WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust

Water From Wendover

The Story of the Wendover Arm Canal

Issue 2013/2 Summer 2013

2nd edition

Price £1 where sold Free to members

Your contacts on the Trust

Chairman	Paul Leech	<u>chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk</u>
Vice Chairman & Restoration Director	Roger Leishman	restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Hon Secretary	John Rowe	johnm.rowe@talktalk.net
Treasurer	John Brooman	treasurer@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Assistant Restoration Director (Health & Safety)	Ray Orth	ray.orth@btinternet.com
Funding Director	Bob Wheal	funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Publicity	Nigel Williams	publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Webmaster	Chris Sargeant	webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Newsletter Editor	David Page	newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Katherine Deaney	membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Minutes Secretary	Margaret Leishman	mleishman7@gmail.com
General Member	John Reynolds	scubajr@tiscali.co.uk
IWA Nominee	Jenny Brice	
Website		<u>www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk</u>
General telephone number:		07547 181857



Chairman's column

In this issue I shall concentrate my random thoughts on aspects of how we deal with events and festivals.

The May Day Village Beano at Aldbury was a real eye opener for me. I had decided that our activities would be confined to flag waving only, telling folk what we are about and how they can help. No games or sales table. Small numbers, low interest. Wrong!

Setting up our stall was the first step on the learning curve. I didn't take the gazebo as the weather forecast was excellent, putting it up single handed was probably not a good idea, anyway I couldn't get all the bits in my car as it was full of tables, display boards and other essential equipment. I borrowed two Gopak folding tables from our church but have since discovered that we may have some lightweight tables. I have started putting together an equipment inventory, essential when organising future events.

First point: Decide clearly what the priorities are, to suit the available manning. No point in being too ambitious but it is easy to be hopelessly wrong!

As it happened, this day was amazing – the whole world and his wife and family were there. Wall to wall buggies and mega queues for the pony rides and food stalls. We had everyone at our stall, right next to the ponies and paella. Many of our basic leaflets were handed out with our 'visitors' falling into three clear groups. 1. 'We regularly use the tow path and have seen the works progressing, 2. 'We live locally but didn't know there was a canal, let alone restoration work, and 3. 'No thank you'.

Second Point: We have a continuing task to show <u>everyone</u> what we are doing and why. Simple, regular publicity is essential. We still have a long way to go.

Third Point: The regular users are walkers and a surprising number of marathon runners in training.

Here we have a regular and enthusiastic audience, just right for a Restoration Picnic and similar events.

I was greatly assisted by Margaret who in addition to talking to folk for almost six hours managed to sell a goodly number of pots of jam. Now this jam really looked attractive with some clever labelling.

Fourth Point: When we are in full selling mode the display must be attractive.

We were also joined by Katherine for a brief spell and our talking capacity was increased significantly as I wilted in the hot afternoon sunshine! The more the merrier for our stalls, please, even just for an hour but we can make an impact with a small, focused stall.

Fifth Point: Whilst I never did discover how to put the display boards together as a single unit our photographs and particularly the large map were eye catchers, albeit at slightly lowish level.

Last Point: We must find an Events Manager. <u>NOW</u>. Volunteers please contact me ASAP.

Paul Leech

RESTORATION NEWS

Many Thanks. . .

In the spring issue you saw pictures of the water that has to be pumped out of the canal bed. We purchased, three 100 metre lengths of delivery hose so that we can pump into the nearest manhole or a re-watered section. We are very grateful to Bob Barry for sponsoring the hose and couplings and to Carolyn Leonard for sponsoring additional couplings in memory of her late husband, Geoff. The extra couplings enabled us to halve the lengths as they were difficult to handle; they are now in 50 metre lengths on hose reels made by John Reynolds.

March 2013

4

AFTER THREE LOST MONTHS RE-LINING IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

It was encouraging to get re-lining on the move again. 20 metres of both banks were profiled ready for lining, both banks lined with Bentomat and the blocking and coir rolls laid. Also the memorial seat for Ray Powell in memory of his late wife, Ann, was installed and is ready for a dedication ceremony at a date to be announced.

The WRG Forestry Team spent the day on 9 March felling the prunus tree at Whitehouses. A sad event but CRT was very concerned over the damage the tree roots were causing to the water control structures that allow water down into Wilstone Reservoir and it was also directly over the site of a new

Adapted from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters

chamber CRT need to build as part of their new water control system.

April 2013

A further 20 metres of both banks were profiled and the spoil used to cover the top of the banks and Bentomat lining on the bed of the canal for the previous 20 metres. This included a concrete 'sleeping policeman' that is laid across the joints of the 20-metre lengths of Bentomat on the bed of the canal. This not only protects the overlap joint of Bentomat against damage from future over-dredging but acts as a strut between the bases of the concrete blocks along the two canal banks.

We now profile ahead of lining and use the spoil to cover the previous length of lining; we find this very economic as it can be achieved using one tracked dumper instead of two and avoids double handling of spoil.

Thanks to a dry week, apart from overnight rain before the last day, the towpath bank was lined, blocked and the coir rolls laid for another 20 metres.

May 2013

Work progressed well and a further 20 metres of canal was re-lined. If we get no serious interruption due to bad weather this means a completion date for the re-watering to Bridge 4A of February/March 2014. If all does go according to plan the bund will be installed in the bridge narrows and re-watering another 440 metres of canal will complete a total of 758 metres in water out of the Phase II total of 2,058 metres, 39% completed, another 1,280 metres to go but it is of great concern that many of our volunteers are advancing in years, myself no exception, and find it difficult to do physical work for extended periods. We could do with an input of younger persons but the lack of early retirement these days does not help us.

The tree felling by the WRG Forestry Team that wasn't completed in April is now complete.

Thanks to Peter Lockett we have taken advantage of an offer of 10,500 x 90mm thick dense concrete blocks at 45p each from Hanson's depot at Wrexham that is closing down. There is just room on site for them to be stored – provided we dispose of the gabions no longer needed.

Transport

We've had a problem. Very kindly Sheila Lewis has allowed our Transit

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 tipper to be stored in her barn at Hastoe. During working parties we brought it to Tringford and locked it away overnight in the yard at the Pumping Station. It was broken into and parts stolen twice so we've had to take it back to Hastoe every night it was needed on site rather than leave it in the yard.

We then had the bright idea that we could lock it in the oil store at Tringford, so we cleared our equipment to one side to create the required space; Ray Orth carefully backed the tipper in only to find that the oil store was not long enough! Red faces all round.

Our next thought was a Transit without a crew cab but no Transit lorry was short enough to go in. It was agreed that the next step was to part-exchange the vehicle for another make short enough to go in the oil store. Thanks to John Reynolds assisted by Tony Bardwell, a deal was agreed on a Nissan Cabstar and it now resides in the oil store. We were very sorry to see the ex BW vehicle go but there was no other choice. See picture of our new pride and joy on page 16.

WANTED

Used stamps, petrol coupons, phone cards and empty printer cartridges to sell for money for canal restoration funds.

Send to: IWA / WRG Stamp Bank 33 Hambleton Grove Milton Keynes MK4 2JS

Membership Update

Trust membership goes online

The web-based membership system has been up and running since early April and is taking shape nicely. We are now able to take membership payments and donations online through our new charity partner Golden Giving which is introducing a direct debit option that will be available later this year.

Golden Giving is a local philanthropic organisation based near Tring that operates a donation, membership and fundraising website that is free to charities, fund-raisers and donors. The only cost is a 2% fee levied by the bank for processing card transactions.

The Trust believes that Golden Giving and BT MyDonate are the best online donation sites as neither charges monthly fees nor commission.

Katherine has been working hard with Golden Giving's Nathan Perez to fine tune the membership system to the Trust's requirement. If you have any feedback, please contact Katherine: <u>membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk</u> or call 07547 181857.

Instructions for on-line payments by credit or debit card:

- Go to <u>www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/</u> <u>membership</u> to see all the different membership options available.
- Click on the *Join or renew online today* link to go to our Golden Giving page.

- Click *Join* and choose the membership option you want to buy, e.g. Block family membership.
- Click *Purchase*, fill in your payment card, personal details and check the gift aid declaration if you are eligible and press *Purchase*.
- Display name This field represents how your name will be printed on letters and newsletter addresses, e.g.Mr & Mrs T Jones for a family membership.
- HMRC rules say that only one individual can sign a Gift Aid declaration, so only one person can be registered as the main member.

Payments by cheque, standing order or BACS transfer

Members who prefer to pay by cheque or standing order can continue as they do now. As payments are received, Katherine will register each member onto the new Golden Giving database system. If you have an Email address, you will get a confirmation Email when your registration is complete.

Help! I don't have an Email address

Don't panic, you will continue to receive renewal letters through the post as now. When your payment is received you will be registered on the new system and if you wish a confirmation letter can be posted.

If you would like to pay by credit/debit card, Katherine can process your payment over the phone, so no need to write a cheque and pay for a stamp.

Gift Aid

HMRC has changed the Gift Aid declaration as follows:

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

It has also introduced a new online system for charities to claim, which should result in more frequent payments to charities.

If you are already signed up to Gift Aid, you don't need to do anything unless you are no longer eligible to claim or you wish to leave the scheme.

For the six months from October 2012 to April 2013, we claimed back a shade over \pounds 1500 from HMRC.

64 Trust members (14.8%) are not currently signed up to Gift Aid, so we could claim back even more if these eligible members sign up. If you satisfy the terms above and would like us to claim Gift Aid on your subs and donations, then please contact Katherine.

Website

We have made considerable progress with the website including the launch of a fully working on-line shop.

Over the past month the site has been

getting an average of 22 visitors a day – –very encouraging.

Please send any items for the website to webmaster Chris at webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

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 **spring draw of 2013** was made on April 17th. There were 159 lucky numbers in the draw

The prize winners were:

1st	Mr K Walsh	£190.80
2nd	Mrs M Leishman	£79.50
3rd	Mrs C Prosser	£31.80

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

WAT Grand Draw 2013

N ot only did we include two books of tickets in the spring newsletter but we've also had the OK to distribute them to the Waterways Recovery Group members via the *Navvies* magazine and this has been done. As a result we've had to print more tickets and if we sell the 21000 printed that'll be a fantastic £21000 contribution to restoration funds - no harm in hoping is there? But, please help to try to fulfil the hope by selling yours; remember you don't have to buy them all yourself, you are allowed to sell them to friends and family. We don't have a festival this year and IWA has opted not to include them in the boaters' packs for the National (it has its own draw).

Locally tickets are available at Tim Russ Estate Agents in Wendover, thanks to Tony Defriez of Tim Russ' and to Nigel Williams for arranging it.

The day for the draw, for those of you who have an up-to-date calendar is Sunday, NOT Saturday 8 September, apologies for the gloop in the spring newsletter.

We are still looking for donations of prizes to swell the number we have. Bottles, biscuits and confectionery are always welcome but a problem may arise if a weighty prize is won by someone with an up-country address beyond the reach of hand delivery. Vouchers seem to be fairly cost effective to send to winners (e.g. we've been given a $\pounds 25$ Garden Centre voucher.)

I do have some tickets left. If you need more then please contact me.

Michael Wright 01727 860137

FIRST NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

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 7.30pm.

By Order of the Council 1st June 2013

Full details, agenda and supporting documents will be in the Autumn issue of the Newsletter

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Over the past few weeks representatives of the Trust have attended a **User Group** Meeting of the Canal and River Trust (CRT) and a Restoration Best Practice Workshop.

Canal & River Trust User Group Meeting

At its recent meeting CRT reported on progress with their moorings consultation for the South East Region (this includes the Wendover Arm) along with some other issues of local interest.

Tringford Pumping Station is currently subject to year one of a three year strategic review. Of specific concern is the constant need for maintenance and repair of the ageing electric pumps.

A spraying trial will be undertaken to combat the weed/reed growth on the Arm, in an effort to minimise the mechanical cutting and dredging otherwise carried out annually.

Numbers of unlicensed boats in the general area are below the National average, allowing the waterways patrol staff to devote more time to overstaying boats.

The revised moorings policy will be put into practice, starting with key waterways areas (e.g. Stoke Bruerne, Berkhamsted, Thrupp, and Foxton). The proposals are expected to include the Wendover Arm and other areas by April 2014. In essence they are:

No mooring from Bridge 1 (Junction) to Tringford Pumping Station Narrows. Two-day moorings from the Pumping Station to the winding hole west of Bridge Three (Little Tring Bridge) on the towpath side only. No mooring offside from the Pumping Station to beyond the winding hole. Improved visitor mooring information required at the junction with the GU Main Line.

Maximum stay to be 2 days in any one visit. 8 days in any one month.

Owners of overstaying boats will be subject to an overstay charge of £25 per day, starting immediately after the allowed period. There was no specific information about how the situation on the Arm would be monitored and policed, except that C&RT will probably welcome volunteer involvement.

Moorings consultation documents and reports link:

http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/ consultations/completed-consultations Bob Wheal

Restoration Best Practice Workshop 18 May

CRT, in conjunction with IWA, organised a workshop in the University of Aston attended by 70 or so folk from across the network. The make-up was a mixture of CRT staff (including James Clifton and Ruth Ruderham) and representatives of canal restoration trusts and societies (including me as the representative of WAT) plus the Waterway Recovery Group (Martin Ludgate). It was a busy day with presentations including one by Ruth Ruderham on the role of CRT in Fund Raising and a retrospective by Jack Hegarty on the Droitwich outlining the benefits to the whole community already realised. Jack has the unique pedigree of being both the Chair of the South Wales and Severn Partnership and Managing Director of Wychavon District Council. After a buffet lunch we plunged into four workshop sessions to discuss various aspects of Restoration past and present to help guide CRT on the way forward.

The slogan for the day *All Together Better* was shown to be wholly appropriate and the positive atmosphere throughout the day underlined this. CRT is listening and are trying to develop a positive attitude although it is recognised that restoration may not always be a priority for them. It was remarked that such an event would not have been held five years ago, a reflection on how things across the scene

are changing.

It was obvious that CRT was seeking ideas (and opinions) and it will be interesting to see what outcome is generated.

The number-one lesson is as always the need to talk and listen to as many people as possible.

The way the world is moving means that there are many more interested parties to consult (and engage) but the benefits can be spectacular.

CRT is offering assistance but it was clear that it has a long way to go – to explain its organisation and develop its business plans but we have an obligation to 'push' it.

As always the opportunity for networking was paramount and personally it was good to catch up with, among others, friends from Swansea, Grantham and the B&MK and to meet Mike Guest, the new chair of the Cotswold.

Paul Leech



Mikron Theatre

Mikron is well-known for its annual waterways tours using an historic narrowboat as its base. Local performance in June are:

Saturday 29 June, 7.30 pm

The Anglers Retreat, Startops End, Tring (01442 822250)

Beyond the Veil

How the quiet village of Thistledale changes dramatically when there's a sudden unnatural death on the local allotment.

Sunday 30 June, 7.30 pm

The Grand Junction Arms, Bulbourne, Tring (01442 891400)

Don't shoot the Messenger

When a gun-toting hoodlum holds up a sleepy village Post Office he gets more than he bargained for as postmasters Mr & Mrs Pertwee embark on restorative justice.

Water from Wendover – 2nd Edition

The front cover picture of this issue is the front cover on Shelley Savage's revised edition of her book on the Wendover Arm.

Updated with the results of recent scientific investigations and including progress to date of the restoration works the Trust is undertaking, it also includes three interesting, but not too strenuous, walks that use the Arm. The second Edition has been published by the Tring Local History Society with a grant from the Chilterns Conservation board, Sustainable Development Fund

At a press launch at Tring Local History Museum on 8 April Shelley was present to sign copies. You can buy copies from the Trust or from Museum at £4.95 each.

Tools for disposal

Enid Pittaway has very kindly donated many tools and items of equipment that belonged to her late husband Ron, whom many of you will remember. It is Enid's wish, and was also Ron's wish that the tools be used by the Trust or be disposed of in order to help raise much needed funds.

The following list details what is available and a suggested donation, based on typical market values that you might like to make in return for each of the items.

Triton Router table top	£25
Wet and dry vacuum	£10
Performance power circular saw	£15
Stanley Tripod LED torch	£12
Bosch PST54e jigsaw	£15

Arc/stick welder 100amp	£30			
Bosch Router POF500A	£45			
Triton materials stand	£20			
Small compressor	£35			
Pipe bender 15 and 22mm	£20			

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 on 07798 640 675

A welcome donation

I was delighted to be presented with a cheque for £250 at a charity evening on Sunday May 19 held in the Bletchley masonic temple. This generous gift to our Trust was made by the Wendover Lodge and presented by Ben Rawlings, the current Wendover Lodge Master.

I made a short presentation on our restoration progress and managed to get in an advert for our Open Restoration day. Paul Leech

HELP WANTED LITERATURE

Our appeal in the spring issue didn't quite fall on deaf ears but we do need more information from you to put into our new series of leaflets. 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. We've received one contribution since the spring newsletter.
- 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? See Liz Bailey's observation in this issue – just the sort of thing we need.
- Are you a History or Camera Buff? We need old photos to select for our History Leaflet, and recent photos for our Wildlife/Ecology leaflet. In fact if you have <u>any</u> photos of the Arm we would like to take a look – we may be able to include one or more.
- Help in proof reading.

Send to WAT Leaflets, 467 Bideford Green, Linslade, LU7 2TZ or Email at <u>funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk</u> or simply call on 01525 381614 to ask or discuss. We will return any photos, etc. that you want 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:

Marsworth Steam Rally 16th June Tring Carnival 22nd June Linslade Canal Festival 27th July

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

Little Gaddesden 14th September

Wendover Market 30th November

And 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

Wildlife on the Arm

Liz Bailey writes:

I had been watching a Little Grebe nest along the Arm when I heard movement in the undergrowth and noticed the pile of woodchips next to the path being pushed up by something underneath. I waited and watched and eventually the perpetrator emerged (poor photo attached - best I could do as it reacted to the camera noise). I believe it may have been a water shrew (neomys fodiens) as it was not as stout as a mole, was very dark in colour and had a relatively short tail with long irregular hairs. It was also not flattened in body shape but more shrew like. I hope you find this interesting!



Thanks, Liz. Just the sort of observation we want for our new leaflets. The Trust will not reveal exactly where on the Arm unusual wildlife is seen to help prevent an army of feet going to try to find it and from ruining the habitat – or even worse! If there's anybody out there who can confirm Liz's identification, we'd like to hear from you. Ed

Wendover Arm WORDSEARCH

(solution in next issue)

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BUCKLAND WHARF BUI BOURNE JUNCTION CANAL FESTIVAL CONTOUR CANAL DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP GREEN PARK HALTON LITTLE TRING BRIDGE PERCH BRIDGE PUMPING STATION RESTORATION SAXON WAY BRIDGE THE NARROWS THE WIDES TOWPATH TRINGFORD VICTORIAN PIPELINE WENDOVER WHARF WHITEHOUSES WILDLIFF WINDING HOLF

SITUATIONS VACANT

EVENTS MANAGER

The Trust attends a number of events, festivals, boating events, fairs and fêtes each year and to ensure it gets the maximum publicity, financial and membership advantage from them it is seeking a volunteer to be its Events Manager.

The exact job specification is open to negotiation but may involve:

- Identifying events year to year at which our presence would be of benefit to the Trust and championing proposals for attendance through Council.
- Working with the Trust to define its strategy for presence at events.
- Building up and managing the Trust's events equipment to ensure it is appropriate for tactical and strategic needs and is kept well maintained.
- Organising teams for set-up and break-down at each event attended.
- Organising teams to act as 'Events Sales Staff' at events.
- Providing training, including briefing and advice, to teams attending events.

If you are interested in applying for the post or wish to find out more in the first instance make contact with the Trust's Chairman,

Paul Leech, Email: chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

From the Editor

Another 'shoehorned-in' Editorial and in this issue not even space enough for the Editor's cookery column—though you may be breathing a sigh of relief about that!

But, as well as news from the Trust to you the members I do want to make it your newsletter and not just Council reports about this, that and the other. So, please send me your items — they don't always have to be Wendover Arm or even waterways related and pictures please in any standard picture format but 300dpi minimum.

Significant items in this issue are the Restoration Team being able to restart restoration work after all the atrocious weather of the past year and Council's call for a volunteer to be an Events' Manager to get our message out to the general public on the benefits of restoring the Arm

Cover picture

The front cover of the second edition of Water from Wendover[©Shelley Savage]

A LOAD OF RUBBISH (and other things)

The Trust uses a garage in Wiggington for the storage of all sorts of items used at Festivals and other events.

Over the years this has become an Aladdin's Cave of items. With our plans for improving our capacity for attending local festivals it was agreed to seek the purchase of a suitable trailer to aid the transport of the display boards, tables, gazebo, banners etc. This is now in hand. One of the basic requirements is, of course, to have somewhere secure to store the trailer. Wiggington was the obvious solution but for one big challenge (we don't have problems) – how do we make room?

On April 26 Roger, Ray and myself set to work to clear the space. That was the plan. It is now subject to a Phase 2 operation to complete the job. We filled the Cabstar with rubbish and after several exciting hours it was possible to reach the back of the garage and access most of the equipment there, but there is still more to tackle.

As boxes and bags were sorted I started to create an inventory and over the coming weeks I shall be labelling every item. All we then have to do is keep it up to date. I am sure that this wasn't in the Chairman's job description but, as always, needs must. And, yes, – we desperately need an Events Manager.



Aladdin's cave



Crikey! It must be a TARDIS in there



Off went the van wi'me 'ome packed in it

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, or any consequences however caused.

The Wendover Arm Trust, Registered Charity No.801190 Registered Office: 66 Bryants Acre, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6LA Website: www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

PICTURES FROM THE RESTORATION TEAM

Thankful that they can actually do some restoration work after so many months of delays caused by atrocious weather the Restoration Team want to share with you pictures of their recent progress – lightheartedly captioned!





The Wendover way to ReadyMix





