

Editorial

What an amazing month it has been. It has been great to hear of the real 'buzz' in the Shalford area with the WACT Summer Camp contributing a great deal of effort to the riverside path on the Hunt Park site. The path is almost complete. The camp was followed over the Bank Holiday weekend by WRG Forestry who paid us another return visit, this time to work around the Gosden Aqueduct site removing fallen trees from the river, and in particular to deal with a very large diseased ash tree actually growing on the aqueduct structure. While we had the benefit of the team, WACT made full use of their skills by persuading them to carry out some tree surgery at Alfold/Dunsfold and Ifold/Loxwood.

The tree work at Gosden has cleared the way for an archaeological mini-dig, scheduled for 7/8 September, to carry out further investigation into the remains of the aqueduct. The 'dig' will be open for viewing on the Heritage Open Day, 15 September, when Brewhurst Mill, near Loxwood, and the Shalford Gunpowder Store will also be open to the public. The Shalford open day will feature a free guided walk at 2pm, from the Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharf, to explore the canal route between Shalford and Bramley. We are very grateful to the Surrey Archaeological Society which has given a grant towards the excavation at Gosden.

We all know how hard it can be to get volunteers, so we are very pleased to report that Dr Tony Tyrrell has been persuaded to become a director of the Trust, and even more pleased to learn that he will be taking on the duties of Hon Secretary. Julian Morgan will be particularly relieved; he agreed to continue in the role after 'retiring' and has been waiting far too long for a successor. Julian is staying on as a WACT director, concentrating on publications (including *Wey-South*) and IT.

Those of us whose memories go back to the 1970s and 1980s (was it really 30-plus years ago?) will have been very sorry to learn of the death on 11 August of Donald Gibson. Don was a great supporter of the canal project and since joining the Trust in 1974 always put a into his activities on behalf of WACT. When I first knew him, at the end of the 1970s, he was a member of the Council of Management looking after our press and PR. He went on to several other fields of interest, and was latterly responsible for our 'Infoposts', the leaflet dispensers sited at points of note on the canal where there is public access. His support carried on after the end; his family asked for donations in Don's memory to be made to the Trust. We will all miss Don, a quiet but genial man with his heart in the right place.

Bill

Thursday & Sunday Group - Southland and Northwards

At Southland Lock itself, with the completion of the stop plank shelter, there is not much more to do, also that can wait until quieter times.

In the last month two significant steps were achieved towards clearing the 200-plus years of silt accumulation from the DHL (Devil's Hole Lock) pound. First, was the felling, by WRG Forestry, of a number of trees which had hitherto prevented construction of a winding hole for this pound. Over the next few weeks the stumps will be removed and the winding hole can then be shaped up. We are now awaiting the harvesting of Southland field - when that is complete, the timber can be removed from the site.

The other significant step for August was that at last we have finished moving the material which will be used to form a small bank along the edge of the canal down to Loxwood Lock. The reason this has taken so long is that getting to the site with each load of material involved a 25-minute round trip. Now all the necessary material is on site, the bank will be shaped up in the next week or so. Now we can concentrate on getting the rest of the silt out of the pound. The final dressing of the track will be done once Gennets Bridge Lock (GBL) haul road is finished, see next page.



The 4m-wide track of crushed concrete from Oakhurst Farm to GBL (photo: Janet Philips)

At GBL the effort has been to get the haul road in before the weather breaks. Each 100m we put in the Geotex then spread about 120 tonnes of crushed concrete and rolled it in. To enable this work we have used our Hanix 4T, a hired-in 8t excavator and on occasion a 4t excavator and a dumper. We have been using the Trust's roller but it proved unreliable, thanks to rust in the fuel tank. Nevertheless, we were able to use our 'wacker' and for the heaviest work we are hiring in a large roller. Getting all this plant and equipment down a narrow track with no passing places needs very good co-ordination, so well done TSG! 300m is done already, with only another 250m of track to finish. Then we can build the equipment accommodation site, and we will be ready to start the next phase of work.

At some time in the future, when the lock is being built, we will need to divert the bridleway across the canal below the lock. To enable this a pipe has been put in position to ensure that any rain water can be kept well away from the workings. After that we intend to build up the causeway for the bridleway.

Welfare considerations require that we provide toilet facilities on site, and Ace Toilets has sponsored a new Portaloo for us at GBL: thanks Chris. Also, thanks to the landowner, we have been able to install a metered mains water supply, which at this time is giving us warm water. We have also put in 500m of cable and three kiosks for the three-phase electricity supply.

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

Eric Walker

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

Once again, during August we have continued with 'keeping up appearances' at our regular sites. As part of this, we have cleared the growth around the bushes on the steep bank between the canal and the pub garden at Loxwood, discharged the request to restore the lock side arising from the repair to the back pump pipes (hope the grass seed takes!), trimmed the hedge and commenced repainting the notice board by the information centre.

We meet again on 2 September & 16 September, when we hope to tackle some of the outstanding jobs mentioned in last month's WPN.

Nick Wood

Hedgelaying Team

Greetings to you all. Here follows a brief summary of intentions for this season with appropriate probable dates.

1. Hedge trimming at Southland, Baldwins, Drungewick Slipways and Harsfold.
2. Lay last six trees at Southland.
3. Coppicing (probably at Devil's Hole).
4. Lay last 45/50m at Drungewick Slipways.
5. ?

The following dates have been provisionally arranged:

Sept: Wed 11, (Fri 20?), Mon 30
 Oct: Tues 08, Wed 16, Thurs 24
 Nov: (Fri 01?), (Mon 11?), Tues 19, Wed 27
 Dec: Thurs 05, Fri 13

Cheers all

Keith Nichols

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	office@weyandarun.co.uk
David Daniels	Visiting working parties	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	support@weyandarun.co.uk
Michael Bates	Health & Safety Officer	07786 323515	michael_bates@weyandarun.co.uk
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	tsg@weyandarun.co.uk
Ray Pick	MidWeek Working Party	01483 272443	anne.pick@btinternet.com
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Kev Baker	Loxwood Link	02380 861074	loxwoodlink@weyandarun.co.uk
John Smith	Tickner's Depot	01903 235790	depot@weyandarun.co.uk
Tony Clear	Winston's Group	01903 774 301	winstonsgroup@weyandarun.co.uk
Keith Nichols	Hedge laying	01403 753882	hedging@weyandarun.co.uk
Bill Nicholson	Northern working parties	01844 343 369	bill@nwpg.org.uk
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	07777 668 928	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk

Mid Week Working Party

Having not had a lot to say about the Mid Week Working Party, Ray has produced a few notes about recent work, just to show that we have actually been as active as ever. Rumours that the group has been on extended holidays are totally unfounded.

7 August & 14 August: The MWWP cleared reeds, over-hanging branches and shrubs to canal and towpath from Compass Bridge to Farnhurst Bridge area. This involved the use of a flat-bottomed punt and ferrying vegetation down the canal to Fastbridge, where the cut material could be placed on a suitable area.

21 August: The team cleared one section of the canal at Run Common and burnt on site with the permission of the landowner. This section of the canal will be re-visited in approximately three to four weeks.

28 August: Clearing works have now commenced at Pallingham Manor Farm along the canal south of Cook's Bridge in West Sussex.

Note: In view of the amount of the work carried out by the MWWP team, Ray Pick (Leader) has now co-opted two volunteers from the team - Dave Verrall and Bob Smith - to assist with inspections of new sites. In addition they are helping to supervise the works each Wednesday and for two weeks of this month they led the team whilst Ray was on leave. The whole team has been very appreciative of their efforts.

Anne Pick

Winston Harwood Group

We have been spending most of our time and effort at Lordings. The waterwheel proved more difficult to disassemble than to originally assemble! We now have both central half shafts with the bearings, one broken, three good. Work will be easier and quicker now.

At the same time, we caught up with last autumn/winter's clearance work, leading to better viewing for walkers of the stunning countryside and of the canal in water.

The lock section (by the waterwheel) needed a second cut, keeping it looking like a lock, without water.
Tony Clear (for David Junkisson)

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well another month of this glorious summer has come and gone, leaving the team relatively shell-shocked. Yes, we do occasionally venture into the real world which is at the sharp end of WACT activities. We don't just sit about and expose ourselves to the rays from the great eyeball in the sky here at Tickner's, you know.

As if to make up for the previous slow months, August had us rushing hither and thither. Ensuring Dave Kersley didn't do all the graft, we helped transport planks to GBL for the edging of the new path, also helped get the road roller to site although the beast misbehaved itself and needed the timely intervention of Dave K to get it running again. We also did a certain amount of clearance work from the Hunt Park compound, swelling our already large stockpile of wooden offcuts for our bonfire and concrete fence posts for our growing concrete mountain.

In between, we gave the once over to an electric outboard kindly donated by a member of the Trust. It worked a treat, but needed a little bit of tinkering with the clamping system. The only trouble was that we couldn't give it a test run, as someone has pulled the plug out of the canal at Tickner's. We had hoped to try out the motor on the newly refurbished aluminium boat to which we had fitted a transom, but hey-ho, no boating on the canal for us.

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 (plus Thursday and Sunday as required)	Loxwood Link Maintenance	Check with Kev Baker
Every Wednesday	Maintenance sessions at Tickner's Heath Depot	Contact John Smith/Ken Bacon
Tuesdays or Fridays	Winston Harwood Group	Contact Tony Clear for details
15 September	Heritage Open Day, Gosden Aqueduct, Shalford Gunpowder Store, and Brewhurst Mill	Please see latest edition of Wey & Arun CT e-newsletter or contact WACT office
2 October	MWWP boat cruise and party	Contact Geoff Perks, 01403 262855



**Edging planks by courtesy of TH depot; pegs by Martin Baker
(photo: Janet Philips)**

One of our more exhausting days was when Peter Foulger turned up with five rolls of Bentonite sheeting for storage at the depot. Rather than leave them outside, we had previously cleared a space in one of the sheds. The only trouble was that the rolls were 5m long but the door opening to the shed was 3m wide. But with our usual skill and dexterity, not to say a lot of groaning and unprintable language, they were safely put away, perhaps never to see the light of day again. Here I should add that the job would have been made a lot harder, if not

impossible, had it not been for Peter's expert handling of his magic lifting machine. Can we have one, pretty please, Lady Chairperson?

As our stock of wheelbarrows was looking sadly dejected we decided that it was about time they received a bit of TLC. Surprisingly enough we only found one puncture, but we now have a fleet of eight serviceable barrows should any of the working parties need one.

One major achievement of the month was that we managed to prise the vehicle trailers from Dave K's grasp long enough to try out Francis Wellerd's new lighting test rig. What surprised us was that only one of the four trailers needed any electrical attention, so Francis just got down and under, and quick as a flash with the aid of his 'STIFO' (don't ask) box the plant trailer was quickly and efficiently rewired and all systems were go.

Oh yes, one other thing. Rather than rest on our laurels last Wednesday we decided to give the Swedish mixer a run. After exhausting our non-existent repertoire of Swedish oaths, Mick Jones managed to get the beastie to burst into life after just three full cranks of the handle. So, for all you concrete layers out there, she is here, and all ready and waiting to go.

Well that's about it for this month. All the best.

John Smith

Boat (appearance) Group

I am planning to hold another boat cleaning session on Tuesday 3 September 2013 from 10am. With a very busy charter schedule and special events taking place we need to keep the boats looking smart and cleaner than our quick sweep up between trips normally allows. Even an hour or two of your time would be appreciated, tea and coffee supplied.

Anybody able to help with this important task please contact me at sh@weyandarun.co.uk or 07905 670095 or 01273 461729 (please leave a message if no answer). Thanking you in advance for your help.

Steve Harnes

Summer Party for MWWP

Somewhat later than in previous years, the Summer Cruise for members of the MWWP has now been arranged for Wednesday 2 October. *Wiggonholt* will depart from the landing stage behind the Onslow Arms at 10.00am (sharp) to cruise up to Devil's Hole and then back down to turn below Baldwin's Knob lock. The trip should take about two and a half hours, thus getting everybody back to Loxwood in time for lunch. All members, also previous members, of the MWWP and any other WACT workers are welcome to come along, with their partners, for this event.

After the cruise there will be a lunch for those who wish to attend at the Sir Roger Tichborne, hopefully starting about 1.15pm. The menu will be that which the pub is offering at that time, details of which will be advised early in that month to all those who have expressed interest in attending, so that the orders for food can be passed to the kitchen beforehand.

Obviously there may need to be some restriction of numbers, both *Wiggonholt* and the restaurant having only limited capacity, so it will have to be 'first come, first served'. However, if you wish to join the cruise and/or the lunch please advise Geoff Perks (tel: 01403 262855; email greprap@talktalk.net) before Friday 20 September.