



WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2014/2
Summer 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 for the autumn 2014 issue
15 AUGUST 2014**

From the Editor

Little space for me to say anything again in this issue . . . do I hear cheers all round? Apologies for the somewhat late arrival of this issue but that has allowed it include a report on the (very successful) Restoration Open Day on 8 June and to give you details of what the Trust plans to mark its 25th Anniversary.

Sadly, as you will know from the spring issue we print appreciations for the life and work of John Brooman and Paul Leech and the Trust thanks all those who have made contributions in their memory, very generous they have been and they continue to accrue.

On a more cheerful note, at least the weather is now a little better and the restoration volunteers were able to restart their work in April. We have started to issue a new set of literature that a council group has been working on for sometime (see back page) and there's another Open Day on 7 September – see you there? David



FIRST NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

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 7.30pm.

By Order of the Council 1st June 2014

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The formal notice of the calling of the 2014 AGM is given above.

As this is our 25th Anniversary we intend to celebrate in style and have a formal meal after the AGM, followed by a talk from an invited speaker – this to be confirmed.

EVENING'S TIMETABLE

7.00pm	Welcome
7.30pm	AGM
8.30pm	Dinner
9.30pm	Club 100 draw
9.45pm	Speaker (tbc)
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. There are no meal tickets available on the night as Green Park needs to know the quantities in advance. You will need to choose your main course at the booking stage.

Booking can be done through Golden Giving (www.goldengiving.com/agm) or by completing and returning the form you will find loose in this issue. If you book by post you will need to send your remittance (payable to Wendover Arm Trust) to the address on the booking form.

Tickets will go on sale from 1 July to 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.

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 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.

In memory of John Brooman 1942-2014

On Sat 8th February, John Brooman passed away peacefully in hospital. He had been diagnosed with cancer over a year previously, and had borne his illness with dignity and courage.

John had been the Wendover Arm Trust's Treasurer since 1997. His record keeping was meticulous, and perhaps a fitting comment to his contribution in the rôle was that no-one questioned it - it just seemed natural that John would continue his reliable and dependable work as Treasurer, which makes his absence all the more of a sudden adjustment. His book-keeping was reliable, so much so that it was relatively easy for our Vice Chairman, Roger Leishman, to pick up the reins as a temporary stand-in Treasurer.

John married Anne in 1968, and both took pleasure in their contribution to the local community. Among other commitments, John acted as Treasurer for Wendover Junior Football Club for many years, became involved with the Wendover Carnival, Wendover Swimming Pool, Hastoe Riding School, and of course, the

annual Wendover (Tring) Canal Festival, eventually becoming its Chairman from 2003 to 2005.

With a background in mechanical engineering and training in petrol injection equipment, John was able to indulge his automotive passion in the 1960's by working with several racing teams as a pit crew member at circuits such as Brands Hatch and Silverstone.

As Trust Treasurer John worked very closely with Roger Leishman, Restoration Director. Restoration expenses account for most of the Trust's expenditure and John's work in this field was meticulous and enabled us to keep accurate control of the project right from the start of the present work in 1997. His knowledge of overseas trade was also extremely helpful when we were buying coir rolls direct from India at far less cost than buying them in the UK. His interest in things practical continued until very recently with his active involvement with and

enthusiastic support of Trust restoration work parties. John was a regular volunteer at weekends as a tracked dumper driver although he may have found this a bit of a come-down from his days on the motor racing circuits! He is already

(Continued on page 7)



John with his camcorder at the opening ceremony of Phase I (March 2005)

John, right, laying the final stone on the refurbished Whitehouses wharf wall



(Continued from page 6)

greatly missed by his fellow volunteers. An avid listener to *The Archers* it is said that John never missed an episode. It was quite fitting then and appreciated by the many mourners (standing room only) filing out from his memorial service at the crematorium to hear the strains of the well-known tune *Barwick Green* by

Arthur Wood – *The Archers*' theme tune.

It is customary to say that someone will be missed, but in John's case this is certainly true. The Trust is conscious and appreciative of all the contribution John made to its success, and wishes every condolence to his wife Anne and to his family.

GRAND DRAW 2014

June update

Well the Grand Draw date slowly creeps closer. The original tickets were nearly all distributed and certain people will have received the Mk II version. Due to an error, when the tickets were ordered for the second time, the dot identifying the colour of tickets was not moved to the colour blue. It was assumed, which is not a good thing to do, the colour would be the same as originally ordered; but no, each order is an original and the first colour in the 'selection process' is red. So when the tickets were printed for the second batch they were red. However, it is not the colour that counts (unless you are very superstitious) it could be the number in the top right hand corner (in red!) that makes each ticket individual. Plenty of tickets still available for the draw, so if you can sell a few more please contact Michael Wright on 01727 860137

So far the top 'salesman' has been John Pattle of P & S Marine at Bridgewater Basin, Watford. John is closely followed by Greta and her sales team. Keep up the good work. No prizes but great satisfaction . . .

Make cheques payable to Wendover Arm Trust. All counterfoils and monies should be returned to the address on the ticket **by SATURDAY 18th AUGUST 2014. This is a must. Ignore the date specified in the Spring Bulletin, the correct date is on the ticket**

Details of all the prizes to be won on the WAT website www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

AGAIN – Please do not send the tickets back and keep the counterfoils. The counterfoils are used in the draw, not the tickets. Good luck to all our supporters.

IN IT TO WIN IT - (AS THEY SAY?)

Vice-Chairman's column

YOUR VICE-CHAIRMAN'S CONCERNS

The start to 2014 has not been very auspicious for the Trust. Tragically, we lost both our Chairman and our Treasurer and then, for the first three months of the year, our restoration site was under water and no re-lining work possible.

Weather-wise, things are now looking up but, as you will see below, things are very dismal as far as manning the Trust, both for the support side and the actual restoration works

History seems to repeat itself and four years since I made a similar appeal in this newsletter I find myself saying almost the same things again:

If you want to see the restoration of the Wendover Arm completed it can only be achieved by greater support from outside the present Council members and volunteer teams,

both for restoration and the supporting activities.

- The Trust's Council needs a Chairman, Treasurer and Funding Director. The Trust also badly needs new Directors without specific responsibilities to take on 'one-off' tasks when they arise. At present these responsibilities fall on the 'faithful few' who are already doing on-going tasks as officers of the Trust.
- The Trust also needs volunteers, in particular a Sales Officer, to assist our Events Manager, Martin Bird, at various events helping to put up and take down the Trust marquee, by

selling Trust goods, handing out Trust leaflets and so on where the Trust raises money but most importantly raises the profile of the Trust in the eyes of the public. If 10% of our members were willing to give one or two days a year to assist at these events the problem would be solved. All that is asked is that you indicate you would be willing to help by phoning Martin on 01925 271953 to give him your details so that he can contact you to see if you are available when he needs help.

- Apart from needing a Funding Director, there is also a need for volunteers to help on our Funding Committee in seeking funding sources and help in preparing submissions for grants. This is extremely important as a lack of restoration volunteers may raise the need for contract work at much greater cost.
- We are still concerned that many of our restoration volunteers, some of whom have been with us for ten to fifteen years, are not getting any younger. It is encouraging that we have had new volunteers recently but, as we work mainly on weekdays, we rely on retired people a great deal and as the retirement age is going up and the era of early retirement seems to be over, we need a regular influx of new volunteers. Nevertheless those still at work are very welcome when they can come at weekends.
- Finally, and very importantly, we need more members, not only to

increase our pool of potential volunteers but also to demonstrate our support from the public when applying for grants. I appeal to every Trust member to canvas among relatives, friends, work colleagues and any other acquaintances for new members.

To sum things up, we need Trust members to raise the profile of the Trust, take an active part in raising money, promote the restoration and complete the work.

If you feel you can help in any way please get in touch with:

Martin Bird for events:

Tel: 01925 27195

Email: martin.bird@btinternet.com

Or me:

Tel: 01442 874536 (mobile 07850 170858)

Email: restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Or leave a message on our general number
07547 181857

and the appropriate Council member will respond to you call.

Roger Leishman

Editor's note:

The extract below is from the report to Council of the team at the 'Wendover Celebrates' event on 25 May. It illustrates well a number of Roger's points

'Yesterday was extremely busy. However, to maximise efficiency we need a minimum of four volunteers at each shift. It is simply not possible to sell Grand Draw tickets, merchandise, push the Restoration Open Day, encourage new members and volunteers, explain what we are doing, sell the Nail Game and answer questions with only three staff. We could have increased takings considerably with more assistance.'

Club 100

Exclusive members-only fund-raising lottery

!Record number of lucky numbers in the Spring Draw!

Again the numbers of participants is up thanks to the recruitment drive with the winter Newsletter. There were 174 lucky numbers in the draw made on 16 April.

The prize winners were:

1st Mrs Johanna Wheal £208.80

2nd Mrs Mary Miller £87.00

3rd Mrs Christine Tibbett £34.80

(Christine writes: Thank you for your cheque for my third place Club 100 lottery win. It came as a nice surprise, lovely to win.

Christine Tibbett)

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

£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

Next draw – July 16.

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

RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters

April 2014

As you will have noted from the spring Newsletter and its pictures of a soggy morass no relining work was possible in March but we were able to backfill the drainage ditch through Bridge 4A. At this point, because of the quagmire in the next section to be relined, we decided to lay the reinforced concrete pipe capping through the bridge narrows as the next step. This section is all concrete without spoil because turbulence from propellers through the bridge narrows is likely to scour any spoil fill. In April rough profiling of the banks was re-started and the first half of the pipe capping under Bridge 4A prepared ready for concreting.

Over the weekend of the April working party KESCRG came again to continue their good work at Whitehouses The picture (p11) of KESCRG at work was taken from the public viewing area that has been created at the end of the new footpath from Bridge 4. As you see from the picture on p14 of Margaret with the dogs it is a very picturesque walk albeit a dead end.

May 2014

The capping of the pipe through the bridge narrows was completed during this month. The pictures (p11) show the work as it progressed. The cap doesn't extend the whole width of the bridge narrows as there is an overlap with the capping already laid on either side of the bridge. Doing this instead of waiting for dry conditions to restart the relining means we've made up a month on our schedule.

The rest of the week was taken up with rough-profiling both banks east of the bridge 4A as we need to line about 20 metres past the bridge so as to be clear of the bund and finish at a join in the Bentomat on the bed.

KESCRG were with us on the Saturday and Sunday and continued their good work at Whitehouses including clearing the site of rubbish and unusable materials.

June 2014

Having completed the pipe capping through Bridge 4A and with slightly more clement weather we started the relining work again in time for the Restoration Day on 8 June, so were able to show our visitors how the work is done. Now that the cap through the bridge is complete we will be able to line straight through with Bentomat without any delay.

Concrete blocks

The present surge in house building has led to a dearth of blocks as they are in great demand. It's fortunate we stocked up with enough solid blocks to complete the next re-watering. Even Hanson, our normal suppliers, are not making any hollow concrete blocks at present as they are so busy producing solid blocks and we've had to buy (at a higher price) hollow blocks from our local supplier.

Work party dates

July	4th—10th
August	1st—10th

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

Pipe-capping through Bridge 4a—record of progress



April – making a start



May – cap laid



June – backfilling in time for Restoration Day



Still mopping-up in June

'If seven maids with seven mops swept it for half a year do you suppose', the Walrus said, 'that they could get it clear?'

'I doubt it' said the Carpenter, and shed a bitter tear.

(With apologies to Lewis Carroll!)

Pictures: Roger Leishman and Editor



KESCRG at Whitehouses in April



Progress to the east of bridge 4a – June

RESTORATION

The British weather did us proud as many people enjoyed an afternoon in the sunshine at Drayton Beauchamp Church. Blue skies with wispy clouds was the order of the day and sun cream a 'must'.

Groups of visitors led by Jenny Brice, John Reynolds, Chris Sargeant and Katherine Deaney took the stroll from the churchyard, down the steps and onto the towpath. Once alongside the Arm, visitors could see for themselves work already done by the Trust as well as the added-bonus restoration done by contractors who built the Aston Clinton bypass.

Once at the work site, Roger Leishman explained how the restoration volunteers are continuing the work with demonstrations by the team

Margaret Leishman and her team made copious cups of tea and served portions of hand-made cakes and Bob & Johanna Wheel were on hand to take the heat out of the situation with locally-sourced ice cream.



- ☞ *Just the thing for a w...*
Johanna on t...
- ☞ *The nail game doing...*
—very addictive for t...
- Afternoon tea on the*

Pictures: David and



Chiltern Natural F...

- ☞ *Roger Leishman explains t...*
restoration technique
- ☞ *Men at work!*
- ☞ *John Reynolds and a...*
heading for th...





On a warm sunny day, Bob and the ice cream stall

With a roaring trade the youngsters

showed how very English!

Maggie Page



Goods supplying sustenance

the finer features of
ies to visitors

group of visitors
the work face



The project marquee was run by Martin Bird and his team and he showed visitors details of the restoration project including historical photographs and our restoration achievements, such as the rebuilding of Little Tring Bridge and the opening of phase I by David Suchet.



Michael and Greta Wright did a roaring trade selling Grand Draw tickets with visitors obviously enthused by the prospect of winning a week's holiday on a narrowboat.

Beryl Martin on the merchandise stand signed-up eight

new members as well as selling our merchandise including our brand-new metal pin-on badges.

The afternoon attracted 100-200 people, both Trust members and local residents interested in finding out

more about the the Arm and the Trust's activities.

As well as the weather being on our side, we raised just over £1300 for restoration funds, which equates to around three metres of restoration.



OPEN DAY 8 JUNE



FLORA OF THE CUT

A bee orchid seen growing beside the towpath on June 6.

Sadly, an hour after this photo was taken, CRT's mowing gang came along and cut it down. . . all in the name of tidiness.



At Aldbury on 5 May

In view: Chris, Katherine and John. Michael and Greta are hidden behind the crowd on the left selling Grand Draw tickets like mad.



Margaret walking the dogs along the nature trail at Whitehouses



How about we steal this as a good idea when we get to finish a section and re-water it? Lay a gold block.

Idea courtesy *Cuttings* the magazine of

the Shropshire Union Canal Society. Picture shows the Society's Chairman laying the final block on the Redwith to Pryces Bridge section of the Montgomery on 5 May.

WAT LAPEL OR CAP BADGES

Show that you are a member with a new addition to our merchandise.



Enamelled metal badges available at £5 from the webshop or £4 if you buy one at an event.

Shown actual size and colour.

EVENTS

Aldbury Village Fête 5 May

A lovely afternoon and once again the village absolutely packed with people. We did a roaring trade on our stand, selling lots of Draw tickets – Michael and Greta are very persuasive. There was (just) time to take a picture (see opposite page).

Rickmansworth Canal Festival 17-18 May.

We had the first two of our new leaflets available for this festival and reports back said, 'They went like hot cakes'. Reports are of a busy time, loads of Draw tickets sold and no time to take photographs – pity!

Wendover Celebrates 25 May.

'Rushed off our feet' was the report back from the team, 'If only we had had more helpers we could have done a lot more.' Again, no time for photographs.

Marsworth Steam and Vintage Rally 15 June,

will have taken place before you receive this Newsletter, but it was after our deadline.

Future Events:

Tring Carnival 12 July

Halton 14 September

WAT Restoration Day and Grand Draw 7 September

Banbury Canal Day 5 October

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

WEBSITE

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

www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

You can also find us on Twitter:

@wendoverarm

and Facebook:

Wendover Arm Trust

News and pictures for the website always welcome please Email:

webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Thankyou

DID YOU MISS IT?

. . .MISS WHAT?

RESTORATION OPEN DAY OF COURSE

IF YOU DID ,THEN THERE'S ANOTHER ONE COMING

When?

**Sunday 7 September
12.30-4pm
St Mary's Church
Drayton Beauchamp**

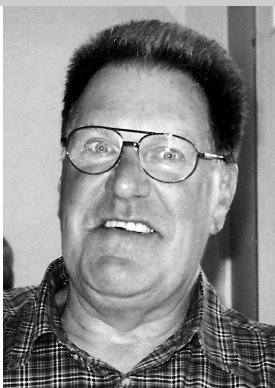
What's On?

**Restoration tours
Grand Draw result
Picture auction result
Teas and cakes
Trust stall
Sideshow
. . .and more**

PAUL LEECH 1942-2014 – an appreciation

I first met Paul in the early 1980s when we both worked for British Rail and were members of a Committee that used to meet in my office on the fourth floor of St. Pancras Chambers. After I retired in 1986 I lost contact with Paul until October 2000 when Canal Boat & Inland Waterways (as it was called at that time) sponsored a 'Go Digging' weekend inviting volunteers to come and help at canal restorations all over the country. Six volunteers came to help the Trust's restoration and on meeting them I was greeted by, 'Hi Roger, I last saw you in your garret at St. Pancras Chambers.' It was Paul in his usual ebullient manner. Since then we met up on various occasions both on restoration work and crossing paths on canal trips. I well remember Margaret and I eating in the pub by Mountsorrel Lock on the River Soar being greeted by a boat coming into the lock. It was Paul and Mary on their boat Katherine.

Among other activities Paul was an ardent supporter of the Bedford & Milton Keynes Link and gave talks on their behalf. He was also a Secretary of the Wendover Arm Trust Festival Committee and a



great supporter of our restoration. Paul also had what can only be described as a 'world-wide' interest in canals, helping the IWA, attending international conferences and joining in on Waterways World annual cruises.

In short Paul was a great networker with many contacts so, in 2012, the Trust being without a Chairman, I asked him if he would take on the job. Knowing he was under treatment for cancer I discussed this issue with him but he was ever the optimist and had no doubts about taking on the Chairman's job. During his tenure of office his enthusiasm for our project and dedication to promoting restoration of the Wendover Arm was boundless. We are all so grateful for Paul's short but enthusiastic chairmanship.

Regretfully, in December 2013, he told me that his medication was no longer working and, to use his own words, he was, 'Travelling along an arm with no winding hole at the end' and had no alternative but to resign from the Trust Council.



Even as a youngster Paul was ever ready to tackle the big job

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

Paul died on March 6th this year and his funeral was held at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church on March 21st. The Trust was well represented among some 200 or so relatives, ex-colleagues, fellow church members, waterway supporters and many other friends.

Although I had known Paul for many years I was not the only person present who was unaware of his many tal-

ents outside civil engineering and waterways. He was an accomplished singer and staunch supporter of his Methodist Church where he seemed to have a hand in helping on many fronts as well as being a representative on the local Methodist Circuit. One could only wonder where he found the time for all his various activities. Well Paul you have now earned a well-deserved rest but we will miss you.

Roger Leishman

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Musings of the GRAND DRAW organiser

First of all, I must say thank you to all the ticket sellers. This could include all those supporters who have bought Grand Draw tickets! There are regular sellers like John Pattle of P&S Marine at Bridgewater Basin, Watford, who excelled last year and sold £200 of tickets. Then there is Graham and Ann Bishop of Grove Lock. Ian and Cecilia of Grebe Cruises; not only do they sponsor the Day Boat prize, but sell our tickets as well! There is the Cafe at Pitstone Wharf, they do an excellent job. I am deeply indebted to local IWA Branches who agree to our circulating the Grand Draw tickets with their magazines. It really is a very big thank you.

Must not forget either 'GrassRoots' who sponsored the supply of tickets. The sponsorship was done by the employees paying £1 to wear jeans on specified days. For the privilege, each employee that participated was given two tokens which could be used in determining which charity was awarded money. A bit like the Waitrose method, if you know the procedure.

Ta! – Then all the sponsors of the wonderful prizes. Everso Ta.

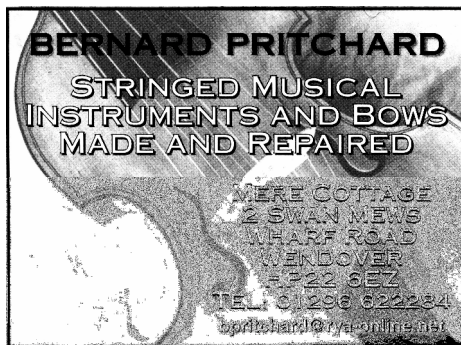
Whilst on the subject of thanks, I must say thank you to those that send donations as well as buying tickets. All donations are so welcome, although, they do get treated separately.

I have considered how many of us are real gamblers. Are we like some footballers who have their special 'ceremonies' before the big match? Do you post your tickets on a certain day? Do you enter

you details on the counterfoil in a certain manner?

I can say that I always get excited to see what is in the envelopes that you send me. Sorry to say I have not received any blank cheques – yet, but sometimes there is no cheque! Some people pay their cheques to me and that means I have to make out a cheque to the Trust. Not too keen on 'readies' being enclosed in an envelope. I have experience of cash 'disappearing' in the post at birthday times. However, I am always grateful to receive currency in any form. Another interesting ploy is to fill in the top ticket in the book, but leave the remainder blank, but that does not fool me – I fill in the details before the counterfoils are folded and throw them ceremoniously into the big box with all the other counterfoils. The big box is then given a daily tumble. Maybe twice! I have been working on a theory of electronic random number indicating equipment, but perhaps ERNIE has a monopoly? – Then, the odds on winning in the Grand Draw are much better.

Michael Wright



In Brief . . .

Jeff Whyatt

CRT's SE Region General Manager has been appointed as Managing Director of BWML with effect from 28 April. Neil Owen his Deputy takes over from Jeff for the time being. Jeff's valedictory message to the Trust is,

*'I would like to say that working with WAT – even at arms length , as it has been – has been an absolute joy. I have huge respect for the challenge that WAT are taking on and particularly the professionalism that typifies how you all go about things
Would you please pass on my warmest wishes to all at WAT.'*

The Trust wishes Jeff well in his new appointment

Paul Leech – IWI News

An obituary for Paul appeared in the May 2014 issue of inland Waterways International – but describing him as the Chairman of the Wendover Canal Trust.

Buckingham Canal Society:

22 years of aspiration and perspiration and the Society at last began the task of re-watering the canal at **Cosgrove** on 17 May; the Society reports that 110mm was in the former dry section a day later.

The Society's **Buckingham Canal Water** beer (brewed for it by the Buckingham Brewery) is now available on draught at Three Locks.

Conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation takes place on 1 August.

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Membership Update

Summer is traditionally the busiest time for the membership department with lots of events to attend (to recruit new members!) and many existing members renew their subscriptions.

New Members

Talking of new members, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the following who have joined us in the last three months:

Individual/family members:

Mr Robin Garrett

Mrs Rosemary Beckett

both of Leighton Buzzard

Robin and Rosemary attended a talk by Ray Orth on the history and restoration of the Wendover Arm to The Leighton Buzzard Society in March.

Adam 'Digger' Morris and Jen

Leighton Buzzard, joined us for 5 years through the website. Adam is a volunteer with KESCRG (Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group) who regularly help out at working parties.

Andy and Anita May

Northchurch, joined us at our stand at Aldbury Village Fete on a lovely sunny day!

Mr & Mrs Bill & Barbara McGillivray

Aylesbury, joined via the website

Mr Terry Croft

Dover, but used to live near the Arm.

Mrs Janet Colchester

Aylesbury – and came to see us on Restoration Open Day.

Mr Robin Carr

Wendover

Mr Edmund Booth & Ms Anna Le-Hair
Tring

At our Restoration Open day on 8 June we welcomed the following new members:

Mr Anthony Adams

Berkhamsted

Mr & Mrs John & Jacky Bussien

Wendover

Mr Martin Rowlinson

Bolton – he lives on his narrowboat near Tring.

Mr Michael & Mrs Marion Birch

Croxley Green

Mr Clive May

Watford

Dr Richard Smith

Tring

Mrs Linda Hall and family

Aston Clinton

Mr & Mrs George & Angela Mills

from Aston Clinton

Corporate members

Adventure Learning Foundation

Green Park, Aston Clinton

has become a corporate member having recently taken on the Green Park lease.

Amanda Foister, Operations Manager, contacted Katherine through the website as they want local charities such as ours to use the magnificent facilities on offer at Green Park.

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 donor or charity.

Renewals process

Members will be sent an Email (or letter in the post) inviting them to renew their membership, together with prices and payment options. In the Email there is a web-link, which is personalised to each member. To renew online, using a payment card, simply click on the link, check your details (name, address etc.) are correct and enter your card details. You will get a confirmation Email, which is also your receipt.

- **What if I don't want to pay online?**

No problem, you can choose to pay by cash, cheque, BACS transfer or standing order. Katherine will renew your membership when the payment arrives. Please be aware that there could be almost a month's delay in this process as we only receive a bank statement monthly. Katherine reconciles all payments on the bank statement in one go to make the process as efficient as possible. Cheque/cash payments are reconciled on the day they arrive in the post.

- **I'm not on Email**

If you are not on Email, you will receive a letter in the post confirming your renewal has been processed, as has always been the case. If you do not want or need this letter, simply tick the box on the slip and it saves time, effort, paper and

stamps! Thank you to those members who send a stamped addressed envelope, it all helps!

- **Additional donations**

Some members generously add a top up donation to their membership subscription, thank you. Donations are also processed through Golden Giving, where Gift Aid is claimed (if applicable), so you will receive a second email confirming this process has been actioned.

Easyfundraising

We highlighted this scheme in the Winter and Spring issues as a way in which over 2700 companies from whom you purchase on-line can donate to WAT as part of their 'social conscience'.

25members now take part and so far we have raised just over £100 (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.

Donations

Donations in memory of **John Brooman** and **Paul Leech** continue to accrue and at the time of going to press we have received £805 in memory of John and £900 in memory of Paul plus an anonymous donation of £50 through MyDonate for which we thank the donor. There is £1000 from the David Wadham Charitable Trust. All these figures are exclusive on any tax recoverable in Gift Aid.

From the Archives – Refugees on the Arm

Before the 1939 War, there was a solidly built double canalside house, with huge deep cellars, between Drayton Beauchamp and Little Tring. The 'White Houses', date c.1820. They were occupied by two families of maintenance canal folk who controlled the adjacent submarine sluice which can divert the eastward flowing Arm



Whitehouses. Picture courtesy the Wilstone Archive©

water, away from the mainline canal summit at Bulbourn, into a deep adit feeding the Wilstone Reservoirs.

In November 1938 the houses, which had wonderful mature gardens, choice fruit trees (including the luscious giant golden gage, never seen nowadays), and a 100ft well, were vacant.

A London Youth Group,

with which my wife and I were closely associated, rented the double house, knocked it into one, cleaned out the well (dozens of lost buckets and several bike frames recovered), and took in refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria, mostly Jewish. This with generous financial help from the Quakers.

My wife ran the venture as voluntary warden. Many of the refugees were broken psychologically, and racked by anxiety for relations still within Hitler's reach.

During the blitz, Londoners came down each night to get some sleep and were put up free in every nook and cranny of the house.

In 1942 the landmine which parachuted down in Aylesbury, six miles away, blew open doors and windows in the refugee building.



Looking down the well.
2011 picture by R Orth

After the War the house fell vacant again. Regrettably the then canal authority levelled the building and garden, and filled in the well, on the poor pretext that there was no right-of-way to this very desirable country cottage; end of epoch.

Bernard Banfield. 14 Feb 1990.



1

'Marsworth', 1994
watercolour and
crayon in shades of
grey (very effective!)

Size:

Picture: 26.5 x 16.5
cm

Frame: 43.5 x 33.5.

Frame colour: grey-
blue

SILENT AUCTION FOR TRUST FUNDS

Jill Graves has generously donated two of her original pictures to the Trust and we are auctioning them to raise funds.

Please use the form included in this issue to make your (generous) bids.

The winning bids will be announced at the Restoration Open Day on 7 September and you can collect your picture that day. If you win and cannot collect, we can deliver by post at a cost £8 per picture

There is a reserve on each picture.



2

'Bulbourne', 1995
watercolour.

Part of this picture
graces the cover
of this issue

Size:

Picture:

30 x 20cm

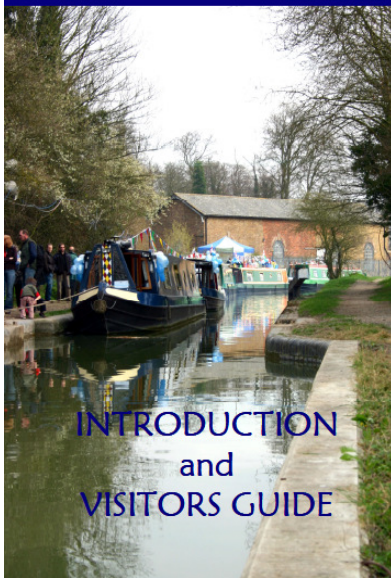
Frame:

46 x 36 cm

Frame colour:

Gold

The Wendover Arm Canal



INTRODUCTION and VISITORS GUIDE



Wendover Arm Trust

NEW LITERATURE

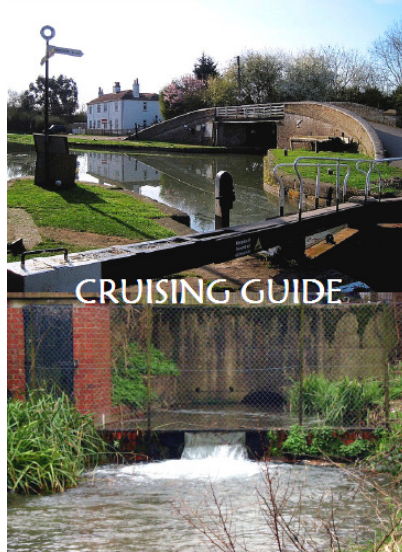
A team of Council Members has been working on a project to update our literature and rework our corporate style; since we now need to attract funds from corporate and public donors as well as individuals, this was seen as essential.

On this page are the images of the covers of the first three of the new publications, two leaflets and a booklet.

During 2014 further leaflets on Restoration, Fishing, How to Help the Trust and Walks will appear, as well as a booklet on Restoration.

Members will receive a full set when available

The Wendover Arm Canal



CRUISING GUIDE



Wendover Arm Trust

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WENDOVER ARM 1793-1968

