

## Editorial

As I write this, news comes through that the government is to underwrite the new Canal and River Trust to the tune of over £1 billion. This news has been welcomed by the IWA for the waterways as a whole, and could be either good or not so good for WACT depending on your point of view - but we will surely need to make sure we are part of the national picture rather than just a local project. Forgive me for straying into national issues - as if there wasn't enough going on close to home, what with Southland, the summit, the Bramley Link, and the Canal Centre opening, not to mention the leak rectification work at Loxwood.

Somebody has told me that the 'contacts' panel used in each newsletter is out of date. It certainly hasn't been updated for a while. Would somebody like to give me the current information please?

*Bill*

## Thursday & Sunday Group

At Southland, the bricklaying continues on the off side, now almost reaching the top in one place. Completion of the brickwork on this side is still some weeks away, but then coping stones are expected to be put on before the scaffolding is moved to the other side.

Work has started on the training walls and back-pump chamber at the bottom of the lock. Notable here is the sandstone that has been cut away to make a channel for the canal. Just how much we will have to cut is as yet unknown, being covered by the arisings from the lock and previously by the silt. One is still amazed by the effort the original canal builders must have put in to get the canal through. Answers to the question "is the sandstone waterproof and what are you doing about it?", are stacking up.

With the top sill (off side) walls in place and backfilled with clay, work has continued on the shuttering for the wall on the top sill (towpath side). With this work going so well the concrete pour may happen earlier than previously anticipated.

### Join us

The Thursday & Sunday Group generally meet at 09:30 at Southland, if you need directions please ring 07717 855340 for the latest info. Thursday is presently very popular but there is scope for more volunteers on a Sunday with lots of jobs to do.

*Eric Walker*

## The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

Our two meetings in January were taken up by the demands of Sidney Wood with the result that both sides of the canal have been tidied up all the way from Firtree Copse to lock 16. It looks a lot better now and it is 'motivational' to receive compliments from passing dog walkers and horse riders on how nice the canal looks.

Photos and a fuller account of our activities in Sidney Wood can be found on Chris Richardson's website [www.myweyandaruncanal.com/sidneywoods2011.html#Final](http://www.myweyandaruncanal.com/sidneywoods2011.html#Final)

We, along with other groups, have been asked to assist Land & Water Services in the task of sealing the leaks in the Loxwood pound. So we expect to be there on 6th February and some of us possibly on subsequent days.

*Nick Wood*



**One of the Chris Richardson pictures referred to on the left, showing 'job done' in Sidney Wood. Find more at: [www.myweyandaruncanal.com/sidneywoods2011.html#Final](http://www.myweyandaruncanal.com/sidneywoods2011.html#Final)**

## Mid Week Working Party

The 2011 season closed for the Mid Week Working Party just before Christmas with the traditional visits to Run Common. There is always a seasonal welcome here from the local residents. One difference this year, though, was that the channel to the north of the road, while still well-formed appeared to be bone dry, even now.

Another change this year was that, with the refurbishment of the canalside Three Compasses, the Navvies' Lunch got put back to after Christmas and at a non-canalside venue, the Sir Roger Titchborne. Anyway, a most convivial lunch was enjoyed by all, mainly MWWP stalwarts but with a sprinkling of other navvies (and ex-navvies) too, on the 16th January. Thanks to Geoff Perks once again for arranging all this and so well.

The team have already been busy clearing passage once again at Dunsfold Park, and also providing John Smith with a little more muscle to keep on top of the upkeep of the Tickner's Yard site. This included improving the parking area and also preparing and painting marker posts for use when we get in to tackle the clearance that will be required at Southland. More recently an access route has been cleared at Farnhurst Bridge to enable heavier tree work, and also the bringing in of an excavator to tackle the build-up of sediment around an outfall here.

Looking forward to the bigger picture, the group will be providing smaller teams to support some of the key Trust projects including sending levies (sic) to the Loxwood Pound sealing campaign (6th to 17th February - don't miss out).

*Peter Lander (for Ray Pick)*

## Tickner's Heath Depot

A relatively quiet period - only seven days have been worked due to the Christmas and New Year lay off. We have welcomed back our antipodean traveller Ken Bacon, who is already complaining about the lack of therms in the atmosphere. It's good to have him back, even if his stories of temperatures in the 40s (that's Celsius not Fahrenheit) does make one a trifle envious. Another returnee is Peter Andrews, our expert on all things diesel. Good to have you guys back .

Since the last entry there has been a certain amount of reorganisation in the sheds, mainly internal, and items should be more visible now, rather than hidden in odd corners.

Found lurking at the back of one of the sheds was a powered wheel barrow, and as it seemed as though it had not see the light of day for some time, it was stripped down and serviced by Francis Wellerd and Mick Jones, then given a vigorous test which it passed with flying colours. It has already proved its worth around the depot, in that it takes the physical aspect away as opposed to that used when operating a hand wheel barrow.

Talking of wheel barrows, here we should add our thanks to Richard Watson who has managed to fix the punctures in five of our barrows. This means we now have 14 useable barrows at the depot. Good job, Richard.

The team has now turned its attention to the outboards (four petrol and one electric) that are at present stored at Tickner's. Two have already been tested and found in working order. At present one of the Johnsons is proving a bit tedious, but Francis Wellerd and Peter Andrews are on the case and will no doubt have it running soon.

All the quick stage scaffolding battens have been moved to Southland at Eric Walker's request so, other than the uprights, transoms and cross braces, there are no longer any complete sections of such scaffolding at the depot.

The 'Green Goddess' has again been called into service at Brewhurst. Unfortunately the battery let us down, so off went Dave Kersley to the local battery suppliers and brought a larger capacity one. The old

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

girl was then tested, and she pumped out the lock to below the cill in no time, so hopefully next time she is used she will prove her worth. One thing to note is that she doesn't need too much throttle: she shifts plenty of water when the throttle is set at the 'Run' position.

Richard Powell has so far completed auditing the contents of five sheds. At present he is managing to complete one shed per week. It is hoped once the audit is completed that a spreadsheet of the contents of the depot will be available on the website with access limited to nominated persons. This should hopefully reduce the amount of surplus items at the depot and the need to buy in some items for projects.

Just recently we welcomed the MWWP to the depot, who as usual did sterling work and managed to complete all the work by lunch time. One of the tasks was to clear the area which is presently being used for our scrap. This was achieved, and has provided a parking area, which will be critical when projects begin for the development on the summit. So, thanks to MWWP, the depot is looking smarter and neater. By the way if you ever want a team that really knows how to produce a high quality bonfire the MWWP are your men and women, so thanks once again guys and gals your efforts were much appreciated...

Well that's about it for now, regards to all from the Tickner's Team.

*John Smith*

## Loxwood pound leak resealing

Land & Water Services is due to start work on Monday 6th February. All volunteers are requested to assist if possible - we will be needing between 6-10 volunteers to assist on every day the contractors are on site. The roster is going to be managed by John Benfold. If you have any technical queries, please contact John Talbot.

## Hedgelaying group

"Hail", a Roman greeting from the Hedgelaying Group. 2012 starts and I feel that I've got two years' hold in the last year!

In a total of three working days we have laid 40 metric yards/imperial metres in two days, and burnt a large pile (multiple small piles) of cuttings that were thin and very thorny and wet. The thing about a bonfire is that at the end of it we 'three' sat down to freshly cooked bacon rolls followed by baked potatoes (a regulo 7 fire) and I even had a fried slice (waste not, want not).

As usual it's been quiet down at Harsfold, even the volunteers have been quieter than usual, subdued even.

Here are the rest of this seasons possible dates (I may do a few Sundays, if required)

Feb Re Bob Potts - Thurs 02, Fri 10, Mon 13 ??

Feb Tues 28

Mar Wed 07, Thurs 15, Fri 23

Apr Mon 02, (Tues 10?), Wed 18, Thurs 26

May Fri 04, Mon 14, Tues 22, Wed 30 - weather, birds and health permitting.

*Keith Nichols*

## Navvies' Christmas Lunch

Twenty-nine of us sat down to a splendid lunch at the Sir Roger Tichborne on 16 January. Outside it was bright and sunny but bitterly cold, so there was no hanging about when Janet Phillips lined us up for the traditional photograph. The rule on these occasions is 'no speeches' so an 'organiser's announcement' welcomed everybody and outlined the day's arrangements. There was due recognition of Ray Pick's organisational work since taking over leadership of the MWWP, as well as heartfelt thanks to Anne Pick for the splendid cakes which she sends to the group each week. Finally Ray updated us on some of the tasks which lie ahead - it looks as though 2012 will be a busy year!

*Geoff Perks*

Working Party Diary		
Every Sunday and Thursday	Mainly construction work	Contact Eric Walker for details
Usually first & third Mondays of the month	'Mrs Bucket' - Keeping Up Appearances	Details from John Empringham
Every Wednesday	Mid-Week Working Party	Check with Ray Pick for confirmation of venue
Every Wednesday Thursday & Sunday as required	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Every Thursday (currently Fridays)	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details