

# WENDOVER ARM NEWS

## *Restoring the Wendover Canal*





**BRADLEY & JONES**

**F U N E R A L     D I R E C T O R S**

**Renfrew Cottage Back Street Wendover HP22 6EB**

**email: [tim@bradleyandjones.co.uk](mailto:tim@bradleyandjones.co.uk)**

**telephone: 01296 622975**



# Contents



Chairman's Report	5	Obituary, John Hopkins	18
Membership Report	6	Where there's a will...	21
Volunteer Profile: Bob Wheal	8	100 Club Winners	22
Operations Report	9	Luke the Magpie...with a lot of bottle!	23
Donation Form and information	14	Plant Britain	21
For Sale, WAT clothing	16	Leanda is moving on...	26
Volunteer Opportunities	17	Boat Club goes Nuts, again.	26

## Your contacts on the Trust

Chairman Chris Sargeant chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Sales Director Bob Wheal sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Hon. Secretary John Rowe honsec@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Webmaster, Clive Johnson webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Treasurer, Clive Wilson treasurer@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Minutes Secretary and IWA Nominee Jenny Brice events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Operations Director, Tony Bardwell operations@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Newsletter Editor, Carol Williams newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Publicity Director, Nigel Williams publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Purchasing Director, Peter Lockett purchasing@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Membership Secretary, Peter Bird membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Social Media Director, Ben Grinsted socialmedia@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Community Engagement, Peter Elwin peter.elwin@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk	Finance group & Fundraising, Doug Pell doug.pell@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

## Council members 2020/21

- \* Chris Sargeant – Chairman
- \* Clive Wilson – Treasurer
- \* Tony Bardwell – Operations
- \* John Rowe – Honorary Secretary
- \* Peter Bird– Membership
- \* Bob Wheal – Sales
- \* Peter Lockett – Purchasing
- \* Clive Johnson – Website and talks
- \* Carol Williams – Newsletter
- \* Nigel Williams – Publicity
- \* Ben Grinsted – IT and Social Media
- \* Jenny Brice – IWA Nominee & Minutes Secretary
- \* Peter Elwin – Community Engagement
- \* Doug Pell – Finance Group & Fundraising



**HEYGATES**  
FLOUR MILLERS

	<b>Head Office (Bugbrooke)</b> T: 01604 830381 F: 01604 831865	W: <a href="http://www.heygates.co.uk">www.heygates.co.uk</a> W: <a href="http://heygatesfeeds.co.uk">heygatesfeeds.co.uk</a> W: <a href="http://heygategrain.co.uk">heygategrain.co.uk</a>
---	--	---

## Chairman's Column

We are coming into Spring as I write and the nights are getting lighter already.

Due to the virus situation and for the well being of our volunteers, work on site is currently suspended, but, a sense of optimism is in the air – yes, we are looking forward to beginning to come out of the longest lock down of the virus pandemic !

We hope to restart work on the canal by April, by when lockdown restrictions should have eased and the vaccination programme well advanced.

Extended work parties last summer and autumn saw enormous progress with Whitehouses virtually complete and work around bridge 4 and the adjacent swing bridge abutments at an advanced stage.

Towards the end of the year we planted another 400 new trees near Whitehouses and by the winding hole at Lt Tring which will help to increase bio diversity and encourage wild life on our banks. These are in addition to 150 planted the previous year.

We are virtually ready to plan re-watering between the two wooden footbridges, 4 & 4a, once the situation allows and hope to achieve it this year.

Plans for how to deal with removing the old tip at Lt Tring are well advanced and by the time you read this a trial excavation should be underway to prove the method works.

With the help of Wendover Parish Council, CRT and the Wendover Community Board an application for funding to help restore the badly eroded tow path from Wharf road in Wendover has been submitted.



The towpath is very heavily used by children going to the adjacent schools, commuters heading to the station, and countless walkers, joggers and cyclists enjoying their leisure. There will be benefits all round if the bid is successful – a decision is due mid March.

There used to be collecting tins on site during work parties for instant donations by people passing by. In this increasingly cashless world we are introducing QR codes which can be scanned with your mobile phone to enable instant donations to be made to a dedicated account linked to our systems – there's modern ! Should be in operation soon.

Whilst we encourage electronic payments for subscriptions etc. we do still accept cheques, but paying them is a problem as more bank branches close. To meet this challenge we have enhanced our new finance system so we can now scan cheques and pay them in electronically with details recorded instantly on our system and

bank statements. This is 18<sup>th</sup> century restoration using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology !

Huge thanks to all our colleagues who are making these things happen.

Whilst Trust finances are generally in good shape we still need quite a large sum, around £250k, to meet the costs of both re-lining from bridge 4 back to Little Tring and removing the old Tip.

If you can help by way of a donation or would like to set up a legacy please do get in touch – my email and the trust phone number are at the foot of this piece.

Thank you all, Council colleagues, volunteers and members, for your support – lets all look forward to another year of achievement and to putting lockdowns behind us!



**Chris Sargeant , Chairman**

[chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

Mobile: 07547 181 857 - leave a message and we will return your call

## Membership Report

Memberships as dated on the 25th January 2021.

No. of Memberships	Single	Family	Honorary
Ordinary	183	169	
Corporate	15	0	7
Life	43	25	
Honorary	4	4	
<b>Total Memberships</b>	<b>450</b>		
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>648</b>		

We have had 8 new members since November but a similar number of memberships have lapsed so the membership has stayed reasonably stable.



## Updating our systems

With the enforced slowdown during 2020 we have turned our attention to the administration of the trust. As we have grown (thanks due to you all) we have exceeded, the limits of managing our membership records manually by card index and spreadsheet (yes the quill pens have now finally gone !)



We would like to share what we have been preparing 'behind the scenes'. Following extensive research we will shortly be introducing a new membership system to handle subscription reminders and renewals and also give access to the newsletters, updates with events and other details.

This will link up with our finance system and improve record keeping.

Members will be able to control and update their own details as necessary by logging on to their own account and setting their own passwords (families are included under the member account). Options such a Gift Aid, making donations etc will also be available.

We will specifically ask family members to check their partners' details as we have incomplete records in this area.

If you don't have an email please be assured that you will still get full membership rights, we just have to print everything off and post it but clearly it would be a great contribution to the WAT if you would set an account up. As you might imagine, handling cheques and banking over the last year has been difficult, not least because of branch closures and lockdowns and we would like to encourage all members to pay by Direct Debit, you will be able to do this all through your new account.. We anticipate that renewals may also be made by credit or debit card in the near future but, just at the moment, this option is not available. However, Donations may be made by credit or debit card.



We will of course still accept cheques and standing orders where you do not have on line access – funding the restoration is our key objective.

As you can see we have been busy !

I would now like to ask you for your help to get the system working for the benefit of the trust – please see the enclosed letter which gives full details.

Thank you all.

**Peter Bird, Membership Secretary &  
Chris Sargeant, Chairman**

## Volunteer Profile: Bob Wheal. Sales Director

My school in Battersea organised an exchange arrangement to encourage dialogue between pupils, and I was allocated Eric in Holland as a pen friend. That's how I found myself in beautiful Delft on a short visit, waiting for my A level results to come through.

Best to gloss over the results I did get.

More or less on a whim, I decided to stay, enjoy a 'gap year' and try again the next September. Within three weeks I had found a place to live, applied for and gained a job (Photographic Laboratory Technician in the International Training Centre for Aerial Survey, Delft – a mouthful in English let alone Dutch!) and permission to remain. All I had to do after that was show up at the local police station and tell them I was still there. Try that now! It's good that the pupils came from all over the globe with a common language of English, as my Dutch was non-existent.

I came home later the next year to take my place at University, but without my bike (Dutch cobblestones saw to that!), speaking conversational Dutch, and with my wife-to-be heading to London to stay with my folks while I went



North. We were married on July 30th 1966. Yes, I am not a football fan, and we truly knew nothing about the World Cup ...

College was interesting. Again a foreign stay, this

time Scotland, learning about Natural Philosophy (which I discovered meant Physics) and trying to decipher the local Glaswegian accent. Our first home was an interesting dwelling, located on the edge of an up and coming neighbourhood called the Gorbals.

My career path thereafter included working for American, then Liechtensteinian, then German Companies, moving from Scotland to Bedford to Linslade in the process. The work involved producing semiconductor microelectronic components, and later equipment for producing and monitoring extreme vacuum processes (i.e. outer-space type vacuum). It all seemed very mundane at the time, though.

Skip forward several years to the mid 70's and again we were transported into what seemed like another world - the world of the canals. A family holiday on a hire boat from Weedon sealed our fate. Floating along through semi-hidden but beautiful countryside,

passing through historic locations, seeing the birdlife and farms from a whole new perspective, and experiencing modern usage of 19th century engineering, all added up to way of life worth relishing. Today we call it heritage, difficult to define but so rewarding to preserve.

So it was a forgone conclusion that when boating friend Roger Lewis invited us to become members of something called Wendover Arm Trust, we readily agreed. Johanna was equally smitten, and in any case when

Roger asked you to do something it was always best to agree...

That was a few years ago, now. Since then we have helped organise Festivals, held innumerable meetings, made many friends, and achieved a lot in terms of restoring this beautiful and valuable chunk of local history and future benefit.

Fine words, maybe, but the Wendover Arm deserves nothing less.

Bob Wheal, Sales Director

## Operations Report

An historic first step has been taken to remove the last barrier to rewatering the whole canal, by removing part of the refuse infill at Little Tring.

### The first stage of excavating and removing the Historic refuse tip

The trial excavation and transport of the tip contents to a remediation site, has now been completed.

#### ***Before:***

*The end of the winding hole is visible at the far end. The tip material was previously excavated and stockpiled on site and was the result of humanely moving a Badger set*





**After:**

*The section from the yellow blob (Me!) back to the red fence was excavated. The end of the winding hole is just below the picture edge*

*Another view of the excavation with the Winding hole end just below the bottom right corner of the picture*



One of the first trucks being loaded ready for the trip to Peterborough. In all, 420 tonnes were shipped out

The Trial project was completed by a Team consisting of The Canal and River Trust, Ebsford Environmental, Aegean PLC and the Wendover Arm Trust. Other contractors supplied the eight-wheeled trucks and the site machines.

Although a simple project in principle: - dig the waste up, put it in the trucks and deliver it to the Aegean plant at Peterborough, there were many constraints and imperatives that had to be resolved. The main bulk of the rubbish dump is exactly that, domestic waste deposited around 1920 by the local Town Council back then, in agreement with the Grand Junction Canal Company, who had effectively abandoned and dried out the canal section.

After many samples of the tip had been analysed it was found that the tip material itself was classed as a low-level hazard. However, the coal tar which had been put on the banks to stop leakage was found to be very hazardous which meant that it was difficult and potentially very expensive to dispose of. The solution was to remove all the low-level hazardous material and leave the coal tar behind. The low-level hazardous material would be taken to a specialist plant to be mixed with non-hazardous material and thus diluted sufficiently to be taken to landfill.



So, the main constraint was that the low hazardous materials must be taken to the remediation plant at Peterborough, and the imperative was that NO coal tar contamination could be allowed in that material. The main body of the excavation with a large excavator was relatively simple but removing the last layer of refuse from the coal tar layer and leaving the coal tar intact requires expert excavator driving using a much smaller machine in the excavated canal bed.

The coal tar lining was not part of the excavation project and you might ask about what we intend to do with that. We took soil samples from under the undisturbed coal tar layer and discovered that, even

though the tar had been in contact with the soil for over 100 years, that there were no signs of contamination or leaching into the soil below. When you think about it, a material soluble in water would not have been useful to seal the banks and bed against leakage! The canal profile that is required for relining and waterproofing with modern materials is generally bigger and a different shape than the coal tar lined traditional bowl shape from 100 years ago. Thus, the coal tar must be removed from the banks before lining work can begin. Knowing that the

material is effectively inert as far as soil contamination is concerned means that we can move the material around on site and bury it under the bed and banks before applying the new liner system.



That is not the end of the story because a lot of the spoil created during reprofiling and relining does contain coal tar. Some of this occurred when the coal tar was damaged over the years by the sun and frost/ice. None of this mixed spoil can leave the site and possible separation methods have been reviewed and found to be impractical. Since we will inevitably have too much spoil after reprofiling, the plan is to export the uncontaminated spoil from where we carefully removed the coal tar in the rubbish tip area. This material can go to a local landfill site with a reasonably low export cost due to less transport distance.

### **Excavating and removing the Historic refuse tip: The bigger project.**

For the removal of the bulk of the tip, the information obtained from the Trial Project will be used to draw up the Excavation and removal Project plan. Our dedicated Tip removal project Group are evaluating the results of the

Trial.

We are expecting to start work on the main part of the Tip clearance in June this year.

## **Health and Safety**



We have had a few volunteers working on site from time to time but there have been no reported accident or mishaps. The Canal and River Trust have told us that they must be informed of any

accidents or incidents within 72 hours.

The Bentomat handling excavator attachment is now being made. It will take an uncut roll and place it directly along the canal bank at 45 degrees. This will make the task easier with less labour and heavy lifting. The required stress calculations have been done for safety and insurance of a lifting tool.

An FAW (First Aid at Work) training course has been booked for 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>. and 17<sup>th</sup> July.

The existing First Aid trained Volunteers will need a 2-day refresher course and new volunteers will need the three-day

course. We already have some new people come forward to be trained but there are places for more: - without a First Aider on site we cannot work!

### Volunteer plant driver enquiry

Part of the planning and costing for the whole Tip removal has shown that, using volunteer labour to excavate and transport the spoil on site for loading into trucks, would make a major cost saving compared to a subcontract company.

We are estimating that the excavation process will take somewhere between four and five weeks and will be a virtually nonstop programme including weekends. WAT does have several drivers, but the project is unlikely to work unless we can get external volunteer drivers. We will need volunteers who have a 9-tonne articulated dumper (25 WRC) certificate and those who have a 10B (over 7 tonne) certificate. There will be opportunities for drivers who hold a 10A certificate, but those people will need to have some experience.



As mentioned above we are targeting June as the start date and that may overlap with other voluntary organisations working plans who also want to get going again. We are looking for a general response at this stage to decide if this plan is viable or not. Please let me know if you can help, even if it is for one day!

Become A Volunteer

### April Work Party

With a lot of the restrictions being reduced regarding Covid 19 and most of our volunteers having been vaccinated, we are planning to start another work party on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April.

The normal volunteer schedule will be sent out soon.

This does all depend on the

Government “roadmap” dates not being changed due to the C19 misbehaving itself.

Please check the website for up to date information.

Tony Bardwell’s Operation Report

## Donation to the Wendover Arm Trust



Please complete and send to:

**WAT Membership Secretary, Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. HP5 1WA**

I would like to make a donation to the Wendover Arm Trust of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to **Wendover Arm Trust**.

### Gift Aid Declaration

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.**

I want to **Gift Aid** my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the last 4 years to **Wendover Arm Trust**. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

**TITLE** \_\_\_\_\_

**FORENAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**SURNAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**POST CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

I am not currently a Trust member but would be interested in joining? **Yes/ No**

Donations can also be made online using BACS to:

Yorkshire Bank account **67957123** Sort Code: **05-04-61**

Payment Reference: Surname and/or Membership Number (if applicable)

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **WENDOVER ARM TRUST.**

A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England No. 2353392, Registered Charity No. 801190  
Registered Office: **Wendover Arm Trust, Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1WA**

Do you shop online with Amazon or one of thousands of other shops?

If so, here are two ways you can raise funds for us, at no cost to yourself.



If you're an Amazon shopper, simply by accessing Amazon in a different way, you can help us raise more money.

Register with [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and nominate Wendover Arm Trust. Then sit back as Amazon donates 0.5% to us, thank you!

Alternatively, we have also encouraged the use of easyfundraising for many years, which has to date raised £2,782.19 from 69 supporters -what a contribution!



Easyfundraising is a free way of raising money to swell our funds simply by shopping online, there are over 4,200 retailers subscribing to the cause including Argos, John Lewis, Amazon, M & S, Waitrose. The amount of donation is listed against each retailer and is either a percentage of the purchase price (and it can be up to 5%) or a fixed amount. For details, download the app or follow the steps below:

Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

- Go to 'Search for a Good Cause'
- Enter 'Wendover Arm Trust'
- Press 'Support this Cause'
- Enter your details
- Install 'Find and Remind' if you wish



Further details available here:

<https://wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/about-us/information-leaflets>

## For Sale - WAT Clothing



This is a unique opportunity to get high quality clothing at a ridiculous price – and still support the Trust!

### All WAT Clothing up to half price

- White Branded T Shirts – sizes S to 3XL – each £4.50
- Maroon Branded Polo Shirts – sizes S to 3XL – each £6.50
- Maroon Branded Sweatshirts – sizes S to 2XL – each £9

Please note post/packing to be added at cost

To order: email [sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) or call 07860 286 155 for size availability.

All clothing is new and carries the WAT logo and name  
Size chart

	T Shirt	Polo	Sweat
S	35-37 inch	36-38 inch	36 inch
M	38-40 inch	38-40 inch	38-40 inch
L	41-43 inch	n/a	42 inch
XL	44-46 inch	44-46 inch	44-46 inch
XXL	47-49 inch	46-48 inch	47-49 inch
XXXL	50-52 inch	50 inch	n/a

Don't Miss Out. Offer ends April.



## Volunteer opportunities

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

### Volunteer - Leaflet Box

Are you a walker who regularly walks along the towpath past the wooden foot bridge 4? This may be on your allocated allowed exercise or out with your dog.

WAT have installed a leaflet box on the bridge, containing information for the many new walkers who are now passing by. We are looking for a volunteer to keep the box filled on a regular basis. A supply of leaflets for this purpose can be delivered to your home.



If you can help please contact Jenny at [events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

### Volunteer - Information Manager



Can you help us? We are looking for one or two volunteers to help us with on line digital storage of our documents and pictures and to keep them secure but accessible when required.

The role will involve helping setting up and managing procedures for naming of documents/ pictures and controlling permissions for access to them by members of Council, our sub committees and working groups as required.

The documents are mainly reports and minutes of meetings and pictures record the progress of the restoration and events etc

In both, naming and dating in a consistent manner will be essential to enable us to search and find material in future.



If you think you can help us please do get in touch with by emailing [chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) or ring 07547 181 857, leave a message and we will get back to you. Thank you.

## Obituary, John Hopkins 17.05.1936 - 06.02.2021



Music and Boating were John's great passions during his younger years. Brought up in the small town of Winslow in Buckinghamshire, he attended the Royal Latin School from 1946 - 1953 before following an engineering apprenticeship. Three years in the RAF followed and while stationed in Singapore he and some friends formed a dance band which, on their return to the UK, morphed into the Barron Knights. When the group turned pro in the early sixties John left to pursue his career and to marry Chris.

Their interest in waterways developed and they ordered a Charlie Fox hull, which must have been ground breaking as it was only No 2! Fitted out with the help of their families it was eventually moored at Furnace Wharf in Northamptonshire and a base for serious and extensive cruising on much of the canal system.

John served as Eastern Region Chairman for the Inland Waterways Association from 1978, a post he held for eight years. He was also active in the Milton Keynes Urban Aid Scheme at this time and spearheaded the first canal festival in that location.

New life, new boat, saw Winslow Revival on the water. She was built by Graham Edgson at Norton Canes and duly came home to Furnace Wharf in 1992. We enjoyed local cruising, weekending to national rallies and other events during the nineties. Of high priority was our interest in the restoration being undertaken on the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union and we served on its council. During this period we were preparing a submission to apply for funding from the National Lottery to further restoration. Our boat was moored nearby and I fetched John's copy of Tim Rolt's *Narrowboat*, a bible for early enthusiasts, and found the chapter



*John Hopkins on Winslow Towed backwards down the Wendover Arm about 1975.*

describing our stretch of canal, from which I believe we quoted. There was much celebration when our bid was completed. The history of that era is well recalled by Roger in the last issue and heralded the huge undertaking ahead. John held the position of Honorary Secretary, serving on council for nine years - until 2007.

Our (step) daughter and family relocated to Australia 2000 and we visited many times. Boating was becoming more difficult physically and Winslow Revival was sold, very reluctantly, ahead of our emigration in 2008.

A couple of short cruises on a River Murray houseboat were fun - and a different experience with up to fifty metres bank to bank. John was less skilled at mooring a six berth front on and tying up to distant trees than tucking in by the towpath! Here he is when offered a steer of one of three hire boats which made up an extended family Christmas experience a few years ago. When it came to disembarking John's walker was no match for the steep grassy river bank and we were rescued by a boat trip. The adventure ended in style amid cheers of encouragement from all the passengers.

His great interest in waterways and railways continued until very recently fuelled by repeated repeats of Portillo's travels. Thank you Michael.

John became a resident at an Anglicare nursing home in 2019 when physical and other changes made living at home unsafe. Being separated from him through lockdowns was difficult, much helped by emails and photos from our six grandchildren, spread across the world, collected into folders which he shared with staff and residents.



To the end of his life a mention of great grandson Alfie would get his attention and a big smile.

He showed unstinting love towards and interest in the grandchildren as they grew. We shared their first flights and boating experiences, hosted birthday parties and weekends away always with John's mantra to share "the wonders of the world around us" in mind.



We, his extended family, miss him so much and cherish many, and varied, memories we made together.

A wide circle of friends too will recall his outgoing, sometimes outrageous but never dull, personality. His generosity in sharing the boating experience with family and friends is legendary, and how useful to have help - and an opportunity to share the history of the system to a captive audience!

A memorial is planned on the Wendover Arm of the canal by way of a seat dedicated in his memory. This will be in an area of parkland and will offer a rest to walkers. Furthering the ongoing restoration through donations is vital and to do so in the name of John Hopkins, The Winslow Boy (with apologies to Terence Rattigan) is very fitting.



We're raising funds to aid restoration of the Wendover Arm in memory of John Hopkins..

Please donate to the JustGiving Crowdfunding Page and help make it happen:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jane-lloyd-525?utm\\_id=1&utm\\_term=93pqzVK7P](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jane-lloyd-525?utm_id=1&utm_term=93pqzVK7P)

Open camera on smart phone and point at QR code above and it will take you to JustGiving page.

Thanks for your support.

Renee Hopkins

## Where there's a will....

'Legacy – something handed down from the past'. That's a dictionary definition, and probably the first that comes to mind.

Surely though, it's better to think of legacy as something preserved for the future, to keep the memory alive indefinitely, and for future generations to benefit from?

Whether it for personal well-being, for altruistic motives, or even as a tax break, the result is the same. A well targeted legacy will remain as evidence of a benefit to all, and a memorial and reminder of the donor.

As a case in point, the Trust has been the beneficiary of a few generous legacies in the past, which have helped the restoration to continue unhindered while the economy has faltered and costs have risen.

However, let's not run away with the conclusion that a legacy has to be a grand gesture - a property left in trust, a share portfolio, an heirloom, perhaps. A true legacy *can* be a major item like a large bequest, but equally it can be a much more modest donation of cash, shares, or property. It doesn't matter.



What does matter is that if you really think our restoration is worthwhile, if you think our volunteers are doing a worthwhile job, and if you think the work is completed to a high standard worthy of marking with a legacy donation, then you have the means to help, it along.

At the Trust, we are not legal specialists in inheritance planning. Nor would we consider ourselves competent in giving advice on how to draw up a will and what to put in it. We can only state what is obvious – if you are planning a will (and we all should to avoid unnecessary hassle and hardship to our loved ones) then you should seek professional advice. Go see a solicitor.

Much is said and written about the potential cost of having a will written. It's not necessarily that bad - what is not so much described is the sense of relief and satisfaction in the knowledge that a properly written will helps avoid inter-familial disputes, and makes sure that your current wishes are carried out when you are no longer around to make it happen.

Whether or not you include the Wendover Arm Trust in your will, please write one!

Bob Wheal,  
Sales Director

## Club 100 Lottery

This draw was made at the January council meeting.

The winners were....



Mr & Mrs Tibbett. £206.40



Mr & Mrs Lynch , £86.00



Mrs Wheal , £34.40

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all members who take part in the Club 100 lottery. Thanks to your support the scheme has raised well over £20,000 for restoration funds since it began in 1997.

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning next time, joining Club 100 couldn't be easier. Simply complete the application form and arrange payment (cheque, BACS transfer or standing order). Each lucky number costing £15 per year is entered into 4 quarterly draws. The jackpot is directly proportionate to the number of subscribers.

Remember you have to be a paid up member of the Trust to enter Club 100, each lucky number costs £15 per year for 4 prize draws. The prize fund increases with every new subscription taken out. **Join today** - the application form can be found on the website.

**The next draw will be in April 2021.**

## Luke the Magpie ... with a lot of bottle!

As you may know we have over the years come across a lot of bottles in the old domestic tip area of our site.

Here's our youngest and most enthusiastic collector speaking for himself ....

Thank you very much for allowing me to have a look through your large collection of dug out bottles last weekend. It was really nice to meet you.

I have always been fascinated by the local finds I've collected over the years. My interest began when I was 4 years old, when I used to find lots of clay pipes in and around Wilstone.

My collection soon grew when I began fossil collecting too. I have found some amazing ones on the Isle of Wight, as well as closer to home in Wilstone and Little Tring.

My parents often call me The Magpie as I seem to find something interesting whenever we go for a walk, which is pretty much every day. In 2019 I found a few old style Bovril bottles and medicine bottles in Wilstone, dating back to the 1800s. These sparked a new interest and have been digging for and collecting old bottles ever since. Besides looking interesting and pretty, I enjoy researching my finds and finding out more about them.



I also enjoy magnet fishing and going metal detecting. The chance of finding more interesting finds is exciting and makes me hungry for more.

I am rather proud of my collection so far.

We've attached a picture of my collections. I would love to show you some of these in person and perhaps get the opportunity to display some of these in Tring museum for others to see and enjoy.

Thanks again for allowing me to return to my favourite digging area in Tring, the Wendover Arms dry canal.



## Plant Britain

Plant Britain was highlighted on Countryfile, it aims to inspire the nation to help protect the planet and fight against climate change. The goal is to plant 750,000 new trees within the next 2 years. This equates to the number of children starting primary school this year.

WAT was so lucky, the weather was sunny and dry on December 17<sup>th</sup> and planting was in progress when further Covid restrictions were issued which would have interrupted the event again! The 420 trees had been organised from the Woodland Trust before the above campaign was advertised. The intention is to replace dead trees and scrubland with native varieties of whips (small saplings), planting the areas for future woodlands. John Reynolds organised the day, with 13 attendees including 3 from IWA Chesham Head Office on a team building event.

Due to the enthusiastic team, the whips were planted in record time, gates locked, tools packed away and all completed on the Thursday. The types of native trees were: - Goat Willow, Crab Apple, Hawthorn,

Hazel and Downy Birch.



Last year, WAT had already planted 120 trees which were also supplied by the Woodland Trust, these were placed at our Whitehouses Pocket Park an area on the offside of the canal by bridge 4. It is intended that this area will soon be turned into a pocket park for the use of the local community. During Autumn 2019 a Family Canal Camp was run by the IWA where 2000 plus snowdrops and blue bell bulbs were planted to enhance the area



amongst the trees. The Tidy Friday volunteers also planted 1000 naturalising daffodils in November 2019, so hopefully we will be looking at “A Host of Golden Daffodils” soon. It is hoped that scout troops and other

organisations for

the young will be encouraged to use this area for den building and other outdoor interests. WAT hope this section of the canal will be re-watered during this year, which will enable the park area to be opened to the public.



In Autumn 2021, WAT will be ordering a further supply, this time hedging plants, to fill in along the farmers boundary at Whitehouses. In future years this will give the new born spring lambs

shelter from the wind. Hedging cover will also be planted at the winding hole at Little Tring, this is often where visiting boats stay a couple of days at the current limit of navigation. Planting here would complete the hedging along the canal in this area which was started over 10 years ago.



Look out later in the year for the dates we are planting, volunteers are always welcome.

Jenny Brice, Secretary

## Leanda is moving on...



Leanda Richardson is stepping down from Council to pursue other directions.

Please join us in thanking her for her great contribution to the progress the trust has made over the last few years, especially in laying the foundations of our Partnerships Group which is developing contacts with Councils & Local authorities to build support in the community and for funding applications.

She has also been a regular on site volunteer and we are delighted she

will be continuing to do so - she can usually be found deep in mud with water filled wellies and loving every minute ! A real star !!



## Boat Club goes Nuts, again.

With all the social restrictions cutting the opportunities for in-person meetings and get-togethers, there has been a much reduced opportunity this year for selling walnuts. These are collected each season by a couple who are Dunstable Boat Club members, who then sell their harvest and donate the proceeds to WAT. The crop was also reduced by adverse weather, but nevertheless Mike and Tandy managed to raise £21 from Club members. Thank you Mike and Tandy.



On a personal note, thanks to lock-down we were unable to share our own personal tranche of nuts with our family this year. However, they didn't go to waste - the squirrels loved them!



Bob Wheal, Sales Director



Regards from your Editor  
Carol Williams (left)  
Assisted by Janine Jones (right).

Deadline for the  
next newsletter is  
31st July 2021



## WENDOVER ARM TRUST

**President**

**Dr David Fletcher CBE**

**Vice Presidents**

**Barry Martin & Roger Leishman**

**Patron**

**Sir David Suchet CBE**

Wendover Arm Trust, A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Charity No.801190. Its **AIMS** are:

To promote the restoration and maintenance of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, (including all waterways, buildings, and related structures), to good and navigable order and to promote the fullest use of the waterway by water-borne traffic (subject to the regulations of The Canal and River Trust) and for local amenity, recreational and water related activities for the benefit of the public.

To restore, preserve, maintain and educate the public in the history, use and wildlife, of canals and inland waterways generally and the Wendover Arm in particular.

**General telephone number:** 07547 181 857 **Website:** [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

**Facebook:** Wendover Arm Trust **Twitter:** @wendoverarm

### **Advertising Enquiries:**

Contact the Publicity Director, (Email addresses on p3)

The views expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and cannot be taken as those of the Council of the Wendover Arm Trust. Whilst all reasonably practicable steps are taken to confirm the accuracy of any statements herein, no liability can attach to the Editor, or the Council of the Wendover Arm Trust, or any contributors for any errors and neither the Editor nor the Council of the Wendover Arm Trust accept any responsibility for any consequences however caused.

## AIRS HOUSE CARPETS and FLOORING

FOR QUALITY CARPETS, TILES, VINYLs AND WOOD FLOORINGS

**DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL**

**INSURANCE ESTIMATES**

**ADAPTION & REPAIRS**

Contact Airs House Carpets today  
for a professional  
supply and fitting service

01844 342 546

[sales@airshouse.co.uk](mailto:sales@airshouse.co.uk)

[www.airshouseflooring.co.uk](http://www.airshouseflooring.co.uk)

## Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal

Our base at Linslade is within weekend reach of the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, or the Chiltern Hills and Aylesbury. Choice of exciting one- or two-week cruises including the Thames. 35 luxury boats, 2 to 8 berth.

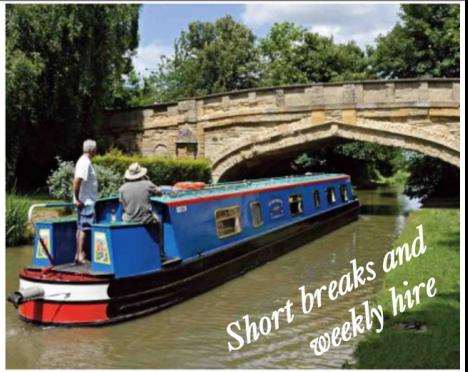
**Boat Builders - Repairs - Dry dock - Blacking - Repaints  
Waterside holiday cottage**

### **The WYVERN SHIPPING Co Ltd**

Rothschild Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 2TF  
Tel: 01525 372355 Fax: 01525 852308

<http://www.canal holidays.co.uk> [james@canal holidays.co.uk](mailto:james@canal holidays.co.uk)

Members of IWA, APCO, BMF, B&MK Waterway Trust, Wendover Arm Trust, Buckingham Canal Society, Aylesbury Canal Society



## COWROAST MARINE ENGINEERING

- \* Full size narrow boat covered slipway
- \* Slipway hire for DIY hull blacking
- \* Slipway for surveys
- \* Welding/over plating
- \* Gas work/heating and plumbing services
- \* Electrics
- \* New engine fitting \* New Beta Marine engine upgrades \* Engine work/engine servicing

All engineering from fitting a light bulb to a brand new engine installation undertaken.

Cowroast Marine Engineering is run by Darren Killick with more than 30 years of marine engineering experience.

We use top quality marine equipment for a top quality result.

We now supply Calor gas, coal, logs and kindling

**Tel: 01442 825522 or 07941 240024**

**Cowroast Marine Engineering, Cowroast, Tring, HP23 5RE**

**JET**  
DISTRIBUTOR



**Q8 Oils**

**MORRIS LUBRICANTS**



**BARTON  
PETROLEUM**  
[www.bartonpetroleum.co.uk](http://www.bartonpetroleum.co.uk)

*Your first call for Fuel & Lubricants...*

**For all commercial and residential fuels 01923 233171**