



# WENDOVER ARM NEWS

*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2014/4  
Winter 2014*

*Price £1 where sold  
Free to members*



## WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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**Vice President**  
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**Dr David Fletcher CBE**  
**Barry Martin**  
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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
AGM 2014	4
Chairman's report	4
From the Editor	6
Club 100	7
Membership update	8
Restoration news	10
Restoration Open Day	12
Picture auction outcome	15
Events report	16
Grand Draw 2014 result	17
CRT appointments	17
Help Wanted	18
Canals on Prescription	18
On-Line Prize Draw	19
From our Neighbours (B&MK)	19
CRT Governance Review	20
Do you shop on-line?	20
IWA Chilterns Weekend Away	21
To the Rescue!	23

## ADVERTISERS

Barton Petroleum	2
Wyvern Shipping	23

Cover picture:  
*Winter on the Arm near Halton*  
 by Chris Sargeant©

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 24 February 2015**

## AGM 2014


The Trust held its 25th Anniversary AGM at Green Park on 29 October. Around 85 members attended including our President and Vice-president. As this was a special occasion the evening started with a sherry reception organised by your Editor and his good lady and funded by a raffle with donated prizes. Martin Bird also brought along the display frames that we use at events; perhaps this should have been *déjà vue* for those present but it's surprising how many members aren't up-to-date with the progress and methods of restoration and a lot of interest was shown.

The AGM was over without much in the way of questioning or comments. Roger Leishman gave his 'Chairman's' report highlighting the progress we had made during 2014 and ending with his stating that he was giving up the position of Vice-chairman forthwith. The accounts were approved and the independent examiner re-appointed. Chris Sargeant highlighted WAT's sortie into the world

of on-line raffles, encouraging members to have a go; in answer to a question from the floor Chris explained that tickets could be purchased in a non-electronic manner, just that no ticket counterfoil would be issued.

At election time, Katherine Deaney and Nigel Williams stood for re-election, John Reynolds stood down and Martin Bird (a co-optee for several months) and Charlie Carrington were proposed for election. Since the number of council members would not exceed the limit of 20, no elections were needed and Martin and Charlie are now Council Members

There then followed an excellent meal put on by the catering staff at Green Park after which the assembled company relaxed to songs about the lives of the working boatmen from *Life and Times*.

*Pictures from the AGM  
on the back cover* 

## Chairman's Report to the 2014 AGM

(edited highlights from Roger Leishman's report)

Looking back over the year there were no changes in responsibilities so last November all seemed straightforward for the coming year, regrettably this was not to be the case. In December Paul Leech rang me to say that he had to resign as Chairman because, as he put it, 'He was travelling up a canal arm with no winding hole at the end'. Sadly Paul passed away in March.

Worse was yet to come at the beginning of February when we learned that our Treasurer, John Brooman, had been taken to hospital and unlikely to recover. Sadly John passed away early in February. Paul and John were both outstanding in their work for the Trust and we were well represented at both funerals. Both families asked for donations to the Wendover Arm

Trust in lieu of flowers at the funerals and in both cases these donations amounted to well over £1,000.

Still on a negative note; the first three months of 2014 saw such dreadful weather conditions that restoration work was at a virtual standstill for three months. Progress has been much better for the rest of the year although it has not been possible to catch up on this delay. Delays over the last few winters due to bad weather, something we did not encounter in the earlier years of restoration, have lost at least a year of progress but we now have over 400 metres lined ready for re-watering and all that remains is to line through and just past Bridge 4A and install a bund in the bridge narrows.

Still on restoration the Trust owes a big 'thank you' to Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group who adopted the restoration work at the former Whitehouses Pumping station as their project, thus taking the pressure off our volunteers. The quality of their work is excellent and we now have a footpath/nature trail through the woods from Bridge 4 to Whitehouses with provision for viewing. To complete we are awaiting CRT's contractor to finish some water control works there.

I must express our gratitude to all the restoration volunteers who labour away come snow, rain or sunshine all the year round and, in particular, my deputy, Ray Orth who puts in an extraordinary amount of time for the Trust including giving many talks on our restoration to various outside bodies that benefit the Trust financially from sales and donations. We are concerned over the increasing age profile of our

volunteers and are actively looking at ways to counter this and speed up progress.

Leading on from restoration is the need for funds. We are currently employing a professional fund-raiser to assist in our approach to sources of funds such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Our Publicity Manager, Nigel Williams is acting as our Fund Raising Director at the moment but we badly need someone permanent in this post. Nigel also introduced us to Easy-Fundraising on the web, so if any of you order things on the web and do not give to charity please have a word with Nigel. Still on funding, many thanks to Michael Wright who organised the 2014 Grand Draw and raised over £4,000.

Bob Wheal has been heading a Literature Committee to review, update and standardise our various publications. They have produced a superb set of publications and our thanks go to Bob and his team for all their hard work.

Our thanks also go to Katherine Deaney who, apart from her duties as Membership Secretary, is the driving force behind our very successful Restoration Open Days that have not only given our work great publicity but raised hard cash. Apart from these domestic events thanks to our Events Manager, Martin Bird, who has organised the Trust stall at several local waterway and non-waterway events.

Finally Council this year says goodbye to John Reynolds and Margaret Leishman. John, apart from his work as a restoration volunteer, has been very active in assisting at events. Margaret has been Minutes Secretary for seven years. Thanks also to Jenny Brice who was her stand-in

and has agreed to take on this job in future. Apart from thanking Margaret for her minute-taking I must draw attention to her work in organising teas and cakes at events with her loyal group of restoration volunteer's wives. They have been doing this since 1997 – remember the Lock and Bridge Cafes? – and so far raised over £10,000 for the Trust funds. Our thanks to all of you, keep the good work up.

Having been Acting Chairman for four years out of the past five years I am relinquishing my role as Vice-Chairman from November this year. I would like to thank all the Council members who have lightened my load by chairing Council meetings and, in particular, Chris Sargeant who has taken on the role of Acting Vice-Chairman during this year and been a great help to me.

## From the Editor

My usual editorials are, I'm sure you'll agree, mercifully short, hoping perhaps you'll appreciate my cooking column more. However following the AGM there are

### **IMPORTANT MATTERS**

that should be set before you.

At it's first meeting after the AGM Council discussed a number of problems long and hard.

Top amongst the discussion items? Look at the 'usual suspects' list on p3 and you'll see that this chap 'vacant' is doing an awful lot for the Trust, yes, we are desperately short of volunteers to fill the jobs available. Critical amongst the vacancies is the need for a Chairman, a Vice-chairman and a Treasurer all of which our constitution says we must have.

Roger has being doing these three jobs (and Restoration Director too!) for most of the year and active as he is as an octogenarian, he needs a less hectic life. Despite our advertising the posts after Paul and John died no one volunteered to be Chairman and those who applied

for the Treasurer's post one-by-one they fell by the wayside.

No one currently on Council would take on the tasks – well, this is not quite true because we do have someone who will become Chairman but only on the condition that Council can appoint a Vice-chairman and Treasurer; 'out of the frying pan into the fire' comes to mind.

Council then went on to contemplate why it is difficult to attract volunteers. Was it perhaps the fear that volunteering would land them with a task that they did not have time to address properly? If volunteers don't come forward was it then time that the Trust thought about paid assistance for administration and book-keeping? Obviously this, as well as exposing the Trust to the full majesty of Employment Law, would reduce the amount of money available to put into restoration but could well repay the expense. It was observed that some other canal restoration groups have found it necessary to go down this path.

The rate of progress on the restoration

then occupied council's minds. Look at the centre left picture on page 11 and particularly at the bed of the canal, to where the bed goes green is what we've been able to restore in 2014, awful weather left us just seven months during which we could make sensible progress. In addition our Company of Gentlemen Navigators is declining in numbers through infirmity or going to the great cut in the sky.

Council's minds were focussed by realisation that, at the current rate of spend the Restoration Fund (sufficient to restore about another kilometre of the Arm) is declining only slowly and many of Council's older members face the prospect of not being alive long enough to see the water all the way to Wendover.

So how then to go faster? We hire mechanical equipment for the weeks of our work parties and could there be ways in which we could 'double shift' during the summer? This would both maximise the utilisation of the hired equipment and concentrate restoration effort into the light and warm months of the year. Or, have we got to admit defeat and put out some of the restoration work to contractors? This of course would entail a much greater cost than the complete DIY job, which brought Council on to Funding.

Nigel Williams gave us some good news. Our outline application for funds to complete phase 2 had gone to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We should know before Christmas whether this is a yes or no. If 'yes' then we need to submit a detailed application – and where is the Funding Director to do this? This chap 'vacant' of course!

## Club 100

### Exclusive members-only fund-raising lottery

### Record number of lucky numbers in the Autumn Draw

There were 178 lucky numbers in the draw made by our President, Dr David Fletcher, at the AGM on 29 October.

The prize winners were:

- 1st** Mrs Alison Woodhams £213.60  
who Emailed 'What a lovely surprise'
- 2nd** Mrs Patricia Jenkins £89.00  
who wrote, 'Hurray, I can afford to retire now!'
- 3rd** Mr Graham Danbury £35.60

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all members who take part in the Club 100 lottery. The scheme has raised over £20,000 for restoration funds since it began in 1997.

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning a juicy cheque to help pay those bills, joining **Club 100** couldn't be easier. Simply complete an application form (contact Katherine Tel: 07547 181857 for one) and arrange payment by cheque, BACS transfer or standing order. Each lucky number costs £15 per year and enters the number into 4 quarterly draws. The jackpot is directly proportionate to the number of subscribers.

### The next draw is on January 21 2015

to take part we must have your payment by 15 January

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

# Membership Update

## New Members

The Trust send a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined in the last three months:

**Mrs Maureen Thackray**  
from Aylesbury

**Mr Richard Chinnery**  
from Great Missenden

**Mr Peter Bostock**  
from Halton

**Mr Edward and Mrs Valerie Fielder**  
from Leighton Buzzard

**Mr John Franklin**  
from Tring

All the above joined us at the Restoration Open Day on 7 September.

**Mrs Lorna Bardwell**  
wife of Tony, one of our restoration volunteers

**Mr Regan Shaw and Family**  
from Tring

**Mr Simon and Mrs Jasmine Reeks**  
from Aylesbury

**Mr John and Mrs Elaine Nicholls**  
from Amersham

**Mr Michael Hoey** (life member)  
from Princes Risborough

**Mrs Beryl Hunter**  
from Wendover

**Mr Charlie Carrington**  
from Hyde Heath, recruited by Chris Sargeant. Charlie is helping Ray Orth with restoration Health and Safety.

## Gift Aid

The process of updating everyone's gift aid declarations is in full swing. Around half of members have completed a new declaration for Katherine to keep on file for HMRC auditing. This process should have been completed over a year ago, so please do your bit if you haven't already.

If you are one of the members who has yet to renew their gift aid declaration, perhaps this is a quick job to do on a dark winter evening? Simply download the form from our website, or contact Katherine if you require a paper copy. Completed forms should be sent back to Katherine either electronically or in the post. We've had comments that the forms on-line have to be printed, filled-in and then scanned to send them back electronically and we are working on 'fillable' pdf forms that can be submitted directly – watch this space.

### Important note

Some members completed their original gift aid declarations as far back as 2001, and a lot could have changed in this intervening 13 years, such as a change in financial circumstances, bereavement, divorce, marriage, etc.

The following information is taken directly from the HMRC website:

'You can use Gift Aid if the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax you've paid for the tax year in which you make your donation is at least equal to the amount of basic rate tax the



charity and any other charities you donate to will reclaim on your gift. A tax year runs from 6 April one year to 5 April the next. If you make a number of Gift Aid donations, you will need to consider the tax you've paid on each donation on an accumulative basis. If you don't pay enough tax you will need to pay any shortfall in tax to HMRC.

You don't necessarily have to be working to be paying tax. Apart from tax on income from a job or self-employment, the tax you've paid could include:

- tax deducted at source from savings interest
- tax on State Pension and/or other pensions
- tax on investment or rental income (including tax credits on UK dividends)
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

Other taxes such as VAT and Council tax do not qualify, nor does any non-UK tax.

**Remember is it your responsibility to inform the charity if your circumstances change and especially if you are no longer eligible for gift aid.'**

If you are no longer a tax payer, please tell Katherine so she can update the records.

### **E-newsletter**

Did you know that your Wendover Arm News is published in two different formats? Now that the internet age is

here (for most of us anyway) we now produce an electronic version of the newsletter as well as the printed paper copy that we all know and love. All current members of Wendover Arm Trust receive the newsletter free of charge and this will continue, we just wanted to offer an alternative format for those members who would like an electronic version.

A small number of members have already asked to change to an E-newsletter so if you would prefer this instead of a paper copy sent in the post, please contact Katherine or David and it'll be arranged.

All back issues of the newsletter are available on our website,

[www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/newsletters](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/newsletters)

so if you ever fancy taking a trip down memory lane, or you've simply lost your paper copy, check out our archive.

### **Honorary membership for local Inland Waterways Association Branches**

WAT has always enjoyed the support of our local Inland Waterways Association branches both in terms of volunteers and donations towards restoration funds, so Council considered it long overdue that our partnerships were strengthened by granting honorary membership to the following branches:

Chiltern  
Middlesex  
Milton Keynes  
Northampton  
North & East London

## September and October 2014

Apart from the throat of the bridge narrows, all lining leading up to Bridge 4A was completed during these months as you can see in the pictures. The good weather was, believe it or not, the reason for not completing this work at the September working party. Laying very dry spoil on the sloping banks proved to be a slow and tedious job, we needed the spoil to be rather damp so that it stuck where it was put.

The September Sunday was a Restoration Open Day and was very well attended; we had four large groups who came to the site to hear all about our work and see our volunteers in action. As is the way of things one party had to arrive while our lunch break was in progress!

Once lining work up to the bridge was completed on the Wendover side work began on the Little Tring side; we have to line about 10 metres of the canal on this side before completing the lining through the bridge itself and building the bund, and during October we completed profiling of the towpath bank and started the rough clearing the offside bank – as you can see from the pictures

We had hoped to complete the lining through the bridge and even the bund this year but it involves a concrete lining rather than spoil (as was done at Little Tring Bridge) to avoid spoil disturbance from craft passing through the bridge narrows. Because of access restrictions the concreting can only proceed in short

stages over the Bentomat. We do not want to leave any Bentomat uncovered so unless the weather remains clement we may leave this step until the New Year.

## November Working Party

The weather stayed as fair as you might hope for in November and we were able to complete the bank lining and make the bed transition into the throat of the narrows on the Wendover side of Bridge 4A. The profiling of 10 metres on the Little Tring side of the bridge was completed and the offside bank lined with the hope that we might complete this in December (weather permitting).

## Water from Wendover

Every visiting party on the September Open Day asked the question 'Why was Wendover flooded and the canal so low at Drayton Beauchamp?'

The explanation lies in problem CRT is having with excessive water-plant growth between Wendover and Drayton Beauchamp that is impeding the flow of water. To alleviate the flooding at Wendover CRT has been letting water into Weston Turville reservoir which means that the water is lost to the canal system and not supplying Wilstone or Tringford Reservoirs.

Another very serious state of affairs resulting from the lack of water at Drayton Beauchamp is that the Trust's

*(Continued on page 15)*



📍 Bed filling October 14.  
Photo: Roger Leishman



📍 Lining work to prepare for the bund east of bridge 4a, November 14.  
Photo: Ed



📍 transition into bridge 4a narrows complete, November 14  
photo: Ed

## Restoration progress in pictures September- November 2014

It's a squeeze for the digger 📍 beneath bridge 4a preparing for the concrete base.  
November 14, Photo: Ed

Note the ratio of diggers to watchers! November 14.  
📍Photo: Ed



Low tide, September 14. Photo: Ed 📍



# RESTORATION OPEN DAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2014

## Hundreds of visitors come to see our volunteers in action

The day was sunny and warm as we erected the gazebos, tables and chairs for our fourth Restoration Day and the second in 2014.

Members of the public attending are looking for somewhere local to spend an afternoon, something of interest to see and for the opportunity of afternoon teas, and especially home-made cakes. Wendover Restoration Days fill these criteria. We followed the same format, as this had been successful in the past.

The delightful weather certainly brought out the crowds with an estimated 200 visitors coming throughout the afternoon and visitors were arriving as we opened the gates. A small problem this time as the farmer whose field we use for car parking had left a few sheep wandering around. David Page was thus banished to the gate to direct and ensure none of the wandering sheep escaped.

*'I was lucky to have opted to have an ice-cream before leaving for her tour as when I returned over an hour later, both cakes and ice-cream had all been sold leaving many disappointed (sorry, we promise to stock up better next year!). Poor David on the gate got forgotten about, and got neither ice-cream nor drink nor cake taken to him all afternoon.'*

Jenny Brice

Tring's Deputy Mayor, Mrs Roxanne Ransley came early to drum up support for the canal restoration and also to encourage visitors to sample the refreshments and to buy a grand draw ticket or two. She is always interested in progress on the canal and enjoys talking to the volunteers and people attending.



The day was advertised through the local papers and waterways outlets, there was too a big local leaflet-push and the response was certainly better than previous Restoration Days. Maybe they are becoming better known locally and people want to find out what progress we are making and to have a good afternoon out.

The guided tours to the restoration works each had over twenty people and even though they ran roughly every half-hour we still had queues sitting patiently at their tables waiting for a guide. The youngsters loved seeing the big machinery scooping the earth up in the digger bucket ready to be laid on the canal banks. Restoration Director, Roger Leishman gave his usual update on the restoration standing on the footbridge with a megaphone while the work party were backfilling the earth above the blocking, so you could see each stage and method used in the restoration. Roger was reported in the press to be using a 'loud halo' for this task, we know that Roger is the guardian angel of the restoration project but . . .



**C** Waiting for the next tour to depart



**C** A few words from Jenny before the 'off'

And what our visitors could see when they got to the workings



**C** Who will come and buy our lovely cakes?

*'We made a profit of £280 and approx 150 people drank our tea and coffee etc and ate the cakes provided. As this was the 4th Open Day held by the Trust, the second this year, we did not anticipate the excellent attendance by the public this week end and unfortunately ran out of cakes sooner than expected. We also sold further £151 of merchandise, took £213 on the gate and sold a further £168 of Grand Draw tickets before James made the Draw.'*

Margaret Leishman



Towards the end of the afternoon, James Griffin from Wyvern Shipping Co. picked the winners of our Grand Draw, the first prize being a weeks canal holiday generously donated by James himself on one of his boats. James made an amazing speech, ending with the fact he needed more canals to be restored so his hirers would have many more options to choose. This year the draw raised more than £4,000 for our restoration work – fantastic.



James stirring the tickets well before making a selection – or is he trying to find his own ticket?



*'Julie and I very much enjoyed the day and it was a pleasure to draw the raffle. I have never seen the drum so full. Congratulations on putting on such a fine fund raising event. Also the restoration was looking good.  
Best wishes  
James Griffin – Managing Director  
The Wyvern Shipping Co. Ltd'*

The tin was finally counted we had taken £213 in donations at the entrance. We sold another £168 of Grand Draw tickets before it was drawn and various items from the sales table, plus of course the takings from the teas and ice-cream. It turned out to be a very profitable day.

*'The Restoration Open Day would not have been possible had it not been for the scores of volunteers who gave up their time, and for the support from Revd Elizabeth Moxley, and landowner Bob Woodman who allows us to use his field for car parking. We will continue to hold these events next year as they seem to be an excellent way to enthuse people to join the Trust and also to become restoration volunteers.  
The dates selected are Sunday 7 June and Sunday 6 September.'*  
Katherine Deany

IWA Chiltern had a table giving out literature advertising their winter talks. John Brice also had the banners out asking for volunteers. Details were passed on to Ray Orth for the work parties.

*Restoration News (Continued from page 10)*  
re-watered Stage 1 received no water and has been slowly evaporating in the wind and hot weather. Had we completed the bund in Bridge 4A this year we would be struggling to put any water in our newly re-lined length! You can see how low the water has dropped from the picture on p11; the concrete block lining should be under water but at least 18” is exposed and the water should be up to the tide-mark on the wall of the mooring bay. This poses a great concern to the wildlife, particularly fish, if the water is not topped-up soon. Our resident mallard flock sits disconsolately along the offside wondering where all their water had gone!

CRT is currently employing a mechanical reed cutter to clear a channel in the canal so we hope water will be flowing again at Drayton Beauchamp in the near

future – and the up-to date news is that the weed-cutting has borne fruit and the water is now back to normal levels and water once more flowing into the pipeline.

Also the concerns from residents at Wendover about flooding of the towpath have been addressed by CRT rebuilding with environmental shuttering near the Wharf and backfilling with crushed stone. An article and pictures of CRT’s work in progress can be seen at:

<http://www.wendovernews.co.uk/news/mending-the-towpath>

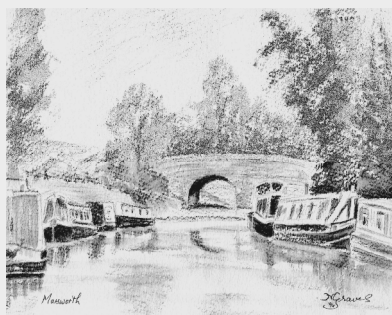
## Work Parties

Subject to the capricious British weather the work parties in the first three months of 2015 will be:

**January:** 2nd to 8th  
**February:** 6th to 12th  
**March:** 6th to 12th



## Picture Auction



The opening of bids for silent auction of Jill Graves’ two pictures was delayed until the AGM in order to give our members more time in which to bid.

The picture of Bulbourne (left) attracted some fierce bidding with two people obviously determined to get it and the winning bid was £121. The picture of Marsworth (right) fetched £51; all told £172 plus gift aid to the Trust’s Restoration funds. Council extends it’s heartfelt thanks to Jill for donating the pictures and to the two winning bidders for their generosity.

# EVENTS

## HELP – PLEASE!

Another plea from Martin Bird in advance of the 2015 events season for you to offer him just a little help:

- If you can offer to spend a hour or so on the stand – maybe on more than one occasion?
- Sell tickets for the Grand Draw – Michael and Greta are past masters at persuading punters to buy a ticket or two but its not their fiefdom and others can help
- Run the ‘nail game’. Kids from three to ninety enjoy this and it’s a great way to draw in the public
- Help to explain aspects of restoring the Arm. Perhaps not for everyone this but remember, a lot of our members know more about it (if only by reading the Newsletters) than does the general public and, in HG Wells’ words, ‘In the Country of the Blind the One-eyed Man is King’

If you can help then, if you’ve got one of the flyers in this issue, fill it in and return it or write offering help to Martin Bird, 21 Brunswick Place Banbury OX16 3RL or simply send an Email to [martin.bird@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.bird@btinternet.com)

## EVENTS STAND

Any of you who’ve ever had to erect and dismantle the existing sales and information stand we use at events will know what an absolute pain it is – club hammers, string, cable-ties and the rest, and the completed assembly doesn't have the aura of a ‘professional’ outfit.

To improve our image Events Director, Martin has been investigating alternatives and Council has opted to go for an all-in-one stand in a trailer where everything we need for an event is kept in it – simply collect it, drive up, open the doors and there it is, displays, merchandise and all without having to assemble a giant Meccano set. Exactly which trailer and how to do the custom fit-out and how to source the necessary towing vehicle has yet to be decided but this will happen soon and we hope to have it available for at least some of events this year.

Our decision has been helped greatly by Chiltern Branch of the IWA who have kindly offered a donation of £2000 towards its cost which council has accepted.

We’ll let you know, with a photo gallery too. So when it happens do come along and see it at one of the events we’ll be attending

## GRAND DRAW 2014 - RESULTS

The winning tickets were picked from the drum by James Griffin from Wyvern Shipping Company at the Restoration Open Day on Sunday 7 September.

Prize	Ticket	Winner
One-week canal holiday	09984	D Humphreys
Day boat hire	14778	Ruth Park
£100 cash	01321	Prosser
Hot air balloon flight	08272	Margaret and Roger Leishman
£30 rail card	02078	Paul Findlay and Rosemary London
£25 garden centre voucher	09667	Ian Conn
Ladies silver and gold bangle	09607	Gary Miller
Travelling alarm clock	01163	Rosemary Pennells
Glass engraving kit	09675	Steve Smith
Tiger cub fleece throw	13980	Emily Kaye
Ladies <i>robe de chambre</i>	17795	S Leagas
Large cuddly bear	09683	Ian Conn

The leader in the ticket-selling stakes was, once more John Pattle of P&S Marine who sold over £200 worth and our grateful thanks go to him for his outstanding efforts and his example to everyone else.

Another seller, who wants his light hidden under a bushel sold over £160 worth and, to his chagrin, none of the tickets he sold was pulled from the drum as a prize winner!

Thanks go to Michael Wright for his superb organisation that enabled the Trust to raise over £4000 from the draw, around £500 more than last year. Now that we don't have a Festival to rely on for funds to continue the restoration work the Draw provides a valuable source of income.

Michael is already working on the 2015 Draw but in the meantime we are trying an on-line Winter Draw – see announcement elsewhere

## Canal & River Trust, Trustee Appointments

The Canal & River Trust has appointed Ben Gordon and Allan Leighton as Trustees. with immediate effect for a three year term.

Ben Gordon studied as a civil engineer specialising in hydraulics before obtaining an MBA and has held senior positions at WH Smith, Disney and Mothercare

Allan Leighton was formerly CEO of Asda Plc and chairman of the Royal Mail He was also chairman of Race for Opportunity and an Ambassador for Prince Charles in Business in the Community.

John Bridgeman has retired from the Board of Trustees



# HELP WANTED

## IT'S YOUR CALL

Hello. As the new Sales Director for Wendover Arm Trust, I need your help.

Deciding what items to have in our sales stock is clearly important; we want attractive items that have a popular appeal, which are affordable, and which are of good quality.

Before we invest in more items for sale or stock, can you tell me what your personal choice would be? I have listed current or previous items at the end of this appeal and it would be most helpful to know which items you think we should sell. You will find a slip in this issue that lists the items and gives you the opportunity to add any items we haven't so far offered – put on the hat of a non-member and ask yourself, 'What would attract me to buy from WAT's stand at an event?'

When you have made your choice, please send the slip to me by post or scan it and Email it.

Thank you in advance – your response is appreciated.

Bob Wheal  
Sales Director  
Wendover Arm Trust  
c/o 467 Bideford Green  
Linslade  
LU72TZ  
Email: sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

## CURRENT SALES STOCK

- Booklet, Water from Wendover
- Booklet, Brief history of the Arm
- Christmas Cards
- Greetings Cards
- Tea Towel
- China Mug
- T Shirt
- Polo Shirt
- Sweat Shirt
- Window stickers
- Pens, Pencils
- Key Fob

*Note: all the items carry the Trust's logo*

## CANALS ON PRESCRIPTION

**Wendover Health Centre GP**, Dr Philippa Moreton, marked her retirement with a donation to improve the path around Weston Turville Reservoir so that the walking route can be more easily enjoyed by local people and encourage more people to explore the nation's waterways and walk themselves to better health and improved wellbeing. Dr Moreton comments: 'I have made this donation to the waterways, as a way to encourage all the Wendover, Weston Turville and Halton community to walk more in order to benefit their health. The new walk is now accessible to more people, it is on the flat which will help people with heart and lung conditions and the beauty and proximity to water and nature will help everyone's sense of wellbeing, particularly those with mental health problems. And the best part is, it's free.'

## The Trust launches its first on-line prize draw

Our Grand Draw is a well-established fund-raising raffle with tickets are sold by and to our own members, members of the public at local events and through our network of IWA branches.

The internet is another way to raise funds and to reach people across the country and overseas who may not have known about the Trust and the canal restoration had it not been for their surfing the net.

Golden Giving, with whom the Trust has been working, has recently expanded its portfolio of charity solutions by providing on-line raffles, so the Trust Council has decided to try out the system with its very own

### NEW YEAR PRIZE DRAW

Each ticket costs £1 and the first prize is a cheque for £100, donated by our very own webmaster Chris Sargeant. Second prize is a cheque for £50, donated by our Grand Draw master himself, Michael Wright and third prize is a cheque for £25, donated by our Membership Secretary, Katherine Deaney

Tickets are on sale now until January 15. The draw will be made on January 16 and the results will be posted on the website and printed in the spring newsletter. Winners will be sent a cheque in the post.

Please take a look and also encourage friends and family members to take part, this draw is open to all.

### BUYING TICKETS ON-LINE

Visit:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/raffle/newyear> and click on the button *purchase raffle tickets*. Choose how many tickets you would like to buy, enter your payment card details and your contact details and click the *purchase* button at the bottom of the screen.

Once your purchase is complete, you will receive an email confirmation from Golden Giving which is your proof of purchase. No physical raffle tickets are issued or needed.

### HELP! I DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER

Don't worry! If you have a credit or debit card and would like to buy some tickets, call the Trust's mobile number 07547 181857 and buy your tickets over the phone. If there is no reply leave a message (with your phone number) and one of our volunteers will call back, usually within 24 hours.

Thank you for supporting the Trust and good luck, remember you have to be in it to win it!

## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

Bedford & Milton Keynes Link

Bedford Business Improvement District has provided a grant of £5000 to B&MK's community Boat as one of Bedford's top tourist attractions. The Boat, The John Bunyan, has carried over 5000 passengers in 2014.

## CRT Review of Governance

The Canal & River Trust's Appointments Committee has reviewed the Trust's governance with its proposals approved by the Trust's Council on 24 September. This is the first review of governance since the formation of the Trust. The core of the review concerned the Trust Rules that define the size and make-up of Council including the constituencies invited to nominate or elect people to serve, terms of office, and election regulations.

The changes to the Trust's governance rules come into effect from March 2016 and include:

- An additional member on Council elected by Friends (people who give a regular donation to the Trust.)
- Volunteers registered with the Trust will also elect a member to sit on Council. This will replace the nominated seat held by WRG.
- With the election of a volunteer representative in place of the nominated seat held by WRG, the IWA is being invited to nominate a representative to sit on Council as a reflection of its membership and historic role, and its practical support for local canal societies
- An increase in the size of Council to 40 people (from 35) – allowing for further elected members to sit on Council when appropriate as part of the ambition to increase the number of people elected rather than nominated. These places on Council will be allocated by the Appointments Committee in future years.

## DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

If so, please join  
**EASYFUNDRAISING**  
and raise funds  
for the **Wendover Arm Trust**  
with each purchase  
**AT NO COST TO YOURSELF!**

### This is how it works:

1. Imagine you wish to buy a pair of shoes from John Lewis. Instead of going to [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com) you first go to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk).
2. From the easyfundraising website click through to John Lewis to make your purchase. This tells John Lewis you came from Easyfundraising.
- The price of the shoes is exactly the same.**
3. Get a donation. After you buy your shoes John Lewis will give you a cash reward that you can turn into a donation for WAT. Easyfundraising collects this and forwards it to us at no extra cost and, as a donation, it attracts Gift Aid!
4. Finally – get the Easyfundraising

### DONATION REMINDER

Then you can skip steps 1 and 2. Set this up from the Easyfundraising website. Just click the reminder on your desktop when you shop to receive any eligible donations. You'll never forget a free donation again.

**WE CURRENTLY HAVE 29 SUBSCRIBERS TO THIS SCHEME AND WOULD LOVE TO INCREASE NUMBERS TO 50 AND, EVENTUALLY, 100.**

There are approximately 2700 retailers in this scheme so you should have no difficulty in securing a donation with virtually every purchase!  
Please do have a look at this funding opportunity and support WAT!

*Nigel Williams*  
Publicity Director

## IWA Chilterns Branch Weekend Away September 2014

The contingent from WAT joining Chiltern Branch's annual 'weekend away' this September was more numerous than usual. The objective this year was to see the Chesterfield Canal and the work in progress to restore navigation from the Trent right through to Chesterfield Town Centre. On the way there we had guided tour of the Foxton inclined plane and a cruise to Market Harborough. On our return journey, a day on the Great Central Railway with Sunday Lunch on the South Yorkshireman laid on for us – and very pleasant it was too

Three days, three coach breakdowns and three different coaches (the one on Sunday at the pub where we had lunch – did we really need to get the coach repaired?) plus an hotel that's seen better days were the things that most will remember but Chesterfield Canal was the target so let Jenny Brice tell of the day:

'On the Saturday we were guided by three members of the Chesterfield Canal Trust, Robin Stonebridge, Jim Bower and Bev Hunt who had organised a day packed full of interest along the canal at the Chesterfield end.

The 46 mile-long canal was subject to a public enquiry in the 1960s into its future and as a result 26 miles from the Trent to Worksop were kept navigable, two sections kept as water supplies and one section in-filled. Although parts of the in-filled part have been built on, a public footpath called the 'Cuckoo Way' follows the

towpath for the full 46 miles.

The Chesterfield Canal Society was formed in 1976, its aims – to preserve and restore the canal, with the fullest appropriate use by the public. Establishing a public presence on the canal was a priority so in 1979 the society put small boats on the River Rother (which formed part of the navigation) at Chesterfield. These annual canal days were held at various locations and proved very successful. In 1981 a trip boat was introduced on the



Margaret, Roger and Nigel in earnest discussion near Staveley

summit pound at Kiveton Park. This tradition has continued with the society now operating three trip boats, plus sharing the use of another with a local school.

The Canal Society has benefited from various grants, including money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Partnership, that has enabled all 22 locks in the Turnerwood and Thorpe flights to be restored and officially opened in June 2003. The Chesterfield Canal Partnership appointed a full-time

Development Manager in 2004 who proposed some major ideas for the canal. He persuaded the Borough Council not to let a DIY warehouse be built on vacant land in the town, but rather to build a new canal basin with cafes, shops, small businesses and housing. This was adopted and the Waterside scheme was born, although behind schedule the first housing is now nearly finished. When he left in 2013 he left the Trust with a complete manual that covered possible solutions to all the obstructions in the last un-restored miles.

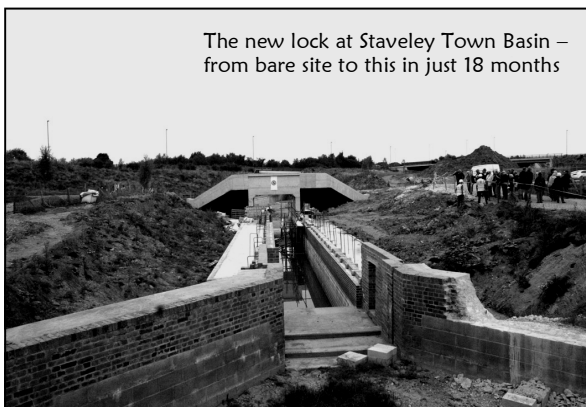
In 2013 the government announced the proposed route for HS2, this lay on top of the canal for 800 metres and also cut the canal in three further places. We were told that the Trust is proposing an alternative route that won't sever the canal but no grants can be applied for while the threat hangs over it. We hope the Trust is as successful as the Lichfield and Hatherton Society has been with its re-routing proposal.

We were split into three groups for the day, except for our introductory talk at Hollingwood Hub. The first session was a cruise on the trip boat *Madeleine* to Hollingwood for some, a two-mile walk there along the towpath for others, or a short walk back towards Chesterfield and thence to Hollingwood by coach for the third group.

The Hollingwood Hub, the very modern new home of the canal society, has a conference room for hire and a coffee shop. It's a great advertisement for the Trust.

Still in our three groups by various ways we made our way to the new Staveley Basin. This was opened in 2012, principally

funded by English Partnerships and bounded by the Northern Loop Road being completed around the site. This gives the Canal Trust a superb site to hold festivals; at the 2014 festival thousands of people came to enjoy the fun. A new lock is being constructed here to allow the canal to pass under the railway bridge at Lowgates, we all stopped and posed various questions to the volunteer workers on the site.



The new lock at Staveley Town Basin – from bare site to this in just 18 months

After lunch we were taken by coach to Kiveton Park, west of the collapsed Norwood Tunnel, from where navigation to the Trent is possible. The Thorpe and Turnerwood flights are situated in a very secluded but attractive part of the canal. Again some walked and some boated to view this flight while others went to see the boat building team who are re-creating a new Cuckoo-type boat using original skills. These narrowkeel boats were only ever found on the Chesterfield Canal.

We said goodbye to our guides from the Trust and thanked them for arranging such a great day.'

# Psst...!

Raise **free donations** when you shop online!

- 1 **Visit:** [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- 2 **Support:** Wendover Arm Trust
- 3 **Shop & raise** with over 2,700 retailers including:

   John Lewis

**easyfundraising**  
org.uk

## The restoration team coming to the rescue.

‘Thanks to the restoration team for helping to pull us off the sides of the winding hole at Little Tring. Great work.’

Marion Roberts (by Email)



*Caption: ‘*

*... And we thought you were supposed to be restoring the cut’*

## *Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal*

Our base at Linslade is within weekend reach of the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, or the Chiltern Hills and Aylesbury. Choice of exciting one- or two-week cruises including the Thames. 35 luxury boats, 2 to 8 berth.

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Members of IWA, APCO, BMF, B&MK Waterway Trust, Wendover Arm Trust, Buckingham Canal Society, Aylesbury Canal Society





*President and Vice-President together cut the cake*

*Oooh! This is going to hurt!*



*Job well done, Barry. "Yes, I quite agree, David".*



*Chris, Ray and Jo fill their plates. . . .*



**AGM SCENES**



*Margaret Dunn made the cake and it tasted as good as it looked*



*.and the assembled company tucks in*



*After dinner entertainment from Life and Times*