

## Editorial

A short one this time - but several pictures to make up for fewer words, so thanks to our photographers; much appreciated. As it's December, then the customary greetings can no longer be avoided - have a great Christmas and New Year season, and continue to work hard in 2014.

*Bill*

## Hedgelaying Team

What Ho All. The above heading should have been changed temporarily to the Coppicing Team, as this is pretty well all we have done so far. Every day that was organised for October and the beginning of November was cancelled due to bad weather. Finally, part of the team (sans leader) got out into the coppice on Friday 2nd November and then a larger team again on Tuesday 19th. We cut 100-plus stakes and binders plus another 40 of each and took them to a suitable point to be collected by the erstwhile Dave Kersley.

I finally managed to meet three of the latest members of our group on the 19th, which proved to be a lovely day. It was a veritable sun trap sitting on the edge of the coppice and field having our breaks, really toasty. I did not see or hear much as I was wielding a chain saw for most of the day.

Hopefully our next outing will be to Southland Lock to finish the laying and tidying up there. That's it from my office (Sir Roger Tich's this time) apart from the following dates:

**Dec** - Thurs 05, Fri 13, (Tues 31?)

**Jan** - Wed 08, Thurs 16, Fri 24

**Feb** - Mon 03, Tues 11, Wed 19, Thurs 27

**Mar** - Fri 07, Mon 17, Tues 25

It therefore only remains for me to say thanks to the new boys: Mike, Steve and Stuart, and last, but not least, Merry Bah Humbug to one and all. Ho! Ho! Ho!

*Keith Nichols*

## Northern Working Party

The Northern Working Party has extended its range of operations south to the Alfold Summit. Our brief is to undertake construction works, as required, on any section of the canal north of the Tickner's crossing.

Our group comprises both members of visiting groups and local volunteers. Thus the group benefits from local support and the experience and skills that workers from the wider restoration movement (WRG et al) bring with them. This was exemplified by the week of work arranged at short notice on the



**The Northern Working Party has recently helped with the work on the summit level at Dunsfold**

## 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
7 January 2014	Navvies' lunch, Foxbridge GC	Contact Geoff Perks, 01403 262855

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summit in early November. Here we were asked to move and spread out some of the silt placed by the contractor on the Burn Site. This kept a team of six plant drivers busy for seven days using two excavators and two large dumpers. To avoid a long and muck-making journey along the runway and past the factory near to Tickner's Depot, a new temporary link with ramps was made. One of the jobs was to keep this route maintained in the bad conditions. The team also constructed a mitigation pond and clearance work to assist the contractor.

We may have to do the job again next year. We have learned from the experience in terms of the best plant to use and to ask for drier weather! Next year we have already booked in eight visiting group weekends, as well as the WACT summer camp. It is hoped to make significant progress on the summit once the dredging is finished, and to continue the work at Hunt Park, Shalford. We welcome new volunteers who are interested in this work and would like to join us in 2014.

*Bill Nicholson*

## Tickner's Heath Depot

Just thought I add a photo to prove that we do occasionally manage to fix something. As you will know from previous missives we have been wrestling with the Kubota mini tractor shown trying to get the beastie to start properly. Well, after successfully completing repairs to the tractor, we turned our attention to the mowing attachment which was in a rather sorry state, we managed to replace the bearings to the roller and give it the once over.

The photo shows the proud team of Francis Wellerd, Ken Bacon, yours truly and Richard Powell after completing a successful road test or should that be grass test. Here I should add that the photographer Mick Jones - another vital team member - shunned the limelight, perhaps he was worried that it might find its way into the Police Gazette? Incidentally, Ken had just returned from his other area of expertise, i.e. Granary loo painter and decorator extraordinaire (bookings are available).



Flushed (no pun intended) with success Francis and Richard turned their attention the 2in and 3in pumps held at the depot. Most needed very little TLC and proved ready to use if and when required.

The team has had a blitz on the nine wheelbarrows lurking in one of the Nissen huts, because many of the tyres lacked sufficient pressure. However they were soon made serviceable, which was achieved as part of the team's fitness regime for strengthening the arm and leg muscles.

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
WACT Office	General enquiries	01403 752403	<a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
David Daniels	Visiting working parties	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	<a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@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	Northern working parties	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>

The team has now turned its attention to two 3in pumps kindly donated to the Trust. It would seem that they are in need of some attention, and as Peter Foulger put it: "Will keep the team occupied during the wet winter months". Thanks Peter.

Well that's about it for the time being, just to sign off and wish everyone out there the compliments of the season. All the best.

*John Smith*

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

Sometimes plans do work out! At our first meeting we completed our commitment to Eric by finishing the seeding of both sides of Southland lock. This meant for our second outing we were able to spend a full day cutting up the large fallen ash tree at Newbridge (see photos) and loading the logs on the landowner's trailer for two trips to his storage point. Whilst this may be regular work for other larger groups, this is the first time we have tackled such big task, which took until dusk, so we are a bit proud of ourselves! Special thanks are due to Martin for working so hard all day with his two chainsaws.

We meet again on 16 December to start work in Sidney Wood, cutting back the growth of brambles and tree branches on the banks of the canal, which will have arisen since our last visit in February.

The Group wishes all WACT navvies a very happy Christmas.

*Nick Wood*



Two pictures of our work, taken by Digby Ridge.

Above: Tree secured before start of work; Right: Job almost done

## Workers' Lunch

As reported last month, arrangements are in hand for the traditional Workers' Lunch to be held on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at Foxbridge Golf Club, where we were so well looked after twelve months ago. Should anybody be in doubt about this location drive south from the Onslow Arms in Loxwood for almost ½ mile, turn right (signed to Foxbridge Golf Club) and keep ahead for almost 1¼ miles passing two turnings and the Oaktree Stores on your right to reach and take the first turning on the left (again signed to the Golf Club) for some 600 yards before turning left into the Club's large car park.

The event is timed at 12.30 for 1.00 pm, and past and present navvies are welcome to bring their partners to meet their fellow workers. The menu is shown below and those wishing to attend are asked to complete and return the following form (or a copy thereof) to Geoff Perks, 61 Ashleigh Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2LE together with a cheque for the appropriate amount - this should be made out to "G R E Perks".

You may opt for either two or three courses, the relevant prices, including the usual tip, being -

Two courses    £14.25;            Three courses            £17.55

*Geoff Perks*

## Navvies' Lunch - 7 January 2014 - Booking Form

Name ..... Telephone .....

Please reserve a place for me at the Navvies Lunch on Tuesday 7 January. I have ticked my selections on the menu below and enclose a cheque for the appropriate amount made out to "G R E Perks".

### STARTERS

- Curried Parsnip Soup
- Creamy Stilton Mushrooms
- Breaded Butterfly Prawns with chilli jam on leaves

### MAIN COURSES

- Boeuf Bourignon
- Chicken and Ham Pie
- Cod in Spinach with Parma Ham
- (all served with Creamed Potatoes and Fresh Vegetables)

### DESSERTS

- Sticky Toffee Pudding
- Lemon and Lime Mousse
- Vanilla Pannecotta with fruit

Coffee and Mints

The selection for any partner accompanying you should be included on the same form.

*Please return to Geoff Perks (as above)*