

Wendover Canal News

Restoration Biodiversity Well-being



WENDOVER
CANAL TRUST

2022 Summer
Issue 2



BRADLEY & JONES

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Council Update



This is my first Chairman's Column (having only just been appointed as the last newsletter went to press) and I hope I can live up to Chris Sargeant's high standards. There's also

been another change; our Operations Director Chris Bent resigned, but we have been very fortunate to be able to welcome Mikk Bradley to run our restoration.

You can read more about Mikk in my summary of Operations Reports, later in this newsletter. As you will read, we've continued to hold restoration work parties every month. We have seen sufficient volunteers for these work parties, though we are sometimes short of daily leaders and first aiders. If we can't find either of these, that day has to be cancelled, but fortunately we have some new first aiders being trained.

We now need to focus on the two things which hold us back, namely people and money. There are too few people volunteering to run Trust activities, and those that do are spending more hours than they can spare, and that includes me! This means that things we ought to be doing, don't get done.

And we do not have enough money to finish the relining between Bridge 4 and the winding hole. The fact that we are rapidly but carefully spending the money we have in the bank, is in many ways a good thing – it's there to be

spent on restoration, which is what we've done. But in early 2024 or late 2023, we are likely to run out of money unless we find fresh funds, and the work party would then have to be slowed or stopped.

Options for raising money include our local Councils (with whom Peter Elwin continues to work), or the Lottery. However the Lottery made it clear earlier this year, that they would only consider our application if we give them a more thorough project plan, and show much more evidence of community engagement and inclusion. These will be our priorities for the rest of this year.

Clive Johnson, Chairman

Friendly Village Pub – open all day

Food served 12 to 3pm and 6 to 8.30pm

(except Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings)

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Council members 2021/22

Leadership & Finance

Chairman & Webmaster, Twitter & Talks as part of Marketing: Clive Johnson	chairman@wendovercanal.org.uk & webmaster@wendovercanal.org.uk
Deputy Chairman, Partnership Director: Peter Elwin Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary: Mike Beckley	partnerships@wendovercanal.org.uk honsec@wendovercanal.org.uk
Treasurer: Paul Armstrong	treasurer@wendovercanal.org.uk
Purchasing Manager: Peter Lockett	purchasing@wendovercanal.org.uk

Restoration

Site Manager: Mikk Bradley <i>(Mikk Bradley is an observer on Council, where he is also represented by Steve and Will listed below)</i>	site.manager@wendovercanal.org.uk
Restoration Project Manager: Steve Chapman	steve.chapman@wendovercanal.org.uk
Trainer and Team Leader: William Mathew,	william.mathew@wendovercanal.org.uk

Marketing

Head of Marketing & Sales: Bob Wheal	sales@wendovercanal.org.uk
IWA Nominee, Minutes Secretary and Events: Jenny Brice	events@wendovercanal.org.uk
Publicity: Nigel Williams	publicity@wendovercanal.org.uk
Walks: John Rowe	walks@wendovercanal.org.uk
Membership: Peter Bird	membership@wendovercanal.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Carol Williams/ Janine Jones

newsletter@wendovercanal.org.uk

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the thirty third Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held on:

Saturday 22nd October 2022 at 2.30PM.

At Dunstable & District Boat Club – Cooks Wharf – Pitstone – LU7 9AD

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 32nd AGM held on 27th Oct 2021 – to be agreed as a true record.
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Group Heads Reports.
6. Honorary Treasurers Report.
7. To receive and if thought fit, approve the report of the council of management.
8. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the Trust for the year ended on 31st March 2022 and the report of the Independent Examiner thereon.
9. To Reappoint Johnsons Chartered Accountants as the Independent Examiner.
10. To elect members to the Council (see note below).
11. Any Other Business

Michael Beckley, MA, FCCA

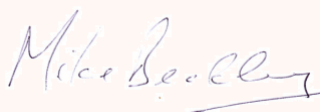
Hon Secretary.

By order of the Council

Registered Office.

Island House, Moor Road

Chesham, Bucks HP5 1WA



Note. Under article 39, Nominations for election to Council may be received by the Secretary up to seven clear days before the date of the meeting.

Nominations must be in writing and signed by the person nominated, confirming their willingness to be elected. Only persons qualified to vote at the meeting may make nominations or stand for election.

A list of Council Members standing for re-election and other members standing for election will be given prior to the meeting.

Please email honsec@wendovercanal.org.uk no later than October 13th to obtain a nomination form which should be returned by Oct 14th.

Thank you.

Finance Review

Even though the Trust received £25,000 of grants towards restoration from Tring Town Council, and also benefited from an exceptionally high level of donations, the pace of restoration expenditure continued to increase and resulted in an excess of costs over revenue of £156,695. Restoration costs included for the first time £51,720 for removal of ash from the tip, this figure is likely to be substantially higher in 2022 / 2023. Against that we expect to receive further grants income of £135,000 from Dacorum Borough Council.



Note that we have now changed the year end date from 5 April to 31 March, to bring it in line with our normal quarterly accounting. Some old stocks of items held for resale have been written off, and we have upgraded our accounting processes, using our new accounting systems, to more correctly account for debtors, creditors and provisions as at the end of the year.

Cash at bank and investments have decreased from £506,495 to £389,677. However we have sufficient funds for the current financial year at the current rate of spend. But as mentioned in our Chairman's Column, we are likely to be short of funds by the end of the 2023/4 financial year, unless we have found fresh income by then.

Mike Beckley, Deputy Chairman / Paul Armstrong, Treasurer

Finance: Summary of Financial Activities

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31st March 2022

	Total Funds 31-Mar-2022	Total Funds 05-Apr-2021
Income from		
Subscriptions & Donations	£44,210	£17,462
Grants	£25,000	-
Other trading activities	£9,587	£3,760
Investments	£1,923	£4,305
Total Income	£80,721	£25,527

Expenditure on		
Raising funds (Incl management)	£16,531	£11,593
Charitable activities (restoration)	£220,884	£139,544

Total Expenditure	£237,416	£151,137
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Net Income (Expenditure)	£156,695	£125,610
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Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	£513,977	£639,587

Total funds carried forward	£357,282	£513,977
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Finance: Balance

Balance Sheet For the year ended 31st March 2022

	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-22	05-Apr-21	05-Apr-21
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		£4,573		£6,170
Current Assets				
Stock	£200		£2,187	
Debtors	£5,048		£0	
Cash at Bank	£73,398		£66,154	
Investments	£316,299		£440,341	
Cash in Hand	£66		£25	
Total	£395,012		£508,707	
Liabilities				
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year	(£1,495)		(£900)	
Provision for Donations CRT	(£40,807)			
Net Current Assets		£352,709		£507,807
Net Assets		£357,282		£513,977
The funds of the charity - Unrestricted Funds				
General		£357,282		£513,977
Designated		£0		£0
Total Unrestricted Funds		£357,282		£513,977
Restricted Funds		£0		£0
Total Charity Funds		£357,282		£513,977

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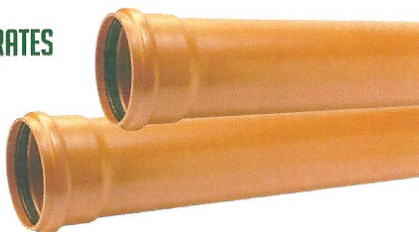
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Operations Report

This is a summary of our Operations Reports from March 2022 to June 2022, edited by Clive Johnson. The full reports can be read on our website.

Mikk Bradley

Our restoration is now being run by Mikk Bradley, Chris Bent having resigned. Mikk has chosen to be called our Site Manager, a term common in the construction industry. Mikk has a lifetime's experience of construction sites like ours, and is employed 3 days a week by IWA's Restoration Hub, advising canal restorations around the country. Wendover Canal Trust is very fortunate that Mikk will be volunteering to run our restoration. To help manage Mikk's time, we have made some changes to responsibilities and reporting.

Narrows

As mentioned last time, we are constructing a narrow section of canal (a "narrows"). This is next to the Little Tring winding hole, which we built in Phase 1 opened 2005. This narrows is necessary to prevent wider boats trying to go any further, since they would not be able to pass any other boat as they go through our relined channel.



We excavated the required profile to build this. Around the edges of this hole, we did a lot of manual digging to separate the last of the ash from the coal tar layer underneath – we have to do this, so that the ash can be sent away uncontaminated with coal tar. This ash, and any clay we dig out which is not contaminated with coal tar, is stacked in separate piles near the road ready for removal, while anything with coal tar in it is added to the existing separate piles. Being this careful saves us a lot of money in spoil removal. This made 13 lorry-loads of ash, which has been removed.

Then 7 cubic metres of ready-mix concrete was spread across the floor of the excavation as a "blinding" layer. The pictures below show the excavation, and then volunteers laying the concrete.

Blockwork was laid as a permanent shutter to the required shape, which as can be seen below, is something like an hourglass when seen from above. It took a lot more effort than expected to tie together steel reinforcement. Then 5 loads

of ready-mix concrete were delivered and placed, poured, spread, compacted and tamped.

To the casual observer, the resulting concrete foundation looks too wide to be a narrow, but by the time blockwork walls have been laid round the edges of the concrete, and then faced with brick, the narrow will be little wider than a 7 foot wide narrowboat. By the time you read this, a Waterway Recovery Group Canal Camp will be building this.



Unexplained water loss

Our ongoing work has not yet explained the water loss between Bridges 4a and 4. We'd like to know whether one end is losing more water than the other, so in the bed of the canal in front of Whitehouses, we constructed temporary block walls either end of the concrete canal



bottom (see picture below). Constructing these walls took much more effort than it sounds, because all materials including well over a hundred heavy concrete blocks, had to be transported along the towpath for the second half of their journey, using a trolley and wheelbarrows.

We have now begun to put some water back into this section, and find out whether 4a to Whitehouses is losing more or less water than Whitehouses to 4, or even whether the loss is at Whitehouses itself.

While working at Whitehouses, we were surprised to find a large and long crack along the back of the low-level original brick apron, across the lower front of the arches. It is not yet clear when the crack started, but it seems to have become larger. The cracks led to voids which appear to have been dug by rabbits under the Whitehouses walls.

While this may not explain our current water loss issue, it would certainly leak in future when the water reaches full height.

In consultation with the CRT heritage adviser, it was agreed to break back the brickwork across part of the apron and to investigate any void under it. The void was backfilled with compacted concrete and the surface finished off with heritage brickwork. The CRT heritage adviser was sent photos of the finished work and complimented the bricklayers on a very good job.



Spoil Relocation

In preparation for planned major ash removal in August, our mountain of clay contaminated with coal tar has been moved. Until now it was on top of the ash, between the car park and the winding hole/narrows. Now it has been temporarily placed just the other side of the car park and entrance, at the beginning of the section



towards Bridge 4. It has temporarily filled in a short section of canal to towpath level. It is expected that this spoil will be gradually used up when we recommence lining the canal. For now, we have an additional storage area for materials.

Canal channel on Little Tring side of Bridge 4

The backfill to the banks and canal bed needed to be finished off (when laying Bentomat was stopped in January, the spoil was too wet to trim to shape, but is now dry enough to support the excavator). The bed material was levelled off and surplus backfill material moved to the Little Tring end. We now plan a trial section of relining in



July, which will be sealed off and tested for leaks before any more is done.

Mikk Bradley, Site Manager & Clive Johnson, Chairman

Work Party Schedules

Restoration working parties are held throughout the year, usually starting on the first Friday of the month, listed below.

August Friday 5th for 7 days, followed by special working party requiring only banksmen

September Friday 2nd for at least 7 days

October Friday 7th for 7 days

We need further help for this highly rewarding work;

for further information, please contact us at volunteer@wendovercanal.org.uk

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Would you like to support the restoration, but you're not sure how?

You could turn up for work parties.

You could get stuck into some admin (there is always admin!).

You could offer your experience (e.g. marketing, archiving, IT, fundraising).

Or you could give a donation.

- Make it a small one: cash, bank transfer, by text, via our website.
- Don't forget Gift Aid!
- Register Wendover Arm Trust as a a charity to receive donations when buying via Easyfundraising or Amazon Smile
- Sponsor a plaque, a bench, a display sign
- Make it repeatable, a standing order
- Make it substantial - a living will, while you are around to see what it achieves.
- Include a bequest when you write your will to make a difference, even when you are no longer here.
- Already have a will? Keep it simple and include us in a codicil.

Just remember, where wills are involved:

- There is more than one type (Residuary, Specific, Pecuniary)
- Bequests are tax free (why should the Chancellor have it?)
- A solicitor knows best.
- You could actually save tax (a bequest reduces your estate assessment).

You can't quantify the peace of mind when your will is written, but it definitely exists.

We've kept it simple: to find out more on any of these ideas -

Call **07547 181 857** and our long-suffering membership secretary will respond.

Or send your emailed question to donations@wendovercanal.org.uk



Obituary - In at the beginning

Trust members have been saddened to hear of the recent loss of one of its founders, Barry Martin, who passed away in May.

Barry Martin:

Born August 16th 1938

Died May 22nd 2022 aged 83.

Thirty three years ago in 1989 a small group of enthusiastic but determined canal supporters started the Wendover Arm Trust, to promote the restoration of the canal, and to raise the finance to rebuild it.

With just 240 members initially, the task of running the Trust fell to volunteers like Barry and his wife Beryl who between them over the years covered positions including Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Treasurer.

So, who was Barry, actually?

Barry, a member of the Christadelphian Church, was a man characterised by great integrity, modesty, precision and dedication in all he did.

Trained as an aeronautical engineer, he worked for De Havilland on stress testing of materials – especially the wings of the Trident Aircraft which succeeded the Comet.

He and wife Beryl moved house a

number of times – at one time living in Stevenage where he developed an interest in breeding tropical fish and went on to win prizes to reward his success.

While living in Hemel Hempstead, Barry became interested in the inland waterways, which led him to join the

Grand Union Canal Society and help with early festivals. There he met other like-minded enthusiasts and helped to found The Wendover Arm Group, dedicated to restoring the arm.

Monthly work parties began scrub

clearance and he and Beryl worked with others to transform the Wendover Arm Group into the independent Wendover Arm Trust, which formally came into being in 1989.

Barry applied his customary diligence to setting up the trust membership system and compiled archive records whilst Beryl was Newsletter Editor.

The very first WAT newsletter (Winter, 1989) records that Barry would be responsible for bookings for the inaugural Wendover Canal Festival at New Mill, Tring. Barry continued to be closely involved with the festival as it grew in size and importance over the years, raising many thousands of



pounds for the restoration. Barry had a flair for design and artwork, and a feature of Barry's involvement was that invariably he ended up creating the popular festival plaque, with a unique design each year. Many of these plaques still adorn boats in the area.

Barry developed some of the early Wendover Arm Trust merchandise and also set up and administered the Club100 scheme which has been a great fundraiser over the years.

On the canal restoration site, Barry would often be seen acting as banksman, to keep everyone safe whilst heavy machinery was in use.

Barry and Beryl owned a narrowboat and enjoyed many holidays on it. For

several years, they lived in a bungalow that backed onto the Wendover Canal.

In later life the couple moved to Newbury to be nearer to family and he continued adding to Trust archives, until handing over that responsibility in 2015.

He was proud to be made a Vice President in recognition of his momentous contributions. His greatest wish was to see the Restoration completed – that is our challenge in his memory.

In Trust circles, Barry will be long remembered by those who were 'in at the beginning'.

Donations in Barry's memory are being received by WCT.



Chiltern Branch 2022 trip to the Norfolk Broads 16th September to the 18th September 2022

Welcome Aboard The Southern Comfort

Join our crew for a memorable river experience.

The Southern Comfort is a double-deck paddle boat purpose built for the Broads with a capacity of 100 passengers for public trips. Our boat is a luxury river cruiser which runs regular trips from the beautiful village of Horning, along the river Bure through the village and out to Ranworth Broad and back, passing lovely old thatched houses, windmills and Norfolk reed beds. Throughout the trip there is an excellent commentary and continual pointing out of all the water birds around at the time. There is the ever present bustle of river traffic with cruisers, yachts and the occasional wherry.



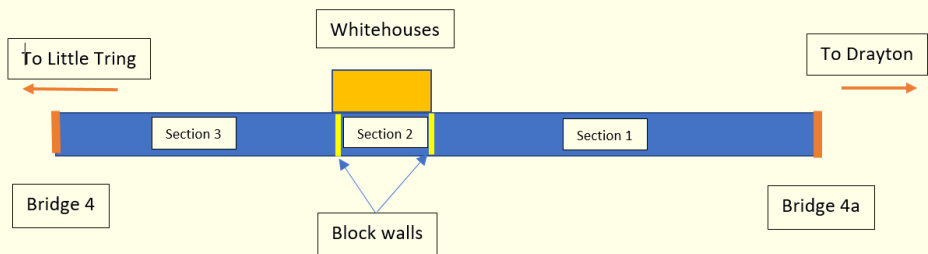
£350 pp for 2 people sharing a room and £395 for a single occupancy at the Hotel Mercure Norwich.
Please contact Colin Bird ccbird@tiscali.co.uk for more details.

Plan for the water loss investigation

The latest restored section of the Wendover Canal between Bridges 4a and 4 (between Drayton Beauchamp and Tring) was rewatered in November 2021. Canal and River Trust (CRT) required a still water test on the section and it soon became apparent that there was excessive water loss, although no obvious point of discharge.

In discussion with CRT the section of the canal was sub-divided into three sections by building temporary concrete block walls across the canal, either side of the site of the Whitehouses pump station. This site includes a sluice gate that can be opened to drain the canal into Wilstone Reservoir.

Below is a schematic plan.



A control weir has been built into the earth dam at Bridge 4a to allow control of the water flowing into the section of canal. On 15th June water was let back into the section of canal starting at Bridge 4a, with the sluice gate at Whitehouses placed in the open position. The intention was to rewater section 1 and to ensure that the block wall was watertight.



On 21st June water was observed flowing over the block wall into section 2 and then draining to Wilstone Reservoir. There was water loss around the block wall on the towpath side.

During the July work party timber boards will be placed in the weir at Bridge 4a and section 2 rewatered by closing the sluice at Whitehouses and allowing the section to fill. Observations will be made at Whitehouses to understand if the major water loss is centred at Whitehouses.

If the observations show that the water loss is at Whitehouses, sections 1 and 2 will be drained using the sluice at Whitehouses and repair work carried out.

If the observations show that the water loss is not at Whitehouses, sections 1, 2 and 3 will be rewatered and the stop planks at Bridge 4 checked for leakage and sealed.

The flow rate into the 3 sections will be measured and controlled and water level observations made at the gauging points at Whitehouses. A comparison of water loss for each section can be made. This operation will take a period of months to undertake, in order to get sufficient data.

Once observations have been made and data has been collected, further discussion can take place with CRT to establish if any water loss is within their allowable limit.

Mikk Bradley, Site Manager

WCT at Rickmansworth Canal Festival

WCT were fortunate to be able to share the IWA stand at the 2 day well attended festival. The main aim was to advertise the Family Camp to be held at Whitehouses in October and also raise awareness of the monthly guided walks from Meads Farmhouse Kitchen. The sun shone and the crowds rushed in, flyers with WCT Intro leaflets were given out to all families and individuals who showed an interest.



Our events team were originally formed to run the annual Tring Canal Festivals and consisted of the partners of the committee and restoration workers. A good social bond was felt by all through participating in raising funds and advertising the canal to the local community. Unfortunately, the last festival was over 10 years ago, and the team has grown older. All support the trust but are now unable to assist in physical events.

The Trust is looking for enthusiastic members to help in the future. Volunteers are needed to reactivate the outreach programme with the local schools as contacts were lost during the Covid outbreak. The Trusts also needs a presence within the local community, this has been achieved in the past through attending festival events and designing library displays showing details of how much work is being achieved..

These measures are a mandatory requirement by the funders of the future, i.e. Lottery Bids, and council community funds. It is essential to show that the “Wendover in Water” will be an asset to all members of the local community. We hope you can help! We must keep the funds available to back our industrious and loyal restoration workers.

Any offers of help can be emailed to Jenny at events@wendovercanal.org.uk or alternatively leave a message on the WCT answerphone and we will get back to you.

Jenny Brice, Events

Celebrate with us!



You may not have realised that this next Club 100 draw will be the 100th draw we have made. Club 100 has benefited the Trust to the tune of £22,561 since it was introduced by Barry Martin, all those years ago.

You do know how Club 100 works, don't you?
No - not really?

Well, if you really **do** know what happens every 3 months, at Membership Towers, then skip this next bit.

Each subscription (ticket) to Club 100 stands an equal chance in each quarterly draw to be 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

Prizes are calculated like this:

- take the total money subscribed for that draw
- divide it by two
- give that sum to the winners

The Trust keeps the other half as a donation.

The sum of all the halves not paid out is where the £22,561 has come from.

Still not clear? Maybe this will help:

Why is it called Club 100? Initially the scheme was aimed at achieving 100 subscriptions. The term Club 100 could easily be adjusted to Club 200, say, as the scheme grows.

Are my winnings tax free? Tax is not levied on your winnings, but may apply to your total estate.

Can I Gift Aid my subscription? Not according to current rules.

Can I have more than one ticket? Yes, you can have unlimited tickets. That means you can have one for each grandchild, or even your pets!

When can I join? You can join at any time and take part in the next following draw.

When can I stop? You can leave at any time by telling the Membership Secretary, and stopping your payments (be careful if you have paid for a whole year's membership).



So, how can I celebrate the 100th Draw? You can join us in celebrating the remarkable fact that the scheme has been running for 100 draws. Join Club 100 (it's £15 per year) within the next 3 months, and **get an extra draw for free***.

Why should I join? Your subscription is only £15 for the whole year, and that buys entries into 4 forthcoming draws. The Club 100 offers a relatively painless way of supporting the Trust, and at the same time having a good chance of winning.



How do I join?

Visit support us on our website and look for Club 100.

<https://wendovercanal.org.uk/support-us/club-100-lottery/>

Alternatively give us a call on 07547 181 857

*a free draw is given by setting the first renewal date 15 months after joining, rather than 12 months.

Club 100 Lottery

This draw was made at the April council meeting. The winners were....



Janet Ridley, £232.80



Valerie Clark, £97.00



Joyce Smith, £38.80

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all members who take part in the Club 100 lottery. **The next draw will be in July 2022**



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

Deadline for the next
newsletter is 29th
October 2022



WENDOVER CANAL TRUST

President
Vice President
Patron

Dr David Fletcher CBE
Roger Leishman
Sir David Suchet CBE

Wendover Canal Trust, the operating name of 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,

General telephone number: 07547 181 857

Facebook: Wendover Arm Trust

Website: www.wendovercanal.org.uk

Twitter: @wendoverarm

Advertising Enquiries:

Contact the Publicity Director, please find the contact details on page 5.

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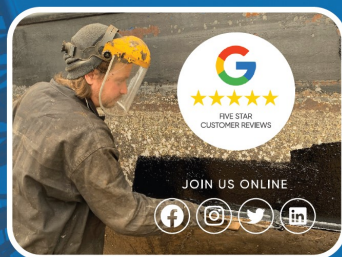
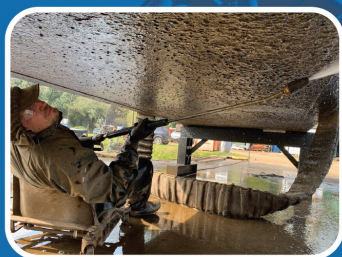
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