



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 109

June 2015

Re-watering Phase II

Being short of copy for this newsletter I thought that it would be a good idea to give a pictorial view of the re-watering of Phase II to date:

JULY 2003

Many of you seem unaware that, at the 1996 WAT AGM, Phase II was agreed to be the restoration between the former A41 bridge, not Drayton Beauchamp, and Phase I at Little Tring. The Trust was very fortunate in that having successfully argued at the public enquiry in 1989 for a navigable bridge under the proposed Aston Clinton By-pass, the end product was restoration of Phase II for 450 metres by the Highway Authority plus a further 250 metres through Drayton Beauchamp Bridge re-lined by the then BW due to alleged leakage, all at no cost to the Trust!



LOOKING BACK FROM THE PRESENT SUMP
TOWARDS ASTON CLINTON THROUGH
DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP BRIDGE

OCTOBER 2007



60 METRE TEST SECTION IN WATER AT
DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP

JUNE 2010



JENNY BRICE AND BOB BARRY BREACH THE
BUND AT THE END OF THE FIRST 60m TO
RE-WATER STAGE 1



STAGE 1 IN WATER

APRIL 2015



RAY & ROGER 'PULL THE PLUG TO RE-WATER STAGE 2/PART OF STAGE3



RE-WATERING NOW REACHES BRIDGE 4A

FEBRUARY 1996

Now cast your minds back to 1996 – this was the scene at the site of the bund at the end of Stage 1



Canal bed clearance of Phase II progressed through the years, including from 1997 when Phase I commenced, and the pick-up was finally driven from Little Tring to Drayton Beauchamp in 2005 ready to start work at the far end.

May and June Working Parties

Nothing startling to report except that pipe capping in Stage 3 is progressing well but in short lengths because of the difficulty in placing concrete with an excavator where there is no side access until we round the present bend.

At the May working party the new cabin was erected at Whitehouses.



Tony Bardwell

THE CABIN AT WHITEHOUSES

Because so many volunteers were away on holiday the June working party was shortened to three days, Friday to Sunday.

On the Sunday the Trust held another very successful Open Day at St.Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp. There were six parties of visitors to see work in progress and it was very cheering to find that most visitors were attending for the first time.

July working party.

Ray Orth is off cruising and will be away for the July working party. Tony Bardwell will be in charge and I would ask all who can attend this working party to let Tony know as soon as possible on 01296 634973 if you have not already done so.

In the days when we had our Annual Boat Festival the working party at the Festival took the place of the June working party after which many volunteers left for their annual boat trips and we did not have a July working party although sometimes worked a Saturday and Sunday. We then had a nine day working party in August to make up for lost time.

Bentonite

We recently heard that there was a leak in the new lining installed on the Buckingham Arm. We first thought that it was the new plastic 'Sahara' lining being used for some restoration schemes but then heard that it was Bentomat that had leaked. Apparently it had failed completely and the Bentonite turned sandy. The manufacturer replaced the faulty Bentomat that came from a different supplier to the one WAT use.

We have had no leakage that we are aware of and during recent times when the flow of water has completely stopped from Wendover the only loss of water in our 350 metre Stage 1 has been from evaporation. If the Bentomat had leaked the canal would have emptied! We recently had to cut through the Bentomat core in the bund at the end of Stage 1 and found that it was exactly as expected with no deterioration since it was laid in June 2010, five years ago.

The latest news is that it was not Bentomat (with Bentomat granules) on the Buckingham Arm but Bentofix that has a solid core of Bentonite. Bentofix was used by Balfour Beatty for the Aston Clinton By-pass diversion and we have heard of no problems to date.

Chiltern IWA Branch weekend trip **Friday 25th to Sunday 27th September 2015**

Many of our volunteers are members of Chiltern IWA Branch and regularly join this annual outing.

I have attached the itinerary to this newsletter in case you would like to join in on this very enjoyable social weekend. To book please contact Colin Bird, Address 11 Hillrise, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. KT12 2PE
Tel:01932 248178, ccbird@tiscali.co.uk.

The Cake Stall

Margaret and her helpers had a very successful Open Day when they made a profit of £554 in 4 hours. This is 50% of the profit they used to make at the 2/3 day Festival although they did not have the competition of the tea tent at the main festival site.

General Notes

We operate as a self-supervising group under CRT and all volunteers receive and sign for the Trust's Restoration Handbook that includes full Health and Safety requirements for the restoration works.

The handbook is the property of the Trust; if you leave the working parties for any reason, please return your Handbook to either Ray Orth or myself.

Hard hats for use at all times and high visibility jackets to be worn on sites with mobile plant in use are kept in the store at Tringford and must be drawn/returned there.

One first aid kit is kept in the store and one in the Nissan Cabstar and each qualified first-aider will have their own kit with him/her when on site.

Also available in the store at Tringford are ear defenders and goggles that must be worn when using trimmers, angle grinders, concrete breakers and the like. CRT will supply hard hats, gloves and footwear with reinforced toecaps on request.

We normally work from 9am to 5pm (or dark if earlier!). There are breaks for morning tea/coffee, packed lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. We take our own food and drink.

WORKING PARTIES

So you can plan your diary ahead, the following are the dates of future working parties in 2015:

| DATE | WORKING AT | WORK TO BE DONE |
|--|------------|-----------------------|
| 2015 | | |
| Friday 3 rd July to Thursday 9 th July | Stage 3 | Stage 3 pipe capping. |
| Friday 31 st July to Thursday 6 th August | Stage 3 | Stage 3 pipe capping. |
| Friday 4 th September to Thursday 10 th September Sunday 6 th will be a Restoration Open Day | Stage 3 | Stage 3 pipe capping. |
| Friday 2 nd October to Thursday 8 th October | Stage 3 | Stage 3 pipe capping. |
| Friday 6 th November to Thursday 12 th November | Stage 3 | Stage 3 pipe capping. |
| Friday 4 th December to Thursday 10 th December | Stage 3 | Stage 3 pipe capping. |

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INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION: CHILTERN BRANCH

**WEEKEND EXCURSION TO TO THE KENNET AND AVON CANAL,
THE COTSWOLD CANALS TRUST AND THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE
WARWICKSHIRE RAILWAY**

25th to 27th SEPTEMBER 2015

Friday 25th September

- 08:30 Depart High Wycombe (Swan Theatre)
- 08:45 Depart Amersham (Gore Hill Bus Stop)
- 09:00 Depart Chesham (The Broadway)
- 11:15 Arrive at Devizes Wharf where we will board the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust's Trip Boat 'Kenavon Venture' for a three hour cruise to the top of the Caen Hill flight of locks.
- 12:00 A buffet lunch will be served aboard. The Trip Boat has a fully licensed bar for wine and beer as well as non alcoholic beverages.
- 14:30 Disembark back at Devizes Wharf and rejoin our coach. A possible visit is proposed to the Crofton Pumping Station which will be preparing for its 'Open Weekend' .
- 16:30 Rejoin our coach for the onward journey to Falfield in Gloucestershire..
- 18:00 Arrive at the Best Western 'Gables' Hotel for dinner and overnight accommodation.
- 20:00 Dinner in the Hotel

Saturday 26th September

- 08:45 Depart from our hotel for the Cotswold Canal Trust's Visitor Centre in Stroud. We will be met here by Clive and Jill Field. Clive is Chairman of CCT (Trading) Limited and he and Jill Field will be our hosts for a day of comprehensive visits to sites of interest.
- 09:30 Arrive at the Visitor Centre for coffee.
- 10:00 Introductory talk by Clive Field.
- 10:45 Depart for a gentle walk from the Visitor centre during which we will view Wallbridge Upper Lock and Stroud Brewery Bridge, both opened by Princess Anne in 2012, the Lower Wallbridge Lock and Fish Pass. The walk then passes the historic headquarters of the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation, the terminus of the Stroudwater Navigation and the start of the Thames and Severn Canal. Finally, we will see the Lodgemore Mill, still manufacturing cloth to this day.
- 11:45 Reboard our coach to visit the hydro electric scheme at Dudbridge Locks and the Ebley Mill area.
- 13:15 Buffet Lunch at the 'Clothiers Arms' Inn in Stroud.
- 14:15 Reboard our coach to visit Chalford and one of five canal Roundhouses.
- 14:45 Visit Brimscombe Port, site of the former headquarters of the Thames and Severn Canal.
- 15:15 Reboard coach to view Ham Mill Lock, currently being restored by CCT volunteers.
- 15:45 Reboard coach to view Bowbridge Lock, another restoration project underway by volunteers and WRG.
- 16:15 Reboard coach for return to Wallbridge and afternoon tea.
- 16:45 Reboard coach for our return to the Hotel.
- 20:00 Dinner in the Hotel

Sunday 27th September

- 09:00 Depart from the Hotel for the Gloucestershire Warwickshire. Railway.
- 10:35 Arrive at Cheltenham Race Course Station. We will have 'All Day Rover' tickets for our visit to this restored section of what was once a route on the Great Western Railway from Birmingham via Stratford on Avon and Cheltenham to Penzance
- 10:55 Depart on the first steam train of the day. Passengers can disembark at the intermediate

stations at Gotherington and Winchcombe if they wish, taking a later train to the terminus at Toddington. At the latter, lunchtime meals and snacks can be taken at the 'Flag and Whistle' cafeteria. The last train of the day leaves Toddington at 15:55, Winchcombe at 16:06, and Gotherington at 16:18.

16:29 Arrival of the last train of the day at Cheltenham Racecourse Station.

16:45 Rejoin our coach for the journey home.

THE COST

The cost of the weekend excursion will be **£250** per person, based on two people sharing a twin or double room. The single room supplement is **£20**.

The cost **includes**:-

1. All coach travel.
2. Two nights accommodation on a half board (bed, breakfast and dinner) basis at 'The Gables' Best Western Hotel, Falfield in Gloucestershire.
3. A 3 hour cruise aboard the trip boat 'Kennavon Venture' from Devizes to the top lock of the Caen Hill flight of locks.
4. Buffet lunch aboard the 'Kennavon Venture'
5. A Day Rover ticket on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway.
6. Coach driver's gratuity
7. Donation to the Cotswold Canals Trust

The cost does **not** include:-

1. Travel insurance.
2. Morning coffees and afternoon teas if taken.
3. Pub buffet Lunch at the 'Clothiers Arms' in Stroud
4. Lunch or snack at the 'Flag and Whistle'.
5. Alcoholic beverages.
6. Other items of a personal nature.

The cost noted above is applicable to a party of 20 members. Historically, Branch 'Weekends Away' have attracted an average of some 25 members and guests. It will be possible therefore, to reduce this cost if more than 20 members and guests participate..