



Quarterly Magazine of the
Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Issue 171 June/July/ August 2015



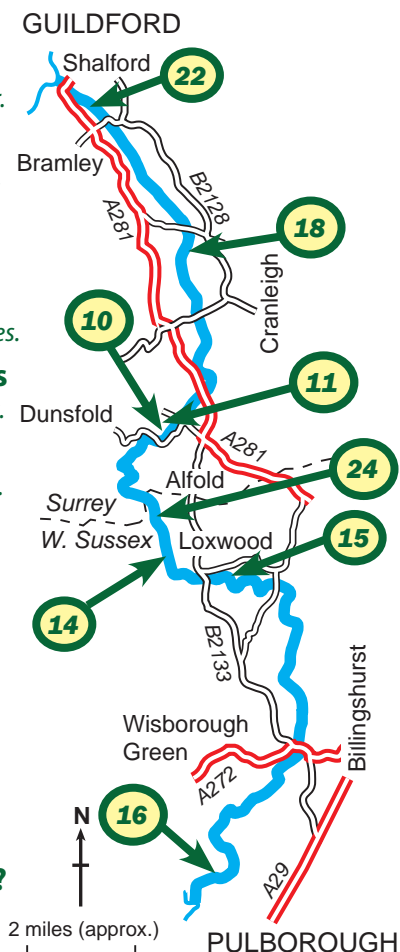
Above: A smart new addition to the Trust's kit is a green log trailer which will save vast amounts of manual effort on forestry operations. (Janet Phillips)

Below: an important piece as the Devil's Hole Pound becomes operational - the 'monk' that regulates water levels in the pound. Surplus water runs off into the nearby River Lox.



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Geoff Perks (proofreader),
Geoff Thomas, Bill Thomson
(Working Party Roundup)

**Front cover: Over the early May holiday weekend, volunteers
install the railings on the Hunt Park Viewing Platform.**

Trust News

At the Trust's Annual Meeting in April, Chairman Sally Schupke gave members three excellent pieces of news:

1. On March 11th, Waverley Borough Council granted planning permission for the rebuilding of Compasses Bridge in Alford;
2. On April 9th, Natural England issued a European Protected Species Licence for the rebuilding work at Gennets Bridge Lock (near Loxwood and Ifold);
3. In early April, the membership of the Trust reached the 3,000 mark.

Our 3000th member

Our 3000th (and 3001st) members are Roy and Caroline Tanner of Dorking. We are delighted to have reached this milestone. The Canal Trust has not been immune from the harsh economic climate which has caused many households to question every penny of spending. While our membership never went into decline, it certainly became nearly static for a period. The Trust depends completely

on the loyal support of its members. Every addition to the numbers shows that a broad community is behind restoration of the canal.

In our next issue we will report on the celebration that welcomed our newest members.

New Vice-Chairman

The Trust's new Vice-Chairman is Alan Johnson, succeeding Jim Phillips who was elected to this post in 1997. Alan is the Trust's Technical Liaison Officer and an architect who, since his retirement from English Heritage, has been regularly spending one day a week at the Northern Office, mainly working on the Bramley Link project.

Appointment and Retirement of Directors

At the May meeting of the Trust's board, Tony Coles and Richard Stephens became directors. Tony is a semi-retired solicitor who has been helping the Trust on a voluntary basis for some time. Richard Stephens is an



This 1994 archive photo shows Eric Walker (standing on dumper) and Jim Phillips (4th from right).

experienced engineer and a valuable member of the Bramley Link team. We welcome Tony and Richard and will include fuller introductions in the next edition of *Wey-South*.

At the Annual Meeting, Jim Phillips, Alistair Smith and Eric Walker stood down as directors.

Jim Phillips

Jim Phillips joined the board in 1994 and describes his work for the Trust as his "second career", after his retirement from the Royal Navy with the rank of Commander. Jim's contribution to the Trust has been immense, especially in fundraising where he secured finance for the Trust's most ambitious projects so far, Drungewick Lane Bridge and Aqueduct (£700,000) and the Loxwood High Street Canal Crossing (£1.9m).

Jim's best known jobs for the Trust have been Treasurer, Fundraising Manager and Vice-Chairman, but he was also the first Chairman of our trading company, W&A Enterprises Ltd (WAEL). Jim has also done his fair share of navvying on projects up and down the canal route and has given a vast number of talks about the canal. Jim has earned his retirement many times over, but we suspect that he will still take on occasional tasks and we hope to draw on his vast expertise for many years to come.

Eric Walker

Eric Walker has also reached the statutory age of retirement from the board, which he first joined in 1996, becoming Engineering Manager. Many others made huge contributions, but it was above all the team of Eric and Jim who delivered the projects that catapulted the Wey & Arun Canal Trust into the big league. Eric's dedication to the canal cause is second to none; he does try to take one day a week off but that doesn't always happen. Eric will continue to lead the TSG (Thursday & Sunday Group), the Trust's main in-house construction team.

Alistair Smith

Alistair Smith joined the board in 2012. As a Civil Engineer who worked in the water industry for 30 years, he has helped us considerably with research into future water resources. Alistair and his family are planning a move to the West Country.

Rob Searle adds Publicity to Fundraising

We are very pleased that veteran journalist Rob Searle, who joined the Trust's staff last year as Fundraising Assistant, has found some extra time in his schedule to help us with Publicity. Rob says he has enjoyed the move to

The Quarterly Magazine of

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:

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Address changes, non-delivery, etc: please notify the Membership Secretary at the Loxwood Office address or email 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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The next issue will be published in the second week of September 2015. Please submit copy by the end of July.

If at all possible please email 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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June, July, August 2015

the other side of the fence - now he is issuing the press releases and answering the questions from journalists.

W&A Enterprises Ltd

Over at the Trust's trading company (WAEI), it is also time for the youngsters to have their turn as Dusty Miller has retired as Chairman. WAEI celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and Dusty has served

Dusty Miller (centre) is on the deck of Josias Jessop and Derek Heath is on the right during rehearsals for the official opening of Devil's Hole Lock (2010).



as Chairman for 16 of those years, during which time the company's operations have expanded dramatically, along with its revenues and numbers of volunteers. As an experienced canal boater and manager, Dusty has been ideally placed to lead the Loxwood boat operation from its tentative beginnings to today's highly professional tourist attraction.

Dusty has suffered a period of ill health recently and this has contributed to his decision to leave the hot seat. He will continue as a director of WAEI. The WAEI board has appointed Derek Heath to serve as the new Chairman.

Derek will be well known to many members as Boat Maintenance Manager and one of our most experienced and dedicated skippers. Derek runs his own business providing IT assistance to small businesses and individuals. This expertise has been useful to the Trust on many occasions - gone are the days when the Hon. Sec used to operate the projector at General Meetings; now the job is in the safe hands of a professional.

In 2014 WAEI had a turnover of £94,350 and transferred profits of £43,500 to the Trust, as well as paying leasing charges for *Wiggonholt* and meeting costs for the Loxwood Office.

We have not previously reported the retirement of Fanny Lines and Jennie Tomlinson from the WAEI board. Fanny took charge of WAEI's sales of goods, such as books and souvenirs, for many years. Jennie was responsible for significant improvements to WAEI's IT systems, such as WIMSY, which is used to record and track boat maintenance requirements. The Trust is grateful to both for their hardworking contributions.

The WAEI board has appointed Mark Eyre and Martin Smithers as new directors. Mark and Martin are both members of the Boat Group. They are taking a leading role in the important job of training new boat crew and skippers.

Legacies

The final amount received from the estate of Mr Stephen Ingham of Littlehampton was £58,352. The Trust has also been grateful to receive £3,000 from the estate of former member Sidney Gerrard of Copthorne.

These are marvellous sums and extremely welcome at a time when we are planning several ambitious projects along the canal route.

Reconvened Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd on 18th April 2015 was adjourned and will be reconvened on 13th August 2015 at 7pm at the Trust's Northern Office, Bridge End, Somerswey, Shalford, Surrey GU4 8EQ.

The only item on the agenda for the reconvened meeting will be:

1. To adopt the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2014, together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports.

Notes:

1. Copies of the Reports and Accounts will be available at the meeting; if you would like a copy in advance, please contact the Hon. Secretary. The Reports and Accounts will also be posted on the Trust's website. If you have questions or comments on the Reports or Accounts, we strongly request you to advise the Hon. Secretary well in advance of the meeting.
2. Although members are of course welcome to attend the reconvened Annual Meeting, we emphasise that there will be no presentations after the meeting and no refreshments. According to the Trust's rules, the quorum for a General Meeting is seven members.
3. Car parking will not be possible in Somerswey. Please park in the lay-by area at the junction of the A281 Horsham Road and Trunley Heath Road (100 yards south of Somerswey).

Tony Tyrrell (Honorary Secretary)

sec@weyandarun.co.uk, 01483 279767, 27 Summerlands, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7BP

Jack King Cup

The Jack King Cup (otherwise known as the 'Eager Beaver' award) was presented to Monday Group leader John Empringham. John's group is responsible for 'keeping up appearances' at the Trust's most public sites and their scope of work has increased

substantially in recent times.

The Jack King trophy was first presented in 1982. It commemorates the owner of Paplands Farm, near Rowner Lock, where the first restoration working party on the Wey & Arun Canal took place (in 1971).



Mr King was one of the landowners whose co-operation was key to early restoration efforts.

John East Trophy

This year's John East Trophy was presented to Jonathan Mitchell who is head of the Special Events Group (SECOM). This group organises all special boat trips from Loxwood and under Jonathan's leadership these trips have been a huge success story.

The John East Trophy dates back to 1994 and commemorates the founder Chairman of the Wey & Arun Canal Society.





As promised in the last issue of Wey-South, the new digger and dumper purchased with part of the legacy from Stephen Ingham are seen in the works compound near Compasses Bridge.

Trust Finances

At the Annual Meeting, Chairman Sally Schupke was able to assure members that the Trust's finances were in good shape, at least on a day-to-day basis. There is more than £1 million in the bank, although this is almost entirely committed to projects and the Trust will need a great deal more to complete the plans that are now in progress.

Sally made the following statement to members at the meeting:

"The final signed version of our audited accounts is not available for this meeting to approve. The main reason for this is that our Treasurer, Chris Allen, resigned at the end of 2014 and handing over is never quick or easy. We also realised that this volunteer was overwhelmed by the amount of work that our finances require. We are completely satisfied that there has been no impropriety in the handling of the Trust's accounts; the bank balances are exactly as they should be. But some of the management

accounting (where monies are assigned to particular projects) has taken longer than expected to reconcile and there has been a catching up process to complete.

"In January we appointed a part-time book-keeper to rectify the situation as the present volume of entries is beyond the capacity of a volunteer, especially as we move towards an updated accountancy system to provide better management accounts for the project managers.

"We anticipate that the final audited accounts will be available next month [May] - about four weeks later than we would have expected. We will make the accounts available through the website and e-newsletter and as paper copies on request. In the next issue of *Wey-South* magazine [see page 7] we will announce a meeting where the only item on the agenda will be the formal adoption of the accounts".

Key site update

The following is a very quick summary of the presentations by the project managers at the Annual Meeting (from north to south).

Bramley Link (Philip Oliver)

- Phase 1 is the section from the River Wey to Gosden. Phase 2a is from Gosden to Station Road, Bramley.
- Phase 1 Civil Engineering Design Study started - delivery expected in July.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) starting and will take 12 months (has to cover all seasons).
- Commitments from landowners progressing well.
- Estimated cost for phase 1 is £2.9m. We are approaching the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Hunt Nature Park viewing platform should be complete by early Summer. A circular boardwalk route is being planned.

Summit Level (Tony Ford)

- 350 metres reprofiled from Tickner's Heath Road (700 metres still to do).
- Planning application for slipway submitted - it is hoped that the 2015 WACT Summer Camp will construct it.
- Planning permission, common land consent and technical design approval received for rebuilding Compasses Bridge.
- Funding is available to start construction.
- Contractor for bridge construction appointed.
- Construction compound (for contractors and volunteers) completed; access track in progress.
- Draft highway agreement still awaited from Surrey County Council [we have since received the draft and are now reviewing it].

Latest news: Our contractor CJ Thorne & Co Ltd is due to start preliminary work at Compasses at the start of June. Thornes constructed the Loxwood High Street Canal Bridge and we are pleased to welcome them back to the canal.

Loxwood and Ifold (Eric Walker)

- Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) - Natural England licence received.
- Volunteers trained in protected species measures and started work during April.
- Contractors could be on GBL site to construct the shell of the lock by late May.
- 30,000 bricks delivered to GBL site.
- Preparing for start of GBL bridge construction (by volunteers).
- Funding available for contractors' work - estimated another £71,000 required to complete the lock (including gates and back-pumping).

Proposed Alfold Slipway

The Trust has submitted an application to Waverley Borough Council for permission to construct a slipway for trailable boats on the Summit Level between Compasses and Tickner's Heath. We hope that if permission is available in time then the WACT Summer Camp can construct the slipway in late July.

Although it now seems unlikely that an IWA Trailboat Festival on the Wey & Arun Canal will be scheduled before 2018, the Trust intends to organise its own event in 2016 as part of the 200th anniversary celebrations. The proposed new slipway is designed to meet IWA trailboat standards; it will not be suitable for large boats such as *Zachariah Keppel*.

The Trust is extremely grateful to Mark Thriscutt and his brothers who are meeting the cost of the slipway as a memorial to their late father.



During the first week of March, volunteers led by Dave Evans carried out work to complete the reprofiling of a 350-metre canal section north (in canal terms) of Tickner's Heath. The volunteers also prepared the ground for a future trailable boat slipway at the south end of this section. A variety of 'big boys' toys' were on hire for the week.

Above: near Tickner's Heath Road. Below: the site of the proposed slipway. (Tony Ford)





Above: the access track between the Compasses works compound and the bridge site, constructed by volunteers, is approaching completion. (Tony Ford)

Below: a tracked dumper was a huge asset for the team working on reprofiling the Tickner's Heath section.





Ready for the new season, there have been significant improvements to tripboats. Above: Six years of intensive wear from passengers' feet had left the passenger cabin floor of Wiggonholt looking unattractive (inset). The team has great hopes for the new surface - Neil Mariner sourced the materials, provided expertise and led the installation team. Below: there are new warm water hand washers on Zachariah Keppel and Wiggonholt - thanks to Colin Durbridge for finding these and doing the electrical installation.





More big achievements for Loxwood boating over the Winter - a top-rated food hygiene certificate (congratulations to Rosie Sugar and Wendy Hill) and Recommended status from travel website TripAdvisor (thanks to Dave Verrall).

Not pictured here but also a significant amount of work - Wiggonholt is now registered as licensed premises, thanks to Designated Premises Supervisor Robin Charles (what used to be called a 'landlord').

Volunteer Opportunities

The Trust is looking for an **Events Manager** to help with some of the more high-profile dates in our calendar. These can be regular events such as the Wings and Wheels show at Dunsfold Park or special occasions, for example the official opening of the Hunt Nature Park Viewing Platform. At each of these events there are a number of items that we need to co-ordinate so that everything runs smoothly on the day - to name just a few: transport, insurance, refreshments, parking, Public Address systems and announcers.

The ideal person will be an efficient organiser able to work on his or her own initiative. You will have ample support from the Trust's staff and volunteers, many of whom have played their part in organising previous major events. We also have checklists from past events that will be useful templates for future ones.

The Publications team has a heavier workload than ever and would value some extra assistance. For *Wey-South* we would like to add a **Reporter/Photographer** who could take responsibility for covering specific events and subjects. We also need help on the **Layout** side. We would be particularly keen to hear

from you if have experience with Adobe products such as InDesign and Illustrator.

Do you have a scanner and some time to spare? A small team has just started on a project to digitise the complete run of *Wey-South* magazine since issue 1. This is a very big job, but many hands make lighter work so we would like to increase the size of the team. We will happily provide you with technical assistance and examples to get started with.

The Trust's Mobile Display Vehicle (MDV) is one of our most public faces as it travels round to events throughout the area. We are always looking for new recruits to the MDV team. Volunteers set up the displays at the start of each event, introduce the canal to visitors and distribute our guides and leaflets. You get to see a variety of events and of course, if there is an entrance charge, you will be given a free exhibitors' pass.

Please contact Sally Schupke for Events Manager and MDV vacancies, Julian Morgan for *Wey-South* and scanning (both on 01483 503029 or via the Northern Office - details on page 3).



The section of canal between Devil's Hole Lock and Southland Lock has been brought into regular operation for the first time. Canal conditions permitting, the Sunday Outing trip, leaving at 3.30pm, will visit Southland and the route will also be available for charter trips.

Above: a distant view of Southland Lock from the first public trip of this season - on Sunday 12th April. (Colin 'Wobbs' Edwards). Below: A special training/familiarisation trip on 28th March allowed Boat Group members to sample the new Southland trip.

Paul French (right) is at the tiller of Wiggonholt just after the 'chicane' section.





Above: Taking advantage of the Trust's recent agreement with British Canoeing, a large party visited the Loxwood section in late March. (Dave Verrall).

Below: Rudgwick Scouts, seen here in the winding hole below Baldwin's Knob Lock, are also regular visitors.





Above: in front of the historic Stopham Bridge (the centre arch was made higher to allow navigation). Below: Approaching Pallingham Farm - around two hours before high tide, most boats needed a tow upstream through the rapids.



Thanks to a strong publicity campaign led by Rob Searle, this year's River Arun Rally on April 17th was a huge success, with several canoe clubs taking part.



**Above: approaching Pallingham. (Julian Nowell)
Below - at the boundary marker. Left: Rosie Sugar, Julian Morgan, Sally Schupke. (Janet Phillips) and right: Janet Phillips.**



This year, by kind permission of the landowner, boaters had the opportunity to explore northward from the tidal limit at Pallingham Farm Bridge. A number made it through a series of hazards to the boundary marker that administrator David Daniels had placed during the previous week (in canal terms this was between Toat and Lee Farm Lock).



The guided visit to the Whitley Manor Railway Bridge and Iron Swing Bridge sites on the morning of the Annual Meeting attracted some 30 members.

Above: members listen as Alan Johnson explains the former iron railway bridge across the canal with its unusual design and extreme skew. In the left background is the north abutment of the bridge and beneath the logs in the left foreground are some remains of the iron bridge.

Left: Alan shows the only known photograph of the railway bridge designed by Prof. Calcott Reilly.

Below: by kind permission of the landowner, members inspect the iron swing bridge designed by Josias Jessop.



Membership Report

Brilliant news, we have welcomed our 3,000th member; congratulations to Roy and Caroline Tanner. In fact I am very pleased to say that we have maintained this pace and that we now have 3,005 members on board. We would very much like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members.

Mr J Basford
Mrs Adrea Basford
Mr Rodney Brown
Mr Paul Connor
Mr Joe Davies
Mr Michael Dixon
Ms Barbara Easton
Mr Henry Emden
Mrs Susan Emden
Mr Nick Fright
Mrs Jenny Fright
Mr Robert Knight

Mrs Mandy Knight
Mr Alec Martin
Miss Catriona McLennan
Mr Richard Parsons
Mr Chris Pearce
Mr Chris Penfold
Mrs Shirley Power
Mr Kevin Power
Mr Chris Rowley
Mr Richard Stephens
Mrs Jeanette Stone

Mr Roy Tanner
Mrs Caroline Tanner
Mr Peter Thriscutt
Mr Steven Thriscutt
Mrs Hilary Thursby
Mr Robert Tilley
Mr Ian Wall
Mrs Sarah Wall
Mr Brian Winfield
Mr Michael Worsfold
Mrs Angela Worsfold

We have learned with sadness of the death of:

Mr Peter Burningham
Mr George Clark
Mr Robert Hindle

Mr Roy Hungerford
Mr Peter Keyes

Mrs Vivien Roy
Mr John Wyatt

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

Recycling

The Trust was shocked to hear that Aylesford Newsprint Ltd had gone into administration in late February. This led to a long pause in our paper recycling operation, but by late May we were up and going again. However, the economics of the business have changed. Formerly we received a fairly small payment from Aylesford for each ton collected, plus a larger recycling credit from West Sussex County Council. (WSCC). Now we have to pay to have the paper collected, but we still get the recycling credits from WSCC, so paper recycling is still profitable for the Trust, even if less so than it was. Apparently paper prices are now gradually increasing after many months of decline.

The first quarter of 2015 brought in a payment from WSCC of £3,317.40. The Trust is grateful to all recyclers who contributed to this total. We also thank all the good people who patiently

stored paper and magazines in their garages and sheds while we waited for the bins to be emptied again.

Just as a reminder, the skips are at:

1. The car park behind the Onslow Arms at Loxwood (RH14 0RD);
2. Family Cook at Hurst Farm, Crawley Down (RH10 4HG);
3. Squires Garden Centre, Washington (RH20 3BP).

Please do not fill the skips above the 'letterbox' slots as this will make it impossible for the collection company to lift them. We are grateful to various working parties who solved this problem recently.

John Taylor-Cram, Recycling Officer WACT
(jtc@weyandarun.co.uk).



Above: The Canal Centre team of Lyn Nash (seen in picture) and Dave Verrall (photographer) attended a Leaflet Exchange event at Butlins, Bognor Regis, in March to publicise boat trips.

Below: The Trust's Mobile Display Vehicle, now seven years old, has recently undergone a works visit. In late April it was in Guildford High Street for the Farmers Market. (Julian Nowell)





Some of the Boat Group members taking part in the Easter Cruises. Clockwise from top left: Rosie Sugar, Shaun Dunphy, Neil Mariner, John Thompson, Penny Bridger and Richard Box.



Above left: working party leader George Whitehead installing the timber frame for the Hunt Park Viewing Platform. Above right: a team of skilled carpenters was supported by others who helped with less demanding jobs. Below: the hexagonal shape of the platform meant a tricky construction task. (Mike Hobbs)

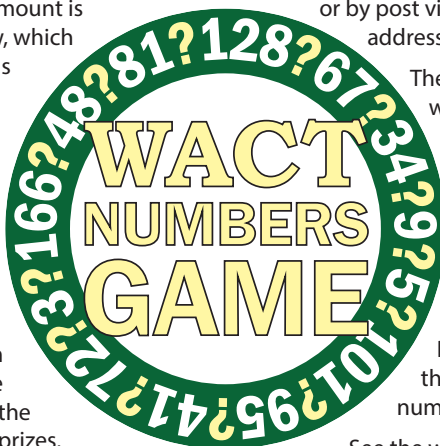


The Numbers Game

Our thanks to the members who have responded to the appeal at the Annual General Meeting to buy tickets in the WACT Numbers Game. The prize pot is building up nicely and a worthwhile amount is expected in the June draw, which will be made as this issue is being distributed. There is still, however, plenty to scope for recruits to the Numbers Game if you haven't already subscribed, as there is no limit to the number of tickets. Members contribute £3 a month by standing order for each number they hold and the more members there are, the bigger the three monthly prizes.

The Numbers Game is administered by WACT assistant fundraising officer Rob Searle, who

is keen to send you an application form to subscribe for the first time or even increase your ticket holding. He can be contacted on e-mail on rob_searle@weyandarun.co.uk, or by post via the Northern Office – address on page 3.



The April first prize of £95 was won by John Lee, of Wisborough Green, with ticket number 36.

Ruth Wilkinson, of Dunsfold, got the £47.50 second prize with number 42 and Bill Nicholson, from Princes Risborough, won the £23.75 third prize with number 99

See the website Members Area for the winners of the May prizes and the results of previous draws.

Below: Mike ('Mr Gadget') Hobbs has recently been using a motion-activated tracking camera to spot wildlife on the Hunt Park site, such as this young deer.



Newt traps at Gennets Bridge



Eric Walker's Thursday & Sunday Group (TSG) has at last been given the go-ahead to trap and relocate the Great Crested Newts thought to be living in the pond formed in the old lock site. The picture above left shows Chris Elphick and Dennis Gillen digging a shallow trench in readiness for a polythene barrier to be erected, completely encircling the site. The top right photo shows Edward Stratton-Woodward and Brian Dunman erecting the barrier.



Above left: One of the traps that are sited all around the inside of the barrier. A group of WACT volunteers have been trained to recognise the various species that are likely to fall into the traps and how to remove them. Above right: (a week later) Robin Gardner and Dennis Gillen are checking the traps. Any Great Crested Newts found will be relocated to one of several new ponds dug by the group. This task was carried out daily for one month.



The TSG is currently bringing to site all the equipment required to make a quick start on the new lock and footbridge as soon as the Natural England licence permits.

Above: taking delivery of the formwork needed to construct the new bridge to take the Sussex Border Path over the canal at the southern end of the new lock.

Below: the bricks that will be used for the bridge and to line the lock walls.



Working Party Roundup

Over 40 years ago, when moves were first afoot to bring the Wey & Arun Canal back to life, the late Robert Aickman, one of those responsible for starting the Inland Waterways Association with the idea of preserving and rebuilding our canals, went on record as saying that the idea of a waterway link from the River Wey to the South Coast was a highly attractive prospect – “If the Wey & Arun Canal didn’t already exist then it would be necessary to invent it.”

Not everybody agreed at the time. Even the IWA had been split between those who wanted to preserve the canals as working transport routes – as proposed by joint founder Tom Rolt – and the Aickman vision of a redeveloped network combining utility and leisure. Even locally in the waterways movement there were many who opposed the idea of restoring the Wey & Arun Canal as a waste of time, effort and money that could be put to better use elsewhere – “it is just too far gone and too much of the route is lost.” The early restorers had their own name for such talk – Bulpitt, after the name of a correspondent to the local IWA newsletter.

The Wey & Arun Canal Society, the forerunner of the present charitable Trust, pressed on regardless, even without much support from the national movement which, understandably, focused its attention on the neglected nationalised canal network. We knew our time would come – and those days of working on our own, solving our own problems, built the project and the Trust into the multi-faceted and multi-skilled organisation it is today.

So, the Bramley Link underlines the fact that we are indeed part of a national network, and just how right the Trust was to persevere against all the odds.

Fittingly, the northern end of the canal has seen quite a lot of attention from visiting

groups who represent the wider world of the waterways: there, and on the summit level, scene of the 2015 Wey & Arun Summer Camp.

To get more information about what is going on at the various work sites, and how to get involved, you can subscribe to the monthly Working Party News. This newsletter is sent by email – to get on the list send a request to listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk. If you do not have email access then a supply of stamped addressed envelopes sent to the Trust office will ensure you receive a hard copy. The newsletter can also be found on the Trust website.

Bill Thomson

Thursday & Sunday Group (TSG)

At Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) we received the European Protected Species licence on 9th April 2015. Work in that direction started in 2012! Training of the nine volunteers has been completed in what is to be done during the search period, which will last a minimum of 30 days. After the training each volunteer was given a letter of accreditation in case they are challenged by a police officer. A fence has been erected around the construction site and inside the fence there are 32 buckets and 50 pieces of roofing felt as refuges; these enable



The special 'newt fencing' is on the right and the site of Gennets Bridge Lock is on the left.

the newts to be captured and moved to a pond we have created for them.

The search period was extended at the beginning because of the dry weather conditions from Good Friday onwards. We were then frustrated by a further delay when the temperature was below five degrees centigrade. Once there was significant rain and the temperature was up, some Great Crested Newts were found.

When we are ready we will then have to wait for the contractor to be available. Frustratingly there was a gap in his workload while we were waiting for the licence when he was available to come on site. Meanwhile the Thursday & Sunday Group is busy preparing for the happy day when they can start on the construction of Gennets Bridge Lock.

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

Northern Working Party

The NWP (including many from NWPG) spent eight days working on the summit section in the first week of March. The main task was to reprofile and desilt the section of canal near Tickner's Bridge which had been previously partially desilted. Work was made harder by the presence of large lumps of concrete as well as an active airfield drain which added to the Somme-like conditions.

Slightly less strenuous was a tidying-up programme on the banks in preparation for reseedling, widening the carriageway over Compasses Bridge to accommodate the temporary concrete barriers needed by the contractor for the start of reconstruction work, repairing fences and creating another drain. Interestingly, rather than the usual village hall, the 'foreign' volunteers hired a holiday cottage for overnight accommodation, which proved both more comfortable and more cost-effective.

Summit Level

Work on the summit level is now being held regularly on the third Saturday

of the month. The first of these work parties happened to coincide with the Trust's Annual Meeting, but nevertheless five volunteers spent the day tackling jobs in preparation for the arrival of the piling contractor at Compasses Bridge. Work included extending the access road, moving the tree protection barrier further back from the trees and preparing the steel gates which will control access to the site.

**Contact Bill Nicholson, 01844 343369,
(bill@nwpg.org.uk)**

Midweek Working Party

MWWP enjoyed reasonably good weather for its continuing work at Hunt Park, where clearance has continued. Most of the toppled willow trees have been dealt with, giving a clear view of the ponds and habitat, much appreciated by local residents.

A small team was diverted to work on clearing near Rushett Farm, and work began on cutting back the offside bank near Birch Copse on the navigable section in Loxwood, with the assistance of work boat *May Upton*. That proved a tough and prickly exercise, but rewarding for all concerned, as the canal seems a few feet wider as a result.

Those not involved at Birch Copse had a varied time, strimming and burning near Gosden, offside bank clearance at Compasses, and tree removal at Fast Bridge, all of which demonstrate the Group's versatility and shows what can be achieved with concentrated effort.

Future work includes a return to Hunt Park for Himalayan Balsam pulling, followed by work at Whipleigh, then back to Fast Bridge once the nesting season has finished.

**Contact acting leader David Daniels at the
WACT Northern Office 01483 505566,
(Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm)
(support@weyandarun.co.uk)**

Monday Group

The Monday Group is commonly known as the 'Mrs Bucket' working party, thanks to its main function of 'keeping up appearances'

at previously tended sites. It's not only maintenance, though. For example, at the end of March the group dug trenches, mixed and poured cement and then, having collected all the bits, set up the seats and picnic table at Devil's Hole Lock. While there, they cleared some of the overhanging vegetation and did a general tidy up.

Previously, the group had widened the towpath from Lee Farm Lock to the causeway, which turned out to be very overgrown and could do with some real TLC. They found time to do some cutting back north of the causeway towards Haybarn, and then cut back the vegetation on the towpath, trimmed the hedge all the way to the Lordings Flood Lock Bridge, and cut the hedge on the river side north from Harsfold causeway. It doesn't



The new picnic table and benches at Devil's Hole Lock, designed by Roger Richards, a local craftsman. The table has been constructed using parts of the original gates from the lock and the cost was met by a generous donation from Sue and Peter Hyem.

sound much but involved several brush cutters and hedge trimmers, and a lot of work in clearing and disposing of all the cuttings.

April saw a return to the regular sites at Run Common, Tickner's, and Drungewick, undertaking brushcutting/strimming and mowing, plus completing work at DHL and

Loxwood. Then it was a first visit of the season to Haybarn and to Newbridge, plus tidying at Drungewick Lock in preparation for the public boat trips.

Nick Wood

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

Hedgelaying Group

This season hasn't been just hedgelaying as we've transplanted over 200 naturally growing saplings from where they were not required, i.e. where they would have been strimmed, to where they are needed to produce a hedge. This is a cost saving of approximately £200 for not having to buy in hedge plants. Also, around the recently layed hedges we have planted or seeded native wild flowers.

We also monitor what is going on around us in the environment as to what is on the increase or decrease in particular areas and whether this is down to what the Trust has done or not done.

This leads me to my 'antis'. First, some horse riders who do not seem to care about anyone else. We see the quagmires that appear as they ride through every part of the bridleway sections of the towpath instead of sticking to just one side.

Then there are the dog walkers that think that it is OK to leave their dog's faeces all over the towpath or even go to the extreme of bagging it and then hanging it in hedges or leaving it on the path.

There are also those who allow foreign invasive species to proliferate, e.g. Himalayan/Indian Balsam, Giant Hogweed, or Rhododendron.

We need to take responsibility for sharing places and respecting other users. We need a more caring attitude to both nature and

people. That's the end of my rant – I don't like people who don't care.

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

Tickner's Heath Depot

The mercury has risen and we are all feeling a trifle warmer which along with a chorus from the local wildlife has helped to lift the team's spirits.

Over the last few months some of the team have made two trips to foreign parts - one a fruitless trip to Newhaven to pick up the Mobile Display Vehicle (MDV) only to find that



The Trust's dredger on Drungewick slipway.

it was still awaiting modification. The other was a more successful venture into darkest West Sussex to pick up two hand winches from the QinetiQ site at Funtington. Peter Border, an old MWWP hand, had noticed them languishing in a shed and had immediately thought of the Trust – thanks Peter, they will be put to good use.

During March Mick Jones and Richard Powell started to repair the 10ft and 8ft trailers, quickly followed by the rest of the team. The electrics on both were quickly sorted and Dave K managed to replace the brake activator of the 8ft and got a tyre repaired; this then made it roadworthy. But the 10ft was another matter.

It started with the brakes on one of the wheels sticking; on closer inspection the operating cable was found to be seized. We then found that all the other cables were in about the same condition so they had also to be replaced (or so we thought). Finally we had to rely on members of the TSG crew to complete repairs which made the beast useable.

Also in the early part of the year we had had a visit from our friendly local 'Bobbies' which had some of the team running for cover (only joking). They came to give us an update on what was happening in the local area; it was rather lucky really as they gave some sensible suggestions on what features our new entrance gate or gates should have.

April saw most of the team engaged in day trips to the slipway to help Peter Foulger return the dredger to its former glory. It had been found that one of the engine cylinders had blown its head gasket. On stripping the engine it was found that the gasket (which was in effect a metal spacer) did indeed show signs of failure. A new repair kit was ordered and the gaskets (spacers) of both were replaced and the correct head clearance obtained using pieces of 1.5mm

solder would you believe; this gave the correct distance for inserting shims to prevent the piston hitting the valves. After Peter had charged the battery the old girl burst into life, much to the relief of all concerned.

Another task set by our lady chairperson was to find the Trust's marquee which was languishing somewhere in the depot. Luckily it was found fairly easily after Dave Kersley, who generally knows where most of the stuff lurks, told us where to look. The real surprise was that it seemed to be complete. Ken Bacon and Richard Powell then set about trying to assemble it; initially this was hampered by a lack of manufacturer's instructions, but luckily Richard had a similar marquee and copied

the instructions he had which made life a lot easier. Mind you, it took a lot of bending and stretching, moaning and groaning and the guys have made sure that they will be elsewhere when the time comes to erect it on the great day.

Sidney Wood - fantasy or reality?

A member has kindly supplied this intriguing postcard labelled "Near Alfold, Surrey". Is this a picture of a Wey & Arun Canal bridge somewhere in the Sidney Wood area or the result of the artist freely exercising his imagination? The postcard is undated but



the artist, F W Hayes, lived from 1848 to 1918 and the card was printed by Meissner & Buch of Leipzig; our research suggests they began printing postcards in 1897.

Any information or suggestions will be most welcome.

So other than the usual fetching and carrying, loading and unloading that's about it. Keep smiling!

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

Yours for £86,132 ...

A small group of members recently visited the Parliamentary Archives, housed in the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster. The immediate aim of the visit was to inspect the papers deposited for the Horsham and Guildford Direct Railway Act of 1860, especially the plans for the bridge across the canal at Whitley Manor. However, the party also took the chance to look at the materials for the 1813 Act that authorised the building of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal.

Compared to what would be needed for a project on a similar scale today, the canal papers seem remarkably thin. Josias Jessop (JJ) submitted a single-page plan and a section diagram showing the levels along the route. The plan shows two reservoirs close to each other - Vatchery and Banyards [this is the spelling on the plan although today the area is known as 'Baynards']. It would be interesting to know why the second of these was not built.

JJ also submitted a single page of estimates - the total was £86,132, maybe around £100 million in today's money. JJ wanted "the canal to have a 15 feet bottom width, 28 feet 6 inches at the water's surface and to be 4 feet 6 inches deep. The locks to admit vessels 70 feet long and 11 feet 8 inches wide." Lockage was estimated at £130 per foot (a total of 172 feet) and bridges (30 of them) at £150 each. JJ himself charged the huge sum of 5 guineas (£5.25) per day for his services.

The plans submitted for the Horsham-Guildford railway were a little more detailed - eight large sheets - but revealed some surprising differences between what was planned and actually built. For example, between Bramley and Shalford there was no plan for a railway bridge across the Cranleigh

Waters - the line would have run along the south/west bank of the river throughout. Perhaps it was impossible to reach agreement with the owners of Gosden House for a line so

close to their property. In the end two railway bridges crossed the river - one next to Gosden Aqueduct and the other near Stonebridge.

Julian Morgan

Dates for your Diary

Friday 19th June (*)	Midsummer Sensation - evening cruise from Loxwood with supper.
Sunday 21st June (*)	Dad's Bacon Butty Brunch. Father's Day trips from Loxwood at 9.45am and 12 noon.
Saturday 27th June	Coach outing to Braunston Historic Narrowboat Festival - organised by Mark Anderson. Full details were in your last Wey-South. For more information or bookings please contact Mark Anderson (markwanderson@hotmail.co.uk, 0771 874 6667).
Thursday 2nd July (*)	Cream Tea Voyage from Loxwood at 4.30pm.
Friday 17th July (*)	Pimm's and Posh Ploughman's Cruise from Loxwood at 7.30pm.
July 25th to August 1st	WACT Summer Camp - a working holiday in the Alfold/Dunsfold area. More information at www.weyandarun.co.uk/SummerCamp2015.php or contact the Shalford Office (details on page 3).
Tuesday 28th July (*)	Cream Tea Voyage from Loxwood at 2.30pm.
Friday 7th August (*)	Pimm's and Posh Ploughman's Cruise from Loxwood at 7.30pm.
Tuesday 11th August (*)	Cream Tea Voyage from Loxwood at 2.30pm.
Thursday 13th August	Pirates and Princesses Adventures from Loxwood at 10.30am, 12.30 and 2.30pm. (*) Reconvened Annual Meeting at 7pm (see page 7).
Friday 21st August (*)	Pimm's and Picnic Cruise from Loxwood at 7pm.
Thursday 27th August (*)	Pirates and Princesses Adventures from Loxwood at 10.30am, 12.30 and 2.30pm.
Wednesday 9th September (*)	Cream Tea Voyage from Loxwood at 2.30pm.
Sunday 13th September	Heritage Open Days Guided Walk from Stonebridge Wharfside, Shalford, to former Bramley Wharf starting at 2pm. Free of charge but booking requested via Shalford Office (details on page 3).
Saturday 24th October	Autumn Meeting at 2.30pm. Further details in next Wey-South.

(*) - for further details of Loxwood boat trips and for bookings please contact the Loxwood office - details on page 3.



Enjoying fine spring weather. Above: in late March Dave Verrall captured this view of Orfold Flood Gates Bridge (Winston's Bridge) on the Arun Navigation section.

Below: Children of all ages loved the fluffy toys at Easter Cruises in Loxwood.

