erosion. As a result of this work, the Trust has a quantity of logs available in return for a suitable donation - if you are interested in acquiring any of these, please get in touch with the Northern Office.

WACT recently benefited from a generous legacy from the estate of the late Stephen Ingham. Part of this has been used to purchase plant for the use of our volunteer working groups. This includes a 'nearly new' 6-ton JCB and a 3-ton dumper. These will be put to work on the Compasses Bridge rebuilding project, which we hope to begin later this year, subject to planning. Dave Evans put in a lot of work to help locate suitable machinery.

Of course, even using volunteer labour wherever we can, extra restoration projects need extra cash. In the past we have benefited considerably from match funding schemes run by localgiving.com. The campaign is running a new scheme, known as #GiveMe5. On two Wednesdays, 28 January and 25 February, 1,000 randomly-chosen pledges of £5 will be doubled. Obviously we need plenty of £5 donations to www.localgiving.com/charity/wact in order to increase our chances of benefiting on those two days.

Another potential source of extra funding comes from the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.com) website. If you book a holiday through one of nearly 300 companies that have signed up to the scheme, you can nominate WACT to receive a percentage of the cost.

Thanks to all those who have sent reports this month, and thanks in particular for the photographs.

Bill

The Mrs Bucket Group (keeping up appearances on Mondays)

After four visits to Sidney Wood we have almost finished cutting back the vegetation on both sides of the canal from Firtree Copse to lock 16 and ensuring that both culverts 1 and 3 are clear of all debris. All we have left to do is a bit of

tidying up in the large winding hole above the lock. We'll go back and finish that in the drier weather.

However, there are a number of muddy sections of the towpath which require attention, especially a section by the winding hole. The latter in particular, requires a lot of digging out etc before resurfacing can be undertaken. In addition, a number of the retaining boards supporting the edge of the towpath require either renewal or the replacement of the securing posts. Jobs for a visiting group?

We are also concerned to see that there are a number of loose bricks at the exit to culvert 1. The water seems to be flowing through the culvert OK, but we wonder if a camera should be passed through to see if there is any damage inside.

On 2 February and 16 February, subject to landowner permission and the weather, we are off to Harsfold to clear the towpath from the causeway southwards to the 90-degree turn in the canal.

Nick Wood



Hannes Gysin at the entrance to culvert 3 in Sidney Wood after clearance work by the Mrs Bucket group, picture by Roger Wilson

Thursday and Sunday Group

Restoration, it has been said, depends on R andowner permission, money and water. There are two other ingredients it seems to me, volunteers and the weather. This month we lost Peter Burningham after a long battle with ill health. His thoughts were with us and he phoned even as hospital staff dealt with him in intensive care. He will be very much missed. The funeral is at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday 4 February at 9:45.

The weather of course has of course played its part this winter. It was interesting after the heavy rain to see water coming over the bank into the canal from the lake at Gennets. We were very surprised that by removing the leaves on the grid across the outlet the level across the whole lake could be reduced by 12 inches.

We had been told there were no land drains feeding into the Bonfire Hanger section. With the rains, the area where the MWWP had been working last year, became a watercourse fed from two ditches towards the Rosemary Lane end, taking the leaves and small branches along. The Hanix has started clearing the canal bed from Westlands Copse Bridge south towards Gennets. The depth of water and soft ground, where there had been a causeway at one time, hindered that work.

The Case digger fuel gauge had been giving an erroneous reading for a long time. There were all sorts of possibilities, but by draining the tank down, the sender, a float switch arrangement, was removed and repaired. Now we know when the fuel tank is empty. Work continues making the cab-guards.

The heavy-duty roller is still awaiting transport to Tickner's for repair. The powered wheelbarrow carburettor problem has been fixed with a non-standard seal on the carburettor bowl.

The fixing of these machinery problems are summarised in a few words here, but in reality take a lot of time and effort and it is a great credit to the TSG volunteers doggedly getting through them.

The work boat *May Upton* has been used a couple of times this month by the TSG. Again we

are lucky to have a couple of guys with their own boat and a WAEL skipper in the group. The first time we were doing a repair to the DHL bridge stonework with access only available from the boat. The second time, at Southland, was to recover a couple of large blocks of stone that had been pushed into the lock by vandals.

Contractor's work at GBL is still on hold, as it has been for the last 12 months. A site meeting was held with Natural England in December and a further meeting took place in January and still no progress, not even 'jam tomorrow'!

The Thursday & Sunday Group meets at 09:30. Because the TSG work has taken the group to a number of different sites, a work briefing form has recently been emailed out before the working day. Please email Eric Walker if you want to get on that circulation list.

Eric Walker

Tickner's Heath Depot

January was another quiet time at the depot. We only managed three trips to the depot as most of team attended the Foxbridge Golf Club for the 'Navvies Lunch' and a most enjoyable time was had by all. Our thanks to Geoff for organising another successful do, the food was excellent and the company better.

The month saw the team once again employing its wood working expertise, knocking up - sorry, that should read skilfully manufacturing - another couple of signboards for the canal side. I really must get to the Patents Office and register the design, as I am sure as previously mentioned that there will no doubt be more required.

The team took advantage of a slack period to turn its attention to an item of equipment which has for years been a bugbear to all who used it, that is the depots hydraulic hoist. For years the ram would not raise its arm above the horizontal, directing a squirt of oil in the direction of the unsuspecting. So, at last we decided to strip the beastie down and see what was wrong. After taking it apart, it was obvious that the seal on the ram head had seen better days. Luckily our resident sleuth Mick Jones managed to find a replacement on the internet and Dave Kersley duly

Working Party Diary

Every Sunday and Thursday	Mainly construction work	Contact Eric Walker for details
Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Enquiries to David Daniels pending appointment of new leader
Every Wednesday (plus Thursday and Sunday as required)	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Tuesdays or Fridays	Work in Lording's area	Contact Tony Clear for details
Various Tuesdays	Hedge Laying	Contact Keith Nichols

obliged by obtaining it. We reassembled, and, lo and behold, not a drop of oil appeared anywhere and the arm managed to achieved the maximum. So for the cost of £4 we have a fully functioning mobile hoist.

Our last day in the month saw us decamp to the Canal Centre to change the numbers on the main door lock. Simple and easy, we thought. Lyn supplied us with technical bump on how it should be done and as we had done it last year what could go wrong? Ken Bacon and Richard Powell reset the numbers in no time at all and it was just a matter of re-attaching the lock to the door, except one of the securing screws decided to shear, leaving us with the problem of how to attach it to the door. Luckily Mick was on hand to give a practical demonstration on how sheared screws should be extracted from blind holes. With Lyn supplying a spare set of screws everything was up and running. Mind you, we needed a demonstration on how to open the door as the lock is obviously sexist and prefers a woman's touch.

So, other than making sure that Bill Nicholson's crew had what it needed for a weekend at Hunt Park that's about it for January 2015. All the best
John Smith

WACT Workers' Lunch

We enjoyed a record attendance of 60 at our lunch on Wednesday 21 January. This was the third occasion on which the function took place at Foxbridge Golf Club and, as ever, they did us proud. The only fly in the ointment was that light rain was occasionally falling while the group attempted to pose for the traditional photograph in front of the clubhouse - it is hoped that the resultant picture will appear in the next *Wey-South*.

In view of Ray Pick's decision to stand down from the leadership of the MWWP at the end of 2014, after some three and a half years in the post, Di Miles presented a token of the group's appreciation of all the work which Ray had done

behind the scenes to ensure that members had useful jobs to do and an enjoyable time while working. Suitable applause greeted mention of the cake provided by Anne Pick each week! Ray thanked his colleagues for their generosity and indicated that he hopes to attend at least some of the MWWP's future sessions. Meanwhile he was confident that, until a permanent successor comes forward, David Daniels would continue the good work.

Geoff Perks

Mid Week Working Party

After our Christmas and New Year break, the Mid Week Working Party members have been busy during January working at Hunt Park at Shalford. In preparation for the creation of a wetland area, we have been clearing brush, scrub and trees on the other side of Cranleigh Waters.

However, we did have a break on 21 January for the annual navvies' lunch at Foxbridge Golf club. We would like to express our thanks to Geoff Perks for organising a very enjoyable lunch.

Dave Verrall

Hedgelaying Team

Bonjour mes amis. January has zipped by with five working days accounted for.

These have been slowly progressing the hedge east towards Brewhurst Bridge from the seats at the tail of the lock, to link up with the previously laid section.

This is a complex task of selective de-limbing, pollarding, felling and laying which is why progress is slow as there has been - and still is - an abundance of trimmings to dispose of.

A spur, off the main hedge, has been planted to give wind protection to the two seats by the old crab apple.

Well that's it for actual work done but wildlife continues to surprise. We watched the kingfisher on the safety railings of the upper gates for five to 10 minutes, in which time it caught a couple of reasonable sized fish, for a kingfisher.

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
Julian Cheek	Maintenance coordination	01483 505566	julian_cheek@weyandarun.co.uk
David Daniels / Northern Office	Visiting working parties, MWWP etc	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	support@weyandarun.co.uk
Vacant	Health & Safety Officer		Volunteer required please
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Vacant	MidWeek Working Party		Contact David Daniels (above)
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 Group (Lordings)	01903 774 301	winstongroup@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	01903 744767	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk



Hedgelaying at Brewhurst Lock - top two pictures January 2015, by Dave Verrall, lower two pictures December 2014, by Keith Nichols

The kingfisher seems to have realised that the back pump operates at nearly the same time of day and gives a few easy catches, as it has been spotted on the railings on most of our work days. On Tuesday 27 January we were trying to work out whether we were watching a kingfisher and/or a bat mid afternoon. I saw it fly off into the woods and its flight pattern and speed seemed to indicate a bat.

"Oh!" and yes, "Yes" was the answer.

And so, mes enfants, j'ai fini. Au revoir (for now). Future gatherings of the clan will remain on Tuesdays for the time being.

Keith Nichols

Summit level workboat

The Trust needs a work boat to enable proper maintenance of the summit level. *Berakyl*, the boat we have been using up till recently, has reached the end of its operational life - the

necessary repairs would not be affordable. It was a generous donation by a supporter and has served the Trust well but we now need a replacement.

Berakyl was about 5m long by 2.25m wide and we need something about the same size or slightly smaller, i.e. big enough to take two or three people and some materials or tools. It should ideally have provision for attaching an outboard motor, to save volunteers' time and effort.

Do you know of such a boat, whose owner would be prepared to donate it to the Trust and thus support our exciting plans to bring this stretch of the canal back into use? Or one which the Trust could buy at low cost?

If so, please let David Daniels have the details of the boat and its owner. David can be contacted by email at northernoffice@weyandarun.co.uk or by phone on 01483 505566.

Julian Cheek