



# WENDOVER ARM NEWS

*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2016/3  
Autumn 2016*

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## Your contacts on the Trust

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Chris Sargeant</b> chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	<b>John Rowe</b> johnm.rowe@talktalk.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Clive Wilson</b> treasurer@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Restoration Director</b>	<b>Roger Leishman</b> restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Assistant Restoration Director</b>	<b>Ray Orth</b> restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Events Director</b>	<b>vacant</b> events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Funding Director</b>	<b>vacant</b> funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Katherine Deaney</b> membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Publications Director</b>	<b>David Page</b> newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Publicity Director</b>	<b>Nigel Williams</b> publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Sales Director</b>	<b>Bob Wheal</b> sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Chris Sargeant</b> webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
<b>General Members</b>	<b>Charlie Carrington</b> (Health & Safety) charlie_carrington@hotmail.com
	<b>Marion Birch</b> (Facebook) marion.birch@ntlworld.com
<b>Minutes Secretary and IWA Nominee</b>	<b>Jenny Brice</b> jenny@johnbrice.co.uk
<b>CRT Representative</b>	<b>Vicky Martin</b> Vicky.Martin@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Cover picture: Mother duck and ducklings on the mooring wall 7 June 16. Photo:Editor©

**Copy deadline for the Winter Issue  
11 November 2016**

## Chairman's column

**Lottery Bid Update** – at a stakeholder meeting on July 28th at Milton Keynes with James Clifton, Charles Baker and Sarah Brown the following points were reported:

C&RT has submitted initial information relating to stage 2 development and expects HLF to release the first 50% tranche of development funding 'within the next 2/3 weeks' along with permission to start on the development phase. Once the first 50% has been used, a further 40% will be released with the final 10% at the end of this phase.

C&RT aim to complete briefs, activity plans, tenders and quotes for works by April 2017 and to submit to HLF by autumn 2017 (the expiry date for this phase is currently 31 January 2018 after which the grant would lapse). An HLF decision to go to the delivery stage would then be expected by spring 2018 with a construction start date in summer 2018.

The first 50% of WAT's matched funding contribution to the development stage (£5,600) will become due in November 2016 with the balance due in the spring of 2017.

Sarah Brown has now joined the C&RT bid team to be responsible for drawing up the required community engagement plans.

Volunteers from the Trust will be required to help during the delivery stage to document progress, conduct



walks and talks, and keep photographic records as work proceeds.

September this year is a busy time for the Trust, beginning with our Open Day on Sept 4th, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire's visit on Sept 6th, and HLF's visit on September 29th (see details elsewhere in this issue) plus our involvement with C&RT's 'Two Arms on Two Legs' half-marathon on September 11th plus Halton Fête on the same day.

Thank you to all who have offered to help already but more hands will make for lighter work so please do help us spread the load – all of these activities will benefit the Trust and its objectives. If you can offer to help in any way just contact me directly:

✉ chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk  
☎ 01494 775845

Or use our general telephone number  
07547 181857

*Chris Sargeant*

# VISITS TO THE ARM

## LORD LIEUTENANT'S VISIT

The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Lady Verulam, together with her Deputy Mr Derek Townsend have accepted the Trust's invitation to visit the Arm to see the work of the Trust and its achievements so far. This will create publicity opportunities for us.

The visit will be on 6 September and all our volunteers have been invited to attend. Should this Newsletter plop onto your doormat by then and you're free, we'd welcome any of our other members to come.

The proposed programme is:

- Depart on Michael and Marion Birch's narrowboat Dragonfly from Bulbourne at around 9.30 am. On the boat will be the Lord Lieutenant and her deputy, Restoration Director Roger Leishman, James Clifton from C&RT, who is leading the HLF Bid on its behalf, Chris Sargeant, WAT Chairman plus Marion and Michael as 'crew'.
- Cruise along the Arm the 1½ miles to Little Tring, disembarking around 10.15 am there to meet Ray Orth, Deputy Restoration Director, Council Members and the Trust's volunteers.
- Walk along the towpath to see the present works in action plus the site of the former Whitehouses pumping station, which will now become a vital water control point

for the entire Tring summit area of the Grand Union Canal.

- Meet representatives of C&RT who own and manage our Canal network.
- Unveil a plaque on Bridge 4 commemorating the event.
- Return to Little Tring and thence by narrow boat back to Bulbourne – estimated arrival at 1.00pm.

This is a great opportunity for us to show what has been achieved over many years and where we are going – lets enjoy it together.

**Please note:** parking close to the Arm is limited. There are a few spaces by Drayton Beauchamp Bridge, public car parks below the reservoirs at Marsworth (charge) and Wilstone (free) and a few spaces by Little Tring Bridge. If you are local and can walk there that would be much appreciated.  
Stout footwear is recommended.

## HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Representatives of HLF will be visiting the Arm on 29 September to view what we have done so far and what the Trust and C&RT are asking HLF to put the public's money towards.

This visit will be will be an 'attendance by invitation' only.

Reports and photographs of both visits will be in your winter Newsletter.


## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held in the Coach House at Green Park, Aston Clinton on Wednesday 19th October 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held on 21st October 2015.
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 2016, and the Report of the independent Examiner thereon.
8. To re-appoint Ashby's Chartered Accountants as the independent Examiner.
9. To elect Members to the Council. (See Note 1 below).

By Order of the Council



John. M. Rowe.  
Secretary 20 July 2016

Registered Office:  
Island house  
Moor Road  
Chesham  
Bucks  
HP5 1WA

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 2016 AGM and the agenda of business is on the previous page.

After the success of the catering arrangements in the previous two years at this year's AGM we intend once more to start with a sherry reception and have a sit-down meal after the AGM. Later Charles Baker, Senior Project Engineer C&RT will be our guest speaker.

### EVENING'S TIMETABLE

7.00pm	Welcome and sherry reception
7.30pm	AGM
8.30pm	Dinner
9.30pm	Club 100 draw and raffle
9.45pm	Speaker – Charles Baker C&RT
10.30pm	Finish

### DINNER MENU

£10.00 per head

Beef Lasagne or Vegetable Pasta Bake  
With salad and garlic bread  
Treacle Sponge and Custard or 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.

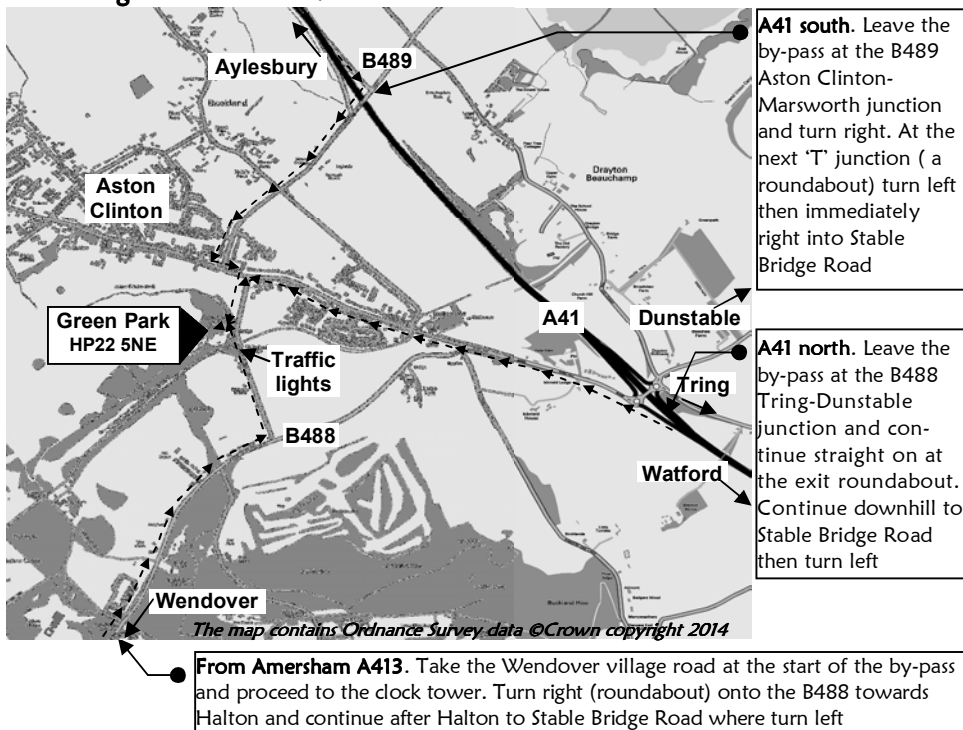
Booking can be done through Golden Giving (<https://www.goldengiving.com/event/agm>) or by completing and returning the form you will find loose in this issue. If you book by post you will need to send your remittance (payable to Wendover Arm Trust) to the address on the booking form.

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. Bookings must be received by 12 October.

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:



**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

**GREEN PARK** offers a basic bunk-bed room not en-suite for £15 per person. Contact Nicole ☎ 03303030101 stating you are with WAT

**THE BELL** in Aston Clinton ☎ <http://www.thebellastonclinton.co.uk/accommodation/> or ☎ 01296 632777

**TRING PREMIER INN** on Tring Hill just off the A41 ☎ <http://www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/TRICRO/tring> or ☎ 0871 527 9104

**RED LION**, High Street, Wendover HP22 6DU ☎ 01296 622266

**ROSE & CROWN**, High Street, Tring HP23 5AH ☎ 01442 824071

**THE ANGLERS RETREAT**, Startops End, Marsworth HP23 4LJ ☎ 01442 822250

**HOLIDAY INN**, Aylesbury Road, Weston Turville HP22 5QT ☎ 0871 942 9002



# Membership Update

## New Members

The Trust wishes to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the summer Newsletter:

**Mr Nick Reilly**

from Esher

**Mrs Angela Hale**

from Buckland

We welcome them all and wish them many happy years of membership of the Trust.

## Rejoiners

We welcome back into membership:

**Mr Derek and Mrs Janet Townsend**

## Obituary

**Mr John Hofer**

from Great Missenden, a member since 2003, sadly has passed away.

## Gift Aid — Again!

Gift Aid is important to the Trust in that, if you pay enough tax it enhances your donation by 25%.

What qualifies as a gift?

- You are a UK resident.
- The money you give is your own - you can't donate on behalf of someone else and then claim Gift Aid.
- You don't get anything in return for your donation – small tokens aren't classed as 'something in return.' Your subscription to WAT is allowable for though you receive the quarterly

Newsletter this is classed as 'material for promoting the objects of the Trust and is thus allowable under Gift Aid rules.

- The donation is not to buy a sweepstake, raffle or lottery ticket. Grand Draw tickets or subscriptions to Club 100 can't be Gift Aided.

HMRC is tightening up on Gift Aid claims to try to weed out spurious declarations which is why we've been batting on about it for a long time. Katherine does need to have a current declaration from you so, if you haven't yet filled in the form that's been sent to you and you do want your donation to be Gift Aided please, please, please fill it in and return it.

Further, if you made a Gift Aid declaration and no longer pay tax it's your responsibility to tell the Trust. In particular we've had a couple of instances recently where the donor has died; the rule is that donations in the relevant tax year up to the date of death are allowable for Gift Aid – the donor's family or executors do need to inform the Trust though.

Now the twist:

The Government introduced a Personal Savings Allowance in April this year. Good idea as it eliminates a lot of hassle for banks, building societies and HMRC – and for you if you are on limited income since you no longer have to claim to have interest paid gross. But (and there's always a 'but') there will be a negative effect on Charities from people of limited means who used to donate with Gift Aid. Why? With your personal allowance of £11,000

and the zero-rated interest allowance of £5,000 and the new personal savings allowance of £1,000, if your taxable salary-income, pension and savings is less than £17,000 then it's unlikely you'll pay tax and donations can't be Gift Aided. You can still donate (yes, please do), it won't cost you a penny more than previously but the Charity can't Gift Aid it.

A further complication is that the Chancellor replaced dividend tax credit with a £5,000 Dividend Allowance. This tax credit was in effect tax you'd paid although you hadn't (no it's not quite Alice in Wonderland!) and you could use it to Gift Aid donations, now you can't.

So, add up all your taxable income and if this comes to less than £17,000 and any dividends you receive are less than £5,000 you will almost certainly pay no tax and if you've declared for Gift Aid in the past you need to tell Katherine that the declaration is void.

To find out more see:

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/savings/tax-free-savings> and <https://www.gov.uk/tax-on-dividends/how-dividends-are-taxed>

### AGM Dinner

If you missed the bit on page 7 and have shaken out and junked all the stuffers with your Newsletter than this is a reminder that if you are coming to the AGM and want to partake in the meal then you'll need to book with Katherine by 12 October.

You can book on line with Golden Giving at:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/event/agm>)

## Club 100

The 76th Club 100 lottery draw was made at our July Council meeting. There were 190 subscribers in the draw. The winners were:

**1st Mr William Morton £228.00**

**2nd Mrs Sandy Calow £95.00**

**3rd Mrs Janet Elwin £38.00**

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you for being a part of our fund-raising lottery.

The number of 'takers' for Club 100 is slowly declining from its peak last year and we want to reverse this trend as it represents one of our (almost) constant source of funds to finance the restoration work. So, enclosed you'll find a flyer inviting you to take part – or to increase the number of chances you buy.

If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning the next jackpot in July, join today. Each lucky number is £15 per year which covers four quarterly draws throughout the year. The Club 100 is exclusive to Wendover Arm Trust members and as it is a lottery you must be a adult to subscribe.

Can **YOU** help us to have 200 subscribers for our 77th draw at the AGM?

# RESTORATION NEWS

From various sources including Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters

## May and June 2016

Good progress was made on the pipe capping towards Bridge 4 during the month and is rapidly approaching Bridge 4. At the June working party we received a delivery of 18 rolls of Bentomat®, the first delivery since 2008!



*Our new supply of Bentomat®. Perhaps not as exciting a picture as men operating heavy plant but just as necessary to the restoration effort.*

*Photo: Roger Leishman*

We were joined by the Kent & East Sussex Canal Recovery Group in May and they excavated the underground chambers recently found at the back of the Whitehouses. They uncovered many bottles etc. that contained unknown substances. From what we now know, at one time a chemist was the occupant of Whitehouses cottages and the bottles may have contained chemicals for his 'homework'. We decided to treat the bottles as hazardous and in consultation with C&RT moved them to Little Tring for tests by a specialist and subsequent disposal. More on this Whitehouses story in a later issue of Wendover Arm News.

## July 2016

### Bridge 4 lining and stop planks

C&RT's civil engineers have defined that the requirement for the stop planks in the bridge 4 narrows is simply our standard technique of 150mm flat concrete through the narrows (to obviate 'scour'.) No slot is required to accommodate the king post and the galvanised stop-plank grooves were cast into the walls when the narrows were constructed.

### Lining at Whitehouses

After discussion with C&RT we agreed that the towpath side of the lining through Whitehouses will be 150mm concrete rather than 300mm spoil over the Bentomat® for the length of the wharf wall, and the pipe capping will be 150mm higher than normal (as for bridge narrows). On the offside/wharf side we've been concerned that there is not navigable depth over the brick foundation that extends under the settling tank behind the wharf wall. (refer back to the picture on p13 of the summer 2016 issue if you're not sure what this is.) C&RT has come up with a very practical solution; it is to build a pseudo-weir along the edge of the shallow water that will protrude above water level and prevent craft grounding. This can also include screened apertures in it to prevent debris entering the culverts and settling tank.

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Restoration Update, Continued from page 11)*

## Capping progress

Good progress was made in July and we are less than 40m from Bridge 4. We hope to have completed the capping up to the bridge narrows in August so that



*Hard at work capping in July. Photo: Eric Rose*

we can start the re-lining process at Bridge 4a in time to demonstrate it at the September Open Day. We plan to cut Bentomat® pieces for this during August.

## Work Party Dates

The next three months' working parties are:

**Friday 30 September—**

**Thursday 6 October**

**Friday 4—Thursday 10 November**

**Friday 2—Thursday 8 December**

The work is not yet scheduled as it is very much up to the vagaries of the English weather but is expected to be the completion of the pipe-capping to bridge 4 and rough profiling of the banks to there and the continuation of profiling and lining on stage 3.

To volunteer contact Ray Orth:

☞ [restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

*Nearly there the wall (left) is next to the bridge*

*Photo: Eric Rose*



*Chairman Chris stops Brian from getting on with restoration*

*Photo: Eric Rose*



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## **‘Tidy Friday’**

The first ‘Tidy Friday’ session took place on 15 July – John Reynolds is leading a group that will meet regularly on Friday mornings to help keep our towpath, bridge and seat areas tidy and free of undue vegetation growth. This is light work with all tools provided so if you’d like to help just leave your contact details on the general phone number and John will be in touch with you. Dates to the end of 2016 are:

**9 September 14 October**  
**11 November 9 December**

## **Funding for the Future**

Many of you may think that if we get the HLF Grant (and we trust we will) then that’s an end to it, we can all breathe a heavy sigh of relief, job done, cruise the Arm, enjoy it.

NO, NO and once more NO.

Why not? Let’s assume that HLF grants us the money:

- The Trust has to put in 15% of the grant money from its own coffers – the Lottery doesn’t give you the lot! That will be £300k of our £400k Restoration fund committed.
- The remaining £100k (well, actually £75k as we’ve money to pay C&RT for materials already purchased) firstly has to fund the completion of stages 3 and 4 between bridges 4a and a bit beyond Bridge 4. This work needs to be done before the contractors move in to complete the job (early 2018?) and will cost significantly more than the £75k we’ve got.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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**Tring Carnival 25 June**  
 'Hmmm, let me see if I've got any change in my pocket, might be able to make a penny or two for Rennie Grove'

**Wendover Celebrates 1 May**  
 With thousands there we did a roaring trade on everything

**Marsworth Steam Fair 19 June**  
 Greta looks happy so perhaps the musketeer's there to guard our takings rather than steal them!

**Aldbury Fête 2 May**  
 Nothing to do with WAT but the Teddy Bears just love abseiling from the church tower



## Scenes from this year's events

*(Restoration Update – Continued from page 13)*

- Years ago £30k+ came each year from the Festival and interest rates added quite a bit to our capital. Sadly now the Festivals are in the past and returns on secure investments are pathetic; unless we can generate more revenue or find funding donors we are likely to have a shortfall.

Membership fees, Club 100, Restoration Open Days, the Grand Draw and some donations/legacies keep us ticking over but we need more.

Small-scale events (e.g. coffee mornings)

we or you can organise are great but we need to think on a larger scale than this.

Do you know of any corporate/social/public or charitable donor that we could approach. Let us know if you do and we'll follow it up. Council is actively engaged on this at present but there could be many potential sources of funds that we've not come across.

At the end of Phase II that's it? Once again, 'NO', is the answer. We've got to start soon on the planning process for Phase III and this will need cash.

And at the end of Phase III when we can

all get our boats to Wendover (yes, more likely than the proverbial flying pigs squadron!) is that it? NO again. The Trust will still have a reason to exist to promote the amenity, environmental, educational and employment benefits of the Arm and this will need funds to support that work.

### Adopt a corner?

We visited Lindengate at Wendover, a charity that takes patients in need of therapy. Its aim is to improve their wellbeing through gardening and we hoped it would be possible for them to adopt the corner of land behind the rushes at Little Tring winding hole and keep it maintained as a picnic area. Unfortunately they do not go out into the community, as they have five acres to plant and restore at their base by World's End.

However there is the opportunity for another organisation to adopt the area, and possibly other areas along the canal. Get in touch with us if you know of anyone be it a charity, or a commercial organisation that wants to increase it's social responsibility portfolio, and we'll follow up.

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## Events Update

So far this year we've been to  
Wendover Celebrates,  
Aldbury Fête,  
Marsworth Steam Fair,  
Tring Carnival  
and Linslade Canal Festival  
pictures on p14 where we've sold lots of  
Grand Draw tickets had great fun with  
the nail game and told loads of people  
about the Arm and the work we are  
doing (it's surprising how many 'locals'  
still don't know there's a canal between  
Wendover and Bulbourne!)

All great fun and it spreads the word but  
we are desperately needing more people  
to offer to help at events, even if you  
can only help on odd occasions. You  
don't have to be an expert on the Arm  
just enthusiastic to do your bit. Just  
contact Jenny Brice

📧jenny@johnbrice.co.uk

or leave a message on the Trust's general  
telephone number

Still to come this year are the 2Arms on  
2Legs run on 11 September and Halton  
Fête later the same day.

Next year's events will be published in  
the spring but don't wait until then to  
volunteer.

### Help wanted—Can you tow?

We are by no means certain of having  
anyone to tow our trailer to events in  
2017. The person who volunteered this  
year only did so for one year and unless  
we can twist his arm we may be without  
anyone to get our equipment to events.

Now that we have the trailer the process  
is quite simple, collect it from the store  
in Wigginton, deliver it to the event site,  
retrieve it at the end of the event and  
put into back into store. Although we'd  
be absolutely delighted if you'd stay and  
help there's no obligation.

Are you prepared to lend a hand? If so  
then get in touch with Jenny.

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## Easyfundraising

At the time of going to press we have 48 supporters and £978 in donations from companies plus £100 as a matching donation from a member so we've reached our initial target of £1000

The picture on the right tells you how to do it. It's easy and at no cost to you and there are thousands of suppliers who will make modest donations to charitable causes.

Our apologies for keeping banging on about Easyfundraising but as a way of providing funds for the Trust's work it's so simple. Spend and donate what could be more pleasurable? Why don't you become one of our supporters? Try it, you'll like it!

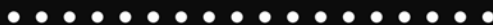
A promotional graphic for Easyfundraising. It features a large white speech bubble on a dark background. Inside the bubble, the text reads: "Psst....! Raise free donations when you shop online!". Below this, there are three numbered steps: 1. Visit: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), 2. Support: Wendover Arm Trust, and 3. Shop & raise with over 2,700 retailers including: amazon, Argos, Expedia, and John Lewis. The Easyfundraising logo is in the bottom right corner of the bubble.

**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:  
amazon Argos Expedia John Lewis

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

# your Café in the Park



ASTON CLINTON

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# From the Archives

## FUNDING THE FUTURE

*Part 2 of Mike Chessher's reports on his attempts to put together a Millennium Lottery Fund package to finance restoration (Wendover Arm News No 19, Spring 1995):*

### British Waterways

The next step is to approach BW. Without their whole hearted support, I might as well stop and wash all that mud off.

Now you might be forgiven for thinking that they'd leap for joy if somebody comes along proposing to increase the value of their assets. But look at it from their point of view. They already have 2000 miles of waterway to maintain at a cost last year of £58.5 million. The last thing they want is a few more miles of canal to look after and, remember, all over the country there are groups just like us bearing such a gift. Fans of the 1968 Transport Act will remember that the Arm is a remainder waterway, which means that BW can only spend money on keeping it as it was then. In practical terms that means money for maintaining the water supply, for safety, or investment they can get a commercial return on.

Anyhow, I digress, possibly to put off telling you that BW have done their sums less optimistically than me, and come up with a staggering estimate of 9 to 12 million pounds for total restoration. Furthermore, on the awkward question of revenue funding – maintenance to you and me – it becomes obvious that the cost of maintaining a navigation is much greater than maintaining a water

channel or pipeline.

BW promise to refine their figures but I go home feeling very depressed and sink into a bath wondering why it is that some people manage to restore canals a lot longer than this one!

### Back to BW

Decide that half a canal is better than no canal but can't see a way of dressing up restoration as far as the A41 as a millennium project. Besides, there is no provision for a winding hole – no wonder the committee all have short boats! Out come the maps and the midnight oil. Decide that Green Park is about as far as we can go financially at this stage and about the least we can do to make a viable destination for boaters. There's a car park with wheelchair access to the towpath, lots of trees, a nature trail and some land the County Council might let us have for a winding hole.

Get out the calculator and do a serious breakdown of Atkins' figures, adding extra money for improved lining and raising the A41 culvert, then hit the phone to BW. English Partnerships and all the local councils, BW come up with their refined figures and they are down to £8.6 million for the whole arm, but as far as the A41, we are only £60,000 apart – and my figure is the higher one!

Yes, there's a chance we can do it. It is only a chance mind you, but a better one than buying lottery tickets.

*...to be continued*



## My early boating years, part 2– onwards to Carianne

by Nigel Williams, Publicity Director

A later outing in 1965 required two boats, *Apache* and *Colette* the latter was re-named *Septic* by one of the party who claimed it better reflected the overall offering. I recall having some seventeen passengers on the two boats. This required two additional tents and the second night was spent on the Old West River, somewhere near Holywell, again with a camp fire with the portable record player blasting out the Beatles' *Ticket to Ride* and other current tracks. Little movement was evident before about 10am the following morning and a minimal 'wash and brush up' was the order of the day followed by breakfast of sorts. By the time the crew had re-assembled we realised that we would be travelling in darkness for part of the homeward stretch. With the light fading rapidly, two members with torches were positioned on the bow whilst the Captain and others endeavoured to keep the boat midstream.

By around 11pm we were still some distance from the Boatyard and, in those days, weirs were not adequately marked or bollarded. We had a very severe scare when a weir suddenly appeared and frantic shouts of 'reverse' were heard. Somehow, the engine managed to bring the boat to a halt and we continued without further danger, finally arriving at the Boatyard around 2am – this would not be permitted nowadays! Trips were arranged for the Easter, Whitsun and August Bank

holidays for several years. On three-day trips we usually reached Ely, some 43 miles from Tempsford, but had to refill with petrol at the local Boatyard. I seem to recall a gallon was around 5/- (25 pence).

By the end of 1965 the price for a 3-day trip was £2.14.0 (£2.70) per head.

In 1966 I hired a four berth cruiser from Tewkesbury Marine Services on the River Avon named *Gay Gamble* (can you imagine a boat with this name



***'Gay Gamble' on the Severn in 1966***

nowadays?) and we reached Pershore before turning round and venturing onto the River Severn, mooring at Upton upon Severn and then handing back the boat at 9am sharp the following morning! Subsequently boats were hired from Saint Line Cruisers on the River Marne in France, Wyvern Shipping at Leighton Buzzard, Western Cruisers of Stratford, English County Cruises at



*Sainte-Catherine on the Mame 1967*

Wrenbury, Maid Line Cruisers (when a group of six cruised the Birmingham canals), the Narrow Boat Company at Wooten Waven, Charente Plaisance on the River Charente also in France, and a terrible company called Putois at Beeston Wharf when we cruised the Llangollen Canal but needed to bail some 42 buckets of water daily to keep afloat! Two days after we returned my wife shouted 'look at the TV quickly!' The evening *Nationwide* programme was exposing the standards together with numerous complaints from customers and the company was out of business within weeks. Of the above companies only Wyvern Shipping is still in business and they are great supporters of WAT. I remember hiring their largest boat, a 70ft wooden narrowboat, named *Hazel*, which I recall slept 10/12. We decided to venture down the Aylesbury Arm but after the first four locks were confronted with a completely dry canal!

Someone had left the paddles open overnight on several locks so we had no alternative but to reverse back to the junction.

Following a spell of dinghy sailing around the East coast rivers with an 'Enterprise' which I purchased with an old school friend, I decided that the two-and-a-half-hour journey to the sea was becoming increasingly tiresome and in 1990 ordered a new 50ft narrowboat from a builder in Northwich, Cheshire, completed in the Spring of 1991.

The journey home to Cowroast Marina at Tring comprised some 120 locks and took ten days of hard labour in somewhat inclement weather. With a sixteen and a seven-year old on board the journey was somewhat stressful, suffice it to say that only one of my two children has ever been on board again! I have this boat to this day, and with numerous improvements over the years, have been informed that it is worth very nearly what I paid for it – somewhat better than car depreciation!



*Carianne under construction*

## 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:

### 2016:

**28 September: 'Waterways Wonders'.** The Falkirk Wheel, Pontcysllte Viaduct and Standedge Tunnel are well-known but how much do we actually know? Richard Thomas, a waterway historian will attempt to enlighten us.

**26 October: 'Circle Line: Around London in a Small Boat'** A sailing dinghy around London's waterways? Was a sail ever hoisted. Come and find out! Steffan Hughes our speaker tonight is not a canal man but a (blue-ish) water journalist.

**23 November: 'From Cruise Liners to Trinity House'**, Captain Ian McNaught was the youngest and last captain of the QEII Who then went on to be master of the Queen Victoria. He retired in 2011 and is now Deputy Master of Trinity House.

**8 December: Christmas Party.** Mulled wine, good grub, a quiz or two and convivial company.

### 2017

**25 January:** Jeremy Batch welcomes in the New Year again for us with a talk **'Extreme Voyagers.'** If you haven't been to a Jeremy Batch talk before come to this one before his portfolio of talks runs out, you'll be sure to be in for a treat.

**22 February: 'Canals of Paris'** Really? Suppose you thought Paris just has the Seine? Come and hear John Willis elaborate. John was Head of Planning of the DLR and for the Jubilee Line extension.

**22 March: AGM,** ploughman's supper and a talk by Vicky Martin, C&RT, Waterways Manager South East.

**26 April: 'Fenland Waterways – an Update'**. Alan Faulkner last talked to us on this subject fourteen years ago, time then for an update on intervening developments

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 29 September – 1 October

There is still time to book your place on the Branch's Weekend Away. This year we are going to the Ashby Canal, the Dudley Tunnel, Black Country Museum and the Severn Valley Railway. We'd welcome any WAT members who'd like to come. The cost for the weekend is £220 per person half-board sharing a double room. Coach travel, all trips and entries are included but lunch on Friday and Sunday is not included.

Interested? Then contact Colin Bird 01932 248178.



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

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### Advertising Enquiries:

Contact either the Publications Director or the Publicity Director, (Email addresses on p3)

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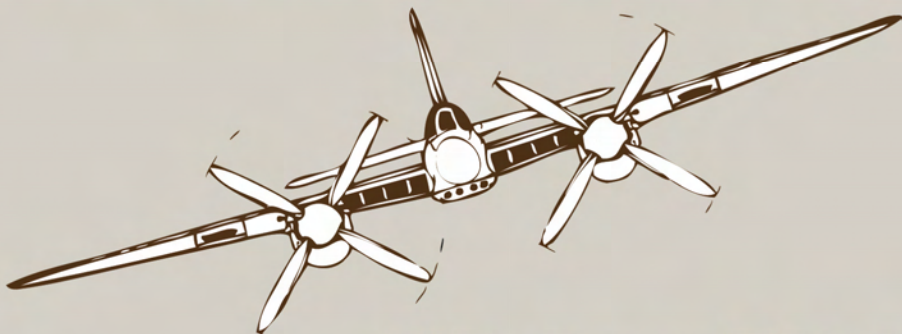
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