WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust

Issue 2015/03
Autumn 2015

Price £1 where sold
Free to members

See our Patron as Lady Bracknell in:

at The Vaudeville Theatre in the Strand, London.

Directed by **Adrian Noble**, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. Two bachelor friends, the adorable dandy Algernon Moncrieff and the utterly reliable John Worthing J.P., lead double lives to court the attentions of the exquisitely desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. The gallants must then grapple with the riotous consequences of their deceptions, and with the formidable Lady Bracknell. Hilarious misadventures result from their subterfuge: their brushes with the redoubtable Lady Bracknell and the uptight Miss Prism punctuate a serpentine plot that fizzes with some of the finest dialogue in all of theatre.

We have reserved 30 stall seats for the matinee performance at 2.30pm on Wednesday 4 November 2015 at a cost of £40 per ticket (usual price £55.)

This theatre trip is a first for Wendover Arm Trust and a great opportunity to get together before Christmas and perhaps to do some Christmas shopping in the West End

Places are strictly limited to 30 and it will be first come, first served with full payment. To book your place(s), please send a cheque, made payable to *Wendover Arm Trust* and include your name, address and telephone number. Please send a stamped addressed envelope for your tickets to be posted to you. As we have to pay the Theatre five weeks in advance for the tickets we have bought your bookings need to be with the Membership Secretary by 28 September latest.

Advice is to make your own way to the theatre (Charing Cross is the nearest station.) The theatre is a short walk along the Strand. There are plenty of restaurants in the area and Covent Garden is close by. If you would be interested in sharing the cost of a minibus from the Tring/Wendover area, please get in touch with Katherine who will endeavour to organise something subject to demand.

Call her on 01442 246523 or membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Send your bookings to: Membership Secretary, 34 Anchor Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1TY.

Your contacts on the Trust

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Cover picture:
Pipe capping July 2015. Photo:Ed

Copy deadline for the winter 2015 Newsletter 4 November 2015

Chairman's Column

As I write the section of the Arm re-watered in April now looks very attractive and well established already, just as if it has always been like it – a great tribute to the many hours of toil put in by our dedicated volunteers to make it so. Thank you all. Work is now proceeding apace towards Whitehouses and Bridge 4 – more details elsewhere in this issue.

Council is exploring various avenues for grant funding to enable us to accelerate progress and supplement our own volunteers with some contract work where appropriate – the aim being to have full navigation to the winding hole at Saxonway Bridge (A41) within five years. We are also working with others to encourage development of water activities and show how the Arm is being revitalised. The first small step was the appearance of canoes at our June Open Day – we plan to have a repeat performance on Sept 6th.

As we are coming towards the end of the season I would like to both thank and congratulate our events team led by Martin Bird for representing the Trust so well at numerous locations. Together with volunteers manning our stand and Michael and Greta Wright leading sales of Grand Draw tickets we will raise a substantial sum towards restoration funds, as well as promoting the canal restoration to new audiences. However, very sadly, as we go to press Martin has tendered his resignation with immediate effect, hence the 'situations vacant' advertisement on the next page.

As I have mentioned previously IWA (Chiltern Branch) are kindly presenting us with a trailer for use in transporting our gazebo, tables and display stands to events more conveniently – delivery has been considerably delayed by EU bureaucracy but we hope to have it for our September 6th Open Day.

The trailer, in WAT livery, will be housed in a garage near Tring. We need a couple of extra people with tow bars to volunteer to help tow it to and from events and set up – can you help? It would involve just a few hours on event days. As ever if we can split the jobs between several people 'many hands will make light work'. Please contact me if you can help.

Finally our Annual General Meeting is looming around the corner on Wednesday 21st October at Green Park, Aston Clinton. A 2-course dinner is available for £10, bookings need to be with Katherine by 14th October at the very latest (subject to spaces still being available) so don't delay, book your tickets today!

Thankyou

Chris Sargeant - Chairman

SITUATIONS VACANT

EVENTS MANAGER

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

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

- Identifying events year to year at which our presence would be of benefit to the Trust and championing proposals for attendance through Council.
- Working with the Trust to define its strategy for presence at events.
- Managing the Trust's events equipment to ensure it is appropriate for tactical and strategic needs and is kept well maintained.
- Organising teams for set-up and break-down at each event attended. It would be useful if the applicant possessed a car with a tow-bar to transport the Trust's box-trailer to and from events.
- Organising teams to act as 'Events Sales Staff' at events.
- Providing training, including briefing and advice, to teams attending events.

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

Chris Sargeant, Email chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

From the Editor

Our trailer is being delivered on 21 August so will be 'unveiled' with great pomp and ceremony at the Restoration Day 6 Sept. Pictures and story will be in the winter edition.

The 'job advert' above and Chris' comments in his column highlight another problem for the Trust; not only does the Trust still not have a Vice-chairman and a Funding Director we no longer have an Events Director. Martin did a lot to bring our events' presentation into the 21st Century and whilst Jenny Brice is happy to continue as 'chief grip' for help on the day it does need someone who will manage the whole process of our face-to-face interaction with the general public. Members, search your consciences!

Sadly one of the Trust's founder members, Stuart Bell has passed away and his obituary is on p13. He has, however, left the Trust a bequest of £5,000 and his family want to fund another seat for the Arm and a bridge plaque. Our grateful thanks to the late Stuart and his family.

David

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held in the Coach House at Green Park, Aston Clinton on Wednesday 21st October 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting held on 29th October 2014.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Individual Trustees' Reports.
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report.
6. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the report of the Council of Management.
7. To receive and, if thought fit, to approve the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust for the Year ended on 5th April 2015, and the Report of the independent Examiner thereon.
8. To re-appoint Mr Robin David Goodridge BA ACA as the independent Examiner.
9. To elect Members to the Council. (See Note 1 below).

By Order of the Council

Registered Office:
Fox Meadow
Water End Road
Potten End
BERKHAMSTED
HP4 2SH

John. M. Rowe.
Secretary 26 July 2015

NOTE 1. Under Article 39, nominations for election to the Council may be received by the Secretary up to seven clear days before the date of the meeting. Nominations must be in writing and signed by the proposer and by the person nominated, confirming their willingness to be elected. Only members qualified to vote at the meeting may make nominations or stand for election.

A list of Council Members standing for re-election and other members standing for election will be given at the meeting.

NOTE 2. Any person being a member of the Trust is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf at the Annual General Meeting. Such a proxy need not be a member of the Trust. A letter nominating the proxy, signed by the member, must be received by the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The formal notice of the calling of the 2015 AGM and the agenda of business is on the previous page.

After the success of the catering arrangements at last year's AGM we intend once more to start with a sherry reception and have a sit-down meal after the AGM followed by a talk from an invited speaker; this year Richard Parry, Chairman of the Canal and River Trust will be our guest speaker

EVENNG'S TIMETABLE

7.00pm	Welcome and sherry reception
7.30pm	AGM
8.30pm	Dinner
9.30pm	Club 100 draw and raffle
9.45pm	Speaker – Richard Parry, CRT Chairman
10.30pm	Finish

DINNER MENU

£10.00 per head

Steak & ale pie or vegetarian pie, both served with vegetables
Chocolate sponge and custard or lemon cheesecake
Soft Drinks, tea or coffee

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

All paid-up or Honorary Members of the Trust can attend the AGM but the dinner is by ticket only and must be booked in advance. You can book until 14 October. 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 meal at the booking stage.

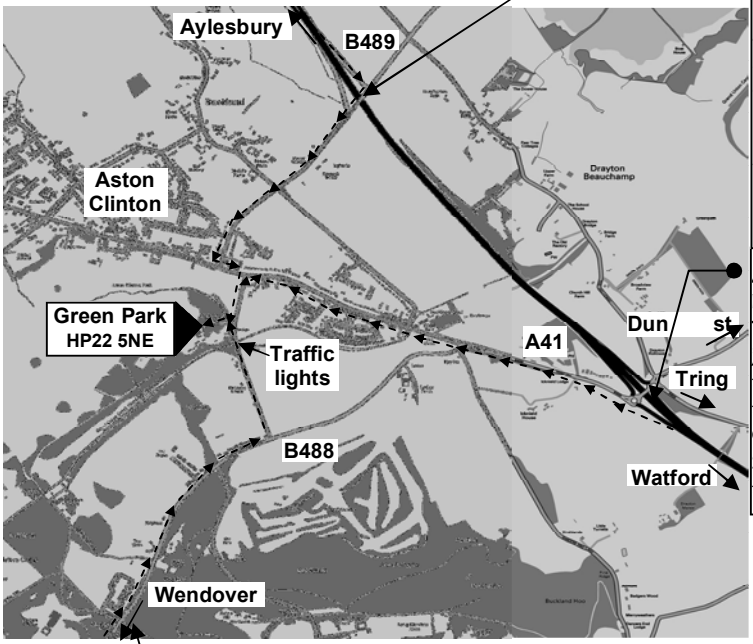
Booking can be done through Golden Giving (https://www.goldengiving.com/event/agm) or by completing and returning the form that was loose in the summer issue. If you book by post you will need to send your remittance (payable to Wendover Arm Trust) to the address on the booking form.

All bookings will receive an acknowledgment by Email, text message or phone call so if you book by post please give a telephone or Email address so that we can do this. If you book on-line you will get an E-ticket. No need to print anything, we'll check you in at the door as you arrive.

If you need overnight accommodation please see the options given overleaf.

Directions to Green Park are on the following page.

How to get to Green Park:



The map contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright 2014

A41 south. Leave the by-pass at the B489 Aston Clinton-Marsworth junction and turn right. At the next 'T' junction (a roundabout) turn left then immediately right into Stable Bridge Road

A41 north. Leave the by-pass at the B488 Tring-Dunstable junction and continue straight on at the exit roundabout. Continue downhill to Stable Bridge Road then turn left

From Amersham A413. Take the Wendover village road at the start of the by-pass and proceed to the clock tower. Turn right (roundabout) onto the B488 towards Halton and continue after Halton to Stable Bridge Road where turn left.

Green Park (HP22 5NE) lies just north of the hump-backed bridge over the canal. There are traffic lights at the bridge. Take the left-hand entrance of Green Park, the car park lies in front of you and the Coach House behind you to your left.

Accommodation

We understand that the Premier Inn (Crows Nest) and the Bell Aston Clinton, highlighted in the Summer Newletter are full on 21 October.

Alternatives are:

Red Lion, High Street, Wendover HP22 6DU ☎01296 622266

Rose and Crown, High Street, Tring HP23 5AH ☎ 01442 824071

Anglers Retreat, Startops End, Marsworth HP23 4LJ ☎ 01442 822250

Holiday Inn, Aylesbury Road, Weston Turville HP22 5QT ☎ 0871 942 9002

EVENTS UPDATE

Our new display stands had outings to Wendover Annual Parish meeting and Thrupp Canal Crusing Club AGM before going to our first outdoor event of the year at Aldbury; Rickmansworth Canal Festival followed a couple of weeks later. Events still to come in 2015 are shown in the panel below.

New volunteers to help at events are very welcome; no experience is needed, just a friendly face to promote the aims of the Trust to the visiting public and to help sell merchandise and Grand Draw tickets! You only need commit to a couple of hours on the stand, it makes all the difference if everyone does a little bit.

If you can help in any way please contact our 'chief grip' for helpers. That's Jenny Brice who can be contacted at:

jenny@johnbrice.co.uk
☎ 07907 609886

Alternatively ring the Trust's general number: **07547 181857** – you may get the answering service but, leave a message and we promise someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

2015 EVENTS

So far for the remainder of 2015 we have booked to take our stand to the following shows and events:

Sunday 13 Sept
Halton Village Festival

Saturday 21 Nov
Wendover local produce market

To be confirmed
Tring Local Farmers Market

HELP WANTED

TRAIL BOAT FESTIVAL ON WENDOVER WATERS 2020
Is it possible?
Over to you, our members

The Trust is putting its name in the frame to hold the National Trail Boat Festival in 2020. The events team that spend its summers attending shows are always asked, 'What happened to your wonderful festival'. What makes a trail boat festival different from the ones we used to hold? Well it must be on an unconnected stretch of canal (the stretch from, currently, Little Tring to Wendover is 'unconnected') and one that has active restoration work, we meet both criteria.

The proposal is to hold it at Green Park; we've had preliminary meetings with Green Park as they are interested in installing a slipway for canoes but a larger slipway will be needed to launch trail boats (the WRGs build'em in a fortnight's camp!)

To get the project started we need to gather a small team to start negotiations with and arrange meetings between Green Park, CRT, IWA and WRG. We aren't expecting at this point to assemble the team to run through to 2020, just to derive a structured proposal for the event that IWA can take seriously If you are interested in getting involved, contact our Chairman Chris Sargeant:
chrissargeant@msn.com

RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters

July 2015

Anyone want to make us an offer for a spare manhole?

A surprise during the July work party was the uncovering of a manhole that no one know was there *(see picture on p11).* It is on a change in direction on the pipeline and points the pipeline directly towards the manhole at Whitehouses. Why it's there and wasn't recorded is a bit of a mystery but Roger thinks that perhaps there were no more curved pipes available so to get round the bend the pipe-layers had to it in three straight sections with two manholes.

Pipe capping progressed well although still restricted by the line of the pipeline that meant placing the ready-mix concrete in short lengths able to be reached by the excavator bucket when unloading from the dumper. *(see cover picture)* The 'discovered' manhole will be capped over (and hidden forever!) once the brickwork has been lowered and a slab cast. Dave Wedd took the photograph on the next page that shows how the manhole sits on a change in direction of the pipeline, yes it is only 18" in diameter although Dave's picture makes it look as if it's big enough to sail down!

Tony Bardwell ran the July working party in Ray's absence and many thanks to Tony for a job well done and stepping into the breach.

August 2015

The pipeline trench went to the offside permitting the excavator to travel alongside the pipe capping work. This meant much longer lengths could be concreted at one time. The slab to place over the newly-discovered manhole was also cast and will be emplaced in September. The manhole just beyond bridge 4a will be left uncapped at present to serve as a drain for the bed of the canal when it rains again – as, unfortunately, it surely must.

Autumn 2015 Working Parties

The September party will include our demonstrating restoration work to visitors at Restoration Open Day on 6 September With the ability now to work alongside the pipe trench and the work moving away from high offside bank we hope that we can make much more rapid progress towards Whitehouses – subject to the weather of course. October's work party will crack on with the capping towards Whitehouses.

Work Party Dates

Friday 4 September-
Thursday 10 September

Friday 2 October-Thursday 8 October

Friday 6 November-
Thursday 12 November

Friday 4 December-
Thursday 10 December

Whitehouses

Whitehouses presents us with a bit of a problem. Before we can cap the pipe beyond and move towards bridge 4

(Continued on page 15)

A view along the pipeline. photo: Dave Wedd

The unexpected manhole. Photo: Ed

Lunchtime in the gazebo for the work crew, while waiting for the concrete to arrive. Photo: Ed

Swans and cygnets at bridge 4a bund. Photo: Ed

The newly re-watered section teeming with fish (golden rudd). Photo: Ed

Obituary: Stuart Bell, 1923-2015

Stuart had been a member from the Trust since its formation in June 1989 and an avid canal enthusiast for most of his life. He was born at Walton Mill (Hills & Partridge) by the canal in Park Street, Aylesbury. Stuart went to Aylesbury Grammar school and then St Edwards in Oxford before training as a dentist at St Thomas & Guys in London. He married in 1960, had two sons. He lived and worked in Aylesbury until his retirement in 1986 when he moved to Hollingdon. Stuart knew many people on the canals including Bob Bush and his family with whom he travelled in the 1970s on their boat. Stuart's own boat, Jezebel was built at Stowe Hill in 1986 and he continued to cruise on the Grand Union canal with his friends and family right up until 2013 and last visited the Wendover Arm in 2011. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of canals and their history and over the years and Stuart supported all of the local canal societies. However, he was particularly passionate about the WAT and left a legacy for the Trust. He was a gentle and resilient soul who will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

Wildlife and the re-watered Wendover Arm

Not only do we have a newly re-watered section, wildlife has one too and its gratifying to see how quickly the section has been re-colonised by flora and fauna. Two pictures on page 11 exemplify this. The swans presumably have come from the section west of Drayton Beauchamp (unless the cygnets had a very long walk from Wilstone reservoir!) and the number of fish is quite amazing. Roger planted some meadowsweet that he and Margaret had been nurturing and there's a couple of pictures here of the planting 'ceremony' (left) and the result (above).

Meadowsweet, photo: Roger Leishman

Roger planting meadowsweet 13 April, photo: Ed

Walking the Wendover with Doug

Doug Hamilton-Cox is a 71 year old ex-soldier who with his wife Sue set out five years ago to raise money for the wounded troops via Help for Heroes.

They undertook a short 150 mile walk from their home on Dartmoor to Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire. This was so successful that the following year they repeated the exercise with a 250 mile 'stroll' from their home to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham (the first port of call for the wounded returning from Afghanistan) and again had great success. He had now developed a severe case of itchy feet and in 2011 decided to do the ultimate and final walk of John O'Groats to Lands End. Mission accomplished, but he still couldn't settle. So he is now well over half way through his final challenge of walking all of the 2500 miles of canals in the UK.

While at the 2014 Linslade Canal Festival a supporter of Doug's told me about his challenge, gave me his details and said that Doug was looking to walk the Wendover Canal in 2015. Early in the year, I contacted Doug to ask what month he would be thinking of this walk, he said it would be May and would give me the final date asap and that his itinerary for the week was the Wendover Arm, the Buckingham Arm and a final stretch along the GU from Cowley to Marsworth.

I met him on 26 May at the Grand Junction Arms where the Hemel Hempstead Gazette were waiting for a photo shoot. I was a bit dismayed when he announced that as it was only 6 ¾ miles we should finish in a couple of hours. It had been six months since I had walked this distance, so I could see the pace would be fast.

Ray met us at Tringford Pumping station to explain the restoration along the working site and walked with us until the A41 winding hole giving Doug an insight into the work being currently carried out.

From there on the pace quickened and as we approached Halton Doug contacted Sue to arrange that she would be waiting at Wharf Road at the end of the Arm. I had left my car back at Wyevale Garden Centre so we had lunch there and planned

(Continued on page 15)

WAT SHOPFRONT

from the Sales Director

New Mug tells a Story

In looking for the design for our new WAT mug, we tried to encapsulate and illustrate the work involved in restoration, the use of volunteer labour, and the skilled use of heavy machinery. In contrast we want to show the finished canal, with boats enjoying the results of all that hard work and expertise. We think we've achieved what we wanted with the before/after pictures on our new mugs.

These colourful mugs come in two versions; the usual ceramic mug holding a useful half pint of tea or coffee, and a more delicate version in porcelain, taller and slimmer than the ceramic mug.

Both are attractive, colourful, and tell the restoration story in a before-and-after fashion.

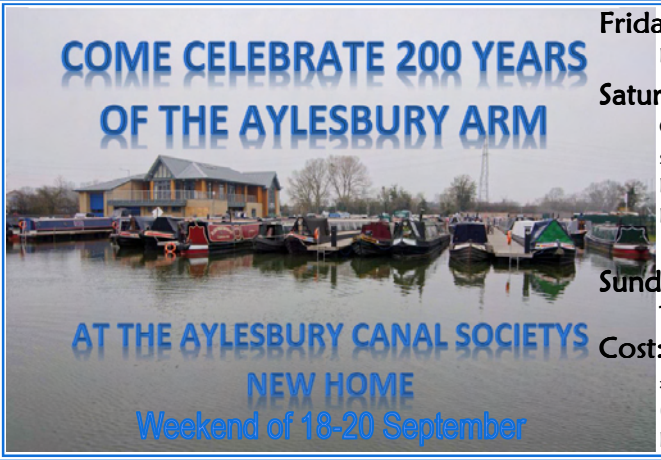
All mugs are hand finished in the UK and are unique to the Wendover Arm Trust. The mugs are a great opportunity as a present for anyone who supports the restoration.

Both are available online

wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

or can be collected from our various events. Want a set of 2, 4, 6? Call for a great price deal and further information.

Tea or coffee anyone?



Friday:

Beer and BBQ

Saturday:

Open Day 10.30-4. Tours, stalls, fire brigade, games, BBQ AND Phoenix Morris Dancers

Sunday:

The return of the ACS Auction.

Cost:

£12 per family including boat (with 2-weeks free mooring)
Evening meal: £8pp.

Restoration News (Continued from page 10)

CRT has to complete its water control works there, and KESCRG need to come and finish their restoration works but, design and finance problems seem to have dogged the project. Perhaps we can look forward to completion in October but KESCRG is putting off its scheduled September visit and is unlikely to come before the New Year, probably the May Working Party. If we can get a finish in October, this will not hold up the pipe capping through to Bridge 4 and we hope to be there as soon as possible in 2016.

The Future

The Trust is progressing its HLF Application vigorously but this is a 5-year project and meanwhile we are looking at ways in which we can speed up the work with our volunteer workforce. You may remember our telling you that the rough-profiling of the banks, particularly the high offside bank, will need eighteen-months consolidation before it can be relined and we are looking at ways in which this period can be reduced. In talks with Morgans, our plant hire company, it seems they may have equipment to do the job. Watch this space!

Walking the Wendover with Doug (Continued from page 13)

his afternoon walk. I left Sue and her car at Rickmansworth Aquadrome and drove Doug to Cowley to start his ten mile section back to Rickmansworth.

He contacted me later to thank me, and said he had completed the last section of the GU, The Buckingham Arm and a short stretch which was left on the Oxford Canal. All this completed within his week, away from the West Country. For this walk he had stayed a few days at The Anglers Retreat and Iwas glad to hear Pauline gave him a discount as he was walking to support the Help for Heroes fund.

The benefit to the Wendover Arm Trust of this walk, was the publicity. An article appeared in the local Gazette and also in the Towpath Talk.

Having got to know him during this walk, I am not sure whether Doug will be able to settle when he has completed his task. His final walk will finish at Wootton Bassett where he will be applauded for his efforts, although mention must be made of Sue who drives him around and patiently waits in car parks around the country for his return each day. Doug and Sue have already collected £95.000 and are aiming for a final figure of £100.000.

Jenny Brice

In Brief

CRT: Allan Leighton, chairman of the Co-Operative Group, and formerly CEO of Asda Plc and chairman of the Royal Mail, will formally take over as chairman of the Canal & River Trust following the meeting of Council on 23 September. Allan joined the Board in September 2014.

Publicity:

Towpath Talk June 2015 printed an extensive article extolling the virtues of the Arm.

Membership Update

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

Mr John Fox and family
from Thame, Oxon

Mrs Heather Marshall
from Aston Clinton

Mr Mike and Mrs Kay Vickery
from Penn

Mr Paul Rainey
from Bromley, Kent

Miss Marion Clarke
from Aylesbury

Sadly we have to announce the passing of the following members:

Mr Martin Hook,
member with wife Clare since 2004

Mr Stuart Bell,
member from June 1989 (see appreciation of Stuart elsewhere in this issue)

Communications

Following our appeal to 'tell us what you think' in the summer issue of Wendover Arm News, we were overwhelmed with the responses from members about how we communicate with you. Not a single comment was received! Maybe this means that everyone is happy with the way things are, or that nobody is interested?

In the absence of any feedback from our membership, we will carry on as normal, sending emails for important events or announcements in addition to publishing the newsletter and membership communication.

Club 100

Result of the Summer Draw

There were 187 lucky numbers in the draw made at July's council meeting. We had 197 'subscribers' on the list but ten of these hadn't renewed their subscription. . . thinks, 'I could have been one of you ten!'

The prize winners were:

1st	Rosemary Beckett	£224.40
2nd	Christopher Boden	£93.50
3rd	Chris Webber	£37.40

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all members who take part in the Club 100 lottery.

Chris, our third prize winner, has kindly donated his winnings to the Trust in GiftAid; he says, 'What a pleasant surprise to win third prize in the recent draw. I am pleased to be able to return this to you by way of a donation.'

The next Draw is at the AGM.

FIFTEEN MORE SUBSCRIBERS AND WE'VE GOT A CLUB 200

Will you help us get there?

CLUB 100 APPEAL – can we make it club 200 (or more)?

We have a bag of 200 lovely numbered tiles that are used in the **Club 100** draw. Some of the numbers have never been bought so we are setting a challenge to sell all 200 numbers (or even more) ready for the October draw which will be made by Richard Parry, CEO of Canal & River Trust.

For an annual subscription of £15, you 'buy' a lucky number in the **Club 100** draw that is entered into the year's four quarterly draws.

There are thee winners of each draw, who get a juicy cheque sent to them to spend how they wish. Simples!
For example Rosemary Beckett from Leighton Buzzard won the July draw having only recently renewing her £15 subscription a few weeks beforehand.

Club 100 raises vital funds for restoration

Since Club 100 was started by Barry Martin way back in October 1997, it has raised almost £30,000, of which half has gone in prizes and half to the restoration, that's paid for the equivalent of 35 metres or restored canal.

Rules

There are a few rules that govern **Club 100**, imposed by HMRC. The lottery is exclusive to paid up members of Wendover Arm Trust, GiftAid cannot be claimed on lottery monies.

Members can buy as many lucky numbers as they choose, increasing their chances of winning in the process.
The draw is run on a proportionate basis, i.e., the more subscribers, the bigger the prizes and the more money is raised for the restoration.

Look what you could win, just in time for Christmas

If we had 200 subscribers, the jackpot would be £240, 2nd prize £100 and third prize £40.
If we had 250 subscribers, the jackpot increases to £300 with £150 for 2nd place and £50 for third.

How do I join or increase my chances?

Simply complete the enclosed form and send it together with a cheque, to Membership Secretary Katherine and she'll do the rest. You are welcome to pay by BACS transfer or standing order. In this case, either complete the mandate form and send to your bank, or use the information to set up an online payment. Then Email Katherine saying

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(Continued from page 17)
you'd like to join **Club 100** and she can allocate your number(s). Not on Email? complete the form and send by post.

How do I know if I have won?

. . . the most important question. Katherine writes to winners and encloses the prize cheque. Results for all draws are posted on the website and printed in the next issue of the newsletter.

. . .Finally

Thanks to all members who have been long term supporters in the **Club 100** lottery, it is much appreciated and makes a difference. To those who have won prizes, hope you spent the money wisely! Some members even returned their winnings as a further donation, with GiftAid where that has been possible.

This appeal is mainly aimed at those members, including life and honorary members, who have not had a flutter on the club 100 before. Why not have a go, you never know, you could be a winner in October.

Existing club 100 subscribers are of course welcome to increase their holdings of lucky numbers, the more the merrier as they say!

Winter Raffle – fund-raising online

Last year, we were one of the first charities to run an online raffle through Golden Giving. We raised around £500 from ticket sales and the generous donation from our winning ticket holder, who wanted to give back his prize to the Trust.

The raffle was easy to set up and involved minimal hands on time from our volunteers and the prizes were donated by Council members, so all monies went directly to restoration funds. The only fees are being nominal bank processing charges.

Can we push the boat out and do better this winter?

Can we double the amount raised this year to fund restoration of two metres of canal rather than one?

The answer to this question depends on donations of prize money and your buying tickets.

Last years' prizes were £100 for first, £50 for second and £25 for third. These amounts are not fixed, so anything you can give will be gratefully received. Donations can be acknowledged publicly or kept anonymous should you prefer.

So, if you are able to make a donation to the prize fund, GiftAided if you can- then please contact Katherine. Cheques should be made payable to 'Wendover Arm Trust' and sent with a note giving your name and contact details to:

Membership secretary, 34 Anchor Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1TY.

Details of the raffle will be published on the website and in the winter Newsletter

CHILTERN BRANCH IWA

Even if you are not a member of IWA you will be welcomed at any of the Chiltern Branch's evening meetings in the coming season. Our programme is:

2015:

23 September: 'Leonardo's Canals' with Roger Squires. A polymath, Leonardo was involved in the improvement of waterways in Milan and on the rivers Adda and Po.

28 October: 'Coventry's Canals and the Coventry Canal Society' with Robert Nash. The story of Coventry's industry, the building of the canal and then the Society's involvement in halting plans that would have infilled significant sections.

25 November: 'The Chesterfield Canal' with John Lower. Quite a few of the Branch members got the story first-hand when we visited last autumn. Makes restoring the Wendover seem a doddle.

10 December: Christmas Party

2016

27 January: 'The Story of Navigation' with Jeremy Batch. It's a Jeremy Batch talk – it will be good! Not only Galileo and Harrison but also Faraday, Einstein, Sikorsky, astronauts, migrating birds and GPS.

24 February: 'Grand Union—1960s Cargoes and Families' with Terry Putnam. Slides from the 1960s giving an insight into the last days of carrying on the Grand Union.

23 March: AGM followed by a talk by Vicky Martin, CRT, Waterways Manager South East.

27 April: 'Narrow Boats to Norway' with Clive and Jill Field. Clive and Jill have been there, done that and probably have the T-shirt.

All meetings start at 8pm and held at Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont HP8 4UD, a short distance from Chalfont and Latimer station.

Chiltern Branch Weekend Away 25-27 September

There is still time to book your place on the Branch's Weekend Away. This year we are going to the Kennet and Avon, the Cotswold Canal and the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway. We'd welcome any WAT members who'd like to come. The cost for the weekend is £250 per person half-board sharing a double room, coach travel, all trips but excluding lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Interested? Then contact Colin Bird 01932 248178.

IWA NATIONAL TRAIL BOAT FESTIVAL 2015

This was organized by the Lancaster Canal Trust and held in conjunction with the Westmorland Agricultural Show – a large two-day show covering farming, local produce and crafts – on the Lancaster Canal's Northern Reaches, that were totally severed from the main line when the M6 was built. The National Trail Boat Festival was first held at this venue in 2006 when a temporary slip way was installed at Crooklands near to the Westmorland showground Since that date this has been upgraded to a permanent slipway with a new floating pontoon installed by CRT this year to assist when launching

With a delayed arrival we parked the trailer, boat and vehicle on the campsite overnight with a view to a launch the next day, then off to the local pub restaurant for our evening meal and a walk back along the canal past our Wilderness Club boats, where we were invited on board for a drink and a catch up on everyone's recent travels.

The Wilderness Trail Boat Club is run totally by website, as the members are situated throughout the UK with a few in Europe. Members often arrange to cruise together in the UK, France, Germany and Holland. As many as possible meet up at the National Trail Boat Festival where we hold our AGM.

On the Friday evening there was a presentation by the Stone Wall Association showing many examples of different types of stone wall; very interesting but the cold Cumbrian wind whistled across the site and I was glad of my woollen hat and gloves.

The Lancaster Canal Trust had arranged a wide variety of local interests for us to check out during the weekend. There was the opportunity of joining the gunpowder walk, a supposedly 3-mile 1-hour walk around the local area, but I think we were rather slower than they calculated. It was fascinating to follow the history of the production of gunpowder. We walked through the village and up on the hill, every so often we came upon railway tracks, some embedded in the tarmac others in the roadside bank. The main production site is now a caravan park, about 12 of us were at their gate studying the unusual gate post, when their security came out to see what the fuss was about. It was cold so we were adorned in hoodies, but I hope at our age we did not look that threatening. The gate post in question was a tall upright cylinder, which had been used for charcoal burning in the gunpowder production We continued over the hill and back to the site, for a well-earned cup of tea. Meanwhile some of our boat club members had been competing in the boat handling competition. Our type of GRP boat is very light, so can be very responsive, but also blown around in windy weather, so these competitions can be very amusing to watch and never have an obvious winner.

On Saturday evening the Club took over a marquee for its AGM, this is normal practice as you can never be sure that it will be warm enough to have this in the open. This was followed by a mass exodus straight into the bar tent!

On Sunday we took it in turns to help in

IWA's Wild over Water marquee, where children can try different tasks such as build a wall, operate a mini-digger and build a model bridge, all with a waterways theme. This was a busy stand, as the children get a passport and when they have completed all the tasks are given a party bag of water information.

The 'dignitaries' aboard Waterwitch on the new FURLONG

After the main show closed it was time to get ready for the annual illuminated boat parade with each boat in our club trying to outdo each other. Some even have lights flickering to music, it is much easier now that solar power can be used. Along the towpath the public waited as it slowly got darker, unfortunately due to the narrowness of the canal we all decided that doing our normal pirouettes would be foolhardy. But every one clapped and whistled as the procession of boats passed.

Monday started with the awards ceremony and then the boats cruised down to the end of navigation to view the new FURLONG at Stainton in water. The Lancaster Canal Trust's trip boat 'Waterwitch' headed the parade with the dignitaries on board, while we tagged on behind. The newly re-watered section had sadly not settled enough for CRT to give the go ahead for the bund to be removed, but nevertheless the canoes were out in force celebrating the new waters to explore. From this point we were able to join the walk along to the Hincastle Tunnel and Horsepath (an English Heritage Ancient Monument). The tunnel looked well preserved and the Horsepath had been renovated by the Trust.

The Lancaster Canal trust is committed to restore the 14 miles from Tewitfield to Kendal. The M6 cuts through this canal in three places, in addition to another four major roads. This involves many tunnels, many bridges, moving a lock, installing gates on seven others, building an aqueduct and planning a canal head with shops and cafes. In comparison the Wendover Arm sounds a piece of cake!

Canoes make use of the new bit

Prestwood Steam Rally

The Chiltern Traction Engine Club holds an annual rally in Prestwood on the first weekend in July, this is widely advertised and hugely attended by the public. The rally is spread over three fields and includes market stalls, craft stalls, a fun fair, working traction engines, commercial vehicles, tractors, cars, stationery engines, models and miniatures. The aim is to put on a fun-packed week-end by displaying over 260 exhibits and non-stop arena entertainment.

This was the WAT's first appearance at this event, so we were not sure as to whether we would fit in. Well, anyone with an interest in engines often also has an interest in narrowboats so of course we were welcomed. There was much interest in our presentation boards and many children had fun with the nail game. We sold Grand Draw tickets and a few Wendover books. We gave away numerous flyers for the September restoration day, so even if only a small proportion attend it will swell our numbers.

The Rally opens early on the Saturday so Martin, John Rowe and I erected the gazebo and presentation boards late Friday afternoon and left it ready for the next day's trading. The public were slow at first to arrive, as on this large site they had many options for entertainment, but gradually the pace quickened. With Mike and Greta's arrival in the afternoon, Martin and I could stand down for a bit and look around the show. There were monster steam engines trundling around the site from field to field, whistles blowing, steam erupting and a general clanking of metal. The Tannoy system was well manned with a knowledgeable guy, giving precise details of each arena entry. The stationary engines were performing major work slicing trees into planks of wood.

The weather was a bit cooler on Sunday which was good as we all felt as though we'd fried under the gazebo the day before. A new set of visitors were stopping at the stand, with many questions about the Arm. Our new brief guides were well received, so hopefully we may obtain a few new members from the membership forms which were enclosed.

The WAT stand is attending various events during the summer, and we always need volunteers. Even someone to erect and take down the gazebo and stands is welcome, otherwise it always falls on the very few.

Membership, fund-raising and publicity are the reasons for the WAT stand, we need to keep our name in the public eye. We will be applying for Heritage Lottery Funds later this year, the outcome depends on membership numbers and the support of the community. All these can be increased by our presence at local events. Look at the list of events for the rest of the summer, and if you can help, we would love to see you; you will probably get a phone call or Email from me anyway if the event is in your area. It's fun talking to the public, you can check out the event while you attend, so I hope to see more of our members helping in the future.

Jenny Brice

WENDOVER ARM TRUST

President	Dr David Fletcher CBE
Vice President	Barry Martin
Patron	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.

General telephone number: 07547 181857 **Website:** www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

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All the fun of the fair – scenes from Prestwood Steam Rally

The nail game again proved somewhat addictive!

A view of WAT's stand

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