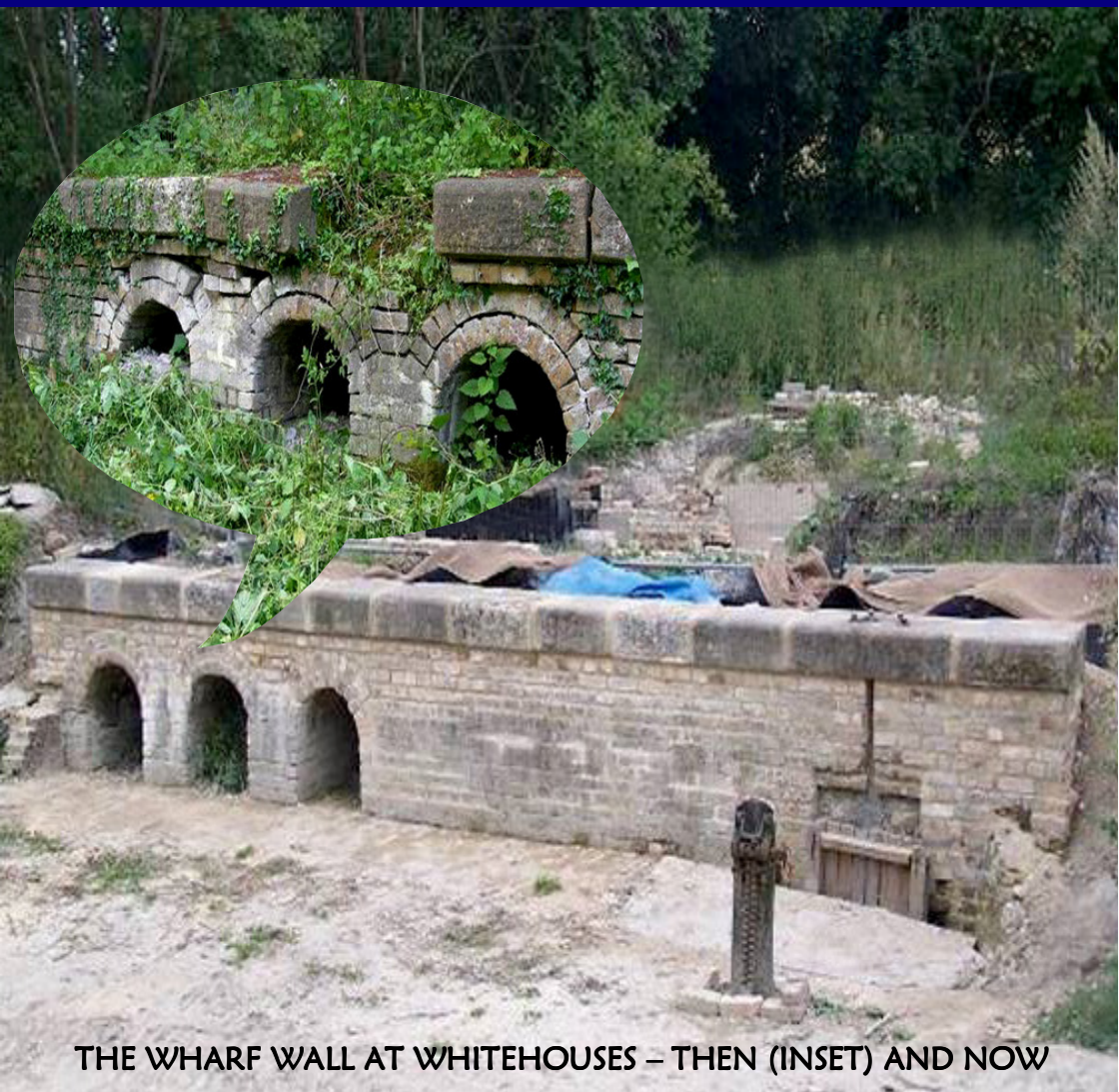




WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



THE WHARF WALL AT WHITEHOUSES – THEN (INSET) AND NOW

*Issue 2013/3
Autumn 2013*

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*

RECENT PROGRESS AT WHITEHOUSES



KESCRG AT WORK ON THE WALLS OF THE OLD SETTLING TANK WITH WEIR FOR RE-USE AFTER RE-WATERING



FIRST STONE IN PLACE, NEXT ONE GOING DOWN

Picture: Roger Leishman

GETTING READY TO PLACE THE 'PADDLE GEAR' STONE

Picture: Roger Leishman



THE NATURE TRAIL

Picture: Ray Orth



Chairman's column

It is often said that summers aren't what they used to be but this year we continue to enjoy wonderful sunshine, ideal for restoration work and festivals. Three scorching days at the National Festival in Watford proved to be quite punishing for those who helped and I salute all those who manned the stand and assisted in any way. The following Saturday at Linslade was just as hot but we were allocated a pitch in the welcome shade of a large pine tree. Both events ensured we had plenty of visitors to the stand and a goodly number bought Grand Draw tickets. Well done to Bob and Joanna for doing the work at Linslade.

Elsewhere I have been privileged to represent the Trust at several events and able to put in an appearance at the Crick and Braunston Festivals. The CRT Annual Meeting in the museum at Ellesmere Port was well worth the long journey up the M6. It is evident that much progress has been made by CRT in its first year and co-operation continues to be the buzz word, reflected in the excellent relationship we enjoy with our friends in the Milton Keynes office. I particularly welcomed the volunteer lock

keepers at Three Locks when single manning southwards!

The Trust continues to see changes to reflect the ever-changing nature of the project. Whilst I haven't been overwhelmed by potential volunteers for the post of Events Manager I am confident that a suitable candidate could be just around the corner. It is my ambition to see us waving our flag as often as possible at events large and small accompanied by an attractive display that is easily transported and erected. The whole challenge of fund raising is being addressed to meet the needs of the completion of Phase II and the very different nature of Phase III. We will need more help in this direction and again volunteers are welcome to join the action.

Finally another thought for your consideration. Should the Trust be organising some social events? The AGM with its supper it always well received and good fun. How about a Christmas or New Year dinner? This is not about Fund Raising but generating a wider involvement, a different sort of flag waving.

Paul Leech

From the Editor

Little space for me to rabbit on at length, for which small mercy you are probably most grateful. In the hope that this issue reaches you in time, a note to remind you of **RESTORATION DAY at Drayton Beauchamp on Sunday 8 September 12 noon to 4.30pm**. I also want to draw your attention to the Trust's AGM at Dunstable and District Boat Club on 30 October – see centre pages for notice/ directions and arrangements, hope to see you there! And there's not even enough space for another of the Editor's cookery columns – shame! (next time perhaps as I've a nice winter-warmer for you.)

David

Cover photo: Roger Leishman, inset picture, library

RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Many of our members, particularly those distant from the Arm who can't easily visit, may not be thoroughly familiar with the method we use as a standard for re-lining work. So a brief resumé – and we'd ask you to refer to the pictures on the back page (sorry if this is a bit inconvenient but it does mean we can print the pictures in colour)

To start with a waterproof Bentomat lining (the black stuff seen on the banks in both pictures) is laid 25 metres ahead of the completed work. This is covered with blocks to the eventual waterline and then coir rolls are placed on top. These rolls provide a bed into which marginal water plants will grow and stabilise the bank. Refer to the top picture for the remainder of this item: spoil is laid on to the top and this continues until all 25 metres of both banks are completed. Next a 20 metres roll of Bentomat is laid on the bed with an overlap over the previous roll and the joint is covered with a concrete 'sleeping policeman' as protection against damage from future dredging and also acts as a strut between the concrete block lining on the banks. You can see the mixer in position ready for action. The Bentomat is covered with 300mm of spoil as it is unrolled.

There are now 5 metres left for storing the mixer and materials ready for the next repeat operation that will extend the bank lining by 20 metres and lay another 20 metres of bed lining, still leaving a 5-metre storage area.

Mechanical plant is kept to a minimum; the excavator in the background is profiling the next 20 metres of banks while one dumper is moving spoil along to the excavator covering the lining of the bed. The blocks on the walls and the spoil on the bed keep the waterproof lining in position and protect it from damage by (in years to come!) boats and dredging.

UPDATE FROM MAY –DISASTER!

In the prior weeks we had noticed the weak state of the lime mortar on the Whitehouses restoration. We thought it was due to frost damage similar to that found on Little Tring Bridge but less than 24 hours before the Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG) arrived to continue its good work we received a report from CRT's contractors that the mortar had failed. This baffled us until Saturday morning when Roy Sutton, honorary consulting civil engineer to the IWA working with KESCRG – and who has been a tremendous help with the work at Whitehouses – identified the problem. The wrong type of lime had been used and any new brickwork repairs would need to be rebuilt. Very disappointing but some of us are now a lot wiser on the use of lime mortar!

GOOD WEATHER – GOOD PROGRESS

The news from the **May June, July** and **August** working parties is that with (for the most part) good dry summer weather steady progress was made with 20 metres of relining completed each month. KESCRG were with us again in **July** and continued their good work at

Whitehouses, rebuilding the brickwork that had the wrong lime mortar.

AUGUST 2013

It seemed at first as if we wouldn't have enough volunteers to staff what has been our annual nine-day working party. As KESCRG were with us at Whitehouses for the weekend we decided to start on the relining on Sunday rather than the Saturday; KESCRG needed Ray's assistance for relaying the coping stones on the old wharf wall that had been repaired as he knew the correct location of the stones and was operating our hydraulic grab for lifting and placing them. Progress pictures are on page 2

The exact location of the coping stones longitudinally was fixed by the stone that had the fixing bolts for the paddle that used to control draining the canal into Wilstone Reservoir via the old pumping shaft. This paddle was relocated on the 18" pipeline carrying the water from Wendover as shown in the photograph.

Remarkably, after over 100 years, the holding down bolts complete with nuts for the paddle gear and hole through the stone for the paddle operating rod are still in place. As the paddle is to be returned to its former use, care had to be taken to locate the stone to line up with the groove in the wharf wall for the operating rod.

By the following Sunday work was rapidly approaching the end of Stage 2 – at the left hand end of the lower picture on the back page. If you look (very) carefully you may see a fence post in front of the left hand tree at the top of

the bank. The post marks the boundary between Stages 2 and 3. You may wonder why this is in the middle of nowhere? When planning Phase II, I split the length to be lined into six 350 metre long stages (for the pedantic stage I is only 321 metres long) to enable me to monitor progress and, more importantly, to provide a means of checking the cost of the work as it progressed.

On the last Saturday we welcomed assistance from RAF Halton who cut up six rolls of Bentomat and laid the blocks and coir rolls on the bank lining completed during the week.

Dare we hope that the good weather will continue and allow us to get to Bridge 4A early in the new year? If we can then a bund can be constructed and stage 2 of phase II (plus a bit of stage 3) can be re-watered, possibly as special celebration event in the spring of 2014.

THE NATURE TRAIL/FOOTPATH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WRG's Forestry Team was in attendance one day of the May working party and felled the three trees at the bottom of the old council tip near Bridge 4A. This will give us extra tipping space as well as stabilising the base of the very high tip face. Many thanks to Herts County Council and their tenant farmer, Keith Slade, on whose land we are carrying out these works. KESCRG have made a good start with the footpath/nature trail from Bridge 4 to Whitehouses that winds through the wooded area alongside the canal and continued with this work when they were with us during July; the result you can see in picture on page 2.

Membership Update

Katherine has been very busy over the summer months recruiting new members and processing renewals from existing members as well as doing a little debt chasing! This is the busiest time of year for the membership department.

The new Golden Giving system on the website is generally performing well; there have been a couple of hiccups, which have been sorted out. Golden Giving are continually upgrading the system, the latest improvements enable members to add an additional donation at the checkout if they wish to top up their membership. Members will soon be able to sign up for electronic newsletter if they wish.

Every member will be registered onto the system for the first time this year and then renewals will follow next year. If you are on Email, you will get a conformational Email from Golden Giving. The unique reference number is only relevant if you have paid by card, as this is the payment reference. If you pay by other means, ignore it. Membership numbers will not change.

If you have any feedback (good or bad) about the membership process, please contact Katherine.

Standing Orders

Standing orders are an efficient way to pay memberships and Club 100 subscriptions as the payments come automatically year after year unless you cancel. There is no

need for reminders, just a thank-you when your payment comes through on the bank statement.

One request please – can you check your standing order instruction is up to date and that it will pay the correct membership fee? £10 single and £15 family. Many payments are coming through at the old rates. Contact Katherine if you need a form to send to your bank.

If you would like to upgrade to block (5 years for the price of 4) or life membership, please contact Katherine.

Email addresses

The Trust is now using the Mail Chimp bulk Email service, which is free to use and enables us to send more professional looking emails to members, including photos and links to the website etc. This service also enables us to track when members open Emails and more importantly those who don't.

If you are signed up for Email, please ensure Katherine has your current Email address and check your spam filter in case the messages are blocked. The sender will be 'Wendover Arm Trust'. Please send all email requests (including electronic newsletter) to Katherine membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Membership Changes

Three of our members have sadly passed away but it is gratifying to record that

two of the three widows/widowers are continuing with membership.

There has been quite a flurry of new members since the Spring Newsletter and we welcome:

Mr D Britten of Abbots Langley
Mr & Mrs J Lynch of Buckland Wharf
Mr & Mrs S Kirby of Ledbury
Mr & Mrs Richards of Wilstone
Mr & Mrs S Rudd of Naphill
Mr L Smith of Wigginton

all as a result of events at which the Trust had a presence and through the Open Day in June.

Mr R Harrild of High Wycombe
(Life Membership)

Mr & Mrs Luxton of Leighton Buzzard
Revd V Malone of London

(Life Membership)

Mr & Mrs Steadman of Leighton
Buzzard

Mr M Tapsfield of London
all from website applications.

Aston Clinton Parish Council has joined as a Corporate member and our Webmaster has been busy recruiting in his village and as a result of his efforts:

Mrs M Dunn of Hyde Heath
has joined us.

We also have several re-joiners in:

Ms E Edwards
Mr & Mrs D Parkins of Aston Clinton
Mr & Mrs Kingham of Great Missenden
Mr & Mrs Brown of Rickmansworth
(Life membership)

We extend a warm welcome to them all, joiners or re-joiners and thank them for supporting the restoration cause.

Club 100

Exclusive members-only fund-raising lottery

Club 100 is a fund-raising cash prize-draw lottery, exclusive to Trust members. £15 per year buys a lucky number that is entered into four quarterly draws throughout the year. To join club 100 contact Katherine.

The total prize fund is approximately half the subscriptions, so the more members, the bigger the prizes! The remaining income goes directly to canal restoration funds.

The **summer draw of 2013** was made on July 17th. There were 157 lucky numbers in the draw

The prize winners were:

1st	Mrs AP Bishop	£188.40
2nd	Mr DR Lawson	£78.50
3rd	Mr JL Norton	£31.40

Congratulations to our winners and we hope you enjoy your prize money

Tools for disposal

Enid Pittaway has very kindly donated more tools and equipment that belonged to her late husband Ron. It was Ron's wish that the tools be used by the Trust or be disposed of in order to help raise much needed funds for the Trust. In addition there are also a few tools left from the previous successful sale, which raised over £130. As before each tool has a suggested donation (attracts Gift Aid) that you might like to make.

Except where stated all items are used but in good/useable condition

Wet and dry vacuum: Power Devil Small. With hose and attachments	£10
Circular (Skil) saw: Performance Power.1200W Laser guidance and good tungsten carbide blade	£15
Stanley LED tripod torch: Model 2.98.542 Single powerful LED on adjustable stand	£12
Jigsaw Bosch PST54e: Pendulum action and up to 45 degree cut. With spare blades.	£15
Triton Multistand: Tripod support of wide/long materials when on bandsaw/drill/handsaw	£20
Compressor: Small, 80psi plus. With car tyre attachment or use with airbrush/small spraygun	£2
Drain clearing rods: 10 x Brand new in unopened pack. Claw and rubber disc attachments	£15
Blowtorch: Taymar Butane with soldering attachment with half full gas canister and stand	£7
Blowtorch: Camping Gaz Butane/propane with half full canister and stand	£5
Camping Gaz: Canister C206 unused	£2
Pipe-cutter: Small to get into tight spaces suitable adjustable for 3 to 22mm copper pipe	£3
Blowtorch: Hand held with 2.5m hose and Calor gas threaded gas pressure regulator	£10
Soldering iron: Old fashioned type copper-block tip heated in a gas flame	£3
Soldering iron: Large tip mains 65W made by Solon	£5
Soldering iron: Medium mains 25 W with spare tip	£3
Pipe-bending springs: Set of 5 measuring approximately 14mm, 18mm, 24mm and 30mm OD	£10

If you are interested in any of the items in return for a donation and, as a donation, it can be Gift Aided please contact

Tony Bardwell in Aston Clinton on 01296 634973 or 07798 640 675

Reflections on the National at Cassiobury

At least the weather was in Festival mood – although perhaps a bit too hot and needing frequent refreshment trips to the ice-cream van and the beer tent. But was this a National Festival or a regional event? In comparison with Nationals of the past there was little in the way of a Trade Show (maybe Crick has assumed the mantle here?) and the event was geographically very spread out.

From the car park having to fight your way through the path cut through the Watford jungle, one began to wonder where the Festival was (OK, fair dues, we did later find another route that was something like a civilised entry to Cassiobury.) The site was small with the boats in a completely different location a goodly walk away and not within the Site's fence. Plenty of visitors to the towpath to view the boats and for rides on the trip boat, the chap running the miniature trains rides was doing a roaring trade but there were more people in the park's play area and paddling pool than had paid to be inside the Festival site. As usual the beer tent provided a staggering range of ales (one good reason to attend!) but with none of the queues that one usually sees at a National.

What about WAT? We shared a 'village' with the Chiltern, Middlesex and South London Branches of IWA very close to Paul's favourite, the ice cream van. The centrepiece was a display promoting the activities of the various London Region branches and included, as a late entry, a display of plans for the Slough-Thames link.

Chiltern Branch took the opportunity to hold a Boat Jumble and, despite the low

footfall managed to raise over £1700.

WAT's stand was manned heroically by Paul with the observation, through another ice-cream cone, that we really do need to upgrade the hardware of our stand to make it lighter and easier to transport/erect/dismantle. We sold a goodly number of Grand Draw tickets, got a few new members into the pipeline and identified someone who, potentially, could be the Events Manager that we need – more in the Winter Issue.

WAT established a good rapport with the Friends of the Cromford Canal who had brought with them a very attractive stand. Matthew Rogers, their chairman, gave us quite a few good ideas that he's quite happy for us to steal!

The following week at Linslade we were inundated with visitors – a free festival. Rumour has it that the IWA has made a thumping loss on Cassiobury and if that be so then there must surely be some serious navel-gazing about what a National Festival is there to achieve.

And just as an end-note as we've been talking about Watford, on 24 July the go-ahead was finally given for the long talked-about rail link between Croxley and Watford Junction. Work will start next year and the interest for us in the canal world is the need to build a viaduct over the GU south of Cassio Bridge lock. Try the following link for a fly-though of the scheme

<http://www.croxleyraillink.com/consultation/3d-flythrough.htm>

Thanks to Paul Leech and others for comments to make this compilation

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty fourth Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held at the Dunstable and District Boat Club, Cooks Wharf, Wellington Place, PITSTONE. LU7 9AD on Wednesday 30th. October 2013 commencing at 7.30 pm.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting held on 23rd October 2012.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Individual Trustees' Reports.
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report.
6. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the report of the Committee. (Council of Management).
7. To receive and, if thought fit, to approve the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust for the Year ended on 5th April 2013, and the Report of the independent Examiner thereon.
8. To re-appoint Mr Robin David Goodridge BA ACA as the independent Examiner.
9. To elect Members to the Council. (See Note 1 below).

By Order of the Council



John. M. Rowe.
Secretary
1st June 2013

Registered Office:
66, Bryants Acre,
Wendover
Bucks.
HP22 6LA

Note 1. Under Article 39, nominations for election to the 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 proposer and by the person nominated, confirming their willingness to be elected. Only members 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 at the meeting.

Note 2. Any person being a member of the Trust is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf at the Annual General Meeting. Such a proxy need not be a member of the Trust. A letter nominating the proxy, signed by the member, must be received by the Secretary before the start of the meeting

WAT AGM at DDBC (that's Dunstable and District Boat Club).

This year's AGM is once again hosted by Dunstable and District Boat Club, at the same venue as last year (thank you DDBC).

The AGM starts at 7.30 pm, and a supper break will follow the official business which our Chairman Paul Leech promises to try and keep as brief as possible. Restoration Director Roger Leishman will then give an update on the restoration as a whole, and will no doubt issue a plea for volunteers, so listen up!

Members Graham and Rose Bennett have once again volunteered to offer a Ploughman's Supper, for which a voluntary donation is requested. The Club Bar will also be open.

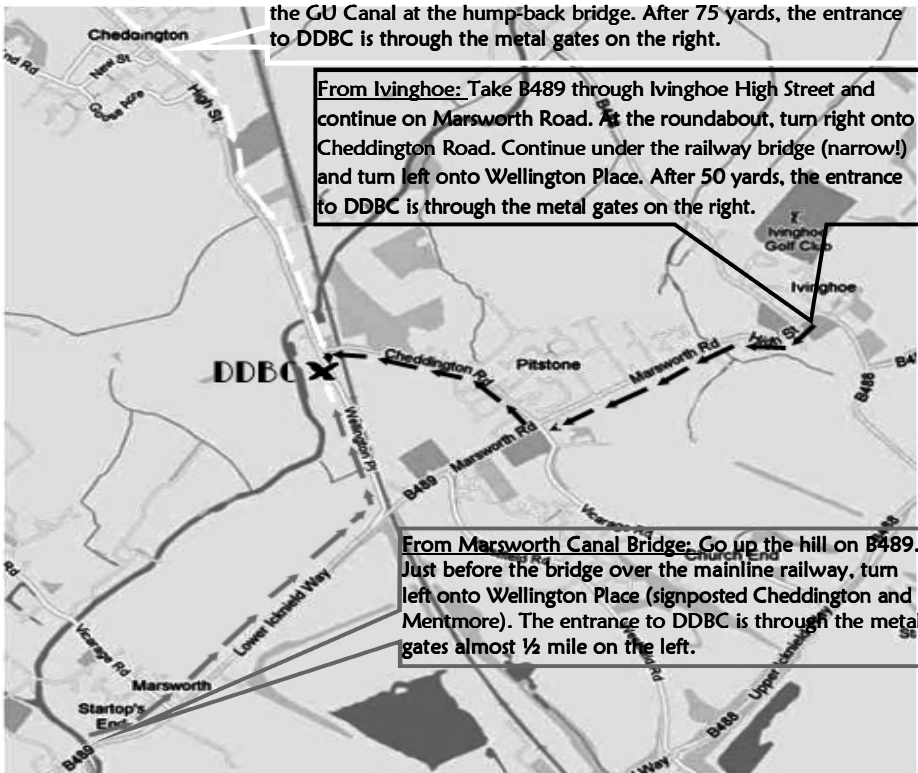
The Boat Club is security conscious, and the car park is normally locked shut. For our AGM the entrance **gates to DDBC will be open from 7.00 pm and will be closed from 7.45 pm.**

The AGM was held at DDBC last year, but if you are like me, you may have forgotten how to get there. Please see the directions and map below. There will be two WAT banners at the entrance to help you locate the entrance

From Cheddington: Continue South through Cheddington and cross the GU Canal at the hump-back bridge. After 75 yards, the entrance to DDBC is through the metal gates on the right.

From Ivinghoe: Take B489 through Ivinghoe High Street and continue on Marsworth Road. At the roundabout, turn right onto Cheddington Road. Continue under the railway bridge (narrow!) and turn left onto Wellington Place. After 50 yards, the entrance to DDBC is through the metal gates on the right.

From Marsworth Canal Bridge: Go up the hill on B489. Just before the bridge over the mainline railway, turn left onto Wellington Place (signposted Cheddington and Mentmore). The entrance to DDBC is through the metal gates almost ½ mile on the left.



ROVING THE RIVER ROTHER

IWA TRAILBOAT FESTIVAL

This year's Festival was at Bodiam Castle on the River Rother in East Sussex. From Bodiam to Rye the river bed level is below high tide level, so Scots Float Sluice is used to control levels to prevent salt water entering the river system at high tides and retain river water in the summer months to ensure the health of the surrounding marsh habitat. The Rother Level Acts ensure that the 12 miles from the Sluice Lock to Bodiam are kept navigable, also they enshrined the principal that it was a FREE River with no tolls.

We arrived in driving rain at Scots Float Sluice Slipway on Friday evening, after a very slow trip around the M25. (Note to self, do not travel with a boat in tow on the afternoon before a bank holiday). Barry Green the Lock Keeper said he had to raise the sluice gates to reduce the height of water in the river, so we could not launch till after 7pm. He then disappeared for his evening meal – a good idea and so did we!

At 7pm we got the go-ahead to launch. Bernard Snell a fellow Wildernei owner came up to help. The slipway was steep and long, with no pontoon to use when taking the ropes. Bernard, having helped a number of boats in during the last few days, had worked out the best method to overcome this problem. Eventually we were in business with the engine started, but had to wait and tow a steam launch along to the moorings by

the lock keeper's cottage. While we gracefully did pirouettes in the ever increasing darkness, the steam launch was pushed into the river and the rope thrown. We unsteadily made our progress up to the moorings, where he was cast off into the waiting hands of other Wildernei boaters.

Two other boats from the club arrived after 9pm and decided it was too late to launch, they had also been delayed with their journey times. As the opening ceremony was at lunchtime next day, they had to launch very early to be ready for the 3 hour river cruise to Bodiam.

The river has high flood banks. It's meandering course takes it through the drained marsh area making it impossible to see any views. Any moorings along the river needed gang planks for access, due to the reeds and foliage at the water's edge. There was only one village Newenden along the way, which had a boat club nearby.

We joined the other boats at our moorings on the Castle bank side. The official opening ceremony was by the Mayor of Rye, who along with many other local dignitaries had been invited for the launch of the festival. Along the banks we had three water-related Associations; The Kent and East Sussex IWA (who were organizing the event), The River Wey which is owned and run by the National Trust, and The Wey and Arun Restoration

group. As this was National Trust Land no commercial stands were allowed.

The organizers had laid on a minibus for the festival users, we had many trips to choose from. Smallhythe an NT property nearby, the towns of Rye and Battle, and a walk along The Royal Military Canal. They had also negotiated a 20% reduction on the local steam railway which ran from Bodiam to Tenterdon. Any festival goer who was not an NT member was also allowed to visit the castle for free on the Saturday evening.

At Smallhythe we were given a presentation on its history as a former ship building village. Our 3 ½ mile walk along the Royal Military Canal allowed us to see the kinks along its length which had been planned to improve firepower if the enemy tried to cross it; by the time the canal was completed in 1809 the threat of war from Napoleon had passed, nevertheless it was quickly requisitioned by the War Department in 1935 and the banks were lined with pill-boxes.

On Saturday evening the NT laid on a BBQ with music provided. The weather was so good that we all took our food and drink and sat together along the river bank, *(see picture, right, with the shadow of John taking it!)* a really good Wildernei get-together and as always we put on an illuminated boat display – but this year static owing to the narrowness of the river.

The Wilderness Boat Owners AGM on the Sunday evening was followed by an outstanding projector presentation using

photos of past events, all accompanied by an appropriate musical background both arranged by Bernard Snell.

On Tuesday we began to cruise back towards Scots Float Sluice Lock, it was drizzling but no complaints after such lovely weather over a bank holiday weekend. A number of us stayed for a few days moored by the lock keeper's cottage. We used the days for driving out to visit the local area, and on Tuesday night twelve of us had a meal together at a fish restaurant in Rye. It is always good to meet up and socialize with other club members. Water was available at the moorings and at the lock, Elsan disposal and a toilet. The total cost for the time spent at the festival and on the River Rother was only £20, a bargain for these days.

All in all a superb festival, this will be hard to beat next year. All the members of Kent



and East Sussex IWA were involved. A special thank you to Bernard Snell for helping all the boats launch safely, even when the rain was torrential.

Jenny Brice

TREE PLANTING

Phill Cardy recently brought us five small trees for planting, three oaks, a whitethorn and a plum. The intention is to place them alongside the hedge that Ken Graves planted across the tip site at the winding hole.

They are all flourishing but need to grow more before they are planted out and thus are presently under the tender care of our resident horticulturist, Margaret Leishman.

However we are disappointed in that Margaret's attempts to take hardwood cuttings from the prunus tree at Whitehouses do not seem to be successful despite two separate attempts over two years and expert advice from the RHS, of which Margaret is a member.

THEFT OF BENCH PLAQUES

We've been dismayed by the theft of the brass memorial plaques from the five bench seats installed along the towpath between Little Tring and Drayton Beauchamp. Our Restoration Committee is looking for replacement plaques that are less attractive to thieves and that can be more securely fastened. The local press gave good coverage to the theft, there were items in the Waterways press and the matter was, of course, reported to the police.

CORRECTION

The picture of the restoration team laying blocks in the summer supplement was wrongly ascribed to David Lonsdale. The corrected attribution is Chris Sargeant

LINSLADE CANAL FESTIVAL

27 July: Once again WAT was represented at this (now) annual free festival. In comparison with the National there were hordes of visitors despite Leighton-Linslade Council's declared concerns about how big the event was becoming and it clearly has become an event that binds the community. Bob and Johanna Wheal with Chairman Paul were the mainstays of our stand and managed, on a scorching hot day, to get our stand pitched under a tree!

Lots of visitors to talk to, a lot of interest in the restoration day on 8 September and £114 of Grand Draw tickets sold.

Not only that but the bonus of a visit from the Town Crier (pictured right) who cut a really fine figure in his ceremonial robes.



LOGS FOR SALE

The Trust has a supply of logs available from recently felled trees.

If you wish to purchase some logs at a price of £50 for a 'dunny' sack full (a dunny sack is a bulk [jumbo] sack used for building materials such as sand, etc.) and are able to collect them from our site then contact Ray Orth on 01494 786868 or 07733 092034

Water from Wendover:

SECOND THOUGHTS ON THE SECOND EDITION by SHELLEY SAVAGE

When *Water from Wendover* was completed, in 2002, it was the end of more than a year's work. Having optimistically printed 3000 copies, that seemed to be that. But 10 years later, somehow there were very few left, and so the unthinkable was being suggested . . . another edition.

There was plenty to write about, as the restoration had advanced hugely. But there had also been other developments which excited me, and I wanted to include. In the event, as this book is a 'walkers' guide' they could not all be explored as much as they should, so this article is another chance.

Early in 2001 I gathered together a small group to try and find out more about the modest red brick building at Wendover where the stream emerges into the canal. It turned out to be the water flow gauge and of great significance despite its modest exterior. As well as local people, the group consisted of the man who is the country's expert on rivers, Dr Terry Marsh, another colleague from the Centre for Ecology

and Hydrology, Adrian Bayliss, and John Morris from the Chiltern Society Rivers and Wetlands Conservation Group. Whereas I was interested in the history of the canal, the scientists had much bigger concerns. 'Given the importance of chalk aquifers, in the context of both biodiversity and water supply, it follows

that there is considerable interest in the possible impacts of climate change.'

Research continued after the first edition had been published, and so did our meetings. The culmination, after John Morris had found records of rainfall at Cow Roast, was an article in the *Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*⁽¹⁾. Terry Marsh was kind enough to re-write his earlier section for the second edition, page 5.

Unfortunately there was no opportunity to include the other major piece of research. Henry Gunston's concern was the actual measurement of the flow, and he and Adrian Bayliss spent much time examining weir plates and the history of the wells, the culverts and the sluices. The result is nearly 12 pages of detailed investigation⁽²⁾

(Continued on page 16)



Shelley with her book at Little Tring Bridge

Water from Wendover (Continued from page 15)
and his conclusion, in 2009, was 'The assembly of the Wendover Series is unique in providing over 90 years of spring flow

data for the Chilterns. Globally there are few records that describe flow variability in the latter part of the 19th Century as completely as the Wendover series.'

References:

(1) A C Bayliss, J Norris and T J Marsh, "The Wendover Springs Record: An insight into the past and a benchmark for the future" *Weather*, Vol.59, 2004, 267-271

(2) H Gunston and A Bayliss, "Water from Wendover Springs – a history of the development and measurement of water flows from a canal supply source" *Journal of the Railway & Canal Historical Society* Vol. 36, Part 4, No. 204, March 2009.

AYLESBURY CANAL SOCIETY

News from our neighbours 'just down the hill' from the Wendover Arm.

The society's new marina at Circus Field (on the eastern outskirts of the town) is approaching completion and occupation is expected soon, the pictures show the general area at the end of July.

The Society, formed in 1971 to encourage use of the canal and prevent closure, has occupied the canal basin off Walton Street for the past forty years. It has been largely responsible for the continued use and growth of the Aylesbury Arm, which connects to the Grand Union Canal at Marsworth.

The Society's move will enable the final stages of Aylesbury Vale District Council's Waterside development to proceed.

The new facility has a basin with up to 40 moorings, a new clubhouse, and dry and wet docks for boat maintenance. As at present the Society intends to offer up to 2 weeks free secure moorings for visiting boats. Unfortunately even if finished soon you may not be able to visit them immediately by boat as the repair work on the collapsed Lock 11 of the Arm isn't due to be completed before the end of October.

Find out more by visiting:

www.aylesburycanal.org.uk

We wish them every happiness in their new home



General view of the marina



The stop-lock, waiting for the bridge to be emplaced

Smile – you're on Camera!

You really thought you'd seen it all?

After taking its Street View car down every road in the country Google is now capturing rivers and canals for the first time using a camera mounted on a backpack known as the Trekker. The backpack is being lent to CRT and, beginning on the Regent's Canal in London in mid-August, the Trekker will cover 100 miles and about 60 locations over the next month

Volunteers at the Trust will be fitted

with the 4ft, 40lbs backpack, which has 15-angle lenses taking a picture every 2.5 seconds that can be merged into a 360-degree view.

The images will then be stitched together and

added to Street View. The results of the project will be available online within six months to a year.

Wendy Hawk, partnerships manager of the Canal and River Trust, said, 'We're delighted to be the first people in the UK to get the Trekker on our backs – it's fantastic that our 200-year old network is being given a different lease of life thanks to cutting edge, 21st-century technology. I'll be walking ten miles of the route – the backpack is definitely heavy but it is more than worth it. The footage we get will allow millions of



Picture: Canal and River Trust

people from all over the world to see our canals, rivers and towpaths, and will hopefully encourage some people to make a trip to see them.'

The trust aims to capture imagery of the Standedge Tunnel as well as the Bingley five-rise locks and, according to the *Daily Telegraph*, 'They will also travel across to the Grand Union Canal in Oxford as well as capturing the Kennet and Avon Canal in Bath'; one wonders whether the GU has translocated and why the Kennet and

Avon escaped – oh well, its only a newspaper!

Google UK, said, 'We would love to map everywhere we get requests for. There's really nowhere out of its reach. This project will allow people

from all over the world to see the most beautiful parts of the UK. It will allow them to view it from their home but also hopefully encourage them to go and visit. As with Street View we will respect the public's privacy – blurring faces where we need to – and it we'll only be walking on public land.'

So, you know now what to do when you see a Dalek on someone's back trudging along the towpath (exterminate them?)

Thanks to CRT and the Daily Telegraph for the basis of this item – Ed

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**Wordsearch
solution from the
summer issue**

N H S X L J W W Y I D S Q W Q Q K E L R
 F O A A Z A U T H K E N E N P I F G A P
 D Z I E X W V I N S A N W L H I S D N N
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 E L Y J I D L G R E S T O R A T I O N O
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PRESENTATION TO SHEILA LEWIS

For several years Sheila Lewis, the widow of our former Chairman and Vice-President Roger Lewis, has provided a

home for our VW Transporter and then Ford Transit tipper in her barn at Hastoe. Now that we have a home for the newly

acquired Nissan Cabstar at Tringford Pumping Station the Trust presented Sheila with a rhododendron bush in recognition of her kindness. Not only this but Sheila gives the Trust caravan a home at Hastoe and allows the occasional use of it as overnight accommodation for one or two of our restoration volunteers who have a long distance to come. Sheila also provides an electrical supply to the caravan. Many, many thanks Sheila.



L-R: John Brooman, Roger Leishman, Sheila Lewis, Ray Orth present Sheila with her rhododendron

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LINING – NEARLY AT THE END OF STAGE 2

Photo: Roger Leishman



RAF HALTON AT WORK PLACING COIR ROLLS

Adapted from photos by: Roger Leishman

