



WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2015/2
Summer 2015*

*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.

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

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Cover picture – see p10.
 Cover picture and pictures on p11
 ©Editor
 Other pictures in this issue ©Katherine Deany and John Brice

**Copy deadline for the autumn issue
 15 August 2015**

FROM THE EDITOR

At least you've been spared the threat I made in the spring issue of a picture of a site hut on the front cover and the reason for this should be obvious from your reading of this issue, the momentous event of 'just add water' that has transformed another quarter-mile of the canal. Nothing more to say from me about this as you'll find plenty of comments and pictures scattered through this issue.

I had hoped to have included a picture of our new events trailer in all its glory but sadly its delivery is delayed so, perhaps next time (along with the threatened picture of the site hut?)

Don't forget to book for the AGM meal – booking form with this issue and also to buy the Grand Draw tickets in this issue to keep Michael happy!

David

PUBLICITY AND FUND-RAISING

Easyfundraising

We have reached just over £333 with 35 supporters.

The picture on the right tells you how to do it. It's easy-peasy and there are thousands of suppliers who will make modest donations to charitable causes.

We need to increase the number of supporters, why not do your purchasing through Easyfundraising and painlessly add to WAT's coffers?



Psst...!
Raise free donations when you shop online!

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


easyfundraising
.org.uk

Fund-raising returns

Aldbury Fête raised £105 excluding sales of Grand Draw tickets

Rickmansworth Canal Festival raised £197, excluding sales of Draw tickets.

With the latest donation of £107 **Rose Bennett's bric-a-brac stall** at Dunstable and District Boat club has now raised a total of £2114 for WAT.

Thrupp Canal Cruising Club's 'Charity of the Year' has so far raised £415 for WAT

Restoration Open Day on 7 June raised £209 in donations, £136 in sales and £554 in refreshments, Grand Draw ticket sales were additional to this.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Another milestone has just been reached in our restoration – over a quarter of a mile of newly re-lined canal near Drayton Beauchamp was re-watered on 11 April – the first time it has been in water for over 100 years. This is a tremendous achievement and a great tribute to all our enthusiastic volunteers past and present who have toiled in all weathers to make it happen – a huge thank you to you all. Many were present as Roger Leishman and Ray Orth made the final cut in the bund.

It was sadly not possible to make this a major event not only because it would have been impractical given the confines of the narrow towpath and lack of car parking but also as the precise re-watering date was finalised at short notice in conjunction with CRT to take advantage of favourable water flows from the Wendover springs.

However we were delighted to welcome many members and supporters to our Restoration Open Day on June 7 based at Drayton Beauchamp Church to see the new section in water and to see members of Chiltern Canoe Club enjoying paddling on the water – another first.

Parties of visitors were taken along the towpath to see the new section and on to the current work site where work is proceeding to continue capping the pipe under the canal bed as a prelude to profiling and lining the canal bed. This will enable us to achieve our objective of restoring the Wendover Arm to navigation from Bulbourne Junction to the A41 bypass and a new winding hole to turn boats. At our next Open Day on Sunday



6 September we hope to have Chiltern Canoe Club with us again plus a group of paddle boarders courtesy of CRT.

‘How long will it be before its finished?’ is the question we get asked most frequently – the answer will depend on two things – first and foremost attracting more volunteers to help carry the work forward and secondly raising sufficient funds to pay for the materials and plant hire needed.

Seeing the project develop and especially being part of it is extremely rewarding whether working on the canal bed or in the many support roles which help to oil the wheels – if you are able to help us towards our goal do please get in touch – thank you.

Chris Sargeant

FIRST NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

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 7.30pm.

By Order of the Council 1st June 2015

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 2015 AGM is given above.

After the success of the catering arrangements at last year's AGM we intend once more to have a sit-down meal after the AGM, followed by a talk from an invited speaker.

EVENING'S TIMETABLE

7.00pm	Welcome
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. 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 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.

You can book from 1 July to 14 October. All bookings will receive an acknowledgment by Email, text message or phone call. 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.

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 £30 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.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING PROGRESS

On Friday 1 May at Green Park we met with James Clifton and Richard Baker of Canal and River Trust. Others present were Victoria Ireland, our professional fund-raiser, together with Chris Sargeant and Nigel Williams.

The object was to begin the fine tuning of a Stage 1 Application in the hope that this could be submitted by the next Heritage Lottery Fund deadline of August. However, much work remains to be done and we may miss this date but, if so, we are hopeful that the next deadline of November 2015 can be achieved.

Although our application is being led by CRT and although we have Victoria helping us there is still a lot of work to be done. Our appeal to you is that if there is anyone out there who has experience of constructing funding applications and who could help us in this specific task we would be delighted to hear from you. In the first instance contact me:

publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Plans are being made to arrange another meeting in June. More news to follow in due course!

Nigel Williams

The Trust is very grateful to Simon Mead of Mead's Farm Shop at Wilstone (excellent café, why not try it?) for sponsoring this year's ticket printing.

A couple of books of tickets are included with this issue and, please, once again let us say that we do appreciate that some people, for one reason or another, just do not buy lottery tickets but, it is easier to stuff a couple of books into each Newsletter rather than operate an exception system. If you are one of these people please don't send the tickets back. But, if you'd like to send us a donation instead in lieu of buying tickets – particularly if it's GiftAided then we'd be overjoyed.

If you buy tickets please keep the counterfoils (the purchaser's receipt) and send the ticket **stubs** back with cheques to be made payable to *Wendover Arm Trust* and please put your address on the back of the cheque, any problems we can then resolve with you. Please don't send cash through the post.

This is the current list of prizes and you'll be able to find updates on the website:

1st – One Week on a canal boat – Donated by Wyvern Shipping Co. Ltd.

2nd – Day Boat Hire – 1 Day – Donated by Lee Valley Boat Centre Ltd.

3rd – Virgin Experience – Visit the Shard with a meal.

4th –£100 Cash Prize – Donated by Mr and Mrs B Martin.

5th – Ladies Swarovski Jewellery Donated by Mrs J Wheal.

6th –£25 Garden Centre Voucher. Donated by Mrs G Wright.

7th – Philips Gents Razor. Donated by Boots.

8th –Travelling Alarm Clock. Radio controlled.

9th –Two Large Bath Towels.

10th – Ladies Nova Leather Handbag.

11th – Lynx Gents. Gift Set.

12th – Shoe Cleaning Kit, Boots.

The counterfoils and money must be returned to the promoter by **Saturday 22 August 2015** and the draw will take place at the Restoration Open Day at Drayton Beauchamp on **Sunday 6 September 2015**.

Draw promoter:

Michael Wright, 54, Meadowcroft, St. Albans. Herts. AL1 1UF ☎ 01727 860137

March and April 2015

The completion of the bund in Bridge 4A narrows at the March working party allowed us to cut a channel through the bund at the end of Stage 1 and, at 11am on Saturday 11 April, start the flow of water into the next 450 metres of restored canal. A total now of 750 metres out of the 2,058 metres in Phase II, (36%) is in water if we exclude the length from the sump at Drayton Beauchamp Bridge to Saxonway Bridge that was always in Phase II.

The re-watering was not an overnight event as it took about a couple of weeks for the 3¼ million litres to flow down through the already restored sections before the final Wendover water level was reached – see timelapse pictures on p11 and on the front cover. All seems well, except for the expected slight weepage the bund is holding.

The re-watering was not made a major event for various reasons including not knowing for certain whether there would be enough water flowing from Wendover during this rather dry period. It was mainly attended by restoration volunteers and a few invited guests including our President, David Fletcher.

In April the first length of pipe capping from the manhole east of the bund was cast and this work will proceed during the rest of the year.

In April also the new cabin to be erected at Whitehouses was delivered and Tony

Bardwell will be in charge of laying a base and putting the flatpack hut together during the May working party.

If you cast your mind back June 2013 issue you will remember that Phill Cardy brought along several young trees that Margaret Leishman has been repotting and tending. They are now 4 to 6 feet tall and at the April working party they were planted on the Herts County Council land farmed by their tenant farmer, Keith Slade; this is where we tipped surplus spoil and we were asked to reinstatement the trees that had to be removed to facilitate the tipping.

May 2015

The new 'site hut' was erected at Whitehouses and pipe capping continued, 27.5m now completed.

We held discussions with CRT, Keir (CRT's contractor) and KESCRG to discuss the works to be carried out at Whitehouses in July and August.

June 2015

This was a curtailed work party over the weekend of the Restoration Open Day to show our visitors what we are now doing.

Work Party Dates

Friday 3 July—Thursday 9 July

Friday 31 July—Thursday 6 August

Friday 4 September—

Thursday 10 September

(Sunday 6 September is a Restoration Open Day)

The task for the next three months is to continue the pipe capping towards Whitehouses. Tony Bardwell is in charge of the Working Parties in July and August and would be delighted to hear from you if you can help. Contact Tony through the Trust's general number (see p2). As was highlighted in the spring Newsletter, to maximise the effectiveness of the capping task we ask for volunteers to specify dates on which they will attend (rather, please, than a vague, 'sometime during the week'.)

Financial status report

The Trust has now spent over ½ million pounds on Phase II. This is quite an achievement especially when you add the Phase I cost, a grand total of £909,360 in 18 (financial) years. Just over £50,000 a year

What is also remarkable is that, bearing in mind the Trust has £400,000 still 'in the bank', £1,309,360 has been raised by the Trust since 1989 of which only about £310,000 has been in the form of grants and a bequest, i.e. the Trust has raised £1m to date plus the funds required for the non-restoration costs of running the Trust!

Restoration Working Party Newsletter

This column in each Newsletter is taken from snippets of information and pictures that are gleaned by the Editor, from reports in Council but mainly from the bi-monthly newsletter produced by Roger Leishman. Roger's newsletter gives more detailed information about the restoration work and forthcoming

work schedules than are in this column. If you'd like to join this mailing list, please Email John Reynolds,

scubajr@tiscali.co.uk.

or go to the website

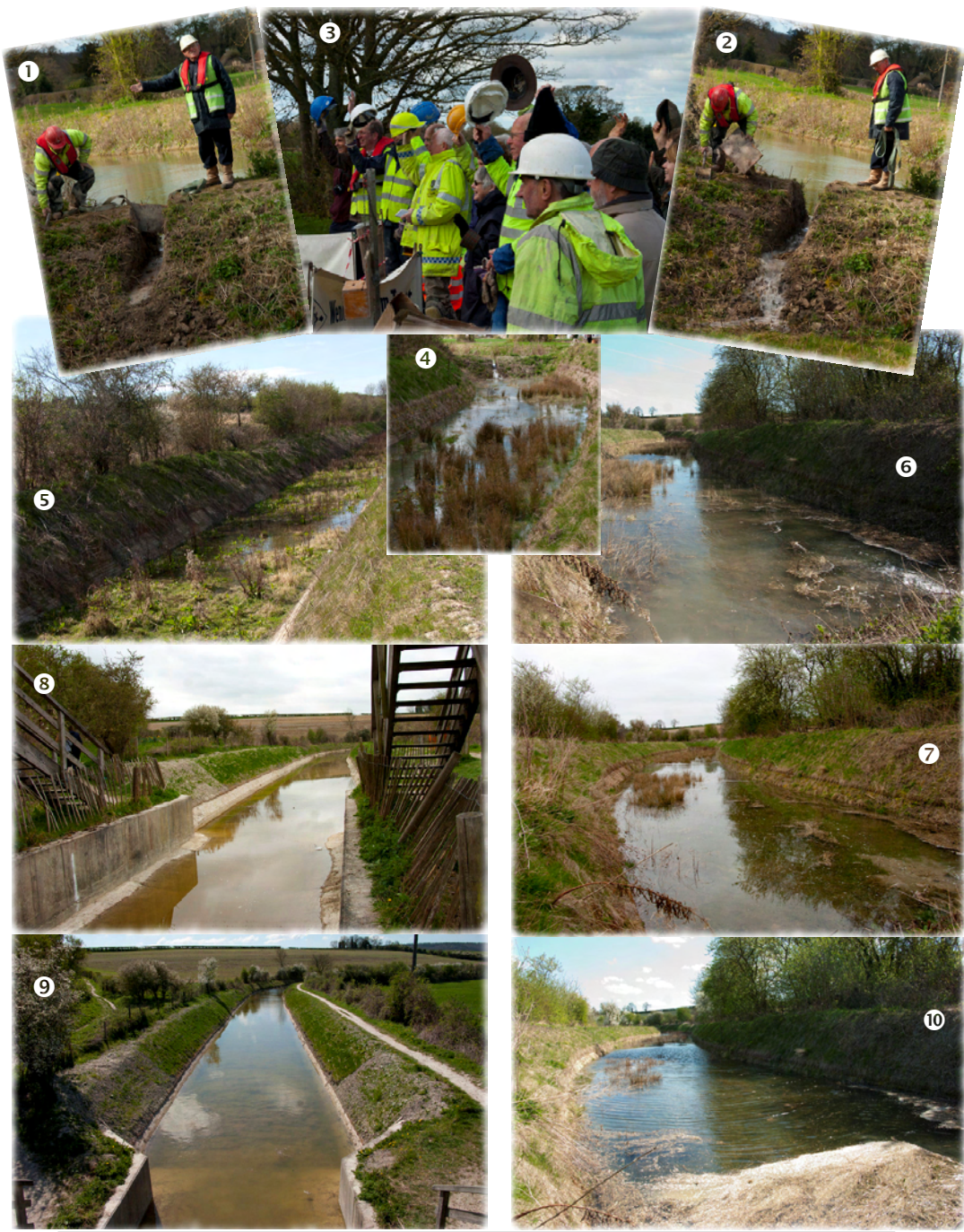
<http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/working-party-newsletters.html>

where there is a complete archive.

Captions for pictures on p11:

- ❶ **11 April:** The plug is pulled (11am), water starts to flow; Roger seems to be indicating that it's all Ray's fault!
- ❷ **11 April:** Job done, we can pack up and go home now.
- ❸ **11 April:** Three cheers from the watching group.
- ❹ **11 April:** After one hour the water front has advanced some 30m.
- ❺ **12 April:** (noon) The water front is now 250m down the cut and . . .
- ❻ at the bund there is now a depth of water over the bottom rather than its just being 'wet'.
- ❼ **13 April:** (noon) View from the bund and . . .
- ❽ the water has just reached bridge 4a and the next bund.
- ❾ **18 April** (noon) View from Bridge 4a, 3-blocks to go to get to the Wendover level.
- ❿ **18 April** (noon) View from the bund, the ducks will soon be taking up residence!

And lastly, the picture on the **front cover** was taken at noon on **25 April** and shows a fully re-watered section.



The weather looked good and the crowds poured in to see the new section in water, or just to sit and eat homemade cakes in the sun.

This year we decided to erect the gazebos early before the church service, this worked well, as we could park the cars nearer to unload. At 9.30am we met up and swiftly unloaded three cars, one van and a trailer in record time despite the heat building. Up went the gazebos, much easier with a person on each leg. We then left for a well-earned cup of tea at Aston Clinton, this gave the congregation room to park and the service at the church to continue with no outside noise.

We returned to find the tea ladies had arrived,



Just yummy!

Well, we did do well, with making a profit of £554.46 for the day. So many thanks to you all for your very generous cakes, and, contributions etc, also to the sun which shone non stop and made the day even more enjoyable.

Roger says that this amount will pay for a further one and a third metres (4ft 4 inches) more of the re-lining of the canal!

Here's to our next cakes effort on 6th September. Do hope you will all be available to help.

Very best wishes from

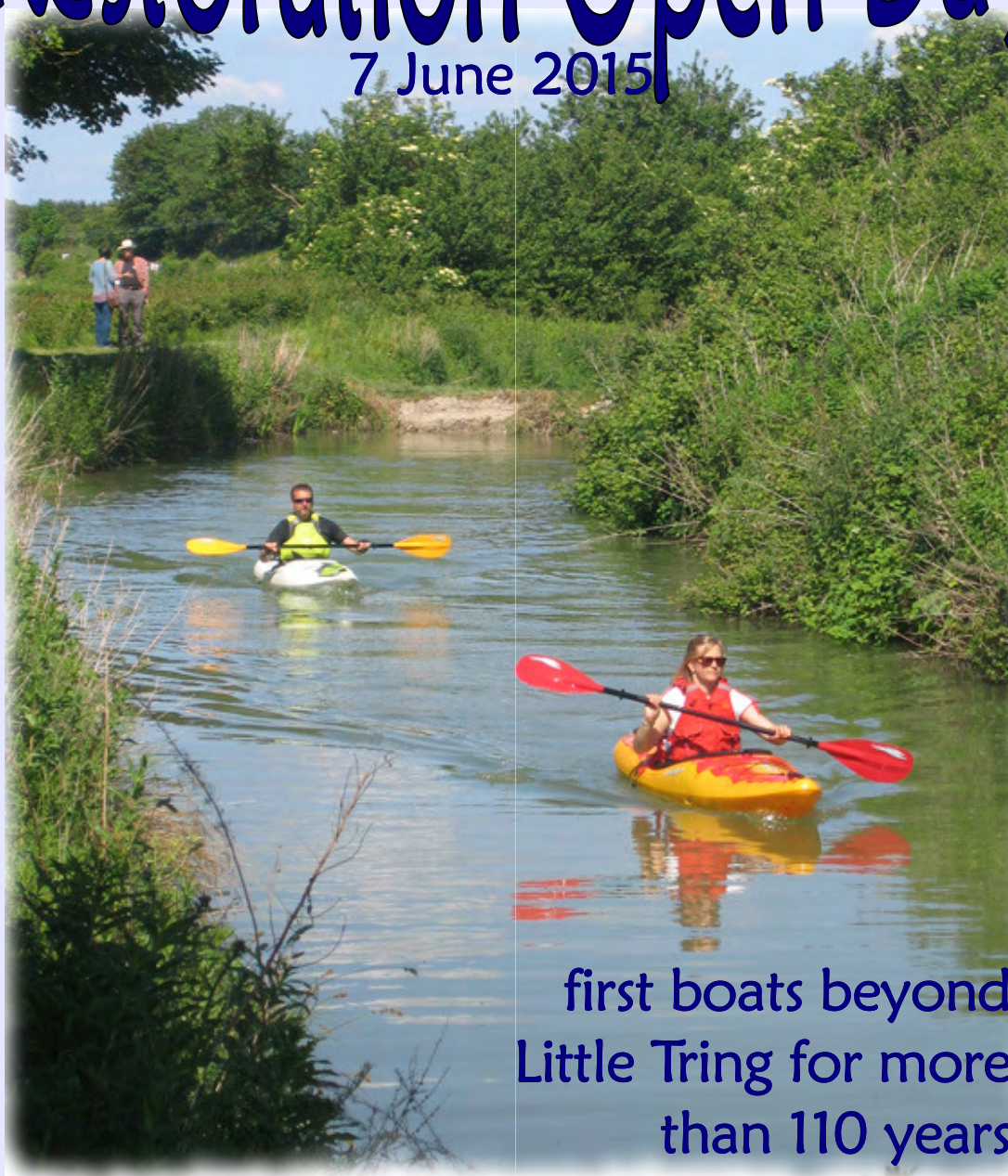
Margaret Leishman

the Grand Draw was in place and we just had to sort out the PA system and the urn electric. Car park attendants were put in place and we were ready for the first influx of visitors.

Steadily the church yard filled with folks, buying tea and cakes, draw tickets, sales goods,

Restoration Open Day

7 June 2015



first boats beyond
Little Tring for more
than 110 years

memberships and looking at the new restoration boards.

We hastily sent Roger Leishman along to his post at the restoration site, so the tours could begin. During the afternoon various guides



Mike Birch leads another group of visitors to the restoration site. He was ably assisted by his wife, Marion and Richard Lloyd-Hart

Good day today, very busy, exhausting as ever, but quite a few new volunteers which was good. Tried my best to 'look after them' by supplying drinks and cakes! We recruited two members on the day and a number of existing members thrust cash / cheques in my direction to renew their subs.

Katherine Deany



Roger Leishman talks to one of the half-dozen groups of visitors to the restoration workforce.

took six parties along the towpath. This year we had the added attraction of canoes on our water, the first boats for over 110 years. This



Chairman Chris with Vicky Martin CRT's new SE region Manager

I am pleased to report that the Grand Draw takings today amounted to the total of £119.00 plus a further sum of £35.00 from members delivering their counterfoils and cheques. It turns out that we were very fortunate being blessed with sunshine and a few enquiring potential volunteers. Tea, cakes and refreshments were very well provided. Our thanks to Katherine and her team. Very enjoyable day. look forward to the 6th September for the Grand Draw

Michael Wright

Thank you for inviting me to your open day, which seemed to be a huge success. Aside from the delicious coffee cake, it was extremely useful to see first-hand the great work that WAT are doing to restore the Wendover Arm. What you have achieved so far is inspirational! It was wonderful to see so many people taking part in the organised walks, the canoes on the canal and ramblers and cyclists on the towpath on a lovely sunny afternoon.

Vicky Martin (CRT)

was provided by the Chiltern Canoe Club for our visitors entertainment. By this time the sun was up and the canoeing along the water looked most inviting.

When I reached the wooden footbridge with my tour I was amazed how much further the workers were along the canal. Now they were pipe capping around the corner, so I introduced Roger as the Restoration Director and swiftly returned to



Chairman Chris with Cathy Court at the Chiltern Canoe Club 'desk'. The observant amongst you will spot something wrong with the picture – tell the Editor!

Chiltern Canoe Club came to use the water, their people all said to me it was great to paddle on such clean water.

Katherine Deany

the church site. The other tour guides had many visitors saying how much they

appreciated the tours, but my favourite was the mum with a disabled boy who said he was mesmerised by watching the digger and dumpers working. I told her that they worked the first week of every month, she was delighted and said she would come with her son, a picnic, a newspaper and folding chairs one day in the school holidays. So restoration workers be warned you are likely to have an audience from the towpath in future.

WAT could not put on this kind of event without the help of the many volunteers involved and our thanks go to everyone. The event is essential to our


future, it raises our profile in the local area and introduces many visitors to the canal. Often they express an interest in walking or cycling the whole length on another day.

All in all it was a very good day helped by the weather, I am sure the funds collected from the tea stall, collection at the gate and the grand draw will be significant. A lot of our visitors come to every event, to them it is a nice change from their normal visit to a garden centre on a Sunday afternoon.

Jenny Brice

NEWS FROM CRT




Should you have need to contact CRT for our area then the contact details have changed. The new details are shown on the card to the right




**Canal &
River Trust**

Enquiries South East

South East Waterways
First Floor (North), Station House, 500 Elder Gate
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D 0303 040 4040
E enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

 @canalrivertrust  /canalrivertrust  /canalrivertrust

 Registered Charity No. 1146792

Canal & River Trust seeks new members for its governing Council

The Canal & River Trust is calling on people to stand for election to the charity's governing Council, with nominations opening on 11 September, before voting in November.

This year's elections will decide four posts representing the interests of private boaters, two representing boating businesses, a post representing the Trust's staff, and for the first time, elected posts for volunteers and people who make a regular donation to the Trust.

Those interested in standing for election will need sponsors and to prepare their manifesto. Council members take up their four-year volunteer post from March 2016.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

Mr Paul Healy and family

from Berkhamsted

Miss Penny Coombes and family

from Berkhamsted

Mr Robert Peacock

from Berkhamsted

Mr Paul Miles

From Wendover

Mr Keith Adamson

from Amersham, who took out 5-years' block membership at Open Day

Mr John Bennett

from Hemel Hempstead who joined as a result of Open Day

Mr Simon Salem

from Elstree

And we welcome back:

Angela and John Suggate

from Tring

If you know of anyone who would support the Trust and the restoration, please ask them to join us, the more the merrier! Full details can be found at www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/membership

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

Mr Chris Osborn-Jones

Mr Reginald Thompson

Mr Fred Brewer

Communications

The Trust communicates with its members

and the outside world predominantly through this newsletter and our website. With the ever increasing use of Email and social media, the Trust, like many other charities is developing its online presence. However this is all well and good if you are online and computer savvy! The Trust acknowledges that not all our members are in the internet age, so we will continue to use written communications through the post where necessary. There is a balance to be struck between keeping members abreast of the restoration progress, events and fundraising activities and bombarding you with excessive news.

Tell us what you think

I have sporadically Emailed all our members who have an Email address registered to inform them of forthcoming events such as Restoration Open Days or the online raffle we promoted in the winter. Members who are not on Email were sent a flyer in the post. Do you like receiving these extra updates in between newsletters?

If not, what would you do differently?

Please email me:

membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

or call me on 07547 181857 with your feedback and suggestions. Alternatively you could always write a Letter to the Editor on the subject for publication – let all our members know what you think.

Alternative memberships available

In addition to annual membership

renewals, we now offer life and block memberships. These memberships make it easy to continue supporting the Trust without having to make a payment every year. It also makes life a little easier for me as membership secretary. Gift aid can be claimed on all memberships (assuming you are eligible). If you normally pay by annual standing order, be sure to cancel this instruction, to avoid paying twice!

Life Membership

The Trust offers life membership for a one off payment of £150 for single members and £250 for joint members. Existing members can upgrade to life membership at any time, simply contact me and arrange payment and I'll do the rest. Life members are sent a commemorative certificate as a small token gesture for their commitment to the Trust and will receive the newsletter four times a year. Some life members chose to take part in Club 100, the Trust's very own exclusive cash prize lottery scheme.

Life membership runs for life, or as long as you wish to support the Trust, it is not transferable.

Block Membership

Buy a 5 year block membership and save 20% on the annual renewal price. Block membership is £40 single and £60 for joint. You are welcome to upgrade to block membership at renewal time, simply pay the correct fees and I will take care of the rest.

Katherine Deany

Club 100

Exclusive members-only fund-raising lottery

Result of the Spring Draw

There were 185 lucky numbers in the draw made at April's council meeting.

The prize winners were:

1st	Mr David Ager	£222.00
2nd	Mrs Patricia Jenkins	£92.50
3rd	Mrs Oriana Shaw	£37.00

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.

David, our winner this time has generously donated £50 (GiftAided) of his winnings back to the Trust. Our grateful thanks, David.

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 the four quarterly draws. The jackpot is in direct proportion to the number of subscribers.

**FIFTEEN MORE SUBSCRIBERS
AND WE'VE GOT A CLUB 200**

Evelyn's War

Evelyn Hunt was one of the waterways' 'Idle Women' – women narrowboat handlers – during WWII. A recently discovered diary of hers has been edited and serialised by Tim Coghlan of Brauston Boats and we are delighted that Tim has given us permission to reproduce it. The part below relates to Evelyn and her crew's stay in the Marsworth area over the August Bank Holiday 1943.

The sections in italics annotated 'Ed' are Tim's comments.

Friday, 30th July 1943

Bottom of Marsworth

Once again a terribly hot day, though it had cooled a bit by the time we started on the locks but when we reached the bottom of Marsworth at about 9.30 pm, we were grateful to the kind Americans, only this day arrived in England, who appeared at the boat-side with a pint of beer for each of us. We tied comfortable in the bend, just above the first lock and intend to picnic and bathe and enjoy our 3 days holiday here. Last night we couldn't find *Ike* (Ed: *The cat*) and this morning he still hadn't appeared, so I walked back down the Northampton Arm locks to find him, calling as I went. The man at the bottom house hadn't seen him, so I went on down and at last by No. 13 lock, I heard a dreadful wailing and there was *Ike*, wet and miserable, coming out from under the swing bridge. He was terribly pleased to see me and we thought it would teach him not to get off the boat in the locks, but no! A few locks further up he got off the boats again and I would have left him behind if I hadn't noticed him. The boat people will think us mad spending our holiday in this quiet country place when we might have gone on to Berkhamsted and the pictures. They think we must be staying here

because of the Yanks! Most of the boats we met were making for Leighton.

Saturday, 31st July 1943

Bottom of Marsworth

(Ed: The following Monday was to be the August Bank Holiday – then held on the first Monday in August. Despite there being a war on, everything, including the Marsworth Top Lock, would be closed – except the pubs! The printed diary heading for the day reads interestingly: 'Game Certificates and Gun Licences expire/Trinity Law Sitings end' – such were the priorities of life on the home front – including continuing to hold bank holidays. The Sicilian Invasion was now in full flow having begun on 9th July. But Evelyn no more mentions it than Jane Austen wrote of the Napoleonic Wars, waging across the Channel in her writing days – other than meeting army officers, or in Evelyn's case, the recently arrived USAAF Eighth Air Force, which was taking over the Cheddington Airfield from the RAF, to fly Consolidated B-24 Liberator bombers.)

The first day of our holiday has been fun – a very hot day, ending with a crazy swim in the Reservoir with two Americans! Anne let down the boats badly, we thought, by going for a midnight walk with one of them in her natty pyjamas after the bathe! But I cannot say I was much better, though, as I stayed by the boats with one of them. Audrey and Ken were in the hold, so what a party!

(Ed: Ken Williams was qualifying as a doctor in Birmingham and met Audrey during her nursing training. They married after the war and both are still alive in their nineties now living in Tasmania.) Ken had arrived at about 6 o'clock, on the towpath, as we were talking to some kind fishermen who were giving us fish for supper. We met one of them in the *White Lion* at lunchtime and he promised us some fish then, and later in the day renewed his offer and most kindly played fishmonger and scaled and gutted them for us. He was a nice little man who had been a sailor before the War and who had tattoos on his arms. The *White Lion* ran out of beer soon after 6 o'clock, so after supper we went



After supper we went to the pub at Bulbourne where we talked to the Fitter.

In contrast to *The White Lion*, the *Grand Junction Arms* at Bulbourne is still very much open for business, having recently had a Cape Cod style big spend makeover. It is now very much a gastro-pub, with an excellent menu.

The original name proudly remains, though the inn sign with the arms of the Grand Junction Canal Company, which survived into recent times, has gone. In Evelyn's time it was popular with the boatmen, who used to tease the landlord, by saying that when the Tring Summit was down, it was because he was using the water to make his beer! (Tim Coghlan)

'The White Lion ran out of beer soon after 6 o'clock.'

Bad luck seems to continue to trouble *The White Lion* at Marsworth, and today it is a sorry sight -closed and up for sale. It is a fate that has overtaken so many canal-side pubs, even when as well located as this one at the bottom of the Marsworth Flight. (Tim Coghlan)



The White Lion in happier times c. 1962:

About the time when the film *The Bargee*, with Harry H Corbett, Ronnie Barker and the recently deceased Eric Sykes, was made around here. Commercial carrying was nearly over, but being replaced by a new generation of canal cruisers of the sort Eric Sykes mis-steered in that film. (Tim Coghlan)

to the pub at Bulbourne where we talked to the Fitter, who, with most of the rest of the Home Guard, was enjoying himself before a night's work! Anne and I walked round the Wendover Arm and on the way back met one of last night's Americans and a friend.

Monday, 2nd August 1943: (Bank Holiday)
Bottom of Marsworth

The last day of our holiday – tomorrow we must start at 5.30 am to get up to the locks before the bottom lock is opened and the crowd comes through. There are numerous pairs of boats there today, waiting to come up in the morning – some pairs empty, some loaded and Mr James' beer boats are there too. How shall we ever wake up

so early after lying in bed so late for 3 mornings? Anne and I did some slight exploring on our bikes this evening. I have lost my purse and we started by going to Ivinghoe, where we went at lunchtime for a drink, to see if we could find it, but no luck! So we biked on to Wilstone Reservoir, round through Tring and back along the Summit by the towpath. In the evening we went for a last bathe in the Wilstone Reservoir. It was a bit on the cold side, but it was

exhilarating and worth the first agony of going in. It is a wide, open reservoir with a concrete wall round half of it, and they tell us it is free from sewers, which is comforting. After we had bathed in the Marsworth Reservoir they told us that Tring sewers flowed into it! So choice! We walked up the locks later in the evening and found the pounds full, though there was still a strong smell of dead fish

IN BRIEF

The Aylesbury Canal Society is having a double celebration of their move to a new home at Circus Field Basin and the 200th anniversary of the Aylesbury Arm. It is planning a weekend of activities and events for boaters, with an Open Day for the general public on the Saturday. Please put the weekend of 19th and 20th September 2015 in your diary

Buckingham Canal Society The leaky section at Bourton Water has been relined and refilled by pumping from the Ouse early in April. It took a couple of days to refill the 368m section much to the delight of a pair of ducks!

IWA Chiltern Branch's annual weekend way this year is a trip to the Kennet and Avon, the Cotswold Canals and the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway. The dates are September 25 to 27 and the Branch would welcome any WAT members who are not also Branch members to join them, swell the numbers and reduce the unit cost. At present based on 20 participants the cost is £250 per person. Apply to Colin Bird, 11 Hillrise, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2PE.

Bedford and Milton Keynes Trust 'Stunning!' is how the Board Team summed up the 2014 season's achievements by the John Bunyan trip-boat business. A great job done by professional and friendly volunteer teams

In the 2015 season the aim is for 25% growth all round (sales, profits, volunteers, passenger numbers) more than doubling crew numbers to 90 and a total of 104 active volunteers. As the 2014 season closed, three new Boatmasters achieved their MCA licence, bringing the total to twelve.

MEMBERS' SMALLS

I have a massive quantity of old Waterways World magazines which I wish to clear out. Does anyone want them, or any of them. I would invite donations to WAT. Contact Nigel Williams ☺ WPvaluers@aol.com

Burgundy, the new Blue!

The standard colour for new WAT clothing is changing. The stock of old blue sweat, polo, and T-shirts was running out, and Council felt that new sales channels (post, on-line), and a new supplier would allow us to introduce a new colour as standard. Burgundy was chosen to avoid confusion with IWA, CRT, and other groups. A supplier was selected who can deliver quite quickly. Quality is deemed more important than cost; we are not trying to compete with High Street shops or other clothing brands, but rather to offer a good value product at an acceptable price, and branded with our WAT logo.

Existing blue garments of course are still valid and 'official' – we even have some still available on our shelves at a reduced price (ask for details) so you don't have to throw away any blue shirts still in the wardrobe. However when that polo or sweatshirt need replacing, our clothing range is now in the single colour burgundy, with attractively embroidered silver logo. One exception is T-shirts which are in white with a burgundy logo (do keep up!).

So what do we have? We don't have all the garments in all the sizes, but we can probably supply your choice from size S to 2XL, or 3XL in T Shirts, Polo Shirts, and Sweatshirts, made by Fruit of The Loom©. In addition we have Peaked Caps (baseball style) to keep the fierce British sun out your eyes. Each item has two prices: an On-line price including banking costs post/packing costs and any VAT, and an Event price. For garments it is expected that most purchases will be

in person at the various events we go to. That allows you to try for size, if you are not sure. As an example, a Polo Shirt costs £12 when taken away from an event, compared to £16 online, thanks to postage charges, etc.

In 2015 WAT will be at the events listed on page 22 with a full range of available stock so, come along and buy what you want without having to pay p&p. A quick enquiry by phone or Email beforehand will tell you if we have your size. Why not take a look now online at www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/shop to see the range?

Newly introduced (or more honestly, newly discovered) is a limited supply of cruising plaques. Introduced to commemorate the re opening of Little Tring Bridge in 2005, these green painted brass plaques show a graphic of the newly restored end of navigation, and the words 'Navigation to Little Tring'. We used to ask for photographic proof of navigation, but your word will suffice. Of course if you do send us a photo of your boat going through Little Tring Bridge, it may appear in our magazine or website (photos need to be of reasonable quality, most picture formats are acceptable but please at a resolution of 300dpi so that they reproduce well; pictures taken on mobile phones are no good).

So how do you want to pay for your on-line purchase? If you have a PayPal© account, use that. If not, you can pay by Debit/Credit Card. The transactional cost, as well as post and packing is all included in your price.

EVENTS UPDATE

Our new display stands had outings to Wendover Annual Parish meeting and Thrupp Canal Cruising Club AGM before going to our first outdoor event of the year at Aldbury; Rickmansworth Canal Festival followed a couple of weeks later. Both Aldbury and Rickmansworth went very successfully and you'll find the stories and pictures on pages 22 and 23, Events still to come in 2015 are shown in the panel on the right and there may be more as we become aware of what's going on in the locality.


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 at all 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.

As well as manning the stand we also need help to set up and dismantle – and to sell Grand draw tickets please contact me, Martin Bird at:

 events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
or phone one of the numbers above to

volunteer your time.

If you know of an event that you think we should attend please contact me

Martin Bird

2015 EVENTS

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

Saturday 27 June

Tring Carnival

Saturday/Sunday 4/5 July

Chiltern Traction Engine Rally – Prestwood

Saturday 11 July

Leighton Buzzard – Linslade Carnival

Saturday 25 July

Linslade Canal Festival

Sunday 13 Sept

Halton Village Festival

Saturday 21 Nov

Wendover local produce market

To be confirmed

Tring Local Farmers Market

In addition there will be our own late-summer Restoration Open Day at Drayton Beauchamp church:

Sunday 6 September

Guided tours, refreshments, parking and the GRAND DRAW 2015

Aldbury Fête, 5 May 2015



Jenny pushing leaflets for the Restoration Open Day

The glorious May sunshine brought crowds of people from far and wide to Aldbury village fair. So many tried to come that the narrow lanes leading into and out of the village were gridlocked at times. The Trust's stall was the only Waterways exhibitor there. The nail game did a roaring trade, especially since there was competition opposite that was charging far more than us. Many kids told me they wanted to spend their pocket money at the WAT stall as the other one was too expensive, praise from the youth of today! Some parents had to drag their charges away as they became hooked on pulling out coloured nails.

Greta and Michael Wright were there selling 2015 Grand Draw tickets, 165 sold, more than last year at the same event. Bob and Johanna Wheal launched the Trusts new sales and many items were bought including the new burgundy peaked cap, cards, books and pin badges. John Reynolds and Jenny Brice talked to many visitors about the restoration and the display boards were on show for the first time since their makeover by Martin Bird.

All in all, a good day had by all, good weather, lots of visitors and a good location, close to the canal.

Katherine Deany

There was a grand start to the Draw from our appearance at Aldbury. A lovely sunny afternoon with hundreds of visitors and the usual adjacent stalls in the churchyard. We were treated to the display of bears abseiling from the top of the church tower. The bargain of the day was the rhubarb from the adjacent plant stall at £1 for a massive armful.

One disgruntled resident briefly trapped in her car by the traffic told me directly, 'It may only be one day every year, but it is one day too many. It started years ago and was simply a May Pole and the children dancing. Just look at it now!' My impression is that it is held for the benefit of the local school, considering the effort and organisation of the event, the villagers should be grateful.

Michael Wright



The new sales range on show for the first time with Bob in charge

Rickmansworth Canal Festival



Paul Findlay watches while some young punters try to guess the locations of the coloured nails (the winners)

The two day Rickmansworth Canal Festival took place on the weekend of the 16-17 May. The team involved this time was Jenny Brice, John Rowe, Martin Bird, Katherine Deaney and newcomer Paul Findlay who did an absolutely fantastic job on the nail game, with the Sales Team of Bob and Johanna Wheal and the Grand Draw Tickets sold by Mike and Greta Wright.

Martin Bird



No, not washing on the line but samples of our new range of clothing displayed to entice the visitors to buy

A general view of our stand at Rickmansworth with Katherine pushing leaflets for the Open Day on 7 June

Rickmansworth Festival was an even bigger event than Aldbury. The crowds were more than at Aldbury and more concentrated. I get great pleasure in talking about the Wendover Arm Canal in explaining the progress to those interested. Trying to answer the many varied questions that arise. THEN . . . selling a book of Grand Draw tickets to support the restoration. All this and handing out flyers for the 'Restoration Day'. The new interpretation boards are different with lots of pictures, but I have to get used to the sequence, not truly logical, but as in the corner shop, everything is there somewhere . . .

Michael Wright



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