



WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2013/4
Autumn 2014*

All in a day's work . . . (see p10 and 13)

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*



WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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Vice President
Patron

Dr David Fletcher CBE
Barry Martin
David Suchet CBE

Wendover Arm Trust, A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Charity No.801190. Its **AIMS** are:

To promote the restoration and maintenance of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, (including all waterways, buildings, and related structures), to good and navigable order and to promote the fullest use of the waterway by water-borne traffic (subject to the regulations of The Canal and River Trust) and for local amenity, recreational and water related activities for the benefit of the public.

To restore, preserve, maintain and to educate the public in the history, use and associated wildlife, of canals and inland waterways generally and the Wendover Arm in particular.

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In this issue

	page
Acting Vice-chairman's notes	4
Editorial	4
AGM Notice	5
AGM arrangements	6-8
Restoration Update	10-11
CRT notes	11
John Brooman Memorial Bench	11
Rarities at Tring Reservoirs	14
Fauna of the Cut	14
Funding Update	15
Membership Update	16
Website	17
Club 100	17
Boating with a Hearing Loss	18
Grub Up!	19
From the Archives	20
Trailboating in May	21
Events	23

ADVERTISERS

Barton Petroleum	2
Bernard Pritchard, stringed instruments	14
Market Auto Centre	8

Our advertisers support us, please support them and mention you saw their advert in Wendover Arm News

**Copy date for the winter issue
4 November**

Notes from the Acting vice-Chairman

At our invitation Ray Orth and I met with Neil Owen* from CRT on-site on 11 August to update him on the Trust's Restoration Activity – Neil was very impressed with progress both in canal profiling and lining as well as work at Whitehouses.

Neil mentioned that CRT is now keen to become more 'customer facing' and to enter into partnerships with waterway users to this end. We raised the fact that the new occupants of Green Park are keen to be able to use the canal for water activities – he felt this was exactly the sort of scheme they could support and was keen to establish contact with Green Park for further discussion.

Towpath re-surfacing offer – A scheme has been put forward to re-surface approx. 340m of worn towpath between Buckland Wharf and Saxonway Bridge – to be financed jointly by Buckland Parish Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council at no cost to WAT. The proposal was raised with James Clifton of CRT who has asked whether WAT would have any concerns or objections.

Wendover towpath flooding – we received notification *via* our website

from a resident in Wendover that recently the towpath near Wharf Road was badly flooded – the issue was passed to CRT. The problem appeared to be due to excessive vegetation growth impeding water flows – CRT found that watercress growth was the main problem rather than reeds. During the past week CRT has opened up a channel to the Weston Turville sluice and has allowed water to drain away – levels have now dropped and the towpath is clear. Levels have in fact now dropped excessively so that little or no water is entering the pipe at Drayton Beauchamp – CRT will adjust the sluice to find a happy compromise. CRT will be carrying out deeper weed cutting in the autumn.

The resident has thanked us for help in getting the problem resolved.

The Treasurer's job. We may be close to finding someone to take on this important task and hope, by the AGM, to have someone in place

Chris Sargeant

* Neil is SE Waterways Manager for CRT, having taken over from Jeff Whyatt early this year when Jeff went to be MD of British Waterways Marinas Ltd.

From the Editor

An almost vanishingly small number of words from me in this issue you'll be pleased to know.

Don't forget the AGM on 29 October at Green park – details on pp5-7 and, if you'd like to come to the meal remember to book.

Included is another episode from John and

Jenny Brice's 'Travels with a Wilderness', another Nugget from the Archives and an article from one of our Members, Molly Berry, on how to cope with boating with a disability, in her case hearing loss; Molly tries to teach me to lip-read, not very successfully I have to say as I'm a pretty dim student!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty fifth Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held in the Coach House at Green Park, Aston Clinton on Wednesday 29th. October 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting held on 30th October 2013.
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 2014, 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 16 July 2014

Registered Office:
Fox Meadow
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Potten End
Berkhamsted
HP4 2SH

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.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONFIRMED ARRANGEMENTS

As this is our 25th Anniversary we intend to celebrate in style and have a formal meal after the AGM, followed by entertainment from Life and Times. We will have a raffle during the evening and our Events Team will be there with the marquee and merchandise to show you how we get our message across at fêtes and festivals.

EVENING'S TIMETABLE

7.00pm	Welcome and sherry reception
7.30pm	AGM
8.30pm	Dinner
9.30pm	Club 100 and raffle draw
9.45pm	'Where the Working Boats Went' - a musical entertainment with Life and Times
10.30pm	Finish

DINNER MENU

£8.50 per head

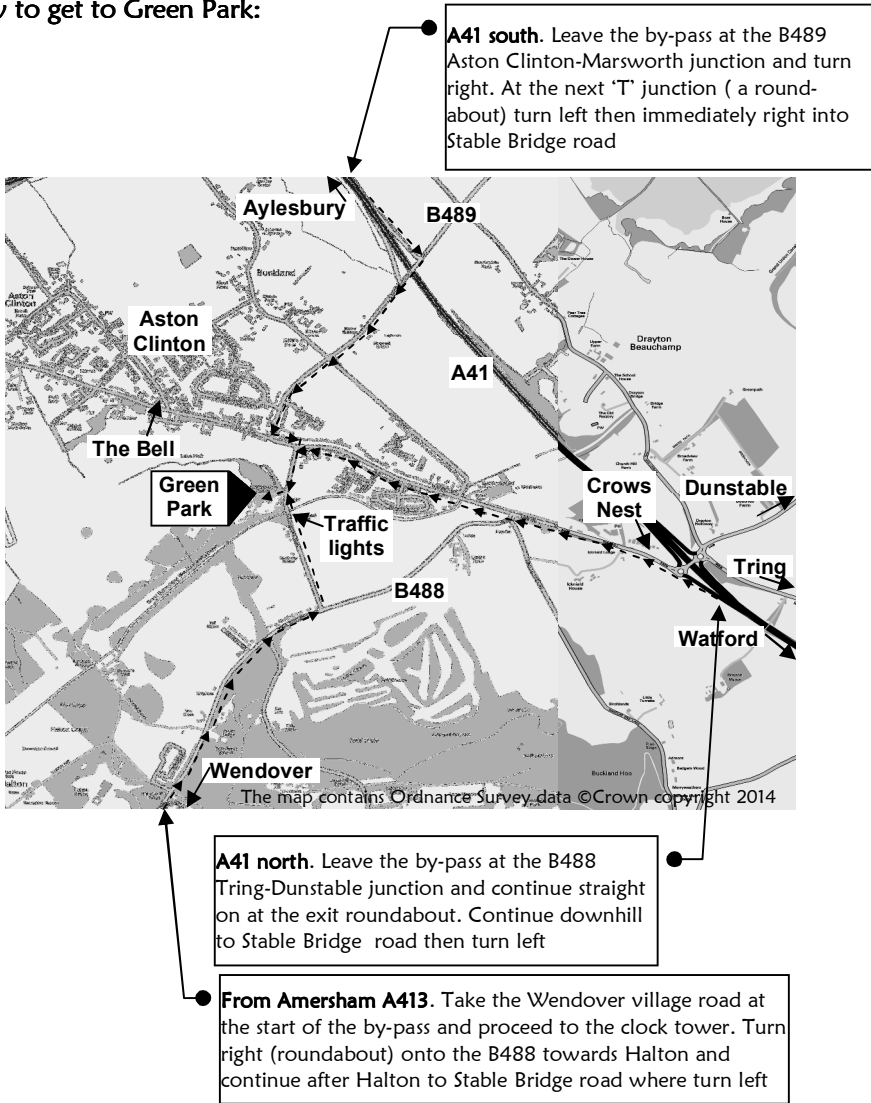
Meat or vegetable lasagne with salad and garlic bread
Cold salad buffet
Apple Crumble and Custard or Fruit platter
Soft Drinks, tea or coffee

Green Park is not licensed so you are welcome to BYO drinks (and glasses.)

Attendance at the AGM is open to all paid-up or honorary Members of the Trust but the dinner is by ticket only and must be booked in advance. You will need to choose your main course at the booking stage. There are no meal tickets available on the night as Green Park needs to know the quantities in advance. Booking can be done through Golden Giving (www.goldengiving.com/agm) or by post. If you book by post you will need to send your remittance (payable to Wendover Arm Trust) to the Membership Secretary at 34 Anchor Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1TY

The latest date to book a dinner ticket is 10 October. Members booking by post may choose to receive a hard copy ticket by post or an E-ticket. If you choose the hard copy option you must send a stamped addressed envelope with your booking. Don't send a SAE for an E-ticket!

How to get to Green Park:



Green Park lies just north of the hump-backed bridge over the canal. There are traffic lights at the bridge. Take the left-hand entrance of Green Park, the car park lies in front of you and the Coach House behind you to your left.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

The Trust appreciates that some of our members do not live close to the Arm, and may want overnight accommodation in order to be able to join in our celebration.

GREEN PARK itself has basic accommodation in rooms bunk beds and shared bathroom facilities at a cost of £26 per person for bed and breakfast.

To book a room, please call Nicole directly on 03303030101 – Option 1

THE BELL in Aston Clinton has rooms. For details visit

<http://www.thebellastonclinton.co.uk/accommodation/> or call 01296 632777.

TRING PREMIER INN (the Crows Nest) on Tring Hill just off the A41 also has rooms.

For details visit <http://www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/TRICRO/tring> or call 0871 527 9104

Both the Bell and the Premier inn are less than a mile from Green Park.

Why not take the opportunity of an overnight stay to explore the Arm and, in particular go and see the progress we are making on the restoration?

LIFE AND TIMES

Our after-dinner entertainment is a musical show entitled 'Where the Working Boats Went' with Graeme Meek and Barry Goodman, songs, stories and anecdotes about the life of working boats and boatmen. You will be invited to participate in some of the songs!

THE RAFFLE

If any of our members would like to donate a prize for the raffle this would be very much appreciated. Please contact the Publications Manager:

newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

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RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters and other sources

AT THE BRIDGE!

As the picture on the cover shows the good news message to all our readers is that lining has now reached bridge 4a.

The rains abated and for the Restoration Day in **June** we were able to demonstrate to the public the full range of work from bank profiling to completing the finished bed in glorious summer weather.

July 2014

The working party in July was thinly attended as a large number of people were on holiday, away boating etc. but even with the reduced numbers we managed to run a full seven-day work party with good results.

The first couple of days were used in the installation of the memorial bench to John Brooman. We were ably assisted in this work by John's two sons, Richard and Edward and it was a nice touch to have them both working alongside us in the installation of their father's bench. (see pictures p 11)

The remainder of the work party was spent in bulk excavation and profiling of the banks so that, come the end of the our August work party we will have as great a length of canal prepared for KESCRG to carry out solid blocking following the August work party when they visit us for the weekend.

August 2014

The August working party was very

successful and followed on from the excellent work carried out by a very much reduced work force during the July work party.

Our team profiled approximately 54 meters of banking, lined and hollow-blocked it. This brought the lining as close to Bridge 4A as possible without actually starting on the excavation through the bridge; this can't be done until the passage of plant through the bridge hole is no longer necessary.

During the weekend immediately following the Trust's work party KESCRG were on site to complete their work at Whitehouses, (see picture p12), at least as far as they could possibly go as we are still waiting for CRT to carry out their part of the operation. KESCRG plans to return in May with the hope to of doing this but it does depend on CRT's progress.

KESCRG also installed two new information boards at each end of the Whitehouses path. One of our members, ably assisted by his 16 year old grandson, spent two days clearing the undergrowth from either side of the path to Whitehouses. Nothing had grown up through the path but the land either side was very overgrown and the weeds were hanging over the path making passage very unpleasant. With the cleared path and the information boards it will hopefully encourage members of the public to take a closer interest in the work at the

Whitehouses site. (see picture p12)

Finally KESCRG spent the rest of their time in completing the next stage in the lining of the prepared banking up to Bridge 4A. Owing to the forecast of heavy rain on the Sunday they worked like stink to get approximately 2700 solid blocks laid during the day and 36 coir rolls in the rain on the Sunday. They all deserve a medal! And you can see pictures of their efforts on the cover and p13

All that is left to do now, to bring the fully completed lining right up to the bridge, is the back filling with spoil on the banks and the lining and back filling of the bed both of which are planned to be completed in September.

Next steps – weather permitting!

In September we will place spoil on the top of the banks and lay Bentomat along the bed and cover it with spoil.

If this is completed to plan in October we will line through Bridge 4A narrows with Bentomat and cover it with ready-mix concrete and profile the banks past the bridge for 10 or 15 metres.

November could see the length past the bridge lined ready for the bund to be constructed in December. Everything will then be ready for re-watering.

If the weather in January and February is a repeat of 2014 I am sure that CRT will be very glad to dispose of surplus water in our next 440 metres of newly restored canal. Let us hope that the weather will keep reasonable to the end of the year so that we can achieve this target.

Work party dates

October	3rd - 9th
November	31st Oct - 6th Nov
December	5th - 11th

If you'd like to volunteer to help on the work parties please get in touch with Ray Orth,
Email: ray.orth@btinternet.com

CRT jottings

The Canal & River Trust has announced a £3m package of additional investment in the waterways to improve the experience for boaters and other visitors. This additional investment is available because the Trust is anticipating that it will exceed its revenue target for the year and earn more money than originally planned. The investment will be targeted at specific projects across the network, identified locally from customer feedback.

In our area the works are:

- Sanitary station improvements –
Batchworth
- Towpath improvements –
Stoke Bruerne
- Access improvement –
Drayton Reservoir
- Sanitary station & waste improvements –
Little Venice, Stonebridge and Islington
- Visitor mooring improvements –
Slough Arm
- Offside vegetation –
Paddington and River Stort

The John Brooman Memorial Bench



An open letter to WAT members from the Brooman family:

'On behalf of John, to all his fellow members of the Wendover Arm Trust we wish to thank you for the kind and generous donations made on his behalf.

I think we can safely say that after his family John truly believed in and loved the prospect of re-opening the canal through to Wendover. Sadly we always said it wouldn't be in our life time.

He would have been so proud of his friends and colleagues who honoured him by attending his funeral service and their generosity in donations towards an exciting project.

We would also like to thank Ray and his merry band of volunteers who took time out from their regular restoration work to help Richard and Edward install John's bench at the current restoration site between Little Tring and Drayton Beauchamp.

Anne, Richard and Edward wish to thank you all!'



Picture strip above, courtesy Ed Brooman



Below: Information board at the end of the Whitehouses Nature Trail.

Above: What it looks like 'in the flesh' with KESCRG's team just finishing work for the day



SITE OF ORIGINAL PUMPING STATION

During times of low water supply it was necessary, in order to maintain the correct depth of water in the Wendover Arm Canal, to pump water up from the reservoirs into the canal. To carry out this operation three pumping stations were built along the Arm, one near the junction with the Grand Union at Bulbourne, of which no evidence remains, another at Tringford (Little Tring), which remains operational this day, and a third here at this site, which is known as Whitehouses (due to the colour of the houses located on the site.)

Built around 1802 the pumping station and two houses were home for canal maintenance workers. However, after the closure of the canal the houses became vacant. In 1938 the houses were taken over by a London Youth Group and after extensive renovation created a safe haven for refugees from Nazi Germany, mostly Jewish.

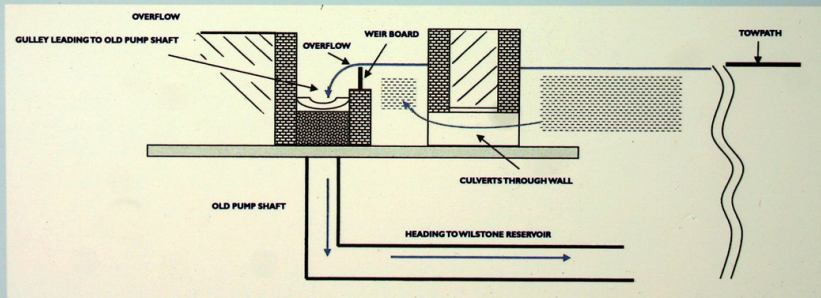
During the London blitz many Londoners came down each night to obtain some relief from the bombing and to get some sleep. They were accommodated, free of charge, in every nook and cranny available in the properties.

In 1942 a landmine which fell in Aylesbury, six miles away, blew open the doors and windows of the building. After the war the houses fell vacant again and the then canal authority finally demolished all the buildings.

RESTORATION

Although unable to fully restore the buildings themselves the Wendover Arm Trust aims to restore, to their former glory, the walls and wharfs using wherever possible original bricks and stone work salvaged from the canal. The site will not only become one of historical interest but will also, once again, perform part of its original function in that it will once again be used to divert excess water into the reservoirs.

The diagram below shows how this function will operate.



For further information on the Wendover Arm Trust :-

Web site :- www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk E-mail:- enquiries@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk Telephone:- 07547181857

The Wendover Arm Trust is a registered charity No 8011190



Left: An Englishman's favourite pastime is watching other people work — season tickets for the Grandstand will be on sale soon



Below: This is 'Mr Truman' productivity! (only those of a certain age will get this allusion)



Left: Hurry up, this is getting heavy!



Below: A record of progress this year



Survey finds rarities at Tring Reservoirs

A recent plant survey has confirmed the continuing presence of some of the rarest plants in Hertfordshire at Wilstone and Startops End Reservoirs, part of the Tring Reservoirs complex.

Trevor James, the county recorder, conducted the survey in June 2013 with a follow-up visit in August to record some of the later flowering plants. A total of 212 species were recorded. Lynne Lambert, one of the Volunteer Wardens at Tring, said:

"Of the more important plants found on site were whorled water-milfoil and ivy duckweed, which are indicators of good water quality – and also great yellow cress, the first record since 1960. Lesser water-parsnip was by the inlet stream and the trifid bur-marigolds that grow along the water's edge are locally important.

The inlet area of Startops End Reservoir offered up more scarce species. Lynne said, 'Although the muddy inlet may not look anything special, it actually contains some of the scarcest plants that occur at Tring. The aptly named mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*) grows here. Wilstone Reservoir is the only other known locality of this species in Hertfordshire. It is the only site in the county for round-fruited rush (*Juncus compressus*) and other rare and uncommon plants include orange fox-tail, graceful sedge, marsh yellow-cress, pink water speedwell and toad rush.'

The records will be submitted for the Botanical Society's 2020 Atlas of the British Flora.

Fauna of the cut

This year has been a good one for butterflies after the poor years of 2012 and 2013 although, despite the hot weather in July, many of the migrating species from the continent were in short supply.



The Gatekeeper (or hedge brown) is one of our commoner native butterflies; in July the bramble bushes along the towpath were swarming with them with the result, in August, of loads of blackberries!

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Funding Update

Some positive progress has been made since my last report in the Spring 2014 Newsletter.

Two meetings have taken place – on 23 May attended by Roger Leishman, Ray Orth and Christopher Sargeant together with Simon Salem, Marketing and Fund-raising Director of Canal and River Trust (CRT) and Lucy Bowles, Volunteering Development Co-ordinator.

A further meeting was held on 23 June with the same people in attendance, plus Nigel Williams, but with only Simon Salem present from CRT.

Another meeting has been pencilled in for 20 October when, it is hoped, James Clifton from CRT will also be present in addition to Simon Salem. All meetings have been attended by our professional fund-raiser, Victoria Ireland.

Discussion at the May meeting concentrated on volunteer labour and the requirement to attract more volunteers to man working parties each month. Various suggestions were put forward including the use of the CRT database to identify volunteers who have specific skills and/or live nearby. A list of construction companies within close proximity has subsequently been produced by CRT.

We received some good news at the June meeting when Simon Salem confirmed that CRT will give full support to the restoration project since this would either be cost neutral or cost beneficial with savings on pumping costs following completion. This is of particular significance since, without CRT on board, chances of a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid would be considerably reduced. Support needs to be obtained from several other avenues in due course.

Following on from the May discussion the possibility of seconding a Project Manager from CRT was discussed in detail and agreed in principle. This would have advantages for both organisations, offering valuable experience to the team member, ensuring consistency and quality, and offering flexibility to work for 6-7 months for WAT and then returning to CRT for the winter period. The secondee could work part time, initially for about three months to attract volunteers and then, from 1 April until the commencement of winter, as Project Manager. CRT would assist WAT with various initiatives to attract suitable volunteers (this will be key to attracting HLF support). The possibility of introducing this idea next year will hopefully be finalised at the next meeting.

*Nigel Williams
Publicity Director*

Don't forget the AGM on 29 October at Green Park and that, if you want to partake of the meal you need to book – see p6

Membership Update

New Members

We would like to welcome the following who have joined in the last three months:

Mr Stephen Heasman

from Aylesbury

Mr Timothy Arber

from Tring

Mr Derek & Mrs Janet Townsend

from Tring: joined us at the Tring Carnival

Mr John & Mrs Jean Suggate

from Lowestoft, Suffolk (Via Mr & Mrs Wood)

Mrs Penelope Miles & Family

from Aylesbury: joined through our website as did

Mrs Celia Hamilton & family

from Leighton Buzzard and

Dr Philip Strangeway

from Milton Keynes.

Mr Eric & Mrs Angela Mills

from Milton Keynes have become **Life Members**. Membership Secretary met them whilst boating.

Goodbye

We are sad to record that

Mr & Mrs Marsden

from Weston Turville have resigned due to ill health after being members for 24 years.

August has brought summer holidays and generally glorious weather so the number of membership transactions traditionally tails off over this period as

people are out and about enjoying life.

If your membership is due for renewal, why not consider one of the alternative options available? Buy 5 years membership in one block and save 20% on the annual fees. Life membership is also available for a one-off payment of £150 or £250. All membership subs can be gift aided, meaning the Trust can claim an extra 25p for every £1 spent so long as you are a qualifying UK tax payer.

AGM

Places for our 2014 AGM and celebration meal need to be booked in advance with main course food choice. Tickets are available until October 10th, no later as we have to submit the food order to Green Park.

Tickets cost £8.50 per head and can be bought by post or on-line, see details on p6. If you have an Email address registered on the membership database, your booking confirmation will be sent by Email, simply print out the letter and bring it with you. If you are not on Email – and only if not – please enclose a stamped addressed envelope and your confirmation will be posted to you.

Golden Giving Update

Golden Giving enables the Wendover Arm Trust to be able to sell memberships online using credit/debit cards as well as other payment methods. It also provides the online membership database. All our members are now listed on the new

database, which is kept private and can only be accessed by Katherine through a secure log-on. Golden Giving claim Gift Aid from HMRC on behalf of the Trust and at no cost to yourself.

Easyfundraising

We have been highlighting this scheme since last winter as a way in which over 2700 companies from whom you purchase on-line can donate to WAT as part of their 'social conscience'.

We now have 29 members taking part and so far we have raised just over £143 (exclusive of GiftAid.)

Your support can add very usefully to the Trust's restoration fund, why not join those members who already donate by this easy (and painless-on-the-pocket) method. Go to:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

And follow the instructions on screen.

WEBSITE

Keep in touch with the Trust in words and pictures at:

www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

You can also find us on Twitter:

[@wendoverarm](https://twitter.com/wendoverarm)

and Facebook:

Wendover Arm Trust

News and pictures for the website always welcome please Email:

webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Thankyou

Club 100

Exclusive members-only fund-raising lottery

Record number of lucky numbers in the Summer Draw

There were 175 lucky numbers in the draw made on 16 July – one more than the record number in the Spring Draw.

The prize winners were:

1st Mr Oliver Statham £210.00

On learning of his good fortune Oliver wrote, 'Thank you for your recent letter informing me of my winnings of £210 in the Club 100 draw. I would like to donate the prize to the furtherance of the work of the Trust.'

The Trust records it's thanks to Oliver for his generosity.

2nd Mrs Val Matraves £87.50

3rd Mr James Griffin £35.00

Club 100 is a fund-raising cash prize-draw lottery, around half the income going to restoration funds and the rest as prizes. £15 per year buys a number that is entered into four quarterly draws throughout the year. Members can buy more than one number so increasing the chance of a prize, and swelling the amount of money to help us to restore the Arm.

To join **Club 100** or to buy more lucky numbers contact Katherine

Tel: 07547 181857

Next draw – October 29 at the AGM.

**WITH A LITTLE EFFORT
WE CAN MAKE IT A CLUB 200!**

Boating with a Hearing Loss

by Molly Berry

I was asked by your newsletter editor, if I could write something about boating, and hearing loss, so let me introduce myself . . . My name is Molly, I am profoundly deaf, and a narrow boat owner. I'm not one of those fascinating people who were born deaf and use sign language, no, I'm one of the millions of people who have gradually gone deaf. I have a cochlear implant, the best use of modern technology there is, with which I hear very well, except in very noisy places. I also wear a hearing aid in the other ear. I am a lipreading tutor.



Molly at her narrowboat 'Helena'

So, what problems might a hearing aid using boater have? Well, water and any electronics don't mix. Then there is the noise of the engine, and hearing what is being shouted from the lock side.

All modern hearing aids, NHS or private ones, except the very smallest in the ear ones, have a variety of different programs that can be set up. You can have a T setting to use with hearing loops, in churches and almost all public buildings, most shops, banks, cinemas and theatres. You can have a setting to listen to music, one to reduce wind noise, and the most useful to a boater standing over a noisy engine is the directional setting, sometimes called 'cut out background noise'. With

this setting on you will reduce the engine noise, but others will still raise their voices over the noise, so you should hear them quite well.

Normal listening tactics still apply, ask others to face you when they speak to you, we all hear much more when we can see the face of the person who is speaking. Ask them to get your attention before they speak, if you miss the beginning it is very difficult to tune in to what is being said. They should speak clearly, and not too fast, but keep it natural. You should ask a closed question when you are not sure what was said, a question

with only a 'yes' or 'no' answer such as, 'Did you say you found ten pounds in the boat?' 'No I said I found a dead mouse, the cat must have brought it in'

What about boating in the rain? I find a hat better than a hood for keeping dry, I get feedback with a hood. It is a good idea to have a drying box or pot on the boat to put your aids in over night. If you should fall in, remove the battery, dry the aid with a soft cloth, particularly the battery contacts, and put it in the drying box, you might be lucky. You can buy socks for aids, they come in various sizes and colours, they protect against dirt, (for the man with oily hands from the engine,) wind, and moisture. You can also get them with strings so you can

attach them to your clothing. This could be useful if you need to hang over the side to fish the dog out, the last thing you need is to have to try and retrieve your aids from the cut.

Last but not least, don't be coy about your hearing loss, there are millions of us. People generally want to be helpful, but they simply won't know you struggle to hear if you don't tell them, modern

hearing aids are so unobtrusive people very rarely notice them. The other thing of course is to join a lipreading class. Teaching your eyes to help your ears will ensure you get the very best you can from your hearing and aids.

Do Email me if you have any questions at mb.lipreading@gmail.com

(The products mentioned are available from Action on Hearing Loss.)

Grub-up! - the Editor's cookery column

Seared Sea Bass with Fennel Roasted Vegetables and Green Salad

This is my take on a BBC recipe. It's quick and easy to cook and, if you go lightly on the olive oil is low in calories too at less than 500 per serving – just right for those watching the waistline.

Ingredients: (Serves 2)

- 1 large sweet potato
- Butternut squash, similar amount to the sweet potato
- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 2 sea bass fillets
- Olive oil
- Seasoning

Method:

Heat oven to 200°C/gas mk6
Peel and cut the sweet potato in half and then each half into four wedges.
Cut off an appropriately sized slice from the butternut squash, peel it and cut into eight wedges.
Lightly crush the fennel seeds.
Blanch the sweet potato and squash in boiling water for five minutes.
Put the potatoes and squash into a

shallow baking dish, drizzle with olive oil, season and sprinkle over half of the fennel seeds. Roast for about 15 minutes, until the vegetables are tender and just starting to crisp at the edges.

Spread the rest of the fennel seeds onto a board add seasoning then coat both sea bass fillets on both sides with this mixture. Add to the baking tray, skin side up and cook for a further five minutes.

Serve with a mixed green salad drizzled with balsamic vinegar.

To drink? If you are on a calorie controlled diet then you should be drinking mineral water. Otherwise try a chardonnay; the aniseed flavour of the fennel will overpower the flavours of more delicate white wines.

From the Archives – Newsletter No1 Winter 1989

Early plans to consider what actions could be taken preserve and promote the restoration of the Wendover Arm began in October 1985 when the first meeting of the Wendover Arm Group was held at the Rose and Crown In Tring.

The newsletter records:

‘The Wendover Arm Group,(WAG), was an informal gathering of representatives from local organisations such as the Grand Union Canal Society, the Aylesbury Canal Society, the Inland Waterways Association, the Chiltern Society, local Canal Business representatives, etc.

At various times Local Authorities, British Waterways, the Nature Conservancy Council, local M.P Robert Jones and others, joined the Group’s meetings in order to help promote the restoration of the Wendover Arm.

Very early in WAG’s existence it became apparent that there was a lot of local support for the proposed restoration.

Many individuals tried to join the Group, but, because WAG was not a conventional formal society, the Group was unable to accept these prospective members.

Also very early on WAG realised that it would have much more credibility with those Authorities who, once convinced of the value of restoring the Arm could really help to make it happen.

So a decision was made to set-up a formerly (*sic*) constituted body, however,

no-one in WAG realised how long this process would take.

Finally on 28th February 1989 a Certificate of Incorporation was issued by Companies House followed on 20th March 1989 by the issue of a Certificate of Charitable Status from the Charity Commissioners.’

The Wendover Arm Trust, (WAT), had finally arrived!

During late 1988 the Wendover Arm Group started to design a logo for the proposed Wendover Arm Trust and the newsletter records:

‘The Wendover Arm was built primarily as a source of water to supply the locks down from the Tring Summit. When continual leakage caused the closure of the Arm, about 80 years ago, the all important water was culverted under the dry section to Tringford and pumped back into the Arm.

It is because of the continual need for water that the Arm is still in existence today.

So the logo design shows a representation of a section of rack and pinion paddle-gear, (common along the Arm and the reservoir areas), plus an indication of flowing water – the initials of the Trust complete the design.’

And this was the logo that we still have today

Trailboating in May

Wilderness Cruise – Rickmansworth Festival – National Trailboat Festival

By Jenny Brice

To celebrate its 25th anniversary our Wilderness Club had organized a cruise along the K & A and down the Caen Hill flight. It was also in recognition of our first Chairman, the late Keith Hadden, for he was of the opinion that Wilderness could go anywhere. So 19 boats going down the flight together would have had his approval.

Most of us launched at Pewsey on Thursday or Friday at the beginning of May, but one made it a longer trip by launching at Lechlade and cruising the Thames and then onto the K&A at Reading. It was joined by two more boats at Osney on the Thames. On Friday the boats were moored wherever there was space near Pewsey and everyone congregated to catch up with their news. On Saturday morning the boats started their procession along the canal, no locks today, just many people on the towpath and bridges waving, amazed as we passed. We collected some friends who journeyed with us to Devizes, where we moored three abreast at the wharf. That night we had taken over part of Wetherspoons for a prearranged buffet as Wetherspoons was a favourite haunt of the past chairman.

Sunday at 9am sharp we started our descent of the locks; we descended with three other boats and about four crew for the lock operation, although this varied as some went ahead, or stayed behind if they were needed. Initially we were escorted by the two lock keepers,

but after a few locks they let us go on our way alone. We caused quite a stir as we passed the café, the customers left their tea and coffee to watch. During the descent there were various photo shoots with a commercial photographer from *Canal Boat* following us down. Because of these interruptions. Our destination was the *The Barge Inn* where we had organized the anniversary meal. Audrey our founding member was the Guest of Honour, and although now in her 80's and with no boat, was still spritely and interested in all the members' cruises.

On the Monday we cruised to Semington where we were all invited to Ian Graham's Wilderness boat yard for tea and a celebration cake. Ian was the designer and original builder of over 400 Wilderness boats. Having trailed back from the K&A we launched at Willowtree Marina and cruised to Rickmansworth where Beehive became the base for John in his Waterspace Manager's rôle at the Festival. We were involved in various stalls during the weekend covering the IWA jumble and WAT.

The following Thursday we were back at Willowtree to retrieve Beehive and trail to the IWA National Trailboat Festival on the Grand Western Canal in Devon for the celebrations of its bicentenary. The Grand Western was largely abandoned by the 1960s, but when it was proposed to use it as a linear landfill site the locals galvanized themselves into action to preserve the canal. The campaign proved successful and it was taken over

by the Devon County Council in 1971 and declared a Country Park, since then a substantial investment in dredging and relining has made it a popular visitor attraction. Unfortunately a breach in 2012 of the high embankment at Halberton left the canal vulnerable again, but the County Council recognized its value as a local amenity and tourist attraction and the funds were found for the repair. The canal reopened early this spring ready for the bicentenary celebrations.

Thirty-six trailboats joined the festival and as usual a full weekend was organized. On the Friday we had an extremely interesting guided tour of the Limestone Quarry at Westleigh and a cream tea put on by the local school and then, for those with enough energy, a walk along the disused railway line accompanied by a volunteer from the 'Old Railway Line Action Committee'

On Saturday we cruised along to the main trail boat festival site at the Mid Devon Showground, but it started raining as we travelled, becoming torrential on our arrival. By lunchtime the event had to be abandoned, such a shame; so much effort had been spent erecting marquees, the local societies had turned out in force to advertise the local area, but the weather managed to kill it stone dead. The Wilderness boats stayed at the site as we had arranged our AGM for that evening, this progressed as normal but in a very wet marquee.



Decorated Wildernii

Sunday was a better day, and all the boats cruised to the Tiverton Basin. This is a lovely location with a new Visitor Centre which explains the canals past and present. During the evening the trail boats put on their well-known Illuminated Parade. As dusk fell, while the visitors were enjoying the local music at the café bar, the boats crept away, reassembled a few bridges further down the canal and returned with a full light display, some even had music. We were amazed how many visitors lined the banks and were enjoying BBQ's with friends in their back gardens.

The celebrations continued next day at Sampford Peverell where a 'Navvies Fair' was organized. In 1814 the

'navvies' a bunch of tough, hard working men who had been building the canal for 4 years, celebrated the completion of this section by a fair, to say goodbye to the locals. The bicentenary was celebrated by a re-enactment at the

village. The organizers and some visitors came in 19th century attire and a highlight of the afternoon was the judging of the scarecrow competition. These were situated around the village and popping their heads over garden walls along the canal, they were not common old scarecrows these were scarecrow NAVVIES, Some were leaning on old fashioned long handled shovels and some were slumped with bottles on garden furniture, but they all had attitude and were so realistic!



A raft of Wilderness craft – try doing that on the Wendover!



Navvy scarecrows at Sampford Peverell



The repaired breach at Halberton

Pictures: John and Jenny Brice

EVENTS

Tring Carnival 12 July

A busy day with, for the larger part of it, only two staff to man the stand when it really needs four to get the maximum impact from our presence. Noisy too as we seemed to be in direct line of the loudspeakers in the arena! However, a good footfall, two members recruited and loads of Grand Draw tickets sold. Pictures are on the back page

Linslade 26 July

Once again people turned out in their thousands – as they will do with a free-entry event and we were kept busy all day as the pictures on the back page show.

WAT Restoration Day and Grand Draw 7 September

and

Halton Fête 14 September

Both these events fall beyond copy date so reports will be in the winter issue.

Future Events:

The events season is drawing to a close and the last one planned is:

Banbury Canal Day 5 October

Somewhat more distant than is normal but this is canal event and more likely to bring in the volunteers So can you spare an hour or two to help, or perhaps more? If so Martin Bird on 01635 866905 or 07754 689139 would love to hear from you. Or call WAT's general enquiries number:

07547 181857



Tring Carnival 12 July. Katherine and Martin wear the snazzy headgear while John adopts a more conservative style

A collage of scenes from the Linslade Canal Festival on 26 July

