

Editorial

The weather has been much kinder to WACT than in the recent past, and the annual Summer Camp tackled several tasks on the summit level. These included rebuilding a land drain outfall near Compasses Bridge. Such land drains as this - there are several on the summit level - provide a vital supply of water to the canal. Unfortunately they do become blocked and fall into disrepair, so as the use of the summit pound increases this will become yet another regular duty for our volunteer work parties. We are very grateful to the camp participants, under leader George Whitehead, for their help.

Another success to report in June was the annual Poddle sponsored walk, the new organising team for which managed to attract over 150 walkers and promises to bring in more than £7,000.

But perhaps our biggest event, and something which involved just about all of our volunteer work parties in the preparation, was the Southland Lock opening on 21 June. It rained at the right time, to top up the canal, and the sun shone for the ceremony. It attracted some wonderful publicity, including a spot on the BBC TV news and on the BBC News website.

Bill

The Mrs Bucket Group - keeping up appearances on Mondays

Holidays in June meant that numbers were depleted, but to compensate for that the group held three rather than two outings. Apart from giving attention to our regular sites, a visit was made to Southland Lock in preparation for the opening day. In addition the group attended Drungewick lock which was well overgrown and spent a considerable time tidying up the site as well as cutting the towpath from the aqueduct site.

We meet again on 7 and 21 July. Likely to be at our regular sites, John Empringham will confirm.

Nick Wood

Tickner's Heath Depot

Well, flaming June has been and gone and even though the month saw quite a few of the team taking advantage of the fine? weather, taking a break away from the high pressure environment which is Tickners Heath Depot but we did still manage to do some work.

Earlier in the month we received a kind donation of two outboard motors which the team immediately set upon to ensure they were ready for use by the trust members, should they require them. The first, a Mariner, proved to be no problem and after an initial service it burst into life. The other, a larger 360cc Mercury, proved a different proposition. It was found that the throttle had seized and it took a bit of head scratching before Mick Jones and the team managed to free it. Then the beastie refused to start and only ran properly after the whole team had used their collective heads together to get it running. So now we have two very high powered outboards for use on the canal.

A lot of the month was spent preparing for the summer camp, the Southland opening and the Poddle. Hopefully our efforts to try as best we could to ensure that volunteers and organisers had the equipment they required and that it was delivered to the right place proved successful.

As the weather was set fair we took advantage of some spare time to do a little gardening around the depot. Mind you, you wouldn't think it as nature was so quick to undo our efforts. So gardening is another thing to add to our regular to-do list.

Well that's about it for this month. Doesn't sound a lot when you put it down on paper but I think we did keep busy over the month. That's all folks, all the best.

John Smith

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

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Hedgelaying Group

Guten Tag meine Damen und Herren. So who wants to be a group leader? Planning, planning and planning! Things/work done can be undone so easily by other groups without the knowledge of what's happened on a site. Mistakes can be made. Lack of volunteers can upset or scupper work planned.

Anyway, yes, I am still at it, as for the last six work days, the HLG has been down to yours truly, so things are taking longer than expected. I haven't finished at the slipways as yet and then I've one day back at Brewhurst lock and ? days in the two coppices.

Digging up brambles is a soul destroying job, so when taking a break it has been good to see lots of butterflies, damselflies, dragonflies, large and very small fish and a marvellous air display courtesy of two wheeling buzzards.

Well, "That's All Folks" but I shall "Carry On Regardless" with Sid James, Charles Hawtrey, Hattie Jacques and.....

What? They are all dead!

It's just me then?

From the mobile office, 24 June, at Drungewick Slipways.

Keith Nichols

Mid Week Working Party

The first two Wednesdays of June were spent preparing for the opening of Southland Lock. The first week involved clearing overhanging vegetation along the towpath from Loxwood Lock to Southland Lock and brush cutting the towpath bank.

For the second Wednesday of the month we based ourselves in Paddock Wood. We used our brand new four-wheeled brush cutter for the first time to cut the long grass in the field so that it would be ready for the erection of the opening ceremony marquees. The brush cutter is a great asset to the team. We hope that Bob and Dave will let others play with it next time it is used. Others members of the group cleared and tidied around Southland Lock and the towpath towards Hillcroft.

For the next Wednesday of the month the MWWP worked on the length from Hillcroft to Gennets, removing overhanging vegetation from the bridleway to make it easier for walkers and horse riders.

Dave Verrall, on behalf of Ray Pick

Thursday and Sunday Group - Southland and GBL

The Thursday & Sunday Group meets at 09:30. Please get in touch with Eric Walker to learn where work is taking place - this is frequently on several different sites.

Eric Walker



Southland Lock reopening - local landowner Mr Simon Carter cuts the tape (Julian Morgan)

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	01903 744767	bill_thomson@weyandarun.co.uk