



WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2014/1
Spring 2014*

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*



WENDOVER ARM TRUST

President

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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**Copy date summer issue 2014
20 May**

From the Editor

This was to have been a much longer Editorial than usual as there were quite a number of things to tell you but circumstances have conspired to reduce the space I have available – and you are probably glad of that!

First let me put your mind at rest about the wintry cover on our spring issue. No, I am still *compos mentis* I haven't forgotten what time of year it is, there is actually method in my madness, see the reason on the next page.

Next, and very sadly, since the December issue went to press both our Treasurer, John Brooman, and ex-Chairman, Paul Leech have died. Brief obituaries are on page 8 and fuller tributes will be in the summer issue. Also, Sheila Lewis, widow of Roger, died and a full tribute to her support for Roger in his days as Chairman of the Trust and afterwards is on page 9.

By the time you read this the Trust may have been able to fill the vacant position of Treasurer but, for that of Chairman, it currently has no takers. Chris Sargeant has stepped into the breach as Temporary Assistant vice-Chairman but a long-term appointee is needed. See the situations

vacant advertisements on pages 26-27 and if you can volunteer your services DO PLEASE get in contact with the Trust.

You will find two books of Grand Draw tickets included with your Newsletter. Don't be bashful about selling them to family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and others and ask Michael for more when you've sold them. The Draw will be on Restoration Open Day on 7 September; we are still, despite the awful weather over the past three months hoping that this can coincide with the re-watering of the next restored section. More in the summer issue.

You'll see also that we now have adverts in the Newsletter. One of my objectives in taking over the Newsletter last year was to try to make it a no net cost item for the Trust and advertisers (sponsors, if you like) help us to do this. We have engaged the services of a professional to get adverts on the basis of a percentage of revenue obtained.

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

David

jrs

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Wish the Wendover Arm Trust continued success with their restoration

Our Front cover

Do you remember the call we made in the winter newsletter for submission of photographs to go into the IWA 2015 Calendar competition?

We were pleased that there were entrants and our chosen picture, the *Wendover Arm in Winter* taken by Chris Sargeant is the one you see on the cover. Even more pleasing is that it was chosen to be one of two shots to be used on the IWA Christmas cards this year, the other one being *Heavy Hoar Frost near Rugby, Warwickshire* by Roger Butler.

Chris and Roger will receive three calendars PLUS ten packs of their Christmas Cards.

In brief . . .

The Buckingham Canal Society

Is in the process of changing from an unincorporated charity to a Charities Incorporated Organisation.

(similar to WAT's status but without the need to have to report to companies House as well as the Charity Commission. – Ed)

It has suffered a lot over the winter from fallen trees at Cosgrove.

The Society is promoting its own Canal Water – brewed by the Buckingham Brewery.

In the meantime the **Wendover Arm's water** turned green. The Trust received several reports in February about the water being a bright green colour. It would appear that CRT had put fluorescein into the Arm to try to locate a leak – it's a common technique for leak detection

Club 100

Exclusive members-only fund-raising lottery

!Record number of lucky numbers in the Winter Draw!

We had a record-breaking jackpot of over £200 as a result of a recruitment drive with the winter Newsletter. There were 169 lucky numbers in the **winter draw** made on 15 January, the highest since Club 100 started in October 1997.

The prize winners were:

1st	Mrs Oriana Shaw	£202.80
2nd	Mrs Mary Miller	£84.50
3rd	Mr Ken Walsh	£33.80

Club 100 is a fund-raising cash prize-draw lottery, exclusive to Trust members with round half the subscriptions going to restoration funds and the rest into the prize kitty.

£15 per year buys one lucky number that is entered into four quarterly draws throughout the year. Members can buy more than one number so you can increase your chances of a prize, and swell 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

WITH A LITTLE EFFORT

WE CAN MAKE IT A CLUB 200!

WAT Future funding

As part of the ongoing effort to try and secure funding for the completion of Phase 2, a meeting was held at the offices of the Canal and River Trust on 14 February last. In attendance were Roger Leishman, Ray Orth and Nigel Williams from WAT and Richard Rutter, Head of Enterprise for London and South East, James Clifton, Enterprise Manager for the Grand Union and Oxford Canals (including the Wendover Arm), and Jeff Whyatt, Senior Waterway Manager, South East. Also present was Victoria Ireland, our professional Fund-raising Consultant.

The meeting was an opportunity to clarify a number of matters concerning past history and progress with restoration. All present thought the meeting had been beneficial and a timescale was agreed to progress matters further. Much has to be done before a formal application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) can be lodged but we are also investigating a number of alternative funding sources. It is essential that we obtain as much

support as possible from various sources to include local dignitaries, councils, Wild Life Trusts and, of course CRT, as part of the application process, and we urgently need a volunteer to assist with this.

CRT has agreed to look into the financial implications of taking on responsibility for ongoing canal maintenance once further restoration has been achieved. Jeff Whyatt agreed to prepare a financial model with Easter being the target for this to be completed.

There are considerable demands on HLF funding and nothing is guaranteed. However we need to ensure our application is well-prepared since this will increase the possibility of gaining substantial funding. The Funding Strategy, prepared by Victoria Ireland, has been agreed and research is underway to establish possible donors. An initial enquiry form will be submitted to HLF in due course. Further details to follow.

Nigel Williams, Publicity Director



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GRAND DRAW 2014

7th September 2014 to be precise!

Oh so close ? Did you come within a gnats knee last year with your ticket number? You may get even closer this year. The wheels are turning already, in fact they have been turning for a while . . . The prizes have been sponsored, the tickets have been sponsored, now we will await your **essential support** in the necessary funding towards the restoration.

There are the customary two books of tickets enclosed with your magazine and it is rather quintessential that these tickets are circulated to every available supporter.

There is the usual apology to members that do not require tickets, but no apology for seeking a donation to the Trust and our cause.

We are again extremely grateful to Wyvern Shipping; Grebe Cruisers; Mr & Mrs Martin; and other sponsors for the prizes that are available to you in the Grand Draw 2014. There is also the Virgin Balloon Flight again. It was mentioned that this year's tickets have been sponsored. Our thanks to **Grass Roots** of Tring. They grasped the opportunity and we are most grateful.

The tickets are designed this year for you to print your name and telephone number on the front of the counterfoil. If you require more tickets, then a call to 01727 860137 is all that is required. Any surplus tickets that have not been sold can be returned to 54, Meadowcroft, St. Albans. Herts. AL1 1UF. Cheques should be payable to *Wendover Arm Trust* with an address on the back please. All counterfoils and monies should be returned to this address **by SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST 2014.**

Further details of the Draw will be published in the next magazine and details will also be available on the WAT website.

Please do not send the tickets back and keep the counterfoils, the counterfoils are used in the draw, not the tickets!

Any queries call 01727 860137
We will try and sort things out

BE A PART OF IT

JOHN BROOMAN 1942-2012

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our Treasurer, John, on February 8. Our condolences go to his widow and family.

He will be sorely missed by the Trust.

A full appreciation of John's, life, work and his services to the Trust will be published in the summer Newsletter.



PAUL LEECH

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our former Chairman, Paul, on March 6. Our condolences go to his widow and family.

During his brief time as our Chairman he was a fantastic ambassador for the Trust and we are going to miss him greatly.

A full appreciation of John's, life, work and his contribution to the Trust will be published in the summer Newsletter.



Donations

The Trust is delighted by additional donations in the form of Bridge plaques, pictured here.



OBITUARY

Joan Sheila Lewis 21/12/1915 – 11/12/2013

It is fair to say that Roger Lewis was for many years the mainstay of the Wendover Arm Trust, known to many in his rôles of Chairman and Festival Chairman. It is also fair to say that he could not have devoted a fraction of the time and energy he did without the support of his wife, Sheila. Roger passed away in 2007, and Sheila passed away just before Christmas in 2013.

Sheila was born in 1925 and had a very happy childhood in Littlelover near Derby helping her mother breed and show dogs. Sheila loved all animals and even used to ride the milkman's horse!

Sheila and Roger married in 1951 and in 1970 they moved to Hastoe, near Tring and established Hastoe Hill Riding School. From then on Sheila turned her hand to the multitude of jobs that farming, working with animals, and running a family and business entailed. These jobs included running a 300 strong pig unit, feeding calves and sheep, farrowing pigs, painting stables and show jumps. In addition she was the secretary, banker, tea lady, and hay bale stacker!

Sheila and Roger bought a canal boat in 1974 and travelled over 25,000 miles and through innumerable locks seeing most of the canals in England,

including a trip across The Wash – before mobile phones!

Roger eventually was elected Commodore of his local boat club (Dunstable and District Boat Club) and of course Sheila rose to the challenge of being the Commodore's wife with great dignity and charm.

1983 was not a good year for Sheila. Her beloved son Richard died, and around the same time Sheila was first diagnosed with cancer. But life went on for Sheila, supporting Roger and her two daughters, Judy and Peta.

Sheila adored her grandchildren, and was immensely – proud of them. In turn she did her best to be 'the best Nanna she could be'.

On 10th March 1992 Sheila was granted the Freedom of the City of London for her many years of dedication to charity.

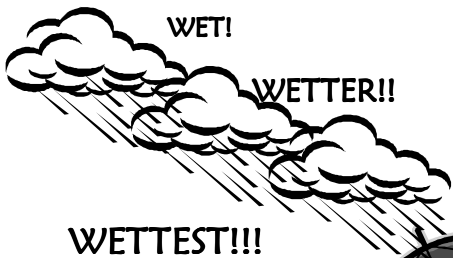
Latterly the Wendover Arm Trust has good reason to be grateful to Sheila for providing a home for the Trust Caravan and work vehicle at her home in Hastoe.

Sheila was a remarkable woman and an inspiration and a driving force to her family. She spoke many times of her wonderful life and how lucky she was for her lot in life. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from Roger Leishman's Restoration Group newsletters and from other contributions



As you may have expected with December, January and February producing from the heavens some 530mm of rainfall (80% of the long-term average for a whole year) progress on the relining has come to a halt and perhaps puts a little in doubt our hope to be able to re-water to Bridge 4a in September. Do you remember this. . .



. . . the picture from the front cover of the Spring 2012 Newsletter with the main line de-watered owing to drought and everyone wondering whether it would ever rain again. Oh! How times change. The work site has been under

12-18" of water, the restored cut is filling with water on its own and back at Wendover there is an enormous amount of water coming from the springs, the towpath there has been under water and in places it has overflowed its banks. (see pictures p15)

To refine the figures given in previous issue, Stage 2 cost £153,700, £439/metre (exclusive of overheads). Stage 1 cost was £400/metre but as our material and plant hire rates have not increased, the increase is solely due to the bad weather encountered during Stage 2 – the result of plant idle while water is pumped out of the working site and volunteers working in mud and water.

January 2014

The weather this January was so appalling that no re-lining work was attempted. Instead, the working party's time was spent working on the footpath/nature trail from Bridge 4 to Whitehouse's former pumping station and excellent progress was made. By end of the work-party the path was opened to the public, who are now able to walk along to Whitehouse itself and view the work, a facility that will become of even greater interest when Kent & East Sussex Canal Recovery Group (KESCRG) return to carry on with their work in April. We are producing an information board to go at the end of the path at Whitehouse, which will provide an

explanation of what is being constructed and its function.

We met with CRT engineers and their contractor in January to discuss the work to be carried out by CRT and the Trust (KESCRG project) They were not able to provide any start date for this work but the fact that they did the inspection is hopeful. Watch this space!

After the meeting CRT engineers visited our re-lining works and expressed concern over the large Herts County Council (HCC) former tip that rises up above the canal. This was not news as this tip was the subject of discussion at a meeting with local residents before restoration commenced in 1997, including the farmer who rents the farm that includes the tip he rents from HCC. Fears expressed by the farmer included the possibility of contaminated water flowing from the tip into the canal. The then Waterway Manager at Marsworth made it quite clear that HCC would be held responsible for any interference to the canal resulting from the presence of the tip. The concern expressed by CRT was that any movement/slippage of the tip towards the canal could block the watercourse and impede the flow of water from Wendover. There is the alternative of letting water down from the paddle at Saxonway Bridge to Wilstone reservoir but this would be at the cost of additional pumping by CRT.

February 2014

The weather leading up to the February work-party was again so appalling, with the site once more under 12-18" of

water (even though the site had been pumped dry in January) that again no work on progressing with profiling and lining of Stage 3 up to Bridge 4A was attempted. It would be extremely difficult to carry out any work in these conditions and achieve any meaningful progress.

Another important factor in deciding not to work is the considerable amount of damage that would be caused to the canal bed, etc. by the movement of plant and the time it would take to repair any such damage. Finally, and in many ways the most important factor, is that it is not sensible or responsible to expect people to work down in the canal in such conditions.

By the end of February's work party a ditch had been dug from the work site, through Bridge 4A, and on to the next manhole in an attempt to drain the site. This unfortunately cut off the access to the restoration site. (see picture p13)

March 2014

One of the main tasks during the March work-party was to fill in the ditch dug through Bridge 4a and make the roadway passable in order that plant could safely approach the worksite. This was done by the end of the week so that that in April the task of restoration can continue, weather permitting of course.

The pumps (and volunteers who carried out some sterling work) were kept busy for all of the work-party removing as much water as possible from the stretch of canal from the cart track at Little Tring through to just past Whitehouses.

This will help the track to dry out in readiness for resumption of plant movement and allow operations at the restoration site continue.

Although no restoration work was done, we took the opportunity to carry out some much-needed maintenance and rubbish disposal within the storage area at Little Tring and some hedge trimming there.

Work-party dates

April	4th-10th
May	2nd-8th
June	6th-12 th
July	4th-10th

Once the weather improves and the canal dries out, work will once again focus on profiling and lining the canal towards Bridge 4a. Why not come and see what we are doing? The restoration workers are always willing to take a few minutes off to talk to you and answer any questions. There is very limited parking in Drayton Beauchamp village (HP22 5LT) and a public car park at Wilstone reservoir (HP23 5LT).

The future

Members of Council have met with John Dodwell (CRT Trustee) and Simon Salem (CRT Director) about the various ways of proceeding with restoration with volunteers. Council members also met on another occasion with CRT on the question of future funding and there is a separate report from Nigel Williams on funding (see page 6).

It concerns Council that little actual restoration can be done in the winter months and this is putting in jeopardy our timescale to complete Phase 2. Other than the question, 'To what extent is winter working practicable?' Council is also becoming concerned about the number and ages of the volunteers who take part in the physical work of restoring the canal.

Council is thus thinking about:

- How can we get back to plan
- How can we get the work done more quickly – and this raises the question of £££ funding.
- How do we use volunteer help to best effect and what is the scope for cooperation with CRT and its volunteers or in its finding volunteers?
- Can we get our own volunteers to commit to specific days or weeks?
- We are all familiar with the work done by WRG and KESCRG but there are other Community Volunteering Organisations we could approach, can we get assistance from them?
- Can we use directed labour?
- If we can get the labour, can we have more frequent, even weekly work parties and so concentrate the restoration on the summer months. If so how would we organise the training and supervision needed to satisfy both ourselves and CRT? Would we, for instance, need to have full time paid supervision something that has an impact in Employment Law as well as the effect on our funds?

At the restoration workface. . .



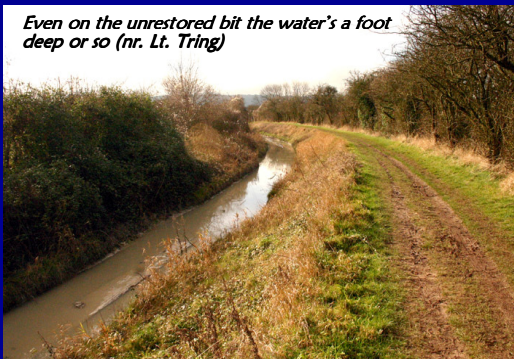
I'm a poor little mixer that's lost its crew, sob, sob, sob!



This is the ditch that the gang dug: (see page 11)



*Who needs a re-watering ceremony?
– it's doing it without one!*



*Even on the unrestored bit the water's a foot
deep or so (nr. Lt. Tring)*

Photos: Editor

In brief . . .

Aylesbury Canal Society

The repairs to Buckland lock were completed at the end of November and the Aylesbury Arm is once more open to boats. The Society is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the opening of the Arm and is having a Gala Opening of its new basin and Clubhouse at Circus Fields on the late-spring Bank Holiday Weekend.

Tunnel vision

CRT has a firm of specialist contractors including

divers working at Tringford surveying the 7.5 km of headings connecting all the reservoirs and pumping station. We hope their results are positive and they find no problems.

Grand Union Canal bird deaths investigated by police. 29 January: (BBC item)

Tests are being carried out after ten dead birds were found by the Grand Union Canal in Buckinghamshire. One mute swan, two mallards and seven moorhens were found on a disused stretch from Wharf Road in Wendover to Brookside in Halton. A pellet was found in one bird.



Meanwhile, at the Wendover end . . .

There's
'Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink.'

According to the Bucks Herald, 7 February:

'The Wendover Canal has overspilled its bank, flooding the path next to it.'

Matt Brown, who was walking his dog by the canal and took the pictures, right, said, "It's as worse as I've seen it. It's over the path and they need to do something."

Not surprising as the amount of water coming from the springs at Wendover is enormous, see photo below taken at the water gauge in February.

Photo: Editor



Three photos above by kind permission of Matt Brown©

From the Archives

ROTHSCHILD BRIDGE

Right: Bucks Herald article bemoaning its state

Below: Photographs of the restoration .



railings removed and scaffolding in place



the state of the decking before renewal



Grand Re-opening Ceremony
When restored the Rothschild emblem (left)
was installed facing inwards not outwards
Photos from the Roger Lewis archive

Extracts from Bucks Herald - February 1990

CALL FOR BRIDGE TO BE RESTORED.

“Halton woman Alwyn Roberts is calling on the RAF to repair a bridge she says they have allowed to decay over the past 50 years.

The brick and marble bridge, which spans the Wendover arm of the Grand Union Canal, has Grade II listing and was built originally as part of the Rothschild Halton House estate.

For the last six years the bridge has had to be supported by iron bars, after a tree fell on it, knocking off a marble pillar and the wrought iron hand rail.

Since then the parish council has repeatedly asked the RAF to look into the cost of repairs, and the bill has risen from an estimated £70,000 in 1987 to £200,000.

There is no public right of way over it, but the RAF recognises that the bridge is used by villagers.

So disgusted was Mrs. Roberts at the state of the bridge, that she went down with a scrubbing brush, got a bucket of canal water and began cleaning it herself.

“I have written to the RAF asking if some of the young cadets could come and clean it up, give it a coat of paint and remove some of the RAF graffiti from this wonderful Victorian bridge,” she said. “All I used was a bit of elbow grease. The RAF have repaired a gate in Weston Turville and built a cairn up in the Chilterns and its about time they did something in their own backyard.”

The RAF have said in the past that there is subsidence, but Mrs. Roberts says the RAF are just trying to wriggle out of having to do any repairs, before the base closes in five years time.

She has been in touch with English Heritage, who told her to write to her MP and do all she could to embarrass the RAF into doing something.

“It’s the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. I think its time the bridge had a birthday and the RAF helps preserve our Victorian architecture.”

But a spokesman for the RAF said: “We have a number of priorities and demands on our finances. A choice has to be made between restoring the bridge and possibly renovating and damp proofing one of the houses of RAF personnel.”

He said the estimated cost of repair was high because only two companies in the country could do the ironwork repairs, but the Ministry of Defence land agents were seeking lower estimates to repair the bridge and make it safe.”

Reproduced by courtesy of The Bucks Herald.

Editor’s Note

The Trust has also become very concerned at the lack of progress towards repairing this bridge and has now written to both the Property Services Agency and the English Heritage. In his letter, our Chairman, Martin Wood stressed the importance of this major feature of the Wendover Arm and the necessity for urgent remedial action.

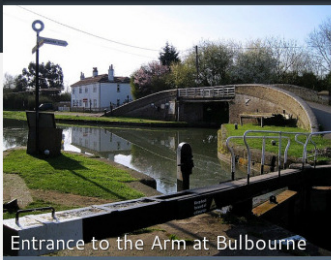


Wendover Arm Trust

Restoring The Wendover Arm of The Grand Union Canal

Patron – David Suchet CBE Regd Charity No 801190 Contact: Tel – 07547 181857 Webmaster@Wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Home	Where is the Arm?	Restoration	Events	Get Involved	Donate	Membership	Links	Contact
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Entrance to the Arm at Bulbourne



Lining in progress



New Little Tring bridge

The Wendover Arm Trust was formed in 1989 to promote restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal to bring water from Wendover to the summit of the Grand Union and restore full navigation
Join our Restoration Volunteers - 2014 work party dates - here - Thankyou !

Keep abreast of all of our news and activities through our website e.g.:

Regular restoration news and pictures

Events

Membership information

On-line subscriptions and donations

On-line shopping

A major new illustrated section covering the history of the restoration project from its inception in 1989 is under development and will be on line later this year.

Contributions of news, pictures or suggestions for content are always welcome. We are particularly interested in finding pictures of the original canal bridge in Halton Village – if you can help with this or any other items please Email me.

Thankyou

Chris Sargeant – webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Find website at: www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

you can also follow us on Twitter: [@wendoverarm](https://twitter.com/wendoverarm)



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IWA Chiltern Branch Trips

Cutty Sark and Docklands, 22nd June

Chiltern Branch is organising a special one day coach excursion to visit the Cutty Sark and Docklands. The price includes all



The restored Cutty Sark and exhibition

coach travel entrance to the new Cutty Sark exhibition, free time in Greenwich, trips on the Thames Clipper and Emirates Airline Cable Car, entry to the Crystal sustainable living exhibition and a luxury cream tea in an apartment overlooking the Royal Victoria Dock.

The cost is only £49 per person.

Pick up points: High Wycombe Park-and-Ride, Amersham Station, Watford Junction Station, all with car parks.

Further details from John Brice,

Tel: 07740 733241

Email: john.brice@waterways.org.uk

Autumn Weekend Away

Each autumn Chiltern Branch organises a weekend away. We go to look at waterways under restoration and waterways in use. We peer down holes in the ground, look at empty trenches and scrub thickets and imagine what they will be like when they are full of water again and boats are cruising

on them. We have guides from the local restoration groups whose unbounded enthusiasm for their projects is amazing. We pick up from them tips on what we might do (or not do) on the Wendover. We enjoy good company and banter with quite a few jars, and super pub-lunches. We usually manage a trip on a restored railway as part of the weekend just for those who have steam in their blood – or are afraid of water.

This year the trip is from 26-28 September. We are going to Foxton on Friday with a guided tour, lunch and a boat trip. Then to the Chesterfield canal on Saturday to view their restoration progress and on Sunday we have a day on the Great Central Railway with a three-course lunch on the South Yorkshireman. All for a cost of around £200 per person. For further details contact Colin Bird,

Tel: 01932 248178

Email: colin.bird@waterways.org.uk

Quite a few WAT members go on these day and weekend trips, why not join them? Even if you are not an IWA member you'll be welcome and we won't even ask you to buy the first round!



A scene from our 2013 trip – aboard the sailing barge

From Small Boats to a Large Naval Vessel

Over the last 30 years, John and I have become involved in all kinds of boating. It was because of this interest we were privileged to receive an invite to tour HMS Argyll while she was berthed at London Bridge in January. Our contact was the Commander of the ship Paul Hammond who, luckily for us is, the son of my old school friend. He was a keen member of the Ruislip Sea Cadets from an early age, and this led to Paul joining the Royal Navy in 1991. We have watched his successful rise through the ranks over the last two decades.

HMS Argyll is the longest-serving Type 23 frigate in the Royal Navy, she was commissioned in 1991. Following an extensive £20 million refit in Rosyth during 2009-2010 she has now emerged as one of the most up-to-date and capable frigates in the fleet, with her structure preserved and her weapons and sensors significantly enhanced.

Among the equipment Argyll was proud to show off was a new radar system called Artisan, this is only the second ship in the fleet to receive this sensor as part of a £100m programme; it can identify a target the size of a cricket ball moving at three times the speed of

sound, more than 25 kilometres away.

She arrived in the early hours of Wednesday the 15th January and berthed alongside HMS Belfast. The frigate had not visited London for over 15 years, and for many of her crew this was their first visit to the Capital. Many of the ship's company were able to enjoy a tour of the Houses of Parliament and the Guildhall.

The reason for the frigate's high profile London visit was to give the public an idea of the Senior Service's ships, manpower, equipment and the work it does around the globe. A reception and capability demonstration was held on the day of

her arrival, which was attended by MOD personnel, MPs and various other VIPs. Also invited on board during her stay, were college students, Royal Naval Reserve recruits and London Sea Cadets. The

Sea Cadets' visit meant a lot to the Commander, the inspiration it gave to these young people was priceless.

Our visit with his family and friends was greeted by Paul who invited us to the bridge for a reception and tour of the



On the Bridge

Photo: John and Jenny Brice ©

ship, including the command centre and engine room. The engine room is not normally on the tour, but he knows of John's mechanical interest so was happy to show us. Powered by four diesel engines and two gas turbines driving generators to two electric driven props, gives them versatility to choose what engines to run according to the job in hand. Two of the engines are above the waterline and are used where quietness is required, as in submarine patrols. If they are in a hurry they can have all the toys working to give a top speed of 30 knots.

During her last deployment the frigate completed a vast range of operations in the seas around Africa, the Falklands, the Eastern Pacific and the Caribbean. This included maritime security training in Africa, reassurance operations in the Falklands and counter-piracy and narcotics operations leading to the disruption of over \$100m of drugs in the Pacific and Caribbean. This showed the versatility and value for

money the Royal Navy's frigates provide.

On her return to Devonport, the frigate will undergo intensive training to prepare for deployment to the Caribbean this summer to join again, the international fight against drug-trafficking, and be on standby to help citizens should a hurricane strike.

We watched the frigate leave sternwards

Under the Bridge (backwards!)

Photo: John and Jenny Brice ©



through the raised Tower Bridge at 4pm on Sunday; she was aided by tugs at the bow and stern to a wider part of the river at Shadwell where she could wind round and carry on under her own power. This was photographed by many interested tourists enjoying

the January sunshine.

John and I then hurriedly made our way to the DLR station, we jumped on the train and headed for Pontoon Dock, a view point near the Thames barrier. HMS Argyll came into view and we were able to see her departure through the barrier and into the dusk.

Jenny Brice

In brief . . .

Wendover 800th Charter Anniversary

On May 25th Wendover celebrates the 800th anniversary of the granting of the first Royal Charter for a fair to the Lord of the Manor of Wendover with a medieval style celebration. The Trust will be present.

HELP WANTED

EVENTS ATTENDING

At the date of going to press the Trust is proposing to have a presence at the following events:

Wendover Spring Charity Market
26th April

Aldbury May Fair
5th May

Rickmansworth Festival
17th-18th May

Charter Day
Wendover Celebrates
25th May

Marsworth Steam Rally
15th June

Tring Carnival
12th July

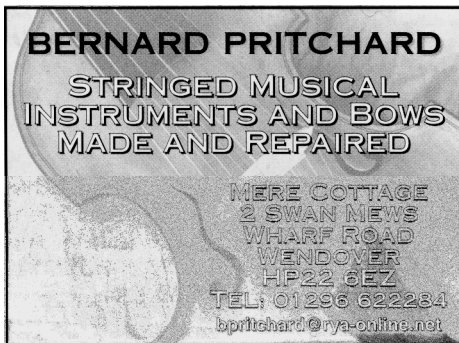
Halton
1st September

WAT Restoration Day
and Grand Draw
7th September

Banbury Canal Day
6th October

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 Martin Bird a call on 01635 866905 or mobile number 07754 689139 or call WAT's general enquiries number:

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In brief . . .

Gammel Bridge

There are plans to set up a depot on the the Tringford Road Depot for Dacorum Borough Council's Waste Services vehicles. The plans were given the go-ahead despite concerns about the impact lorries will have on neighbouring householders and the strain it will place on Gammel Bridge (bridge No 3 on the Arm.) Planning officers assured councillors that heavy goods vehicles above 17 tonnes in weight would be diverted to the site by a different route.

Tring Town Council recommended that traffic lights be installed near the bridge.

PENNY H. DATHAN

B.Sc.(Hons.), D.O.

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Membership Update

Gift Aid

Thank you to all members who have completed the new Gift Aid declaration which Katherine now has on file. Have you been meaning to do it and not got around to it yet? If the form is sitting on your desk waiting for attention, please pick up a pen, complete it and send it in asap. If you have mislaid your form, download another from our website or contact Katherine.

All gift aid for membership subscriptions and donations is now being claimed from HMRC through Golden Giving (at no cost to the Trust.)

Golden Giving

The winter is traditionally a quiet time in the membership arena. However a significant milestone is fast approaching. April marks the first anniversary of our partnership with Golden Giving. By the end of April, all members will have been migrated to the new on-line database. Email will be used where possible for rapid (and free!) communications.

A limited number of general Emails giving members important information have been sent out over the winter. The use of Email for these purposes is restricted to matters that cannot wait for a printed newsletter. For example, announcing the death of our treasurer John Brooman, asking for financial help with book-keeping and our Christmas sales promotions. The Mail Chimp system allows you to opt out of receiving future emails, and this request will be

respected so only membership requests are sent in future.

Back to Golden Giving, a quick re-cap on the reasons for change:

The Trust wanted to have an increased online presence and have invested in a new website, which is managed by Chris Sargeant. To complement the website, we wanted to have a facility for supporters to donate money to the Trust and/or take out membership using credit/debit cards. As a small charity the Trust was unable to provide these online facilities alone, hence the partnership with Golden Giving. We are also able to sell a limited range of sales merchandise through the website using PayPal E-commerce.

Now we are able to accept payments on-line as well as traditional payment methods such as cheques and standing orders. This gives everyone a choice of payment methods and each individual can choose the best option for them.

So what if I am not online? Don't worry; those members who are not on Email will continue to receive printed letters in the post. If you would like to pay for your membership using a credit/debit card but are not able to use the on-line system, simply call Katherine on 07547 181857 and she will take you through the process over the phone.

Can you help recruit more members?

Would you talk to friends and family about the Wendover Arm Trust and ask them to support us in future? This could

be in the form of a donation to Trust funds or taking out a membership subscription. As we are preparing grant applications and funding bids, the bigger our membership base, the better.

Becoming a member doesn't automatically mean that you have to don your wellies and overalls, pick up a shovel and start digging (however Ray always welcomes new restoration volunteers!). You are under no obligation to do anything beyond paying your subscription and in return a copy of this newsletter is sent to all members. However, there are lots of other ways to increase your involvement with the Trust if you want to, for example, volunteering on the Trust stand at events, joining the CLUB100 lottery, or making cakes or preserves.

So here's how to inspire others to join the Trust and make a difference. Invite people to visit the Wendover Arm and see the work done, work in progress and future restoration. Make a day of it and enjoy time in the Chilterns, have a walk and enjoy lunch at a pub or café. Visitors are welcome to come at any time, during working parties is a good time so you can see first-hand what's involved and how you can make a difference without getting your feet wet and muddy! Our restoration volunteers are a friendly bunch and are more than happy to down tools for a chat on the towpath. Work Party dates are shown in the RESTORATION UPDATE section on page 12

Easyfundraising

We highlighted this scheme in the Winter issue as a way in which companies from

whom you purchase on-line can donate to WAT. 19 members now take part and so far we have raised just over £72. Idly doing a bit of arithmetic: if 19 = £72 in 3 months then $635(\text{members})/19 \times 12/3 \times £72 = £9265$. Well, that's possibly a little optimistic but you can see how your support can add very usefully to the Trust's restoration fund.

Go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

And follow the instructions on screen.

Membership changes

We welcome as members:

Mr Peter Perry, Braintree
from newsletter advertising enquiry

Mr Neil Quarmby, Chiselhurst
from website application

Mr Gary Harden, RAF Halton
from Wendover Charity market

Mrs Liz Norris, Stevenage
from website application

Ms Denise Laxton and **Mr Richard Booth**
have rejoined the Trust

We are saddened to lose:

Mr John Owen, honorary member
who has passed away.
His widow **Audrey** has moved
out of the area.

And as reported elsewhere our Treasurer **John Brooman** passed away on Feb 8th.

Donations

We have received a donation of £250 from the MK Branch of IWA for which we thank them and their members very much.

Grub-up! - the Editor's cookery column

You know how it is – you've been to the Harvest Festival/Produce Show auction and there's this whacking great vegetable marrow and out of sympathy you offer 10p and no one else bids. You get it home, everyone tells you they don't like marrow and the thing sits there glowering sulkily at you for weeks while you try to find an acceptable recipe or wonder whether you should just quietly get rid of it. Familiar? If so, here's a tasty answer to your predicament:

Marrow and Ginger Jam

The jam has no setting qualities of its own so you need to add pectin, either the commercial type, or apple or crab apple juice – that's juice you've made yourself by stewing the apples then straining the juice from the pulp; 'breakfast' apple juice from the supermarket is no good.

INGREDIENTS

2½lb ripe vegetable marrow, peeled weight
2½lb sugar
2oz root ginger
juice and zest of a lemon
½ bottle 'Certo' pectin or 1 pt apple/
crab apple juice*

METHOD

Peel and de-seed the marrow and remove the pith. Chop finely or mince coarsely. Put into a preserving pan, cover with the sugar. Cover the pan and leave for at least 24 hours.

Bruise the ginger, or shred on a mandolin

put it into a muslin bag, tie the bag and put it into the preserving pan. Bring rapidly to the boil and boil steadily, stirring at times, for about 30 minutes until the mixture is quite syrupy. Test for intensity of ginger taste at intervals and when it is gingery enough for you, remove the muslin bag.

Add the pectin or (crab) apple juice*, the lemon zest and juice and continue to boil until setting point is reached.

Ladle into hot sterilised jars and seal.

If you have no pectin or apple juice, reduce the sugar to 2lb, boil until syrupy then put into jars – tastes just the same but it doesn't stick to the bread or toast as well!

* **Apple/Crab apple juice:** 2lb apples/crab apples. No need to peel or core. 1 pt water. Stew until a pulp then strain through a thick muslin or jelly bag (a sleeve from an old shirt – tied at the bottom! – is a good substitute.) Leave to drip for 24 hours. Can be frozen.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

FUNDING MANAGER

We are actively seeking the services of a volunteer funding manager to assist Council and our recently appointed professional fund-raiser to secure additional funding to enable continuation and completion of the Wendover Arm Canal restoration project

The work will include:

Networking

Liaising with Parish, District and County Councils and other Bodies in order to seek support and publicise our restoration project

Arranging public meetings etc.

Funding is a vital part of our effort to secure restoration of this beautiful canal for the benefit of the general public.

If you feel this vacancy would be something to which you could contribute time and energy

in the first instance make contact with the Trust's acting Chairman, Roger Leishman, Email:restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

SALES MANAGER

GET INVOLVED WITH THE TRUST

The Trust is looking for an enthusiastic individual to run the on-line shop also to manage sales at events attended by the trust.

He or she would be required to:

- ensure adequate stocks are held to enable the trust to fulfil its obligations
- review items of stock and where necessary replace with newer or different items
- mail items purchased on-line
- ensure sufficient items are issued to sell at events

Interested? For further information please contact please contact the Events Manager, Martin Bird, Tel: 01635 866905

SITUATIONS VACANT

Vacancies – Trustees on Council

There are currently vacancies on Council following the retirement through ill health of Chairman Paul Leech and the death of Treasurer John Brooman.

New members can be co-opted on to Council at any time of the year and then stand for election as a Trustee at the next Trust AGM, normally held in October. Following the AGM Trustees then elect the Honorary Officers at their first meeting, ie. Chairman, Vice-Chairman Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary.

Help with finances has already been offered but we would particularly like to hear from anyone with experience in fund-raising and also someone to look after sales of Trust items at events and on-line (see advertisements on page 25).

If you are a supporter of the Wendover Arm Restoration project and would like to volunteer to be co-opted or obtain more information please contact acting Chairman Roger Leishman:

by Email: restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
or telephone: 01442 874536.

More details and pictures of Trust activities are on our website at:
www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you – Thank you!

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