



WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2017/2
Summer 2017*

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*

A Grand Day Out

24 May saw the first of the Trust's cruises for our members and their invitees. A group of seven plus David as the Skipper and Katherine as the host took Paul Kerr's day-boat Victoria from Cow Roast in glorious late-spring weather through the Tring cutting and along the Arm to its navigable end, with a buffet lunch included and a meeting with Chairman Chris.

Following lunch and a gentle walk to view the restoration site the group returned to Cow Roast with plenty of opportunity for budding helmsmen to try their skills on the tiller – and no one crashed into anything!

Only disappointment was that we saw but one kingfisher in Tring Cutting.



Shooting Little Tring Bridge

photo C RSargeant



This plaque caused much amusement

photo Ed



On bridge 4a for the obligatory group photo

photo Ed

A study in concentration as Robert pilots the boat

photo Ed



Meanwhile Robin adopts a much more casual style

photo Ed



Enjoying lunch on-board

photo Ed



Safely back at Cow Roast

photo Ed

Your contacts on the Trust

Chairman	Chris Sargeant chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Vice-Chairman	Marion Birch marionbirch@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Hon. Secretary	John Rowe honsec@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Treasurer	Clive Wilson treasurer@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Restoration Director	Roger Leishman restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Assistant Restoration Director	Ray Orth restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Events Director	vacant events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Funding Director	vacant funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Katherine Deaney membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Publications Director	David Page newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Publicity Director	Nigel Williams publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Sales Director	Bob Wheal sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Webmaster	Chris Sargeant webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
General Members	Charlie Carrington (Health & Safety) charliec@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Minutes Secretary and IWA Nominee	Jenny Brice jenny@johnbrice.co.uk
CRT Representative	James Clifton james.clifton@canalrivertrust.org.uk

In this issue

	page
A Grand Day Out	2
Chairman's Column	4
AGM initial notice	5
Club 100	6
Grand Draw	7
Restoration Update	8
Tidy Fridays	10
Restoration in pictures	11
June's Restoration Open Day	12
Pumping Station Open Day	14
New way-marker signs	15
Goldfield School visit	15
Pam's 80th Birthday Bash	15
Letters to the Editor	16
Publicity and Fund-raising	18
The Tony Harrison Awards	19
Chiltern IWA weekend Away	19
Events update	20
From the Archives	21
199th Bridge Plaque	22
Editorial	22

ADVERTISERS

Barton Petroleum	24
Cowroast Marine Engineering	4
Digital Services	24
Dunstable & District Boat Club	23
The Half Moon PH	24
Tring Signs	16
WasteKing	19&23
Wyvern Shipping	24

Cover photo: 'A pause for breath'

Photo, Ed

**Copy deadline for the Autumn issue
15 August**

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

After what seemed a long soggy winter with mud over their boots, our dedicated volunteers in the canal bed now have dry conditions and are pressing ahead with profiling and lining towards Whitehouses. CRT are currently finalising design plans to complete the Whitehouses installation. Do visit the towpath by the site and see progress being made – visitors are always welcome. Work party dates are on our website.

May Day saw our first outing to Aldbury Spring Fair and a successful first towing experience for Janet Wright plus our trailer – grateful thanks to her.

HLF activities on site are focusing on surveys of wildlife inc Badgers, Newts, Reptiles, Water Voles and Mink. The Crayfish survey is complete and will present no problems since the Signal Crayfish is present at both ends of the Arm. Ground sampling is also scheduled for the old tip area at the work site entrance.



Activity plans are also being formulated to encourage more community involvement in the restoration project and gain wider recognition of the benefits for all who visit and use the canal be they walkers joggers fishermen nature lovers or just lovers of good old fresh air.

Our friends in CRT are working hard on the HLF bid – it is a long haul but we hope to see it submitted by the end of this year with a decision by this time next year.

Chris Sargeant – Chairman

COWROAST MARINE ENGINEERING

- *Full size narrow boat covered slipway
- *Slipway hire for DIY hull blacking
- *Slipway for surveys
- *Welding/over plating
- *Gas work/heating and plumbing services
- *Electrics
- *New engine fitting
- *Engine work/engine servicing

Cowroast Marine Engineering is run by Darren Killick with 27 years of marine engineering experience. All engineering from fitting a light bulb to a brand new engine installation undertaken. We use top quality marine equipment for a top quality result.

Tel: 01442 825522 or 07941 240024
Cowroast Marine Engineering, Cowroast, Tring, HP23 5RE

FIRST NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

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 18th October 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

By Order of the Council 1st June 2017

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 2017 AGM is given above.

After the success of the catering arrangements at the past three years' AGM we intend once more to have a sit-down meal after the AGM, followed by entertainment or a talk from an invited 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	After-dinner speaker / entertainment (to be advised)
10.30pm	Finish

DINNER

£12.50 per head, menu to be advised

Green Park is not licensed so you are welcome to BYO drinks (and glasses.) Soft Drinks, tea or coffee will be provided.

As we go to press for this Newsletter we do not have details of the menu, this will be part of the detailed AGM information in the autumn Newsletter

The Newsletter will have a loose-leaf booking form that will need to be returned to the Trust at latest a week before the AGM. Dinner, your menu choice must be booked in advance. We regret there are no meal tickets available on the night as Green Park needs to know the quantities in advance.

All paid-up or Honorary Members of the Trust can, and indeed are welcome to attend the AGM regardless of whether they join the others for dinner.

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 be at the AGM.

GREEN PARK itself has basic accommodation in rooms bunk beds and shared bathroom facilities.

To book a room, please call Nicole directly on 03303030101 stating you are with WAT.

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

THE HALF MOON at WILSTONE (☎ 01442 826410) and **THE ANGLER'S RETREAT** at Marsworth (☎ 01442 822250) also have accommodation

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?

CLUB 100

Spring Draw

This took place at April's Council Meeting. There were 210 subscribers

The prizes winners were:

1st	John Davis	£252
2nd	Anne Statham	£105
3rd	James Griffin	£42

**The next draw will be the
80th
and will be drawn on 12 July**

Help us to make it a record number of subscribers for this 'round number' happening The previous best is 213 and with just two more the first prize would rise to £258

All you have to do is to contact the Membership Secretary:

✉ membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

☎ 07547 18185

and Katherine will send you a subscription form. Complete and return and, hey presto, you'll be in the next four draws.

To remind you, **Club 100** is a **members only** draw. A £15 subscription buys you four chances to win in a given year. About 50% of the income is redistributed as prizes.

GRAND DRAW 2017



When Michael Wright (who organises our Grand Draw) opened an envelope, he didn't expect to find inside a £250 cheque as a donation. The kind donor gave the following explanation

I'm delighted to send you a small donation to take further the Restoration. I

was one of those who tried to stop the lowering of Halton Bridge in the late 1960s and so I'm very happy with the restoration works – so far. I like the Chairman's comment that by donating now, we can unlock the HLF money (assuming the bid succeeds) and so multiply the worth of my donation by 6 – so my £250 can be turned into £1,500.

I'm also motivated by the news that CRT are now looking seriously at completing the rest of the restoration – splendid news! We need to plan ahead NOW for what happens after the HLF section is completed. Our Trust will need money for that, especially in the early days of exploring exactly what should be done when other funding may be scarce.

Unlike some other restoration proposals, the Arm has these advantages:

- ◆ *It is in single ownership as it wasn't sold off to adjoining landowners*
- ◆ *An assured water supply*
- ◆ *No major engineering problems – not even any locks*

So it's realistic to think that in less than 10 years we can say "Job Done!"

I do hope others will be able to follow my example and also donate £250 – or even more!

And when it comes to making your Will, please think of a sizeable legacy for our Trust'

Best wishes (Anonymous donor)

- 1st Prize:** **Week on a Canal Boat**
donated by Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd
- 2nd Prize:** **A Day Boat Hire for up to 10 people**
donated by Kernal Cruisers
- 3rd Prize:** **Virgin Experience, visit the The Shard (for two)**
- 4th Prize:** **£100 Cash**
- 5th Prize:** **£50 Cash**
- 6th Prize:** **Swan Chocolate Fountain**
- 7th Prize:** **£25 Garden Centre Voucher**
Donated by Mrs G Wright
- 8th Prize:** **£20 Cash**
- 9th Prize:** **Lady's Fashion Necklace**
- 10th Prize:** **Two Cushions**



The **DRAW** will take place on **Sunday 3 September 2017**

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

RESTORATION NEWS

Collated from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters and other sources

March 2017

A week of yet more mud and water – see the pictures on p12 and 13. The first day of the work party was spent pumping out the water and getting the site as dry and workable as possible in order to proceed with lining. However the weather was still not on our side and the beginning of the next day was again spent in more pumping before we could start. In fact pumping was carried out at odd times again during the week to permit work to continue. Nevertheless we were able to drop in three lengths of bank lining and complete all the hollow and solid blocking necessary to protect the Bentomat® but not, owing to its wetness, to be able to back-fill with spoil above the blocks. We thus covered and protected the exposed Bentomat® with timber until conditions improve.

There is no further news about the old bridge abutments at Bridge 4, item on-hold at CRT's request due to HLF requirements. The same applies to any undergrowth clearance on the bank at Bridge 4 or any tree removal on the site until all the ecological concerns within CRT about the HLF environmental requirements have been resolved.

April 2017

The weather was kinder for the April work party and we were able to complete the profiling of 20m of canal, line and block 15m of banking and complete the backfilling of 25m of banking,

started last month but uncompleted owing to the appalling weather, and push on with the profiling ahead of the lining the with the intention of having as much as possible ready for block-laying in June.

There's still no progress to report on the 'old bridge 4' abutments or on CRT's proposals for the pseudo-weir at Whitehouses to protect the culvert wall and its footings but we have heard that the dredging samples taken have been analysed and haven't shown anything of significance in the way of contamination; this means that, when the canal back to Wendover is dredged the dredgings can be spread and not have to be disposed of specially.

Discussions are continuing with CRT on necessary works in excess of the Lottery grant for which we all hope and these include the 'A41' winding hole and sealing of the current sump at Drayton Beauchamp (once water is at Whitehouses the sump will no longer be needed but the pipe will remain as a land drain and will need to be sealed.)

As part of the HLF bid, CRT is engaged on a number of ecological surveys and has determined that signal crayfish exist at both ends of the canal, connecting the water will thus not spread them further. Connecting the water has consequences for badgers and may require 'badger tunnels' and raising the water level between Drayton and Wendover may have consequences for water voles.

May 2017

After the wet, now the dry. Excellent restoration weather (though our gardens are beginning to suffer from lack of rainfall) allowed us to complete 30 metres of canal lined on both banks together with the installation of the concrete and hollow block base.

A further 10 metres of banking has been finish profiled as a start to the profiling and lining which will continue next month. This means that if we do the same in June we will have a full 60 metres of canal ready for the blocking which BITM will be completing during their weekend visit following the June work party, that's 3200 blocks at 10kg each. . . suppose it's one way to work up a thirst!

A considerable amount of bulk excavation was also carried out which enabled the backfilling of the banking (previously removed to carry out pipe capping) all the way up to Whitehouse to be completed. We were also able to make a start on back filling the bank after Whitehouses.

Following Morgan's demise the new style dumpers that are now available to us are proving to be a very useful tool. We did have some reservations at first as always with something new but these have proven to be unfounded. The new machines have some very good additional features that are a great help. We are also noticing that whilst they are more expensive and as such the overall plant costs are higher, their fuel consumption appears to be considerably down on

Morgan's plant, which is helping to offset the additional cost.

So far thus we are very pleased with the quality of the plant and with the service we are getting, it is early days but let us hope it continues to be the case.

A remarkable milestone

Since Roger's previous 6-monthly progress report the Trust has reached a significant milestone. The total cost of restoration works since Phase I commenced in 1997 has passed the £1 million mark at £1,013,999! The breakdown of this is

Phase I total: £400,349

Phase II total to date: £613,650

This means that the Trust has raised over £1 million pounds from fund-raising events, mainly the Annual Festivals at Little Tring and from donations. Readers may think that with the (hoped for) HLF grant we can relax but no, beyond the completion of Phase II we will need funds for other works.

Work Party Dates

All start on a Friday and end the following Thursday:

30 June—6 July

4 August—10 August

1 September—7 September

The work will be continuation of stage 3 lining and, during the September work party, demonstrating our skills to the public at the Restoration Open Day

To volunteer contact Ray Orth:

~@restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

TIDAY FRIDAYS

John Reynolds and his team continue their good work of vegetation control. Donations for planting new trees as part of the environmental aspects of restoration were solicited in this journal earlier in the year with a good response so, for the time being, no more donations please. We may ask for more later in the year when the tree-planting season begins again.

If you'd like to join in (and you'd be most welcome to do so) please get in touch with John beforehand, particularly if you are new; his contact details are:

☎07787 355515 📞01442 824454

✉scubajr@tiscali.co.uk

The next two dates are:

7 July

11 August

The pictures on this page show current works to improve the Whitehouses site close to Bridge 4 where we plan to have a picnic site (see the article in Spring 2017 Newsletter.)



Comfy for bugs. We've put in a couple of 'bug-hotels' - piles of logs. If you see them and feel tempted to take the wood for any reason please don't, the insects, amphibians and reptiles won't thank you for it.

Below left: Mick and Marion planting one of the Bermwode crab apple trees

Below right: in place and protected against predation by deer



RESTORATION PICTURES



I promised the lads (and lasses) that if I embarrassed them with a picture of the quintessential English work force leaning on their shovels (see front cover) then I'd make amends by showing a picture of them at work so, here it is.

What are they doing? They're digging around the manhole cover at Whitehouses to determine the extent of its corbelling.

Photo, Ed

Stop planks in place at Drayton Beauchamp bridge, at present only at the 'Wendover' water level. Adding more to raise the level is on-hold at present waiting for adjudication on the possible effect on aquatic life, particularly water voles.

Photo, Ed



The extent of lining in April. Bridge 4a starts to recede into the distance, also a good picture of the new style of tracked dumper.

Photo, Ed

'The wet' returned in March *Photo, miss Ming*



Restoration Open Day June 4



What's in that flask?
Photo, Eric Rose

Oyez, Oyez . . .

Never miss an opportunity to sell Grand Draw Tickets, you must know me. What a splendid occasion to get to the membership. I always think of the very generous members that send the counterfoils of the Grand Draw tickets and wish I could send an individual 'thank-you' to you all. This may be the closest that I get this year. Thank You all!

The Open Day at Drayton Beauchamp is a splendid event and rarely spoilt by rain, although not always blessed with sunshine, but it is good for meeting the people that buy their tickets there. Greta even met last year's first prize winner. We had a splendid day for sales, as did the cake stall; the pick-a-nail and the sales stand. (Every little helps us to boost the fast diminishing Restoration Fund.)

Michael Wright.



Photo, Eric Rose

Jenny about to take another party along the towpath to the restoration works. 'Hour and three-quarters I was away with this group', Jenny remarks, 'They just wanted to go on and on' and this is what they went to see:



Photo, Eric Rose

'I am not sure if Ray had any chance to get his breath between each party arriving at the restoration site,' reports Jenny. She says, 'The tours seems really popular and we seem to pick up new members of the public at each of these Restoration Days, at least four who came as a result of our leaflet push at Rickmansworth.'



Ray talks to the visitors about the way restoration is done.

Photo by Eric Rose whose caption is **'Ray explains Bentomat'**

But, what is Ray really saying?

Send us your suggestions and we'll publish the best of them



Photo, Ed

Once again, teas and cakes proved to be extremely popular.

'I can vouch for the excellence of the cakes, I pigged myself on more than one' says your Editor.

Although not a hot sunny afternoon as we've experienced in the past, it was warm enough and dry and perfectly pleasant to sit outside and have a chat.



Photo, Ed

Now how could you possibly resist buying a Grand Draw ticket from this lovely lady? Few did and we sold £290 worth.

Other returns for the day were:

Teas and cakes:	£424
Jams and chutneys:	£193
Donations:	£263
Sales of goods:	£183
Memberships:	£20
The (addictive) nail game	£17
Commission on ice creams:	£15



Photo, Eric Rose

Archie's Ices and their retro van provided the ice creams and jolly nice they were too – and not only the opinion of the happy trio below



Photo, Ed



Photo, Ed



WENDOVER ARM TRUST

in association with



Canal &
River Trust

TRINGFORD PUMPING STATION OPEN DAY SUNDAY 23 JULY 11.00AM – 4PM

- ★ Tours of the pumping station – discover its history and its current use
- ★ Information boards from Canal and River Trust and Wendover Arm Trust
- ★ Guided walking tours to the Wendover Arm Trust's restoration workings (1 mile round journey)
- ★ Teas and cakes

PARKING

There is no public parking at the Pumping Station and we ask visitors please not to park in Little Tring hamlet and its approaches,

A FREE PARK AND RIDE service will be available from Startops car park, Tring Reservoirs HP23 4LJ with the first service at 10.45am, half-hourly with the last return to Startops at 4.15pm. Please note that Startops car park is a pay-and-display park.

Prices £1.50 for 3 hours, £3 for 24 hours.

Alternatively you may like to take the very pleasant walk around the reservoirs, either one or both ways. Follow the route marked in red on the adjacent map – see how many types of wildfowl you can see on Tringford Reservoir!





Our new way-marker signs sponsored by Tring Lions

Alan Pollard from Tring Lions writes:

Hi Chris,

I've just been down to Little Tring and the signs look quite smart. It will make it a lot easier for strangers to follow the towpath. I've passed your email on to our Treasurer so, hopefully, he will issue a cheque shortly.

Let us know if anything else crops up that we might be able to help with.



GOLDFIELD SCHOOL TRING



To help us celebrate this special day the Wendover Arm Trust came into school.

The children had an amazing morning learning about the technology, history, culture and wildlife of our local canal, how to look after it and how to stay safe when visiting it.

Our guests told us about the important work they are doing restoring the Wendover Arm Canal – all of which is done by dedicated volunteers!

We would like to wish them every success with their bid to get Lottery Funding.



And Rosie and Jim came too.

Jenny Brice and colleagues, dressed in traditional costumes, organised the visit, and had a day with 65 five- and six-year-olds introducing them to the fascination of our canals.

HAPPY 80TH PAM!

Long-time Haddenham member Pam Preston celebrated her 80th birthday on 13 May and told her family she didn't want any cards or presents but donations to WAT instead – how marvellous is that? Pam and her husband are regular walkers along the arm and enthusiastically follow our progress.



The celebration was on Sunday 14 May by way of a hog-roast in Thame to which Michael & Greta Wright and our Chairman plus about 80 guests were invited.

Here's a picture of the Birthday Girl and



the Trust extends a huge thank you to her and her guests for raising over £250 towards our restoration work.

Letters to the Editor

Costly Foolish Behaviour

The picture on page 17 of the Spring issue showing the old bridge at Halton with the lower one being built brought back a memory of how I believe this situation came about.

In April 1973, I was a manager in the bus and coach industry. I had applied for a job in Aylesbury with the Red Rover Bus Company which also incorporated Keith Coaches. The position was to take responsibility for the coach fleet and also the regular works and school runs which included a contract with RAF Halton for the conveyance of apprentices between Halton Camp and the airfield.

At my interview with the late Stuart Mills and Peter Ecob, I was told they had 'some good news for me'. The RAF contract had been at risk because some of the young airmen had encouraged drivers to take the hump-backed bridge too fast. I understood that a typical comment from the recruits was 'come on driver we want to take off on the canal bridge!' Apparently only one or two drivers had been goaded into crossing the bridge slightly faster than at an appropriate speed. Nevertheless, local people became aware of this and the RAF took the

complaints very seriously. The 'good news' given to me at my interview was that the Council (presumably Bucks County Council) had agreed to build a level bridge over the canal and with the matter then closed, the contract for the provision of buses was safe. I had owned a small canal boat in the Midlands in my (even) younger days so I remember feeling less than comfortable about the loss of navigable headroom. Of course it was good to hear that the valued contract with the RAF was secure.

Brian Kirton, Norfolk

Editor's observation:

Brian's letter brings to mind my schooldays. Bus drivers can be mischievous souls wanting to avoid riotous behaviour of those in their charge – or at least for the most part unless it was the Bus Company's owner who was driving, in which case any misbehaviour was immediately reported to the Headmaster with the consequence of detention (or worse) for the perpetrator(s).

Our route to school was very rural and one trick that caused great glee was for the driver, seeing a flock of sheep in a neighbouring field, to turn-off the ignition briefly, the resulting 'bang' from the exhaust scattering the sheep far and wide. I suppose these days this would be classed as sheep-worrying but it seemed great fun at the time. I do though wonder how many ruptured exhaust pipes needed to be replaced!

All Aspects of sign making and design undertaken

Here at Tring Signs we pride ourselves in giving you the best solution for all your signage needs. From cut vinyl lettering and digitally printed vinyl for vehicle graphics to A-Boards, Banners & Acrylic

Pop in for a coffee and a chat...



TRING SIGNS
COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE

www.tringsigns.co.uk
01442 826846

College Road North
Aston Clinton
Bucks HP22 5EZ

A-Boards
Residential
Shop Frontage
Design Service
Exhibition Displays
Architectural Signs
Vehicle Sign Writing
Total Branding Solutions

Black Hole discovered on Wendover Arm!

In a first for CRT and WAT it has been reported that a Black Hole has been sighted at the entrance to the Arm (*how exactly can a black hole be seen? It's black! Ed.*)

A very impressive and professional leaflet holder was made and installed by the bridge over the Arm at Bulbourne, by John Reynolds.

However, since its installation, and despite being stocked with an ample supply of leaflets, the holder has been reported on more than one occasion as being empty, devoid of leaflets, vacant, bare (you get the idea . . .)

The leaflets have not been in place long enough for bookworms to be blamed, so the only other possible explanation is that of a Black Hole, swallowing all

forms of matter and energy and causing an extreme case of a display stripped bare of content.

It is comforting to think that at some future date intelligent beings on an interstellar NASA probe will be able to investigate a Black Hole and read how the Wendover Arm is steadily being refurbished (other space agencies are available).

The case for the existence of a Black Hole is bolstered by the fact that the water level in the Arm has always been a problem, and has simply disappeared from time to time. What more proof do we need?

You can see the leaflet holder yourself by visiting the entrance to the Arm at Bulbourne. But if you want a leaflet, go soon.

*Stargazer
(name and address supplied)*

Tring Reservoirs Liaison Group

Those of you who've had the pleasure of hearing Vicki Martin speak recently will know that she is very enthusiastic about unlocking the 'visitor potential' and making specific areas 'destinations' in the South East Region of CRT for which she is the Manager. If you consider that Foxton and Stoke Bruerne are on her patch and how the visitor potential there is beginning to be realised you will know how attractive waterways can be to the general public; the Marsworth reservoir complex has been identified as one of those sites.

John and Jenny Brice attended the first Tring Reservoirs liaison meeting in April

on behalf of both WAT and Chiltern branch IWA and this is a summary of the meeting. What CRT proposes does not affect the current WAT/CRT bid for HLF funds but obviously if the bid is successful and the Arm is restored to navigation then that can only help to strengthen the 'destination' and 'visitor' potential.

What are seen as major plusses for the area are:

- The local sense of feeling about the reservoirs, their untouched beauty,

(Continued on page 18)

Fund-Raising Update

- ◆ Another £171 from Rose's bric-a-brac stall at Dunstable and District Boat Club. Total raised now exceeds £3k.
- ◆ Rickmansworth Canal Festival £34.40 for the Pic-a-nail game and donations. (plus Grand Draw ticket sales)
- ◆ £250 by anonymous donor (see Grand Draw article)
- ◆ £300 anonymous donation made by a participant in our first 'Grand Day Out'
- ◆ Member Pam Preston's 'Birthday Bash' raised over £250
- ◆ Restoration open Day income was over £1000 excluding membership renewals and sales of Grand Draw tickets

- ◆ Easyfundraising: As we go to press the number of WAT supporters has increased to 63 (three more during the past month) and the total raised is £1396.14. The No1 supporter has raised £280.

It's easy, it's pain free, it's cost free to you, as you shop on-line; contribute to the Trust and we make no apology for reminding you how to do it: ↩

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:

amazon Argos Expedia John Lewis

easyfundraising
org.uk

(Continued from page 17 - Tring reservoirs liaison group)

'natural' but man-made and their potential for recreation

- Bird watching all the year round on the reservoirs – one of the first English nature reserves
- Tring as a vibrant country town with good facilities and the Natural History Museum attracting 100k+ visitors a year
- Excellent fisheries and potential for fishing coaching
- Great walks, long and short and accessible
- Easy access for boats and stopovers

- Pubs and café nearby
- Historic pumping station – tourist asset.

But what's missing?

- Parking capacity
- No 24-hour toilets
- Poor public transport
- Welcome and interpretation boards
- Visitor centre and education room
- Accommodation for campers
- Potential for watersports

Much to think about but CRT wants to have an initial plan drafted by September this year.

The Tony Harrison Awards

WAT was one of the 28 groups that applied to IWA for a grant from the £200,000 Tony Harrison Legacy (Tony was IWA's former consulting engineer) but sadly was unsuccessful. The four groups that will share the money are:

The **Pocklington Canal Amenity Society** to restore two locks and carry out dredging to extend the navigable canal by two miles by 2018

The **Montgomery Canal Partnership** to help rebuild Schoolhouse Bridge between Crickheath and Llanymynech. This is a major boost to restoring a two-mile length of the canal through to Llanymynech.

Friends of the Cromford Canal are having difficulties in running their passenger trip boat due to varying water levels being experienced at Cromford Wharf. A grant from the legacy fund will allow them to install a replacement water gate to permit a more reliable, regulated water supply.

IWA Chiltern Branch—autumn weekend away

This year's trip will be to Staffordshire from Friday 29 September to Sunday 1 October and will include a tour of the Wedgwood factory at Barlaston, a visit to Burslem Port, the Froghall tunnel and the Uttoxeter Canal and a day out on the Churnet Valley Railway.

The cost will be £260pp with a £60 single room supplement and this includes

travel, half-board, buffet lunches and the Churnet Valley railway rover ticket. If the branch can get more than twenty participants then the cost could be reduced.

Chiltern Branch would be delighted if any WAT member wishes to join in. contact Colin Bird: ☎01932 248178 📧 ccbird@tiscali.co.uk for further details

94% of waste is recycled

WK WasteKing

Recycling today for tomorrow...

The Complete Waste Management Service



Local Skip Hire • Man & Van • Rubbish Clearance • Grab Hire

Call us today on: **01442 210047**
email: skiporders@wasteking.co.uk

www.wasteking.co.uk

The restoration of the **River Stour** was one of three projects mentioned by IWA founders in 1946 and Stratford St Mary Lock is the last remaining lock on the navigation that can be restored. The award, together with a Landfill Tax Credit grant will help restore the lock, opening an additional 1.75 miles of navigable river for public access by boat. There is no towpath along this stretch of water and so boat is the only way to gain access.

WAT sends its congratulation to the four groups that received awards – all very worthy restoration projects.

EVENTS HELP WANTED

Tringford Pumping Station Open Day 23 July (*See the advert flyer on p14*)

We need:

- ◆ Someone at Startops to control any queue for the bus and to give directions to those who'd prefer the walk around the reservoirs
- ◆ Someone to give directions when the bus arrives at the Pumping Station
- ◆ WAT members to talk to the public while they are on their own tour (the pumps are manned by a CRT representatives, with restricted numbers viewing at a time)
- ◆ Guides to take visitors on walks and/or to the restoration works (A limited number can view the pumps at any one time so it's essential to give visitors something to do while waiting)
- ◆ Tea 'ladies' (yes, gents, if you're prepared to don a pinny you do qualify for this task!)
- ◆ Volunteers to make cakes etc. to sell on the tea stall
- ◆ Volunteers for the stand, sales, membership and nail game

Linslade Canal Festival 29 July

We need help to:

- ◆ set up (from 8.30 am)
- ◆ man the stand (11am-5pm)
- ◆ help pack away after the event
- ◆ Please note – 11-5 is the length of the event, you don't have to be there throughout, an hour-or-so's help is OK

Tring Reservoirs Festival 26 and 27 August

WAT will have a stand on Startops Reservoir. This is to support the Tring Anglers and CRT. CRT will again be organising bus trips to Tringford Pumping Station.

We need help to:

- ◆ set up
- ◆ pack away after the event
- ◆ man the stand during the event, again an hour-or-so's help is most welcome

Restoration Open Day 3 September

We will need all the usual help for an Open Day viz:

Set-up and breakdown help: 'tea ladies': cake-making:tour guides: car-park assistants: sales: nail game: membership stall: grand draw ticket sales (last chance for 2017, the Mayor of Tring will pull the winning numbers at 3pm)

CRT 2Arms on 2Legs run 10 September

This is a CRT event but WAT is providing water stations again. We'll need volunteers to man these. Event is from 9.30am to 1pm with CRT safety briefing beforehand

To offer help for any of our forthcoming events simply contact Jenny on  jenny@johnbrice.co.uk or leave a message on WAT's general number  07547 181857

From the Archives

FUNDING THE FUTURE

The final part of Mike Chessher's reports on his attempts to put together a Millennium Lottery Fund package to finance restoration (Wendover Arm News No 21 Autumn 1995):

The competition for money was very fierce. The 83 'long listed' projects are asking for £850 million from the Commission, whose quoted 1995 budget is £350 million. So they won't all get funding anyway and some of them may be left sitting on the short list waiting for money from next years' budget. When you add in all the new applicants, you wonder whether it's worth bothering!

Well the answer is that it is, because we have already done much of the work and gained valuable experience. Besides, we have a good project that deserves funding!

But it is a fight and although we already have a number of ideas for tweaking our application, we can do with all the help we can get. If anyone has any ideas for linking it to the Millennium or making it more innovative, please pick up the phone and talk to me or any committee member.

One important weapon is a better idea of the cost of restoration and by the time you read this, we should have gone out to contract on a survey of the whole canal, building on the information in the Atkins survey and incorporating the site investigations recommended in it. There may be a lot of lottery money sloshing about but we clearly have to demonstrate our project is value for money to get any of it. The idea is to develop a strategy for the whole arm, so that should Lottery

funding fail, and, perhaps Local Authority money become available in Bucks, we can then quickly identify where best to spend it. Also, because of the state of the pipe line, it might be better to restore the dry section as a water channel first, rather than put all the Trusts' money into doing the bridge and winding hole at Little Tring.

We have continued to work on obtaining 'partnership' funding and there is some good news to pass on. Dacorum Borough Council has agreed in principle to support our bid with money coming from its Heritage Fund as the scheme progresses. We are hoping to put on a 'Road Show' for the relevant committees of all the local authorities in the autumn. Contacts also continue with English Partnerships who are presently working out their strategy for dealing with canal projects.

There are two other areas we need to work on. We must try to get some funding *via* commercial sponsorship and we must talk to people living close to the arm, especially those at Buckland Wharf, whose support is essential. Demonstrating widespread public support is also a major key to getting lottery funding. In short, there's a lot of work still to be done before we can moor in Wendover basin for a quiet weekend. If there's anybody out then with ideas, imagination or energy, please come and help!

Mike Chessher

More than twenty years have elapsed and much of what Mike wrote is still relevant (e.g. public support) Today we are fortunate with our HLF bid to have a great deal of support from CRT; Mike and Council essentially constructed the Millennium bid on their own.
Ed



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

Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1WA

Advertising Enquiries:

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

Or speak to the Newsletter Editor on 01494 863176

The views expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and cannot be taken as those of the Council of the Wendover Arm Trust. Whilst all reasonably practicable steps are taken to confirm the accuracy of any statements herein, no liability can attach to the Editor, or the Council of the Wendover Arm Trust, or any contributors for any errors and neither the Editor nor the Council of the Wendover Arm Trust accept any responsibility for any consequences however caused.

From the Editor

Anyone who noticed and there was only one who did, and that was the Chairman, can be assured that the reference to the death of Alfred Rothschild in 2018 was not the Editor's April Fool's joke, it was of course 1918 when he died. Apologies, shoot the proof-reader, will try harder!

Good news is that WAT will have a Tringford Pumping Station Open Day on 23 July (see advert on p14) and CRT will open it again to visitors during their Tring Reservoirs Festival weekend 26/27 August.

Even better news is that the new owner of the Old Rectory at Drayton Beauchamp is amenable to our using his field to park cars so the September Restoration Open Day is. ON.

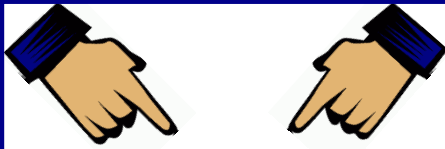
That's all, folks (well, all I've got room for!)

199 and counting



The 199th bridge plaque was donated by Alastair and Charlotte Bowman. A bridge-or step-plaque makes an ideal way to support the restoration with a permanent visible record of your donation. £50 donation for a step plaque, £150 for a bridge plaque.

John Reynolds will be pleased to assist you, email him at: [✉ scubajr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:scubajr@tiscali.co.uk)



!YOUR ADVERT HERE!

Support the work of the Trust by advertising
your Company or services in
WAT Newsletter.
1/8 page to full page, B/W or colour

For full details and rates contact:
either: publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
or: newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk



or talk to the Editor
☎ 01494 863176



Recycling today for tomorrow...

The Complete Waste Management Service



**Local
Skip Hire**



Man & Van



**Rubbish
Clearance**



**Nationwide
Grab Hire**



**Sweeper
Hire**



**94% of waste
is recycled**

Call us today on: **01442 210047**
email: skiporders@wasteking.co.uk

www.wasteking.co.uk

Unit 25, Airfield Ind. Est. Long Marston, Cheddington HP23 4QR
Waste carrier CBDU93920 - Transfer Site License 402839



Dunstable & District Boat Club

www.ddbc.info

Contact David King
07791 786617

Email:
secretary@ddbc.info

Located on the Grand Union Canal near Marsworth

- Club membership available
- Moorings for non-residential boats up to 40 feet
- Slipway & Covered Wet Dock facilities
- Modern Clubhouse & Secure Parking
- Active social programme throughout the year

Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal

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

Boat Builders - Repairs - Dry dock - Blacking - Repaints
Waterside holiday cottage

The WYVERN SHIPPING Co Ltd

Rothschild Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 2TF
Tel: 01525 372355 Fax: 01525 852308

<http://www.canalholidays.co.uk> james@canalholidays.co.uk

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



**Digital
Services
Limited**

IT Support

Networks

VoIP Systems

www.digitalservices.co.uk

info@digitalservices.co.uk

01442 828995

Friendly Village Pub – open all day

B&B available

Food served 12 to 3pm and 6 to 9pm
(except Sunday evening and Monday evening)

The Half Moon

Wilstone

A
Warm
Welcome

Guaranteed!



*Real Ales • Great Food • Open Fire
Children's Menu & Play Area
Large Garden • Heated Patio
Car Park • Dog Friendly*

☎ 01442 826410

☎ halfmoonwilstone@hotmail.co.uk



Q&Oils
MORRIS
LUBRICANTS



BARTON
PETROLEUM
www.bartonpetroleum.co.uk

Your first call for Fuel & Lubricants...

For all commercial and residential fuels 01923 233171