

### Editorial

Not a lot to report from our volunteer working parties this month. That's not to say they haven't been active - despite the post-camp lull, also known as the the summer holidays, there is plenty of preparation going on for autumn, when the hedging (among other things) season resumes. The Trust's contractors, on the other hand, have been working hard at both Compasses Bridge and Gennets Bridge Lock. Both structures are starting to take shape, and there will soon be plenty for our skilled volunteers to undertake.

On 22 August the Trust remembered the late Peter Flatter, whose help and generosity contributed so much to both the Canal Centre and the *Wiggonholt* trip boat. Prior to the annual Wiggonholt Association boat trip a plaque was unveiled at the Canal Centre.

*Bill*

### Thursday and Sunday Group

At Gennets Bridge Lock the contractor's concreting team is now putting up the lock walls. Initially there are ten lifts, each 3m (9ft 10in) high, and four of those are in place. The base has been poured, including the foundation for the bridleway bridge. Danilo goes each morning to see what the contractors need and late afternoon to check that the fence is still doing its job of keeping the protected species out.

The towpath work from Brewhurst Lane to Birch Copse has gone well. The only remaining task is to cover the sand bags with clay. This work was funded by the Wey & Arun CT itself, and so impressed was the WSCC Rights of Way department that WACT has now been offered a grant to do the bridleway/towpath from Brewhurst Lock to Brewhurst Lane. Will the winter flood overtop the new banks between Brewhurst Lock and Birch Copse? We shall see.

Next year we should be able to fill the whole of the navigable section to the design (or summer) water level at the beginning of the season, maybe for the first time.

Charles Barron has been making some bird boxes which come without CCTV, which could be fitted and entertain everyone. If you would like one, in return for a donation to pay for the wood, please contact the TSG. And here a reminder that the nests should be cleaned out of the boxes in winter.

The Thursday and Sunday Group meets at 09:30. The TSG has a work briefing form emailed out before the working day. Please email Eric Walker if you want to get on that circulation list.

*Eric Walker*

Name	Group/Project	Tel	e-mail
Julian Cheek	Maintenance coordination	01483 505566	<a href="mailto:julian_cheek@weyandarun.co.uk">julian_cheek@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
David Daniels / Northern Office	Visiting working parties	01483 505566 Mon-Thurs 8.30-12.30pm	<a href="mailto:support@weyandarun.co.uk">support@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Dave Evans	Health & Safety Officer		<a href="mailto:compasses@weyandarun.co.uk">compasses@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Eric Walker	Loxwood Projects	07717 855340	<a href="mailto:tsg@weyandarun.co.uk">tsg@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Margaret Darvill	MidWeek Working Party	01483 894606	<a href="mailto:margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk">margaret_darvill@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
John Empringham	Monday Group	01483 562657	<a href="mailto:mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk">mondaygroup@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
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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>
Dave Evans	Summit working party		<a href="mailto:compasses@weyandarun.co.uk">compasses@weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Bill Thomson	Working Party News	01903 744767	<a href="mailto:bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk">bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk</a>

## The Mrs Bucket Group (keeping up appearances on Mondays)

The beginning of August saw us making a start on rubbing down and painting Haybarn Swing Bridge. One full day so far, but there is more to do. It does look a lot more cared for now after our efforts. We have yet to determine a suitable system of work to allow us to paint the bottom of the north side of the bridge without falling into the canal.

On both outings this month two members of the group have been clearing the vegetation covering Gosden aqueduct, at the request of Philip Oliver. They have done as much as possible given the restricted access.

In addition to visits to our regular sites we mowed the permissive path at Drungewick and gave the lock some TLC.

Further progress has been made by a member of our group in producing laminated cards to replace the leaflets in various locations along the canal as mentioned in the June WPN. They are now in place at Haybarn, Rowner, Drungewick aqueduct, Loxwood new, Devils hole and Southland locks. They describe the location and are intended to be replaced in the box after reading for the benefit of others.

We meet again on 7 September and 21 September, if anyone would like to join us.

*Nick Wood*

## Tickner's Heath Depot

Did I mention last month that things were a trifle slack here at the outpost of the WACT empire? Well, its even slacker now. Work seems to have dried up virtually to nowt. You lot out there at the sharp end are obviously looking after the WACT kit you are using or is it that no one out there is actually working (controversial). Only joking - I know you are working because

Dave K only pays flying visits to depot on Wednesdays now before disappearing to exotic location like Pallingham and points north.

Just to prove that we have not been completely idle drinking tea and coffee all the time whilst watching the preparations for 'Wings and Wheels', we have managed to get a jockey wheel for the large flat-bed trailer. This should make things easier when coupling it up to a vehicle. We also fitted a new battery to our 4KVA diesel generator, although this will need further inspection as the engine always needs bleeding prior to starting.

We also took advantage of what good weather we had to start painting our workshop doors which had more bare wood on them than paint and so to preserve them for the next millennium.

So all in all quite a quiet month

*John Smith*

## Hunt Park Platform Opening

Don't forget the formal opening of the Hunt Park viewing platform on 24 October, midday - see you there, particularly if you haven't visited this site before.



**The depot manager waving goodbye to his WACT productivity bonus**

## 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	Details from Margaret Darvill
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	Work in Lording's area	Contact Tony Clear for details
Various Tuesdays	Hedge Laying	Contact Keith Nichols
Third Saturday of the month	Summit level	Contact Dave Evans
24 October	Autumn Meeting	See latest <i>Wey-South</i>