Wendover Canal News

Restoration Biodiversity Well-being









BradleyetJones

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Council members 2021/22

	Chairman: Chris Sargeant	chairman@wendoveracanal.org.uk
Leadership	Deputy Chairman: Clive Johnson, & Webmaster, Twitter & Talks as part of Marketing	webmaster@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Partnerships Director, Peter Elwin	partnerships@wendovercanal.org.uk

	Operations Director: Tony Bardwell	operations@wendovercanal.org.uk
Restoration	Restoration Project Manager: Steve Chapman	steve.chapman@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Social Media: William Mathew, also Facebook as part of Marketing	William.mathew@wendovercanal.org.uk

	Honorary Secretary: Mike Beckley	honsec@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Treasurer: Paul Armstrong	treasurer@wendovercanal.org.uk
Finance &	Purchasing Manager: Peter Lockett	purchasing@wendovercanal.org.uk
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	Publicity: Nigel Williams	publicity@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Walks: John Rowe	walks@wendovercanal.org.uk

Chairman's Column

With easing of Covid restrictions and reasonable weather our restoration has powered ahead as you will see from the operations report in this issue.

With the number of new volunteers who have joined our ranks work parties spanning two full weeks have now become the norm and the task of organizing them has of course also grown.

Detailed planning by
Tony and team leaders
goes into what we are
going to do leading
on to what skills and
machines will be
needed. In addition, we must
always ensure safety on site and
have first aiders on the team at all
times.

In addition, wherever possible we continue to plan work in small groups over several locations to enable social distancing as Covid is still with us.

All of this presents a huge organizational challenge and we are very grateful to Doug Pell who has just taken on this role.

Doug, a regular volunteer himself, is moving away from finance and

integrating work party planning and management into our White Fuse membership system in conjunction with Membership Secretary Peter Bird.



Our new working name "Wendover Canal Trust" and associated logos has now been launched as announced in our last newsletter – thanks are

due to Bob Wheal and the Marketing Group who have spent many hours finalizing the details. Our legal entity remains Wendover Arm Trust.

Our hope is that the working name Wendover Canal Trust will more clearly express our purpose as surveys showed that "Wendover Arm" is not well understood outside of canal boating circles. Our aim is to ensure the Canal is the focus for a wide range of leisure activities in our increasingly urbanized world, bringing broad public benefit to everyone.

We were very sorry to report the death of Clive Wilson, our treasurer since 2014, who passed away in September – a tribute follows this report on page 8.

As I write we are planning rewatering of the section between Bridges 4 & 4a now that CRT's hydrologist has visited and agreed our proposed method.

We will also need to carry out tests specified by CRT for any leakage once partial filling to an agreed depth has been done.

The process of flooding the section may take 2/3 weeks as water is let in at a slow and controlled

rate. Once complete and tests done to CRT satisfaction we will plan an official opening for Spring 2022.

AGM 2021

Our AGM at 2.30pm on Wednesday October 27th was once again conducted on Zoom as the Covid pandemic is still with us. We welcomed 34 people online, virtually as last year.

Whilst a detailed summary of our activities for the year to April 2021 was contained in our annual report published prior to the meeting, we showed more pictures to help

convey the huge progress made during the period. I am very grateful to our deputy chairman and webmaster Clive Johnson who helped to put this together. Clive has put in many long hours during the period in redeveloping our website which launched in November 2020.

As you can read from the operations report in this issue we are beginning to see the end of the current phase of works appearing over the horizon.

A summary of our financials was published in our last newsletter so I will not repeat here except to say that our

accelerated restoration progress means we are spending more money on plant hire and materials more quickly.

We have redoubled our fund raising activities accordingly but still need considerable sums to complete the job – any help will be greatly appreciated.

We thank three council members who have now stood down from Council – Ben Grinsted, Leanda Richardson and Doug Pell. Ben will continue to be our IT consultant as required.

Doug has initiated a number of funding initiatives as head of our finance group but is now moving on the vital role of organising and managing our volunteer work parties.

Leanda has taken on a new role in Healthcare but also continues to join our work parties.

Retiring Hon Sec John Rowe remains on Council and will be helping to establish regular guided walks along the canal within our events team to help publicise our work.

Please join me in welcoming four new members who were elected to Council. Steve Chapman and William Matthew who both already make a huge contribution to our restoration work, Paul Armstrong our new Treasurer, and Mike Beckley who will become Hon Sec from December 1st.

The Annual Report itself is now on our website and a full recording of the AGM on Youtube can be accessed at https://youtu.be/ TJtInBcs80

Rhin.

Chris Sargeant – Chairman chairman@wendoveracanal.org.uk
Tel: 07547 181 857 – leave a message and we will return your call

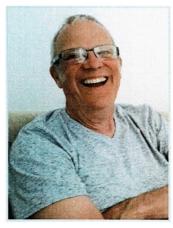
Waterways World Magazines

- Full set from 1974/5 through to 2020.
- * Still a canal enthusiast and narrowboater and still subscribe to Waterways World but time these magazines found a new home.
- Price for the entire collection £250. A donation from the sale will go to the Wendover Arm/Canal Trust.

Buyer collects from the Harrow area but will consider delivering up to 30 miles including to the Wendover area.

Please call David on 07930 340787.

Obituary: Clive Wilson WAT Treasurer 2014 – 2021



Died 1st September 2021, aged 78

We were very grateful when Clive answered our call for a new treasurer in 2014.

Clive was born in Northumberland in 1943 and had a brother & sister. He became an engineer and draughtsman, initially working for the MOD in Salisbury, rode a motor bike, married & divorced and finally settled in Potton, Bedfordshire.

A dedicated family man, he loved architecture and engineering ... but his real passion was sport.

Clive played Rugby, Golf & Cricket at different stages of life and managed a junior football team.

His athletic prowess playing cricket earned him the nickname 'Clive the Dive', but his greatest glory was probably playing for Herts Seniors in 200 games and scoring 5000 runs – a magnificent achievement - Well played Clive!

Our thoughts go out to Clive's family at this time



Operations Report

This is a summary of Tony Bardwell's Operations Reports from August to October 2021, edited by Clive Johnson. The full reports can be read on our website. Our increasing number of volunteers have continued to make great progress by working 14 days each month, though this is also spending our available funds more rapidly.

Entrance Gateway

Following another break-in, we rebuilt the gateway at the "cart-track" entrance from Little Tring Road.



The roadway is now straighter for larger lorries, and the footpath is safely and neatly fenced off as can be seen below.

Pipe Capping

Our volunteers have COMPLETED capping the pipe to the point where it leaves the canal and cuts across under fields to the pumping station. What an achievement!



Widening the capping to form a safe dry access road in the bed, has proved so useful, that we plan to continue for the short remaining distance to the cart-track entrance.

The picture on the right shows the end of the roadway after the October work party, with the carttrack entrance and its new fencing visible in the distance.

Before laying the capping, we had to find the course of the buried pipeline.

We could normally do this by spotting which ground had been disturbed, but we



reached a section where we couldn't find anything. We discovered that when the pipeline was laid at this point, they had found it so difficult to cut a trench through the natural rock, that they chose to hand-tunnel through the softer ground below the rock.

This must have been at considerable risk to those who dug it. The rock was so hard that even a 13 tonne excavator with a narrow bucket could barely break it up.

Animal Steps

We took the decision to introduce what we call "dog steps" some time ago. We also know that many other animals need to cross the canal, and some may fall in accidentally and need a way of getting out. The concept is simple. We put in a few rows of concrete blocks with every other layer pushed forward to make a step. Concrete has been used behind the "raised" blocks to make sure they stay put. When the canal is in water

the bottom step will be at water level. These features will be placed at intervals along the bank and at the ends of any bank structures.

Some concrete can be seen between the "steps" and the brick wall. It is there to make sure the Bentonite paste water seal, between the Bentomat waterproof liner and the wall, is protected from damage and doesn't move in future.



Bridge 4 Brickwork

After the October work party, our volunteer expert bricklayers had almost completed rebuilding the extensive brick remains of Bridge 4, and this will be complete by the time you read this.

The picture below shows the offside brickwork coming along nicely. The existing offside brickwork was so poor that it had to be mostly demolished, then rebuilt to match pictures taken of the remains.



Re-lining from Bridge 4

Our volunteers have also started the next job, which is re-lining from Bridge 4 on top of the pipe-capping/ roadway. Before laying the Bentomat lining, we have to excavate more clay to create the required width and slope. We realised that once we had excavated the coal tar lining and any spoil on top of it, the clay underneath is "clean" i.e. not contaminated with coal tar. So we kept this clean clay separate, and have started to have it taken away from site at much lower cost than clay mixed with coal tar.

We are still perfecting our "Bentomatic" handling tool, so the Bentomat for this section was cut to size on the concrete canal bed, then lifted into place by excavator. This was relatively quick and efficient, and is expected to be quicker still with the Bentomatic. The picture below shows that lining the banks has already almost reached the first bend, Little Tring side of Bridge 4. Spoil still needs to be placed above the blocks.



Tony Bardwell, Operations Director & Clive Johnson, Deputy Chairman

Work Party Schedules

Working parties are held throughout the year, starting on the first Friday of the month, as listed below. Our winter work parties are likely to be for only 1 week because of the expected weather. We need further help for this highly rewarding work.

Friday 3rd – Thursday 9th December, 2021

Friday 7th – Thursday 13th January, 2022

Friday 4th – Thursday 10th February, 2022

Friday 4th – Thursday 10th March, 2022

Subject to change due to Covid. Please refer to our website.

For further information please contact Tony Bardwell via email, operations@wendovercanal.org.uk or 01296 634 973.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.



Tidy Friday; 8:30am - 4pm

If canal restoration sounds like hard work, then joining our Tidy Friday group might be for you. This entails light work keeping our canal, bridges and towpath looking spick and span and cared for.

The provisional days are below, and come after the main work parties above.



This is organised by John Reynolds, for further details or to volunteer please phone John on 07787 355 515.

Chiltern Society Visit Us



Following Clive Johnson's brief talk on WCT to the Chiltern Society's AGM on 30th October, its Chairman, Chief Officer and two Trustees visited the canal at Drayton Beauchamp on 6th November and were told of the work of WCT by Chris Sargeant whilst walking with them along the towpath to Little Tring – and admiring the working party!



IWA Chiltern invite you to our monthly meetings which are now held at Rickmansworth!

Our monthly entertainment programme (every 4TH Wednesday) are held at the new Rickmansworth Waterways Trust meeting hall at Batchworth Lock. Our programme secretary Colin Bird has put together another interesting and diverse waterways programme from top class speakers with illustrated talks.

Whilst we are primarily here for our members, we welcome everyone who has an interest in the waterways. We serve complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits at half time.

To meet our operating costs, we ask for a minimum donation of £5 per person, or £3 if you are an IWA member.

For location details and programme see website:

https://waterways.org.uk/waterways/branches/iwa-chiltern-branch/ events-in-iwa-chiltern-branch

Further information from:

Programme Secretary colin.bird@waterways.org.uk
Waterways Events john.brice@waterways.org.uk

Clean and Shiny Underfoot



It was only to be expected that in the 10 or so years that plaques have been set into the footbridge steps, they would be showing signs of wear and tear. Judging by the dirt embedded into the raised letters on the plaques, they make a good shoe cleaner!

Grubby plaques waiting a clean

As the bridge 'matured' the plaques gained a discrete patina of old age, with scars from hob-nailed boots and general canal-side grit. That's a polite way of saying the plaques were getting into a messy state.

So we sorted the problem out!



Plaques after a wash and scrub



Plaques on the steps on the towpath side (bridge 4) were the worst, presumably because it is easy to step on them. The plaques on the bridge span were not so bad, although one or two of them will need attention before long.

Once the correct ant-vandal driver was found, it didn't take long for the plaques to be unscrewed. In all, 15 step plaques were lifted, washed, and sent back to the manufacturers for repainting. Special care had to be taken to put plaques back into the same locations they were in originally.

Refurbished and back home on the bridge

Marketing Group

The whole process was complete in less than 2 weeks (did anyone even notice they were gone?). Now the freshly refurbished plaques are back in place, ready for another 10 years underfoot.

Wendover Work Party - Are these future volunteers?



Wendover Canal hosted the IWA Volunteering Day in August. This year due to Covid regulations this was adapted to a taster of 4 hours length. This attracted younger participants and was arranged on a Monday.

The day started by the required H&S

talk, high vis, gloves and one 5 year old even wore his own hard hat. Then into bricklaying, this became quite competitive, with fighting for the bricks. But under Alex's expert eye, a sturdy good wall was built, albeit in the middle of the car park.



Then off for a stroll along the towpath, 7 children, 6 adults, 2 wheel-barrows and a push chair. There was a purpose. We were out identifying the **bug, bee, bird & butterfly** population, an added bonus, was a peer down a rabbit hole. Along the way we also checked out the flora and berries on the hedgerow, and some lucky children also managed to find a few tasty damsons to eat.

As the bookings were taken in advance, the younger compliment was known. This enabled Alex Melson IWA to hone in on the skills available.



He built a **Bug Hotel** and bought this along for the children to fill. So, after a picnic lunch sitting on the grass at Whitehouses, the children were dispatched with the task of finding twigs, hollow branches, dead grasses and any other material which they could fit into the **Bug Hotel** to make a comfortable home. Then, using second hand bricks from the canal they built a **Hedgehog House** and covered this with natural vegetation to encourage future tenants.



The day was **all go**, no time to dally, off went the contingent following the winding path along the woodland walk to the viewing platform. A short easy explanation of a pumping station followed, enhanced by Jenny Morris's recollection of clearing out the cellars during a WRG work party.

Finally, the children were given handfuls of wild meadow seed, this they distributed with gay abandon on our future meadow area (Tidy Friday

work party had strimmed an area ready in advance).

As well as the publicity this gives The Wendover Canal, it encourages children into the outdoor environment. They all enjoyed themselves on this outdoor adventure. Hopefully they will make further visits to the area to check out any occupants in their Bug hotel & Hedgehog House.

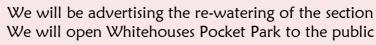
Jenny Brice, Events



Our Restoration Work Parties Have Made So Much Progress.

We Will be celebrating with the public in 2022.

But we need your help!



We will be back with our gazebo at local events

We will be guiding walks along the canal

All of these need volunteers.

Please contact Jenny Brice events@wendovercanal.org.uk



IWA trip to the West Country

The Chiltern Branch of the IWA arranged a weekend away during September 2021 which was organised by Colin Bird, who has been organising such trips for some thirty years.

Several WCT members attended.

My pick up point was at Handy Cross, High Wycombe and I was

pleased to see, once again, that our Heyfordian coach driver was Ray Cox who just relishes in banter with the passengers. The long coach journey to Tiverton in Devon was broken by a motorway

service stop for coffee and comfort facilities!

Upon arrival at Tiverton we were taken to the Grand Western Canal which extends for just over eleven miles and enjoyed a 2.5 hour cruise in a horse drawn barge - one of the last in Great Britain. The weather was perfect, as was the scenery, and a snack lunch was provided with the bar open throughout the trip. We then travelled to our

hotel, the Castle in Taunton where the drinks waiter spilt an entire tray of drinks over me - fortunately I had spare trousers and the hotel kindly arranged for dry cleaning and onward posting to my home.

Saturday morning was an early start owing to a sudden timetable change by the West Somerset Railway

> resulting from a rebuild of a level crossing at Minehead, which seems to incur never ending delays. Our steam hauled train commenced at Bishops Lydeard and ended at Minehead



The replacement bus service

following a replacement bus service on an old London Transport double decker which was in pristine condition.

Arrival was followed by a private viewing of the locomotive and carriage works with one of the employed staff answering a multitude of questions on steam train operation. We viewed the construction of a new tender which will hold 4000 gallons of water in addition to coal.



The Tivertonian horse drawn barge

Cocklemoor, and finally to Bridgwater Docks where lunch was a carvery at a Dockside pub. Throughout the weekend the weather was glorious and although numbers were somewhat down on previous years - no doubt owing to lack of publicity in the Wendover Newsletter! all participants thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

We then returned to Dunster with the replacement bus service and then rejoined the steam hauled train back to Bishops Lydeard and return to our hotel.

Sunday was a later start with a short walk around Taunton, followed by a short journey to
Creech St Michael where we viewed the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal with subsequent visits to Langport and the Upper Parrett River,



Horse and handler

Nigel Williams, Publicity

Membership Update



Since our last newsletter in August 2021 we have had 15 new members. Thank you for joining us.

If you're membership is due to expire soon, please let us know when you would like to renew this,



Peter Bird, Membership Secretary

Club 100 Lottery

This draw was made at the October council meeting.

The winners were....



Peter Cleare, £231,60



Richard Abel, £96.50



Graham Watts, £38.60

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 January 2022

Volunteer Opportunities -

Can you help us with either of these roles?



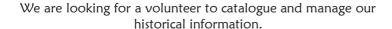
Volunteer - Information Manager



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.

Volunteer - Archivist





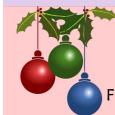
If you think you can help us please do get in touch.

Email: chairman@wendoveracanal.org.uk

Telephone: 07547 181 857, leave a message and we will get back to you.



Thank you.



Merry Christmas Happy New Year From all of us at Wendover Canal Trust



Regards from your Editor Carol Williams (left) Assisted by Janine Jones (right). Deadline for the next newsletter is 28th February 2022



President

Dr David Fletcher CBE Vice Presidents Barry Martin & Roger Leishman

Sir David Suchet CBE

Wendover Canal 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

Facebook: Wendover Arm Trust

Twitter: @wendoverarm

Advertising Enquiries:

Contact the Publicity Director, please find the contact details on page 4.

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.

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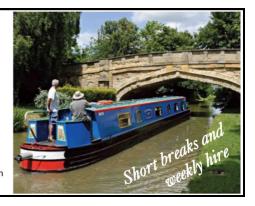
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