A scenic view of a canal in a park-like setting. The canal is the central focus, winding through a landscape with many trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The water in the canal is dark and reflects the surrounding environment. On the right bank, a person is walking away from the camera. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# WEY-SOUTH

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Issue 174 March/April/ May 2016



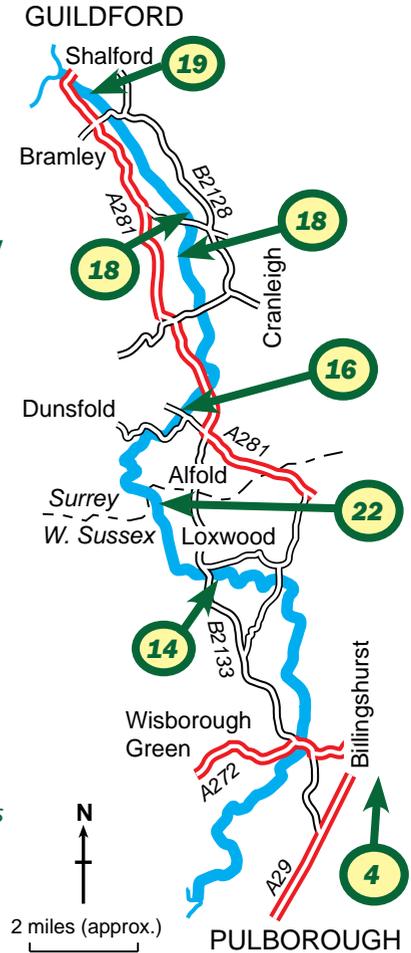
***Above: Do you recognise this section of the canal? The fence post in the middle may be a clue. The photographer, Hannes Gysin, is looking southwards towards Southland Lock on 15th January 2016, after a period of heavy rain.***

***Below: Fundraiser extraordinaire - it is 1999 and a happy Jim Phillips is seen with the 124 donation cheques that the postman delivered in one day in response to the appeal for the Drungewick Crossing (Canal Bridge and Aqueduct). (Janet Phillips)***



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**Loxwood (The Granary) Mon-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm**  
**01403 752403 ([office@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk))**  
**Website: [www.weyandarun.co.uk](http://www.weyandarun.co.uk)**

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**01483 505566 ([support@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk))**

**Wey-South team: Julian Morgan,**  
**Geoff Perks (proofreader),**  
**Rob Searle, Bill Thomson**  
**(Working Party Roundup)**

**Front cover: Looking north from Run Common Road near Cranleigh on a cold mowing in January. Volunteer teams were working nearby at Whiplej Manor Railway Bridge and Rushett Farm Bridge.**

# Notice of 2016 Annual General Meeting

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd will take place at Billingshurst Community and Conference Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst, RH14 9QW on Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 2.30pm.

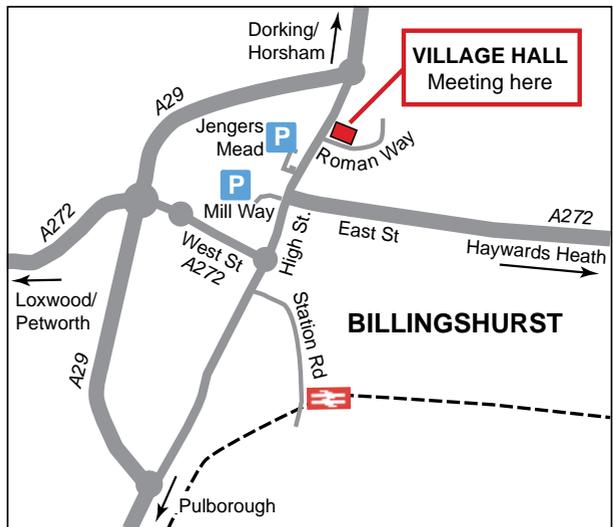
The agenda will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence [see note 1 below].
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 24th October 2015 [see note 2 below].
3. To receive the Chairman's Report.
4. To adopt the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2015, together with the Directors' and Independent Examiner's Reports [see note 3 below].
5. To appoint the Independent Examiners for 2016 and to authorise the Council of Management to determine their remuneration.
6. Election of Directors:-
  - a. Philip Oliver and Tony Tyrrell retire in accordance with section 42 of the Trust's Articles of Association and are eligible for re-election.
  - b. Candidates nominated in accordance with section 45 of the Trust's Articles of Association. [see note 4 below]
7. To receive a Report from the Chairman of W&A Enterprises Ltd.
8. To present the Jack King and John East Cups.
9. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting.
10. Date of next meeting.

Tony Tyrrell (Honorary Secretary)  
sec@weyandarun.co.uk, 01483 279767, 27 Summerlands,  
Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7BP

## Notes:

1. Apologies for absence should be supplied to the Hon. Sec before the start of the meeting.
2. Copies of the previous Minutes will be available at the meeting; if you would like a copy in advance, please contact the Hon. Sec.
3. Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available at the meeting; if you would like a copy in advance, please contact the Northern Office or download from the website.
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 9th April 2016 (the Secretary has a proposal form, although you are not obliged to use it).



## How to get to the Billingshurst Centre

**B**illingshurst Village Hall – now officially known as the Community & Conference Centre – is in Roman Way, which is just off the north end of the High Street – see the map on opposite page.

If you are coming from the Pulborough or Loxwood/Guildford/Petworth directions, follow the A272 (Haywards Heath) direction until you reach the High Street. Turn left and follow the High Street past the East Street turning (on the right). About 200 yards after East Street and just after the Jengers Mead shopping centre (on the left), Roman Way is on the right.

If you are coming from the A272 Haywards Heath direction, turn right when you reach the

High Street. Roman Way is about 200 yards on the right.

If you are coming from the A29 Dorking/Horsham direction, follow the signs for Billingshurst centre. Roman Way is the second turning on the left after the roundabout where you leave the A29.

There is limited free parking at Billingshurst Village Hall and in nearby local roads. Jengers Mead car park (Pay & Display) is recommended if these spaces are full. If you park in the Library car park (Mill Way) you need a disc (50p for life from the library or Budgens – if you have one from previous meetings in Pulborough or Billingshurst it is valid). Parking is free for 2 hours then 50p per hour.

## Milestone donations help guarantee WACT's income

**M**embers have been responding positively to the appeal to help guarantee the Trust's income by joining the Milestone Club.

Recruits since the Autumn meeting have taken the Club membership up to more than 100, building on what was formerly called the Restoration Fund. We now have over £1,000 coming in each month, a total which we hope will continue to grow.

As activity steps up at various sites along the canal, these donations greatly help the Council of Management plan and fund our restoration projects. This is money from a predictable source, in contrast to the donations, legacies and grants which make up most of WACT's income.

Another predictable income is members' subscriptions, but this is money which is mainly allocated for staff costs and operating costs (which we endeavour to keep as low as possible). We also value the donations made via the Numbers Game and Localgiving.com



initiatives, which also help us plan our spending.

Money from all the above sources is, of course, most welcome and vital to the effective operation of the Trust. Information on how to make a donation or leave a legacy to the Trust is available on our website.

We invite you to join the Milestone Club, to help give the Trust more confidence in planning restoration projects. As well as knowing you are helping the Trust achieve

some financial security, you will benefit from invitations to members-only special events.

Application forms for the Milestone Club will be available at the Annual Meeting. They can also be downloaded from the website's Members Area.

Volunteer fundraiser Margaret Jack would be delighted to answer any questions you have on the Milestone Club. Contact her by e-mailing [margaret\\_jack@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:margaret_jack@weyandarun.co.uk), or via the WACT Northern Office.

# Commander James Mellanby Phillips OBE RN 1932-2016

People throughout WACT and beyond were devastated to hear of the death of Jim Phillips, who passed away on 6th January.

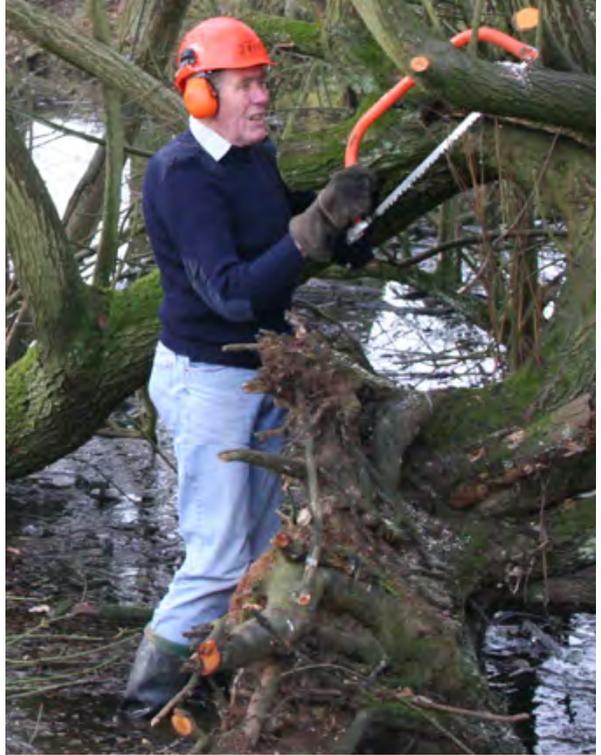
It was a huge helping of fortune for the organisation in 1989 when Commander James Phillips OBE, newly retired from the Royal Navy, decided to devote a large part of his energies to the cause of restoring the Wey & Arun Canal.

Over the next 26 years, Jim made a contribution that future historians will surely regard as immensely influential. He had a physical presence and a manner that commanded instant respect.

Jim will be best remembered for his work as Treasurer and Fundraising Manager, from which he retired, somewhat unwillingly, in late 2013. The breakthrough project to cross Loxwood High Street, completed in 2009, was a great achievement for the Trust's engineers and construction volunteers, but it would probably not have happened without Jim's determination on the fundraising side. He was also the Trust's chief fundraiser for Drungewick Lane and Drungewick Aqueduct, the flagship projects of the early 2000s.

The Royal Navy was Jim's whole career. He sat his interview in 1945, two months after the end of the war with Japan. His first active service was in *HMS Ceylon*, which was part of a UN force defending South Korea.

Jim's service took him to Mozambique (blockading the renegade state of Rhodesia), Sarawak (chasing pirates) and Cyprus (detering gun-runners), to pick out just a few. Jim was loaned out to the Royal Australian



***Jim Phillips, seen here tackling trees on the canal bank, was an active front-line worker as well as a key member of the Trust's management team.***

Navy for two years and served in *HMAS Sydney*. His mid-career sea service was interspersed with training assignments: at Burghead Outward Bound Sea School in Scotland, at *HMS Ganges* and *Royal Arthur* (not physical ships but respectively shore establishments in Suffolk and Wiltshire), then at the National Defence College where he met his wife Janet.

Jim's only seagoing command was in *HMS Manxman*, a fast minelayer, on her final voyage back to the UK (from Singapore) in 1968. He and Janet, with children Edward and Alexandra (Alex), relocated to Norfolk,

Virginia, while Jim was assigned to NATO. The last nine years of his navy life were spent "sailing a desk" at the Ministry of Defence, where he became an expert on the Soviet Navy.

Jim will always be remembered for his financial work for the Trust and the humorous way in which he presented the rather dry subject of money. He was not a trained accountant, so he never baffled members with science. His reports to General Meetings usually consisted of three concise headlines and a well-chosen joke. However, Jim was far more than 'just' a treasurer. He took an active role as a front-line worker and was a member of the Midweek Working Party (MWWP) when his health allowed (Jim attended the first ever meeting of the MWWP). When the Trust first worked on the canal section north of Loxwood High Street, Jim volunteered to spend the night on site to prevent vandalism and theft of valuable materials.

Jim organised the Poddle sponsored walk for two years in the mid-1990s and became the first Chairman of W&A Enterprises Ltd (WAEL), the Trust's trading company, when it was set up in 1996. He gave hundreds of canal talks, for which he did his own distinctive research, trying to bring the bland facts of the last 200 years to life. Jim was a loyal worshipper at St Mary's Church in Shalford and often cycled to Sunday's 8am service. It was at a church event around 2001 that he met the young Sally Schupke and told her all about the Drungewick Aqueduct project and its urgent need for more funds. Very

## Jim Phillips and WACT

- Joined in 1989.
- 1994 – Elected to WACT board and becomes Fundraising Manager.
- 1995 – Also took on job of Poddle organiser (and organised the event for two years) and is active with Thursday/Sunday Working Party.
- 1996 – W&A Enterprises Ltd (WAEL) set up and Jim becomes its first Chairman. Later in the year Jim becomes WACT Treasurer and hands over the WAEL job.
- 1997 – Jim is Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Minutes/Agenda Secretary.
- 2002 – Jim becomes Fundraising Manager again (as well as VC and Treasurer), with the job of funding the completion of the Drungewick Aqueduct works.
- 2013 – retires as Hon. Treasurer.
- 2015 – retires as Vice-Chairman and Director and appointed a Vice-President.

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 either by post to:

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

### Or email to:

weysouth@weyandarun.co.uk

**Address changes, non-delivery, etc:** please notify the Membership Secretary at the address above or email to: [membership@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:membership@weyandarun.co.uk)

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

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

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.

Issue 174

March/April/May 2016

soon Jim was signing Sally's nomination forms for the Trust's board – he had marvellous powers of persuasion and Sally is, of course, now Chairman.

1996 was an eventful year in the Trust's history. The Autumn Meeting considered a motion of no confidence in the board. The motion failed but the effects on the leadership were profound. Jim became Treasurer and was a key stabilising influence when the long-serving Chairman and Secretary both retired in the first half of 1997. Jim then became Vice-Chairman, a role that he filled with distinction until his retirement from the board in 2015.

Jim loved the outdoor life. Long hours of standing on a ship's deck had a permanent effect on his long legs and he often found it easier to move on his racing bike than on his feet. Many members in the Godalming area had their copies of *Wey-South* 'biked round' by Jim, saving the Trust the cost of postage.

When visiting working parties came to the canal Jim would make a point of going to site and thanking them for their efforts. Similarly, every donor, however small the amount, usually received a personal handwritten acknowledgement and walkers on the Poddle grew used to having Jim there at the end to sign their certificates.

Jim reckoned to spend two hours of every day working on the Trust's finances. He would personally pay in the cheques and check the bank balance daily – on one memorable



***Jim and Janet Phillips take a break during a Midweek Working Party session***

occasion he spotted a dubious transaction and was duly on the bank manager's doorstep at opening time on the next day.

Jim had a way with words and his little phrases will live on: "the chain gang" (the mayor and other officials), a "dank" rate of interest on our savings or "materiel" for a construction project. Jim's standards were the highest and, sadly, today's time-pressured successors find it hard to live up to them. If any conscientious and energetic senior military officers are just reaching retirement, we would love to meet them.

Jim's funeral service was held at St Mary's Church on Monday, 1st February, with a full church. Jim designed the service himself and wanted it "not to be sad but to mark cheerfully a life fulfilled". However, it was a solemn moment when the coffin left the church with the Union Flag and Jim's naval cap on top.

We have already missed Jim a very great deal since his retirement from his Trust roles. Too soon we had to say goodbye and we hope that he is smiling rather than scowling on our poor attempts to follow his inspiring example.



***Jim commanded HMS Manxman, a fast minelayer, on her final return to the UK (Picture by kind permission of the Trustees of the National Museum of the Royal Navy).***

## The Best of “Money”

Jim’s articles in *Wey-South* were generally headed simply “Money”. We dug into the archives for some highlights.

“The Turks have a proverb that ‘A bear has seven songs – all of them about honey’. Hon. Treasurers are much the same. They rabbit on endlessly about money.”

“Dry summers may lie ahead – at least according to one supplier who bills us as The Wey & Arun Camel Trust. So if you see a dromedary at Drungewick ...”

“I am very willing to answer questions on finance by mail, or face to-face at working parties if you would prefer to hold me against the bonfire to get a direct reply.”

“Enough of bullets [bullet points]: save one to shoot the Treasurer.”



**Stripped for action – Jim Phillips working with Brian Tanner at Old Toat Bridge in 1993.**

## First subscriptions increase for 20 years

Those of you who have supported the Trust for a long time will know that the last increase in our membership subscriptions was in 1995. Over the intervening 20 years, the cost of living has increased significantly, but we have kept our rates stable.

Unsurprisingly, we can no longer sustain this and so the Council of Management has agreed that we must increase the subscription rates. However, after discussion with a number of Members and Trustees, the Council decided the new rates should not break anyone’s bank balance. Accordingly, current members need not pay the full increase for three years.

The changes will come into effect from 1st April, 2016, with new members paying the full rate from this year. The individual subscription for new members will be £15, with joint membership costing £20. These rates are currently £10 and £15. Corporate membership will go up from £25 to £30. Individual life membership will stay at £200 and joint life membership at £300 for the time being.

In 1997 we closed the Retired rate of £6 for new members. Existing members were given what was supposed to be a short term dispensation to stay on the old rate and this is now being removed.

The board decided to offset the impact of the change for existing members, by increasing their rates in two stages, part now and part in 2019.

The rates for existing members will be:

**Individual membership** – £12 from April 2016 and then £15 from 1 April 2019.

**Joint membership** – £17 from April 2016 and then £20 from 1 April 2019.

You could of course opt to bypass the interim rate and increase your membership to the 2019 rate in one go. We would be delighted if you chose to do this.

The Membership Secretary will write to you before your subscription is due, setting out the arrangements, depending on whether you pay by standing order or by cheque.

## A weekend of celebrations will mark Bicentenary

The bicentenary of the opening of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal will be celebrated in grand style on 1st and 2nd of October. We are planning a weekend of special events to mark the occasion, when we hope that the new Compasses Bridge at Alfold and part of the newly restored Summit Level will also be officially opened.

There is planned to be a symbolic journey along the canal route from south to north in the style of the Olympic Torch route. The fun will begin in the Pulborough on the Saturday. If water levels in the River Arun permit, small boats will take the 'baton' (it could be a copy of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal Act of 1813) up to Pallingham. From there, the route will continue by canoe, along the towpath or in a trip boat.

At Newbridge, the Arun Navigation finished and the Junction Canal started. Along the way to the current limit of navigation on



the Loxwood section at Southland, we plan a small boat rally, with refreshments including champagne and musical entertainment.

On Sunday, the 'baton' will arrive at Compasses at around noon for the official opening of the bridge, followed by refreshments and music by the Guildford Friary Band. In the afternoon, there will be a boat rally in Hunt Nature Park and the flotilla will move up the River Wey to Guildford for celebratory tea and more music by the brass band.

We hope that the 'baton' will arrive in Guildford to the sound of some of the bells that rang out for the canal opening ceremony in 1816.

It will be a momentous occasion for WACT, as we celebrate not only the bicentenary of the canal and the opening of the bridge, but also the launch of the first fully navigable section of our waterway in Surrey. Put the dates in your diary and look out for more details in the next issue of *Wey-South* and on our website.

## Puddle will also celebrate 200th anniversary

This year's Puddle is part of the canal bicentenary celebrations. The sponsored walk, on Sunday 5th June, will start at North Hall, Loxwood, and join the canal at Devil's Hole Lock. It will take in Gennets Bridge Lock, Sidney Wood and Tickner's Heath before the lunch stop at The Three Compasses pub in Alfold, near the new Compasses Bridge.

After lunch, the route will go through fields back to Rosemary Lane nearer Alfold, on to Monkton Hook and then to Hook Street. It will then head south to Hurst Wood and eventually back to North Hall for tea. The route, of around 11 miles, is mostly on the flat with some stiles

to negotiate and should be accessible to most people. If you wish to join just for the second half, the afternoon section is about five miles.

We would particularly welcome groups which want to share their sponsorship proceeds 50/50 with another organisation, such as a Scout group or Parent-Teacher Association.

A sponsorship form is enclosed with this edition of *Wey-South*. To find out more – or volunteer to help run the event – please call me on 01483 894606 or e-mail puddle@weyandarun.co.uk.

**Margaret Darvill**  
**Puddle Organiser**

## The fun was whizzy as always at festive celebrations



*The 2015 Christmas Dinners both had slightly lower numbers than in previous years but both events were nonetheless highly convivial occasions.*

*The Arundel Dinner (above) was organised by Vanessa Lamey at the Norfolk Arms. It changed venue from the Ball Room to the Club Room and everyone said how much they enjoyed it, especially the whizzy balloons. A raffle was held with prizes donated by members and the late Mary Ringrose. Proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Trust.*

*Emma Williams organised the Northern Dinner (left) at the Jolly Farmer in Bramley.*

## Visitor centre plan revealed to the public



Local people had the opportunity to view our plans for a visitor centre in Hunt Nature Park when WACT held an consultation session in Shalford and District Social Club on Sunday 17th January. Bramley Link manager Philip Oliver and volunteer fundraiser are pictured answering questions from a villager.

The Trust is currently seeking quotes for building the centre, which it is hoped will be located near where the Wey-South Path joins the A281.

## An epic barge pull – from West Midlands to Shalford

**Trust member Dick Williams made headlines when he, his parents and a friend bow-hauled a canal barge from a boatyard near Birmingham to Surrey. Dick, who grew up in Shalford and now lives in Yorkshire, relates his memories of the journey and of his adventures as a boy on and around the River Wey.**

When I belatedly applied to join WACT in 2015, I wrote saying that I would not live to see the canal's complete re-opening (I am 84) but I had faith that my grandchildren would. Learning of the Trust's restoration work at the northern end of the canal reawakened many old memories for me. As a boy and young man, I lived on Shalford Common, a few hundred yards from the canal's junction with the River Wey, from 1936 to 1956, and remained in the area for 35 years after that.

As a boy, I played, fished, swam in and boated on the waters around Gun's Mouth Island and the original stone bridge which carried the A281 over the start of the Wey & Arun Canal. In the late 1940s, I camped on the island with two of my school friends, Malcolm Thirkettle and Nick Landon. Much of the island was completely overgrown then, but a patch near the centre was clear enough for us to pitch a tent.

Seeing me, inspired by Arthur Ransome's books, trying to repair a half-rotten boat with copper patches covered with pitch, my father took pity on me and bought a 10ft dinghy in which I learned to sail – quite a tricky business on a not very wide tree-lined river.



***Dick Williams demonstrates his barge-hauling technique for the Surrey Advertiser. The photographer insisted he wore a tie for the picture!***

After the Second World War, my father bought an army surplus 20ft pontoon for £10, to which we fitted a canvas awning stretched over iron hoops. Various family members enjoyed camping holidays up and down the Wey on this craft, which could be propelled with a punt pole. At that time, a few rather basic 'houseboats' (converted pontoons, etc)

began to appear and one or two were moored along the final stretch of the canal, between Stonebridge and the junction with the Wey.

In 1952, with the idea of providing ourselves and future partners with somewhere to live, Malcolm and I bought for £50 (around £1,400 at today's prices) a 70ft narrow boat named *Councillor*. It was a so-called Shroppie Fly, a type of boat used for the speedy transport of perishable goods on the Shropshire Union Canal. The purchase was no problem – old boats were to be had as commercial carrying on the canals dwindled – but there was



***Councillor being navigated during the epic journey, a photo showing the makeshift living quarters.***

the matter of how to get the boat from a boatyard just south of the Netherton Tunnel on the Birmingham Canal Navigations to Shalford.

I don't recall our considering any alternative to what seemed to us like a straightforward assignment. We would just bow-haul the boat down the country, pulling by hand. By the time the project was organised, Malcolm, an architectural student, was doing National Service. Nick and I had completed our service and he nobly stepped in to take Malcolm's place on the tow rope. I was a law student by this time.

An initial experiment trying to power the boat with an outboard motor attached to the rudder proved a failure – the engine constantly overheated and stalled – so we settled for hand towing as a more reliable power source. The first leg of the trip, east along the Birmingham Canal Navigations out to King's Norton and down the Grand Union to Knowle, was completed over the Easter holiday.

The main trip was undertaken during the summer vacation following my first year at Oxford University. My parents, then in their 50s, joined us as crew and we sent up everything we thought we would need for the trip to Knowle in advance on a British Road Services lorry. We fixed up three tarpaulin 'awnings' on the boat as sleeping quarters and a galley.

Towing by hand, we learned a lot in a short time about canals in general, how to negotiate locks and bridges, passing other boats, and safe mooring. Long tunnels at Braunston and Blisworth with no towing paths through presented obstacles but we were given tows behind pairs of working boats. We finally arrived at the junction of the Grand Union Canal with the Thames, where I remember a very necessary bath at Brentford Public Baths!

After a tow up the Thames to Shepperton we entered Thames Lock, the first on the River



**Some of the articles from Dick's collection of newspaper cuttings.**

Wey Navigation, with some relief. It might have been back to towing, but we were on home territory, the final stretch.

Arriving back in Shalford, Malcolm's father suggested (a joke, I thought at the time) that we should tell the papers about our trip. As a result I have an amusing selection of newspaper cuttings (August 1952 Daily Mirror, Daily Herald, Daily Graphic, News Chronicle etc), reporting the trip. They contained numerous inaccuracies and absurdities for anyone who needs a reminder that one should not believe half of what one reads in the press!

Our dream of *Councillor* as a future home was perhaps romantic and ill-thought through. Her final resting place, unconverted, was a quiet backwater on the Wey where she gradually sank, but towing her from Birmingham to Shalford was a sound enough plan at a time in 1952 – when no-one had heard of DIY – and it was a hugely enjoyable experience as well.

It has left me with a life-long interest in canals, on which I have spent some 15 holidays with family and friends over the years.

# Special Boat Trips attract numerous accolades

The Boat Group's hard work in 2015 resulted in record passenger numbers for special trips and some great customer reviews.

Some headlines from the season were:

- Over 3,000 passengers on special trips;
- More than £25,000 raised for canal restoration;
- 500 passengers on 12 Cream Tea trips ate around 1,000 scones;
- 444 passengers on nine Pirates and Princesses Adventures;
- All five evening trips and three Mothering Sunday trips (the first of the season) were sold out;
- Father's Day trips run for the first time;

down 16% on the previous year. For 2016 the Special Event Group's plans include:

- A St George and the Dragon Experience at the end of April;
- A Quiz & Nibbles in August.

The Halloween Spookerama event, although very successful in 2015, will take a break because it needs such a large number of helpers and could be wrecked by really poor weather.

Jonathan Mitchell, Chairman of the Special Events Group (SECom), says: "None of our ideas could ever become reality and depart from the Onslow Quay

"We went on the Easter Bunny hunt with our goddaughter. The people made every effort to give the kids a good time. I think it is great what these people are doing and we should support them."

"The volunteers on board made our day really special. A trip not to be missed!!!"

"The volunteers ... went to no end of trouble to entertain and involve all the children. The cost ... was good value."

"The atmosphere on the boat was lovely."

"We had a lovely time on the Pimms and Picnic Sunset Cruise - so well organised and the crew were so helpful and friendly."

"The Santa Cruise ... was a wonderful magical trip."

- 22 Santa Specials with over 1,000 passengers;
- All three Boxing Day trips ran with full boats.

Easter was the exception to 2015's upward trend; because of poor weather, numbers were

without the support of volunteers who give their time and expertise so tirelessly. Whether it is taking bookings in the Office, decorating the canal, checking in passengers at the Canal Centre, skipping, boat and cabin crewing, preparing the food and drink, lock-keeping, car parking, shoreside entertaining or generally organising us all into cohesive teams for each event, SECom sends a thousand thanks to you all."

**SECom aims to surprise and delight its customers – here the crocodile performs for Pirates & Princesses.**



***Some memories of the 2015 Santa Trips and a small selection of the vast army of 'cast' and helpers who made the whole occasion possible. (Pictures by Dave Verrall and Julian Morgan)***







*With the contractors having finished the shell and half the parapets at the new Compasses Bridge, volunteers stepped up their activities at the site.*

*The two photos far left show the dammed canal to the north being drained using the 6in pump, with a shot of the bridge from the north taken on a rare day of below-zero temperatures.*

*Top right is a close-up of the parapets on the south side. Near left shows the scaffolding for the parapet installation being dismantled.*

*The pictures at the bottom are of the steps to the canal bed, the bricklaying team and bricklaying under way.*

*(Julian Morgan)*



## WRG BITM (Bit in The Middle) in Surrey



*The Waterway Recovery Group team, BITM, had an interesting weekend near Cranleigh in January.*

*Top: at the site of Rushett Farm Bridge, preparing for digging a trial pit.*

*Centre: Dealing with a stubborn tree at Whitley Manor Railway Bridge.*

*Right: Hon Secretary Tony Tyrrell, with Mike Peer and watched by Sally Schupke, helping out with some surveying at the site of Run Common Bridge.*



## WRG Forestry at Tanglewood



***In December, WRG's Forestry team removed overgrown and diseased trees along the route of the former Guildford to Horsham railway in Shalford, alongside the planned route for the re-created waterway. The clearance was along the cycle path (the former railway) next to Tanglewood Farm, where the Trust has a lease for digging a 400-metre length of canal. The WRG work was an important preparatory step for phase 1 of the Bramley Link section, which is progressing towards a planning application as soon as engineering and ecological surveys are complete. Farm owners and WACT members Malcolm and Susan Brenton are seen, top left, chatting to one of the forestry team.***

## Recycling report

The four months 1st September to 31st December 2015 only show an input from West Sussex County Council for October and November, none of our bins being emptied during December.

This two-month period brought in £1734.80 with the cost to empty our bins being £710.15. This shows the Trust with a gain of £1,024.65.

Due to members' requests, our bins at Loxwood are being spaced a bit further apart to help with

access with arms full of papers. Some ties are still not being removed from bundles, so please make sure you take them off, to prevent the bundles jamming up when the bin is tipped up for emptying. And please only fill up a bin to the bottom of the 'letterbox'.

Many thanks and here's to happy recycling!

**John Taylor-Cram**  
**Recycling Officer WACT**

# Major Projects Report

## Bramley Link

Work is continuing on both phases of the Bramley Link. This stretch of the canal is divided into two phases because it is covered by two local authorities – which inconveniently meet in the middle of the Gosden Aqueduct. Most of our efforts to date have concentrated on Phase 1, from the Wey Navigation at Shalford to the aqueduct. Following consultation with Guildford Borough Council, we have commissioned a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a civil engineering design study and a flood study, all of which are prerequisites for a tendering process and for a planning application.

The EIA will be complete in the spring, after running for a full 12 months. So far, there have been no surprises; we had expected to find Great Crested Newts on Tanglewood Farm and we already have the mitigation plans for dealing with them in place.

The design study is late, very late. We have faced a number of difficulties with the consultant concerned, who has now admitted that the draft report is not of sufficient quality for the task in hand, so we are beginning to get this back on track. The basic flood model has been built, but no more can be done until we have more detail from the design study.

At Gun's Mouth, we are now seeking formal acceptance from Natural England. We can then get on with the planning application required for this work to proceed. I can only apologise to all those members who contributed to the fund to carry out this work. It is only in recent months that NE have

raised issues and Guildford Borough Council confirmed the need for planning permission. In the next *Wey-South* I'll provide an update on Phase 2 plans.

*Philip Oliver*

## Gennets Bridge Lock

The heavy rain in January made getting to the site difficult or impossible for some. In the lock itself, three small pumps are working away to keep the water down in the lock to a few inches. The ice and snow were another matter. The rule for starting to lay bricks used to be three degrees centigrade and rising, it is now five degrees and rising. The lock is sheltered to the south by the causeway carrying the diverted bridleway and to the north by the top sill and the canal. There are also mature trees to the south and west. Being aligned north-south, any midday sun warms the lock.

Most of the mature ash trees around the lock have dieback disease and plans for planting replacements are in hand. This problem will apply to most of the ash along the line of the canal.

Visitors to the site often say: "Have you found anything?" Of course, they mean gold or rare coins. When we tell them "A couple of bottles, some nails used in the original construction of the lock and a windlass" they are disappointed. Possibly they don't know what a windlass is. Did the lad who lost it back in the 19th century get his wages docked to pay for a new one? The nails, of 1813 vintage and hand-made, can now be seen in the Canal Centre. They were used to hold a three-inch by three-inch plank let into the bottom



***This 13-tonne digger – nicknamed Sally – is the latest bit of useful plant purchased by the Trust. It will initially work on the Summit Level and will then be available for other restoration projects.***

gate mitre on the gate side. This feature was seen at DHL and could have been a repair to a damaged mitre.

With a regular group of 15 and more people joining the group, the GBL programme is being pulled forward, weather permitting, over the next three months. The major effort is being put in at the bridge end, with the brick facing on both sides of the lock and the parapet foundations on the outside. The next milestone will be the start of work on the bridge arch.

There was a small celebration, under the watchful eye of Sally Schupke, when the brickwork on the bridge abutments started on 26th November. It's 'more of the same' now until we get to the coping level. There is now a site routine – mixing the mortar and the back-fill are major jobs at the beginning of the day, then to lay the bricks so that on the next working day the void behind them can be filled.

Another team, under Martyn Baker, has been preparing the top sill for the reinforced concrete invert. The concrete foundations for the parapets have been poured, which means that all that brickwork that will finish up underground, can be done.



***The chute which is enabling bricks and blocks to be efficiently delivered to the bed of the canal at Compasses Bridge.***

***Eric Walker***

## **Summit Level**

A major step towards completion of the new Compasses Bridge was made when volunteer bricklayers began work during the weekend of 23rd-24th January. The NWPG brickies joined WACT's regular working party to clad the sides and training walls in bricks and lay pavers on the bridge's footway.

This phase of the project began after contractors finished the bridge structure and installation of the wooden parapets on the

southern side. The bricklaying has been greatly helped by NWPG members Mike Fellows and Graham Hawkes, who kindly set out the brickwork and generally worked out how it was all going to fit together.

Working party leader Dave Evans and a small team finished off the scaffold steps down on to the working platform under the bridge. There is plenty of covered space to both lay and store bricks at the same time and a set of 110v lights mean that neither the weather nor the dark can halt progress.

The NWPG bricklayers were pleased to train up one of the WACT Saturday team so that five brickies in total were employed on the two main walls. Once the

canal had been rapidly pumped out by the new 6in pump, work continued on the training walls on the west side of the bridge where a final facing course of blocks has to be laid on both sides.

All these tasks have been supported by a team of brick movers, cutters and mortar mixers. Moving the bricks and blocks down to the canal bed has been greatly aided by a bespoke planking chute.

Contractors CJ Thorne were due to return in February to prepare for the realignment of the access road into Dunsfold Park, which is planned to take place around Easter. Volunteers have been doing some work to prepare for Thames Water and BT to divert services onto the new bridge. Once the road is running across the bridge, volunteers will partially demolish the concrete causeway. This operation will be treated in a similar way to an archaeological dig, as it is suspected there are remnants of the original brick-arch canal bridge buried within the concrete.

***Tony Ford***



**Gennets  
Bridge Lock**





**Construction work by our volunteers is also continuing apace at Gennets Bridge Lock, despite the heavy rain and an icy spell in January.**

**Clockwise from top left: The bricklayers cladding the sides of the lock; Pumping out to allow the work to continue (is that a washing machine drum being put to good use?); Reinforcement being laid for the top cill; The gang enjoying a refreshments break in the sunshine; Icicles on the lock wall; Setting levels using the tube of water method.**

**(Geoff Thomas)**



## Commemorative photo near site of Thriscutt slipway



**Member Mark Thriscutt visited the Summit area late last year to visit the site of the future Sydney Thriscutt slipway (planned for construction later this year) which is being funded by Mark and his brothers and named in memory of their father. Mark captured this view of the Summit Working Party in front of Compasses Bridge.**

## Banks are now tidier north of Brewhurst Bridge



**The above photo (by Peter Foulger) shows the clearance and tidying work recently done by the Midweek Working Party on the offside canal bank north of Brewhurst Bridge in Loxwood. The left photo shows the same area at Easter 2014.**

## Working Party Roundup

One or two of the items in *Wey-South 173* reminded me of how much volunteer restoration on the canal has changed over the years. In particular Julian's piece on our video heritage, which included items from 1989 and after under the 'heritage' banner – to some of us, those are recent years. Nevertheless, I had almost completely forgotten the 1992 Navvies Winter Reunion, when visiting volunteers from all over the country spent a weekend on the Arun Navigation section. In return for their efforts we gave them an evening of entertainment at the Weald School, with a well-supported bar and live music from some friends of mine who called themselves the 'Elderly Brothers'.

That was at the time when the Wey-South Project was beginning to be taken seriously as a restoration of national significance. Previously it had been seen as just too much work. Although we had always had a few friends in high places, the general opinion was that the years of decay and multiplicity of owners were too much to cope with.

I was reminded again when writing about the late Jim Phillips for *Working Party News*. Jim served as Treasurer for many years, coinciding with the period during which the Trust moved from being a voluntary working group with occasional help from contractors (often free or at low cost, at slack periods for men and machines, or when machines needed to be demonstrated) to a still volunteer-run, but highly professional organisation, undertaking major civil engineering works that could only be carried out by experts. That, of course, was a major culture change financially – but Jim managed the cash flow impeccably, quietly and with hardly any sign of panic at the inevitable multi-thousand pound bills.

I was reminded yet again by a talk at our local museum, given by the Friends of Shoreham Fort. Not a lot to do with our canals, other than the fact that locally, both 'our' waterways and the Palmerston forts – of which Littlehampton

and Shoreham were the first – were conceived during the Napoleonic threat, but the Fort restoration was so much like our early vision for the canal. More realistic, perhaps, as a single military emplacement seems rather more manageable than a 20-odd mile linear ditch on different levels, crossed by roads and farm tracks. But just like us in the 1970s and 80s (and since of course, but on a different scale), the fort volunteers have achieved an amazing amount, with little expenditure other than sheer enthusiasm and hard effort.

Volunteers on a shoestring budget could restore waterways. For proof, look back at the history of the Upper and Lower Avon navigations and the Stratford Canal. Those projects are probably what inspired WACT in the early days. But standards have changed in the subsequent 50 years or so, and our working philosophy has moved on. Nevertheless, there is still plenty of volunteer restoration on the ground to be done. You can subscribe to *Working Party News*, our monthly newsletter, to get the latest information on the major projects and the slightly lower-key restoration and maintenance being undertaken at many sites, by varied and numerous teams. Requests to be added to the WPN mailing list should be sent to listadmin@weyandarun.co.uk, or if not online, to receive paper copies please send a supply of SAEs to the Loxwood office.

**Bill Thomson**

### Monday Group

One (occasionally three) Mondays per month a group gathers at various sites along the canal with the aim of keeping up appearances at previously-restored sites – hence the nickname 'Mrs Bucket Group'.

Last November was one of those months when the group met three times. All three meetings were held in Sidney Wood, where a year's vegetation growth was cut back on both sides of the canal. To gain access meant

draining some of the water from the canal, achieved by removing the stop planks at the overspill weir near Lock 16, cleaning them and replacing them with a wedge underneath. In order to stop excess water from the first pound flowing into the next section, the group closed off the overflow pipe under the first causeway, and, while there, cleared both culverts.

In December, work included assembling and securing two picnic tables on the viewing platform in Hunt Nature Park, plus a visit to Gosden Aqueduct in preparation for clearing ivy and tree stumps. This will be done very carefully, in order to avoid dislodging the original brickwork, using the Trust's Aquadocks. Another day's work included tidying up and planting trees and bushes around Devil's Hole Lock.

For January, work continued in Sidney Wood, clearing both culverts again and repairing the safety fence near Firtree Copse. Cutting back of trees on the non-towpath side of the

canal and digging out a channel for the water at the overspill weir near Lock 16 was a further task. This reduced the water level even more, enabling the culvert outflow stream to be cleared, including the removal of a large fallen branch. The surplus water should now flow more freely. This tidying up was scheduled to continue through February.

**Contact John Empringham, 01483 562657, [mondaysgroup@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:mondaysgroup@weyandarun.co.uk)**

## Midweek Working Party

November began with clearing the towpath between Southland and Devil's Hole Locks, which now looks a great deal clearer. Next, the group moved on to Fast Bridge, along Alfold Road, which, being private land, was a new site for most. A large number of

branches was removed, along with clearing brambles on the field side. The landowner kindly allowed bonfires, which made the task of clearing much easier. It will take several more visits to complete the work, but it was eased by sharing a glass of bubbly to celebrate an award to former leader Ray Pick in the BBC Sussex and Surrey Community Heroes Awards.

The next task was clearing the culvert and river bed at Rooks Hill Farm, which is looking really tidy now. Then, for the last two weeks before Christmas, a record number of volunteers went to Hunt Nature Park to clear up after the WRG Forestry team's visit. The first of those weeks saw 27 people on site, which must be one

of the best attended work parties ever.

January saw three really lovely days for work and one really wet one. In addition to finishing off at Hunt Nature Park, the group cleared brambles from the non-towpath side at Brewhurst Bridge. The last week was spent in the rain clearing the bank of



**Midweek Working Party members rebuilt this small footbridge at Compasses**

the canal at Bonfire Hangar. Members put in an extra day on a Saturday clearing the ditch and rebuilding a small wooden bridge by the static mobile homes at Compasses, in preparation for the road realignment.

**Contact Margaret Darvill, 01483 894606, [margaret\\_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk)**

## Hedgelaying Group

The Bramley hedge and associated coppicing occupied the group over five working days between 20th October and 1st December. The rest of December and one day in January, a total of five more days, were spent back in the coppice to obtain a minimum of 300 stakes and 300 binders. While working in the coppice, we saw primroses

blooming in December and cuckooflower starting to open on 5th January.

Like everyone else, we had been plagued with continuous light rain or heavy showers, with just the occasional sunny day. I consider it too dangerous to start work in the rain or carry on working once the rain has got going. Wet gloves, wet sharp tools and slippery ground do not make a safe working environment.

So far in January 2016, three working days have produced 37m of hedge which is good going as, on two of those days, we were only able to lay the hedges for half of the day. This work has been carried out by the Haybarn Swing Bridge, running north towards Harsfold. This is another very quiet section of the Arun Navigation, which forms the southern part of the Wey & Arun Canal.

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

## Thursday and Sunday Group

In addition to the group's work on the major projects, we have been active at other sites. At Baldwin's Knob Lock, we have put up a fence at the end of the lock and replaced the electricity cabinet. Because of the state of access to the lock during the winter months, the materials were moved using our logistics team's sponsored 4x4 from GBL to Brewhurst, and on from Brewhurst to the lock the materials were carried onboard the workboat *May Upton*. The logistics team also moved some concrete blocks and paving slabs from Tickner's Heath Depot to GBL.

We are lucky that one of the group, Edward Stratton-Woodward, can do our welding, if necessary taking the pieces home for specialist treatment.

Despite the general downturn of the value of recycling scrap materials, our contact is still able to give us a good price for recycled batteries.

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

## Tickner's Heath Depot

Another year has passed by and life goes on as usual at the depot. Strangely, it has been a rather quiet quarter. We have helped out working parties and camps where we can with equipment and items from our stock, and cleared the way for our new fencing and gates. We even managed to clear the depot of most of our ferrous scrap which raised a few – and I mean a few – pounds for the Trust. Ferrous scrap prices are at an all-time low of £9 a ton.

Perhaps it is now time to see if we can sell off some of our redundant machinery, as we have numerous lawn mowers, an Allen scythe and an ancient rotavator, all of which could provide some revenue. We even have a reed cutter boat which hasn't seen the light of day for years. Mind you, our Health and Safety boss might have convulsions should anyone attempt to use some of these items, as most were conceived prior to modern regulations.

We have managed to put our collective skills towards solving some problems, including repair of some of the Trust's pumps. One caused a bit of a puzzle, which was solved when we

looked on the Internet and found that Honda pumps should not have the fuel taps left on after use, as this sometimes allows fuel to seep into the cylinder and drain into the sump. So, after we drained and replaced the oil, the pump started and pumped away to its heart's content. Another (donated) pump



**Above: In November, while waiting for the contractors to finish their work at Compasses Bridge, the Summit Level Working Party installed new security fencing at Tickner's Heath Depot**

was relatively easily fixed: it was just a matter of changing drain plugs around so that the requisite amount of suction could be achieved.

We have had one failure, however, with an outboard motor. Previously used on the *May Upton* work boat, it was brought to the depot because it had somehow managed to get its spark plug cross threaded. We managed to purchase a new plug and tap out the plug hole but found that the plug would not seal correctly, resulting in a loss of compression. We are now debating whether to buy a repair kit or scrap the outboard.

Over the last quarter of 2015, our resident chippies manufactured a quantity of signs for use on the canal side. These were mainly

## Charles Barron

**W**e lost another fine volunteer in late October 2015. Charles Barron was born in 1934 in Twickenham and was educated at Kingston Grammar School. He joined the RAF in 1950 as an apprentice engine fitter and left in 1962 to join British European Airways (later BOAC, then British Airways), where he worked for 33 years.

Sailing was Charles's passion and he was a founder member of what is now Queen Mary Sailing Club in Ashford, Middlesex. He won countless trophies and championships in a variety of boats from Enterprise dinghies to 6m Yeoman keelboats. After leaving BA he ran a boat-rigging business.

In 2000, Charles moved to West Sussex and sailed an RS Elite racing boat from Hayling Island Sailing Club. He joined WACT and worked with the Thursday & Sunday Group, mainly as a skilled carpenter, and built a number of stop plank shelters and back pump shelters. Around this time, he sailed in the ARC (Atlantic Rally for Cruisers) from the Canary Islands to St Lucia.

Charles suffered a stroke in 2011 and gave up sailing and golf, but he was still a great supporter of the canal. He brought happiness

intended to inform the public as to what work was going on. Unfortunately, they have now disappeared, leaving one to believe they are now on the bottom of the Cranleigh Waters. So, trying to second guess our lords and masters, we have made some more, as no doubt there will be a need in the future.

We recently took delivery of a splendid pillar drill, kindly donated by a member of the Trust. This has set the team a further problem, through the need to provide a better electrical circuit for the depot, so that we can actually use our new toy. Well, that's about it for this quarter, so all the best.

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



**Above:  
Charles  
Barron  
indulging in  
his favourite  
pastime and  
(right) at the  
delivery of  
Southland**

**Lock gates. Charles's family requested donations in his memory to the Trust. The Gennets Bridge Lock fund benefited by £810, for which we are most grateful.**

to the group and certainly helped in the restoration of the Wey & Arun Canal in his own quiet way. We will miss him a lot.

**Eric Walker**

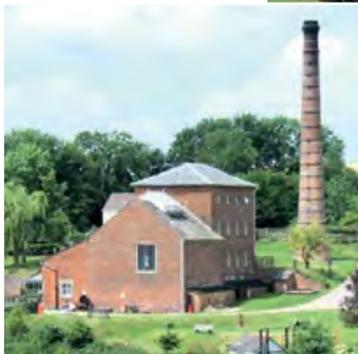
## Outing to the Kennet & Avon and Crofton beam engines

Saturday 28th May is the date for this year's day out to the Kennet & Avon Canal. We will travel to Hungerford for a 1½ hour cruise aboard the 55ft-long *Rose of Hungerford*, operated by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.

The trip takes us past attractive countryside through Dunmill Lock with views across the Common and the River Kennet. Packed lunches may be eaten on board and there is a licensed bar serving hot and cold drinks.

In the afternoon we will visit the nearby Crofton Pumping Station to see the oldest working steam engines in the world still performing the job they were built to do, supplying water to the summit level of the canal. Today is a steaming day and the two magnificent beam engines will be in action. One is an original 200-year old Boulton & Watt engine and both are fed by a hand-stoked, coal-fired Lancashire boiler.

As well as admiring these giants of industrial archaeology you can take a walk along the



**The outing to the Kennet & Avon includes a trip on the *Rose of Hungerford* and a visit to the Crofton Pumping Station, which houses the world's oldest working steam engines**

towpath and visit the café and gift shop. The cost of £27.50 (£21 for under 16s) includes coach travel, boat trip, admission to Crofton and a donation to WACT funds. The coach will pick up in Billingshurst, Loxwood and Guildford.

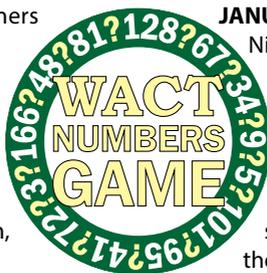
For full details and a booking form please contact Mark Anderson (markwanderson@hotmail.co.uk, 07718 746667).

## The latest Numbers Game winners

The WACT Numbers Game winners since the last issue of *Wey-South* were:

**NOVEMBER – £151 first prize:** Ian and Sharon Watling, Ramsey, Isle of Man – 151; **£75.50 second prize:** David King, Crawley – 95; **£37.75 third prize:** Mary Thornton, Goring-by-Sea – 13.

**DECEMBER – £152 first prize:** Julia Simpson, Henfield – 50. **£76 second prize:** Geoffrey Perks, Horsham – 32. **£38 third prize:** John Smith, Worthing – 104.



**JANUARY – £100 first prize:** Alan Nicholson, Rotherfield – 112. **£30**

**second prize:** Raymond Crane, Dover – 34. **£10 third prize:** David Pegg, Guildford – 102.

Numbers Game members contribute £3 per month by standing order for each number they hold, helping raise a significant amount of money for the Trust. Ask Rob Searle for an application form, by e-mail on rob\_searle@weyandarun.co.uk or by post via the Northern Office, address on page 3.

## Membership Report

As at 31 January we had 3,007 members. Our main sources of new members are our website and the Canal Centre. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following people who have joined us over the last three months. I would also like to thank those of you who have offered to assist with our various volunteer activities.

David Ambrose	John Covey	Nargis Jiskoot	Juliet Shand
Douglas Shand	M. Daniel	Patrick Jiskoot	Nancy Tyrrell
Marilyn Ambrose	Jill Dedrick	James Martinez	Alison Wheatcroft
Philip Berry	Neil Harvey	Carol Noyce	Bob Wheatcroft
Jennifer Britt	Brian Jeffries	Roger Noyce	Keith Wing
Lizzie Calcutt	Carol Jeffries	Michael Padfield	Oriel Wing
Robin Calcutt	Anne Jenkinson	Valerie Padfield	Claire Woods
Bert Cooper	Ian Jenkinson	Barry Potter	

We have learned with regret of the death of:

Mr Jack Harwood	Mrs Julia Campbell	Mr M.J. Hoolahan	Cmdr Jim Phillips OBE
Mr David Dedrick	Mrs Elizabeth Connors	Mr John Lipscombe	Mr Arthur Dalby

As you will be aware from the announcement on page 9, our membership rates are increasing. This is something that members I have met have been urging us to do. I will be spreading the load across the year and will write to you two to three months prior to the date your membership is due to be renewed. If you pay through your bank and you wish to make the change now then by all means do so. As we use standing orders, you will need to do this yourself, either online or by contacting your bank. If you do this, please can you let me know, so that I can avoid sending out a reminder.

The subscription rates for existing members are:

<b>Individual</b> £12, rising to £15 in 2019	<b>Individual Life</b> £200
<b>Joint</b> £17, rising to £20 in 2019	<b>Joint Life</b> £300 <b>Corporate</b> £30
<b>Life membership</b> fees will remain the same for the time being.	

**Alan Dyer, Membership Secretary**  
**E-mail: [membership@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:membership@weyandarun.co.uk)**

## 2015 Christmas Raffle results

We are grateful to all who bought tickets in the 2015 Raffle. The winners were:

**1st prize (£200):** Ian Baldwin, Cranleigh

**2nd prize (£100):** P Taylor, Leighton Buzzard

**3rd prize (£75):** Miss MI Streeter, Chichester

**4th prize (Marks & Spencer token for £50):**  
Janet Palmart, Horsham

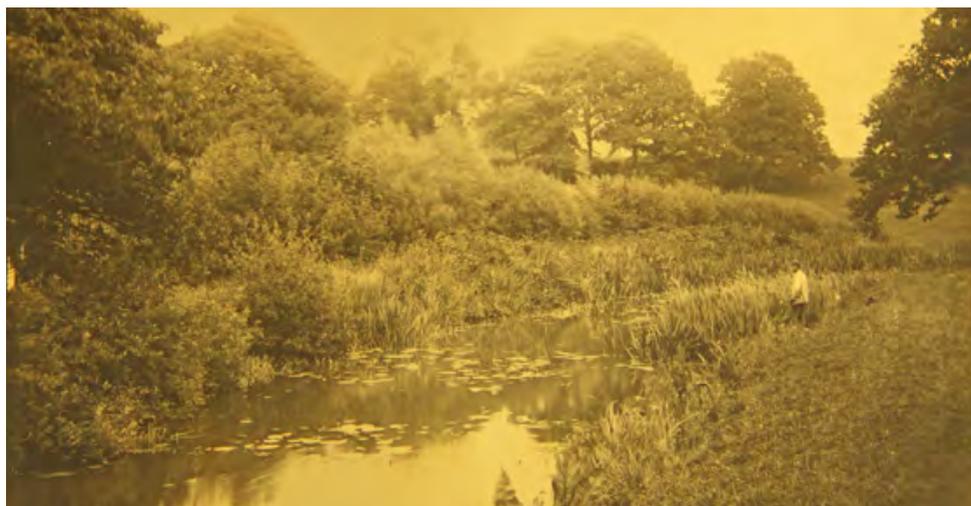
**5th prize (£40):** Les Allen, Effingham

**6th prize (£30):** Mr O Evans, Porlock, Minehead

The sale of raffle tickets brought in £3,936.

Generous members added donations of £737, on most of which the Trust can claim Gift Aid, so the total proceeds should be more than £4,800 – a really useful contribution at a time when we are spending so heavily on canal restoration. Sponsors provided all the prizes and paid for ticket printing, so our expenses were minimal.

We also thank all who nominated the Trust as their favourite restoration project in the IWA's 2015 Waterways Restoration Raffle. We have received a cheque for £424 from the IWA.



## Here's another postcard puzzle

This picture is in West Sussex Record Office (reproduced by kind permission of the Record Office) and clearly labelled "Loxwood 1891". Does it show the canal and if so which section? Bear in mind that trees may have grown substantially or disappeared in the 125 years since the photo was taken.

## Dates for your Diary

<b>Friday 25th to Monday 28th March *</b>	<b><i>Easter Bunny special boat trips at 11am, 12 noon and 2pm.</i></b>
<b>Saturday 23rd April</b>	<b><i>Annual Meeting at Billingshurst (2.30pm) with events for members in the morning. See page 4 and enclosed leaflet for details.</i></b>
<b>Sunday 24th April *</b>	<b><i>St George and the Dragon Experience special boat trip at 11.15am.</i></b>
<b>Thursday 26th May *</b>	<b><i>Cream Tea Voyage at 2.30pm.</i></b>
<b>Saturday 28th May</b>	<b><i>Coach Outing to Kennet &amp; Avon Canal - details on page 29.</i></b>
<b>Wednesday 1st June *</b>	<b><i>Pirates &amp; Princesses Adventures at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm.</i></b>
<b>Sunday 5th June</b>	<b><i>Puddle (sponsored walk) - see page 10 and enclosed sponsorship form.</i></b>
<b>Friday 10th June *</b>	<b><i>Punch &amp; Picnic Sunset Cruise at 7.30pm.</i></b>
<b>Wednesday 15th June *</b>	<b><i>Cream Tea Voyage at 2.30pm.</i></b>
<b>Sunday 19th June *</b>	<b><i>Dad's Bacon Butty Brunch trips at 9.45am and 12 noon.</i></b>
<b>Friday 24th June *</b>	<b><i>Midsummer Sensation Cruise at 7.30pm.</i></b>
<b><i>* For all boat trip information and bookings, please contact the Loxwood Office (details on page 3). Booking is essential for all special boat trips.</i></b>	



**Above: Lieutenant-Commander Jim Phillips at his desk aboard HMS Phoebe. Launched in 1964, the frigate Phoebe was Jim's 'baby'; he supervised her construction on the Clyde.**

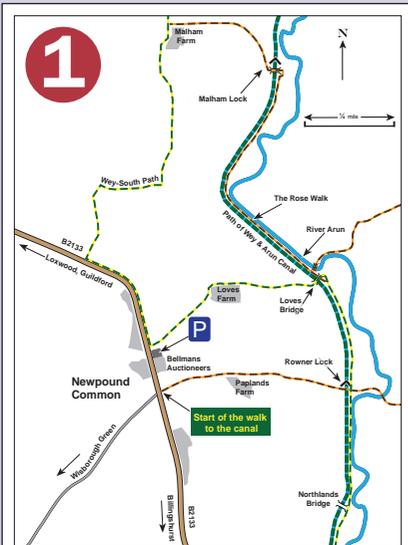
**Below left: A happy Dave Evans cuts into a 'brick cake' to celebrate the start of bricklaying at Compasses Bridge. Right: Mike Fellows of Newbury Working Party Group lays the first brick. (Picture by Bill Nicholson).**



## MAKE A DAY OF IT

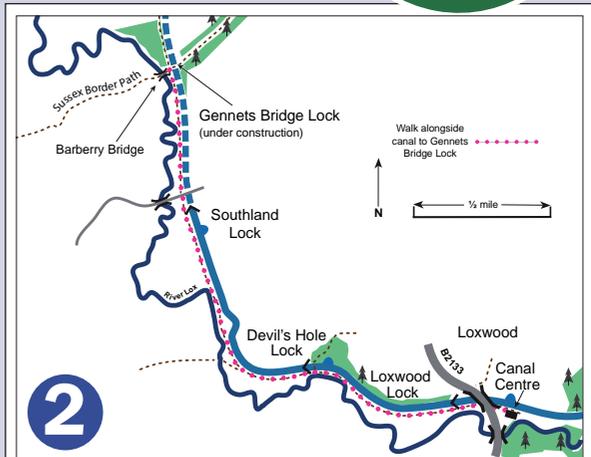
Members are encouraged to 'make a day of it' when they come to the 2016 Annual Meeting. Three special WACT events have been arranged for the morning of Saturday, April 23rd, prior to the meeting in the afternoon.

**SPECIAL  
EVENTS FOR  
MEMBERS**



A guided walk to Malham and Rowner locks will explore one of the lesser-known stretches of the canal. It starts at 10.30am in the Bellmans Auctioneers' car park on the B2133 at Newpound Common, near Wisborough Green (RH14 OAZ). We have permission for members to park at Bellmans.

The route goes to Paplands, Rowner, Malham and Malham Farm and then back along the Wey-South Path to the car park. Please wear footwear that is appropriate for muddy paths. After the walk, you may wish to have lunch at the nearest pub, The Wisborough, or travel to the Limeburners Pub, not far away in Lordings Road.



Visit the Gennets Bridge Lock site in Ifold, where Project Manager Eric Walker and members of his team will explain their work. Meet at 11am at the Canal

Centre in Loxwood, behind the Onslow Arms on the B2133 (RH14 ORD), to walk to the lock. Please wear stout footwear.

If you feel unable to walk, there is limited parking near the lock, but ask for a space when booking this event. The event ends at 1pm, and you can have lunch at one of the nearby pubs, such as the Roger Tichborne at Alföld Bars.

# Can you help in a support role?

**3** The Wey & Arun Canal Trust has an amazing number of achievements to its credit... and volunteers are undoubtedly the key to our success.

Members who freely give their time to restoration projects are responsible for the huge amount done so far to bring the canal back to life.

But, as restoration progresses, there is a large increase in admin work and we could do more if people step forward to fill some important support roles.

We would like to fill these jobs with our own volunteers rather than have more paid employees, so that as much money as possible goes towards the canal work.

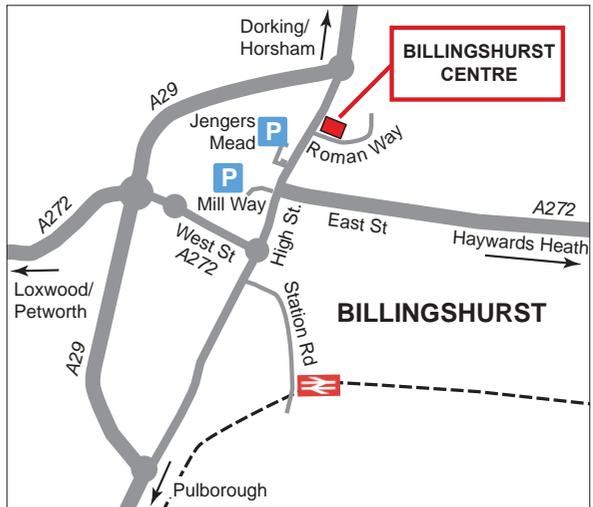
Are you less active now than you used to be but still willing to offer the Trust help by volunteering for restoration support? If so, we would love to hear from you, and you can find out more about what is required during a special information session on the day of the annual meeting.

Potential volunteers can meet WACT officers in The Stanley Room at the Billingshurst Centre from 11.30am to 2pm. Why not come for a friendly chat – no commitment – about what you could do, in your own time and mostly at home.

There are also opportunities to get out and about on WACT business that don't involve heavy work and huge amounts of mud.

Examples of jobs that could be done are:

- Helping organise the visits of our Mobile Display Vehicle (MDV).



- Supporting the fundraising team by finding sources of grants and donations.
- Assisting in the organisation of working parties.
- Helping to organise the catering arrangements for special events, boat rallies etc.
- Identifying award opportunities and applying on behalf of our band of stalwarts.
- Assisting with project planning, surveys and obtaining building consent.
- Manning our stands and the MDV at events ranging from village fetes to the Surrey County Show.

**The Wey & Arun Canal attracts a huge variety of people, from all walks of life, jobs and professions to volunteer and they all greatly enjoy their roles. Could you join them in their worthwhile quest? Find out at the special session on Saturday, 23rd April.**

**Please book places on the walk and lock visit by e-mailing [northernoffice@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:northernoffice@weyandarun.co.uk) or calling 01483 505566. Don't forget to mention if you need to park near the lock site, as spaces are limited.**

**FIND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT [www.weyandarun.co.uk](http://www.weyandarun.co.uk)**

### Where, when, how?

- ◆ North Hall, Guildford Road, Loxwood (RH14 0SF). It is on the B2133 at the north end of the village (left-hand side if you come from the Onslow Arms direction, right-hand side if you come from Alfold).
- ◆ Arrive between 9am and 10:30 to check in, receive your Route Guide and start walking the whole route or only the morning route.
- ◆ If you wish to walk only in the afternoon, come to the Three Compasses pub (Dunsfold Road, Alfold GU6 8HY). In the marquee behind the pub you can check in and have lunch.

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 5th June. The route has been specially chosen to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the canal's opening. We are going to walk from North Hall in Loxwood to the marquee behind the Three Compasses Pub at Alfold, where lunch will be provided. The Wey & Arun Junction Canal was opened here by Lord Egremont 200 years ago. The morning walk takes in the Wey & Arun Canal from Devil's Hole Lock, past Gennets Bridge Lock (where you may see volunteers at work) to Compasses Bridge. At Gennets and Compasses you will see how the Trust is spending the money raised by supporters; the total cost of these two projects is more than £1 million. Between Loxwood and Alfold, the route passes through the beautiful Sidney Wood, along parts of the unrestored canal. For those of you who want to do a shorter walk it will start from the lunch stop at the Three Compasses in Alfold. From the lunch point we walk to Alfold village over farmland and then along the Surrey/Sussex border, returning to North Hall for a lovely 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 £20 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 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 on 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](mailto:poddle@weyandarun.co.uk)

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

✉ [support@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk)

☎ 01483 505566

WEY & ARUN  
Canal  
Trust

You are invited  
to take part in

The Wey & Arun  
Canal Trust's

44th Annual Poddle

Sunday 5th June 2016



1816-2016



### What is it?

The 2016 Poddle is an 11-mile sponsored walk along the Wey & Arun Canal and through the Surrey/Sussex countryside raising money towards the restoration of the 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 £20 please (lunch is provided) then just turn up and walk.

# 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.

*giftaid it*

Please sponsor me ..... to walk the 2016 "Poddle" on Sunday 5th June 2016 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)	First line of Address (essential for Gift Aid)	Postcode (essential for Gift Aid)	Amount £	Date Paid	Gift Aid? (✓)
Remember: Full name + First line of address + Postcode + (✓) = <i>giftaid it</i>				Total "Gift Aided" donations:	£	

**If you have more sponsors, please continue on separate sheets of paper.**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

(To be completed before arrival - IN CAPITALS PLEASE)

Walker's Details: Full Name: ..... Trust Member? Y / N

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

## Gift Aid

You, as the sponsored person, may if you wish agree to Gift Aid ALL sponsored monies noted above. This will simplify matters, but if you do you must understand that "I 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." Adding your signature will mean that you agree to this.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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

Walker Number:

# WEY & ARUN Canal Trust

## Boat trips 2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wey & Arun Canal Trust**  
**Telephone 01403 752403**  
**[www.weyandarun.co.uk](http://www.weyandarun.co.uk)**



***Public trips - April to October  
Saturdays from the Onslow Quay***

**45 minutes departing at 12.15**

**30 minutes departing at 13.30**

**3¼ hours departing at 14.30**

***Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays  
from the Onslow Quay***

**30 minutes departing at 12.30**

**1½ hours departing at 13.30**

**1½ hours departing at 15.30**

***Special Events***

**1 January: New Years Day Cruises**

**6 March: Mothering Sunday Relaxers**

**25, 26, 27, 28 March: Easter Bunny Specials**

**24 April: St George & the Dragon Experience**

**26 May: Cream Tea Voyage**

**1 June: Pirates & Princesses**

**10 June: Punch & Picnic Sunset Cruise**

**15 June: Cream Tea Voyage**

**19 June: Dad's Bacon Butty Brunch**

**24 June: Midsummer Sensation**

**6 July: Cream Tea Voyage**

**8 July: Pimm's & Posh Ploughman's**

**22 July: Pimm's & Picnic**

**26 July: Cream Tea Voyage**

**5 August: Pimm's & Posh Ploughman's**

**9 August: Cream Tea Voyage**

**11 August: Pirates & Princesses**

**19 August: Quiz & Nibbles**

**25 August: Pirates & Princesses**

**7 September: Cream Tea Voyage**

**11, 18, 21, 22, 23 Dec: Santa Specials**

**26 December: Boxing Day Specials**

**For more information - log on to our web site  
or pick up a leaflet from the Canal Centre.  
Call the number overleaf to make a booking.**