



WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



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Spring 2013*

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*

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Chairman's column

It is with great regret that I have to advise that Graeme Lockhart has resigned as our Festival Director. He is extremely desirous to have a clean break from the increasingly arduous burden which he feels is way out of his comfort zone. Graeme is a real 'nuts and bolts' man who has served the Trust admirably for many years but his role has changed and now he feels that a new approach with new faces is the best way forward for the Trust. Graeme intends to remain as a member and will, after a break, be willing to contribute to the success of future events.

I share many of Graeme's concerns about our involvement with the IWA Watford Festival and I shall be attending the next meeting of the National committee in Watford, prepared to seek real answers to questions about our involvement. Much is still vague and I shall be following a 'minimal involvement' approach. The all important financial and reputational risks have yet to be clarified.

Our fund-raising efforts and methods will inevitably have to change to match the demands of the completion of Phase II and the different approach necessary for the work in Phase III. We are not in a position at present to contemplate several events that place a huge responsibility on a limited number of folk, however willing. The possibility of another walk and other suggested events will be discussed at our next Council Meeting. Resourcing them will be a difficult challenge but not in any way impossible. However I believe our immediate task must be geared to expanding our team through patient and focused recruitment. A Watford based festival in 2014 is in my view at this time very unlikely.

I hope this letter doesn't sound too bleak but I am convinced that we have to face up to reality and grab the opportunity we have for some new thinking to make possible the successful completion of this splendid restoration.

Paul Leech - Chairman

From the (new) Editor

A brief word from me to say that we have the usual mix of items in this edition. I would particularly ask you to look at the 'help wanted' section on page 12 and to say that whatever little you may be able to do will be much appreciated – many hands make light work as the old proverb goes.

GRAND DRAW tickets will have just fallen out of the envelope. About 600 copies of this newsletter are posted out so if each recipient were to buy the £10-worth enclosed then the Trust would have funds to restore another 150metres of the Arm.

Cover photo by R Leishman:

'...and they closed the canal because it wouldn't hold water!'

Membership Update

Membership fees and classes

At the 2012 AGM several major changes to Trust membership fees and classes were approved by members:

Annual Membership

With immediate effect there has been a small increase to £10 single, £15 joint and £25 corporate.

If you have an existing standing order instruction would you please arrange for it to be increased ready for your next payment.

Block Membership – 20% discount

Buy 5 years membership with one simple payment and get a 20% discount, meaning you get 5 years for the price of 4 years.

Life Membership

For a one off payment of £150 (single) or £250 (joint) members can be part of the Trust for life or as long as you wish to support the Trust.

Payment options

There are several different ways to pay for Trust membership. You can pay by cash (don't send in the post please), cheque, standing order and BACS transfer.

Once our new website is fully up and running, we will also be able to take payment by credit card over the phone

or the internet. Watch this space, more news in the summer issue!

BACS / Standing order payment

To set up an electronic transfer using internet banking, simply create a new payment instruction to Wendover Arm Trust, sort code: 05-04-61 and account number: 67957123.

If you would like to set up a standing order / BACS transfer but do not have access to the internet, please ask Katherine for a mandate form to complete and send to your bank.

Email

Email will be used for membership communications where possible to save postage costs. If you have not already registered your Email or it has changed, please Email Katherine membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk and she will do the rest.

E-Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter by Email instead of a printed copy, register your Email with Katherine. Please note this is a separate mailing list to the membership one as we appreciate that many members like a paper copy of the newsletter but are happy to use Email for membership.

Restoration – Working Party News

This is a separate newsletter produced by Roger Leishman giving details of current restoration works. The newsletters are summarised in this publication but if you would like to join the mailing list for the full version, please contact John on scubajr@tiscali.co.uk

Gift Aid

At the start of the second half of the 2012/13 tax period, the total gift aid so far is £1181.75

Membership Changes

Founder members, Mr & Mrs Giddings have resigned from the Trust, as they have moved out of the area.

We welcome as members Miss C Winter & Mr S Smith, Pitstone who joined as a result of one of Ray's talks.

AGM 2013

It may seem a long way away but Council is already laying plans for this year's AGM. The most likely dates are Tuesday, 29 October or Wednesday, 30 October. The venue in 2012 (Dunstable & District Boat Club) was well received by those who attended. We have asked the Boat Club if it will allow the Trust to use its premises again this year and the reply has been favourable so it just remains for Council to make a decision. More in the summer issue and the autumn issue will contain the formal notices

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 **first draw of 2013** was made on January 16th. There were 156 lucky numbers in the draw, a big increase on last year.

The prize winners were:

1st	Mr N Binks	£187.20
2nd	Mrs J Precious	£76.00
3rd	Mrs O Shaw	£31.20

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

RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters

December 2012

Dreadful weather continued during November so we took the decision not to carry out any work on Stage 2 lining as we had reached a clear stop point in November. Instead we did various 'housekeeping' jobs.

At Little Tring we tidied the site generally, collected all the rubbish and sent it to tip, and laid rubble on the roadway through the storage site.

Phill Cardy led a team removing roots from behind the wharf wall at Whitehouses, which was then backfilled to allow settlement before the coping stones are replaced by KESCRG in May 2013.

Various items of bank lining materials given to the Trust by Balfour Beatty after the Aston Clinton by-pass construction were sorted and some are on offer to a railway enthusiasts' group at Chinnor; the result was that we now have areas cleared ready for further deliveries of concrete blocks in January.

The towpath hedge through the Little Tring storage site was cut.

The felt on the hut was re-roofed under John Reynolds' direction, the ply boards used on site to cover the bottom of the strips of Bentomat down the bank were recovered and stored at Bridge 4 pending better weather and the supply

of Bentomat granules at Little Tring was replenished.

January and February 2013

If you look at the pictures on the cover and on the back page you would be justified in asking why the canal bed requires re-lining against leaks! We purchased 300 metres of delivery hose to enable us to pump into the nearest manhole on the 18-inch pipeline and spent seven days on both working parties pumping out as much water as possible between Little Tring and the end of completed lining, 1,275 metres in length!

For two more months it was not possible to work on the Stage 2 re-lining and this is why we are now at least six months behind with the restoration. But we did make great progress with scrub-bashing the towpath bank between Little Tring and Bridge 4 and preparing the base for a bench seat that Ray Powell, a former IWA Chiltern Branch Chairman and Director of the Trust, is installing in memory of his late wife, Ann. John Reynolds was also able to construct reels for the new water hose, a personnel shelter especially for protecting anyone injured on site awaiting attention and a 'loo' shelter for use on site.

March 2013

As I write this the snow is disappearing and yet more rain falling. Ray Orth and I have discussed this and, unless conditions

improve greatly, we are considering a three day working party for March. If the weather pattern remains the same in the winter of 2013/14 serious consideration will be given to suspending operations altogether for the winter.

Forward programme

Subject to our capricious weather the restoration programme for March, April and May is bed-and-bank lining. In May too we welcome back KESCRG who are going to continue with the Whitehouses restoration and access footpath that we've reported on in previous newsletters

Whitehouses

Sadly we are going to have to remove the cherry tree at Whitehouses. This must have stood for many years but the roots are now causing serious damage to the adjacent brickwork of the settling tank and wharf wall and may soon affect the over 200 year-old deep pumping shaft that allows water to flow from the canal into the heading connecting to Wilstone Reservoir. The WRG Forestry Team has agreed to take the tree down and CRT are arranging a bat survey. We did investigate selling the timber but sadly the cost of transporting one tree would be more than the Trust could raise from its sale.

Herfordshire County Council: former tip at Bridge 4A

We have come to an agreement for further tipping on Herts County Council land to support the base of the former

council tip that is moving towards the canal. At the January and February working parties several small trees and scrub were removed to clear the site but three mature trees are to be removed on condition that they are replaced with new plantings when the tipping is completed. The WRG Forestry Team has also agreed to deal with these three trees for us.

Our intention is to cut suitable timber from these trees into logs for sale to raise funds for the restoration. If any reader wants to put their name down for a dunny (jumbo) bag of logs – we are advised that the going price is £100 – please let me know. We will deliver FOC within 20 miles of Little Tring.

WAT Restoration Committee

There has been no need in recent times to call a meeting of this Committee because, as a result of BW re-organisation they were no longer able to provide a Project Engineer to liaise with the Trust and Ray Orth and I have had to fall back on occasional meetings with (now) CRT engineers at Milton Keynes.

Recently we have been introducing additional Team Leaders to run working parties and Ray and I identified a need for better communication among Team Leaders. Hence we have revived the Restoration Committee as a meeting of Team Leaders to discuss and agree all aspects of ongoing restoration works. Hopefully we may get a CRT representative to attend from time to time.

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WAT Grand Draw 2013

The Grand Draw for 2013

is now under way. Two books of tickets (10) are enclosed with this edition of the magazine and you are asked to spread these around to your friends and families.

The date of the draw will be on **Saturday 8th September** and the winners will be advised that weekend. The draw may be a special event for members and there should be details of this in the summer newsletter.

The prizes are again a magnificent selection and we must thank our sponsors for their very generous involvement:

A week's 4/6 berth boating holiday
donated by **Wyvern Shipping**

A day boat hire
Donated by **Grebe Cruisers**

A flight with Virgin Balloon Flights

£100 cash prize
presented by **Mr Barry Martin**

A Swarovski ladies necklace

and many other prizes

Should you wish to donate a prize then contact the sponsor. There is one certainty; someone is a winner.

There is an urgency to sell as many tickets for the Draw again this year as there is no Festival to raise the necessary funds for restoration.

Many members sell many more tickets than those sent with this magazine, so please ask for more tickets if you require them; these are available by:

sending an S.A.E. to: Michael Wright, 54, Meadowcroft, St. Albans, AL1 1UF
or by telephoning 01727 860137.

If you have access to the public through you daily business, can you take the opportunity to circulate more tickets? Another vital factor in the operation is to ensure that all tickets have at least a ***name and telephone number*** on them or may be the winner will remain 'unknown' perhaps.

All tickets should be returned by **27th August 2013**.

(Apologies for those that do not require tickets, but perhaps they could make a donation to the Trust in lieu?)

Chairman's Thoughts

When I was elected to be the Trust's Chairman I was only too well aware that I was taking on an interesting challenge. Two major areas of activity soon became apparent as I climbed the near vertical and slippery learning curve. I am a person that likes order and logic, and attendance at a number of Council meetings brought home to me the need for a little gentle refocusing and maybe even a little discipline to ensure that we use our limited resources to best advantage.

Resources and the use of time will dominate this year's activities as we seek more active members and start to change our approach to Fund-raising. Council members must already be tired of hearing me banging on about 'flag-waving', using every possible opportunity to place and keep the Trust in the local and national limelight. We must have our display stand at as many events as possible throughout the summer and I am seeking your help to make this possible*. Just the odd hour here and there will be most welcome to help spread the load, to attract new members and sell a few

books of tickets for the Grand Draw.

Fund-raising has traditionally centred about an annual big event – the Festival or a Sponsored Walk. It is a fact of life that we cannot raise a large enough team to make this practicable at present. We have a vacancy for Festival Director following the retirement of Graeme Lockhart, who had given the Trust many years of successful effort. We certainly need to find someone who can step into Graeme's shoes. It would also help enormously if we could appoint an Events Director to organise our flag-waving activities. All the basics are available and well established.

Without a Festival we have to consider new methods of Fund raising that will be complementary to the demands of the completion of restoration Phase II and the challenges of Phase III. This is likely to involve using professional fund raisers.

Yes, it didn't take long for the interesting challenges to materialise. . .

**see p 12Ed*

Visit to the Wilts & Berks Canal

On 18 February last, four members of Council, Roger Leishman, Ray Orth, Bob Wheal and Nigel Williams travelled to Swindon in order to meet representatives from the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust in order to discuss matters of mutual interest, in particular possible funding avenues.

They were welcomed by Chris Coyle, Company Secretary and Kath Hatton, Vice Chairman and Fund-raising Director.

Funding to complete Phase II of our restoration is of considerable importance with about £400k still needed before

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any start on Phase III is possible and this final section will require funds of approximately £2.6 million. Various sources of funding are being investigated and two applications have already been lodged with decisions awaited in the forthcoming months.

Following a working snack lunch the party visited the newest canal village in the United Kingdom at Wichelstowe where a new section of canal has been completed by the Local Authority. The houses bordering the new canal were almost fully occupied and considerable efforts had been made to construct varying styles with differing roof tiles

➡ See pictures of the visit on p16. *(though I do hope when WAT erects signs it does check the spelling first! Ed)*

New Council Members' profiles

Newsletter Editor David used to share a boat with Ken Graves, still has it and enjoys using it to drift slowly between pub and pub through England's green and pleasant land.

He is no stranger to publications having edited his local parish magazine and a philatelic journal for a number of years. You should be familiar with his work as he produced the Festival programmes from 2004-2009 as Editor and, after Roger Lewis' passing, as Advertising Manager too.

Away from publications David enjoys DiY, woodworking and is a keen stamp collector – 'Well', he says, 'we've all got

➡ See p15 for portraits of Chris and David

and elevational treatments which was pleasing to see. This section of canal is currently isolated but there are plans to extend further and to operate a trip boat on the enlarged section.

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust has a huge task ahead with some 68 miles of canal requiring restoration with negotiations required with some four hundred land owners along the full length, which will eventually connect the Kennet & Avon canal near Melksham with the River Thames at Abingdon. It has well over 2000 members and has formed a number of branches bearing in mind the distances involved.

an anorak of some sort!' He apologises for his portrait saying that he's never been photogenic blaming that on his mum and dad!

He's also a keen cook so get ready for some of his recipes.

Webmaster Chris (father of membership secretary Katherine Deaney) has spent many pleasant holidays on various canals here and in France and is now delighted to be involved with this fantastic restoration project. He is a keen photographer (President of Chesham Photographic Club) and has a number of pictures on the site.

New Website

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website at:

www.Wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Do visit the site which is now up and running – webmaster and Council member Chris Sargeant would love to hear from you with comments on the site's content so far and your suggestions for what you would like us to include. In particular we would like to develop areas of the site devoted to relevant current news items plus pictorial pages illustrating leisure activities, wild life on the Arm and more of its history – and

of course links to other canal related organisations.

Further developments that should be in operation soon are 'on-line shopping' for the Trust's merchandise and a membership database that will enable people to join on-line and will allow existing members to pay subscriptions on-line.

Any contributions of content and pictures (jpeg format please) will be most welcome – please Email to Chris at webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk.

Grub-up! - the Editor's cookery column

Well, I did threaten you with my culinary delights so here's the first. This is a family favourite of ours is easy to do and is impressive enough to be served to guests.

Cod with Orange

50g (2oz) butter

125g (5oz) fresh breadcrumbs (white or brown)

25g (1oz) ground almonds*

* omit if you have a nut allergy

1 garlic clove, skinned and chopped (optional)

Finely grated rind and juice of 1 orange

4 fillets of cod (can use haddock instead)

Salt, pepper, about 12 g (1/2oz) chopped walnuts* and some parsley sprigs

1. Melt the butter in a pan. Stir in the breadcrumbs, ground almonds, garlic if used and the orange rind. Leave over a low heat until the mixture has absorbed all the butter.
2. Season the fish and put into a buttered shallow ovenproof dish. Moisten with half of the orange juice and cover with the breadcrumb mixture and sprinkle over the chopped walnuts.
3. Bake uncovered in an oven at 190°C (350°F, gas Mk5) for 25-30 minutes until the fish is cooked and the breadcrumbs are a rich golden-brown colour.
4. Garnish with parsley, pour over the rest of the orange juice and serve with buttered new potatoes and a medley of vegetables. To drink: try a Sauvignon Blanc.

HELP WANTED

LITERATURE

You may know that we are busy getting our leaflets and Trust information up to date. We plan a series of leaflets including An Introduction, History, Restoration, Ecology, Funding and Involvement. This is where you can help:

- ♥ Do you have a favourite Walk along the Arm? If you do we may be able to summarise it in our Walks section.
- 🦋 Are you knowledgeable about Wildlife along the Arm? We are looking for information to put into our Ecology leaflet, Can you tell us about your 'sightings' of plants, birds, etc. along with location and approx date?
- 📷 Are you a History or Camera Buff? We need copies of old photos to select from to go into our History Leaflet, and recent photos for our Wildlife/Ecology leaflet. In fact if you have any photos of the Arm we would like to take a look – we may be able to include one or more.

📖 Help in proof reading.

Post your contribution to WAT Leaflets, 467 Bideford Green, Linslade, LU7 2TZ or Email a copy to funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk or simply call on 01525 381614 to ask or discuss. We will return any photos, etc. which are wanted back.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Bob Wheal

EVENTS ATTENDING

This year the Trust is planning to have a presence at the following events:

Aldbury May Fair

6th May

Rickmansworth Festival

18th-19th May

Wilstone Village Fete

9th June

Marsworth Steam Rally

16th June

Linslade Canal Festival

27th July

If sufficient help is forthcoming we may also attend (a stall or our gazebo) at:

Wendover Market

13th April

Chiltern Hills Car Rally

18-19th May

Wendover Market

30th November

It is quite likely that we will also be at

The IWA National Festival

Cassiobury Park, Watford

19th-21st July

possibly as a combined effort with Chiltern Branch IWA.

If you can help at any of these events (even if it is just for an hour or two at the spring/summer events to help sell Grand Draw tickets) just give us a call on 07547 181857

Walk-an-arm's-length



Whether or not to hold a walk along the arm this year has been much discussed in Council. Successful as the 2012 walk was in the number of walkers and the income derived it was a massive task for Katherine and her team (and one fantastically well executed) and getting a team together to do another this year has been problematical. Council also felt that the response from the public might be less this year and not to 'oversell' the Walk would probably be a wise move.



So, reluctantly, Council decided not to have a Walk this year but to look forward to 2014.



In the meantime the Trust needs to find another way of maintaining the flow of funds to allow it to complete phase II of the restoration. Anyone out there got any bright ideas that might generate funds in the several £k region?



World Canal Conference 2013

For a number of years there has been an annual World Canal Conference, somewhere in the world. Traditionally it has oscillated between Europe and the US and was last held in England in 2007, in Liverpool. It consists of formal sessions (topics this year include 'Canals as living heritage to be preserved', 'Governance of inland waterways – towards new models?') and visits. This year it will be held in Toulouse, France – on the Canal du Midi, from the 16th -19th

September. Organisation is in the hands of Inland Waterways International plus the City of Toulouse and there are additional events across France both before and after the main conference. These conferences are a super way to meet canal experts and enthusiasts from all over the world and see behind the scenes, all in a most congenial atmosphere. Full details are on the internet www.wcc13.com together with prices, booking forms etc.



Toulouse is proud to be hosting the 26th World Canals Conference on 16-19 September 2013

Tring Canal Festival and Graeme Lockhart

In 1990 Roger Lewis dragged me to one side and said 'You are into plant, machinery and generators aren't you?' We are going to run a Canal Festival this year up the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union, I would like you to help me with the site. This was the field that was to become our most successful location, it was later renamed the Tring Canal festival to overcome the problems with people heading for Wendover and then not being able to find the event.

That was the start of 21 years of the Wendover Canal Festival, and of course we had our doom and gloom merchants, 'You can't run a festival up there it's ridiculous, you can't get boats up the arm it's too shallow, you can't moor, and the towpath is on the wrong side, (well, we built a bridge) the field slopes and marquees could not be used on that field'. Well we did it, the enthusiasm of Roger Lewis made it feel that we could sort out any problem large or small, but a festival was going to take place.

We now know that these problems were

overcome and we built up into a very successful canal festival; fighting extremes of weather and extremes of enthusiasm from locals. Then we lost the field. I tried hard to find alternative venues, meeting the same attitude that was expressed in those early days, 'negative'. They say, 'What goes round comes around!!'

We are now at a point that as I am not fully involved in actually setting up a festival this year I have taken the decision to stand down, there are personal reasons for this, some are medical and others are just the gap in full responsibility of organising a festival, the gap giving me the chance to say this is the time to make this move.

I will remain a member of the Wendover Arm Trust, and support them as best I can.

I wish Paul Leech (our new chairman) all the very best and wish him and all the directors the very best for the future and obviously great success

Graeme Lockhart

Restoration report *(Continued from page 7)*

Hours and values

The total hours for 2012 were 5,694.50 with a value of £72,239.65

Since 1996 the hours have totalled 45,556 (£648,171 that, inflated by 2½% p.a., equals £962,213.)

Our thanks go to Joyce Smith for her continued great support in compiling the labour and cost records from our daily site sheets – and some of these do cause a few queries!

Joyce now also supplies CRT with details of our volunteer effort that go into the overall volunteer statistics that it publishes.

People in the news

Recent resignations from and co-options to Council



Graeme Lockhart resigns as
Festival Director.
See story p14.



Our new Webmaster,
Chris Sargeant.
See profile p10.



New newsletter Editor,
David Page.
See profile p10.



Our stand at the Linslade Canal Festival 2012



Members of WAT Council and Wilts & Berks at Wichelstowe



All hands to the pumps!
Photo: R Leishman

**Wilts & Berks visit:
Signage on
isolated section
of new canal!**

