

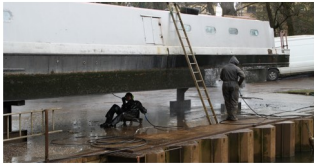
WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2018/2
Summer/Autumn2018*

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Your contacts on the Trust

| | |
|--|--|
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| General Members | vacant |
| Minutes Secretary and IWA Nominee | Jenny Brice jenny@johnbrice.co.uk |
| CRT Representative | vacant |

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Copy deadline for the Winter 2018 issue is 16 November 2018

Cover picture: flora of the cut.

Top Left: cow parsley. Top right: briar rose. Bottom left: bee orchid.

Bottom right: flag iris at Nuttal's bund.

Pictures, Ed

Chairman's column

The cold and wet of winter seemed to go on much longer this year and has severely hampered restoration progress. The work site has been under water for much of the time rendering it impossible to go on foot let alone with heavy machinery – even in May one digger almost got stuck in the mud and water. For our volunteers it was even difficult to walk through and keep you boots on at the same time! During the difficult weather much tidying of banks and scrub removal has been done and the area is looking pristine and cared for as a result.

After the winter deluge it is a huge relief to have a spell of warm weather with little to complain about, except possibly the heat, and our restoration volunteers have made excellent progress in the improved conditions and are now almost at the Whitehouses pumping station site.

Whitehouses was important in its heyday as a water level management facility for the whole GU Tring Summit area from Cow Roast lock and through to Wendover – it is almost ready to resume that role since the underground settling tanks are already complete. There is work to be done in the canal bed to secure and waterproof old brickwork which were the foundations of the settling tanks and anti-scouring platform of old – as I write we await quotations to have this work done by a contractor and then enable lining to continue on towards bridge 4. We have applied for European funding to cover the cost in order to conserve our own funds for the bigger challenge presented by the old tip infill area at Little Tring – our favoured solution being to by-pass it.



CRT is currently restructuring and moved to six regions in the UK on June 4 instead of the former ten and is now bedding in its revised structure; we are beginning to establish lines of communication with the new order – more on this as the picture unfolds.

Ray Orth and I were pleased to welcome Sam Anderson Brown, now national Restoration Manager for CRT to the Arm in May and to show him key locations starting at Wendover and finishing at Tringford pumping station. Sam is charged with reviewing all restoration projects both in work and proposed and to prioritise them as a basis for allocating CRT support. We stressed the unique feature of the Arm as a major source of water for the Tring Summit area and spent time at Whitehouses to show him the considerable work already done. We felt the visit went well and Sam went away much better informed having never been to the Arm before.

Not only changes at CRT but within WAT too as Ray Orth, Assistant Restoration Director for well over 20 years is moving away to Dorset – he has made a huge

contribution to the restoration project working with and supporting Roger Leishman, organising and leading work parties and countless other tasks which together make it all happen. Ray's wife Jo has been a stalwart supporter at our open days together with our tea ladies keeping everyone fed and watered. We thank them both most sincerely. At our July Council meeting Roger Leishman proposed Tony Bardwell as Ray's successor and was duly elected. Please join me in giving Tony all our support in filling these very large boots.

Our long-term newsletter editor and publications director David Page has also

announced he will be standing down from this role from the next AGM – David has brought tremendous skill and expertise to this area, most visible in the high standards of our Newsletters and Trust publications which are our 'shop window'. Thankyou David. In light of the above we now need an editor for our Newsletter – if you can help or know someone who might do please let us know.

Our next Open Day is on Sunday 2 September at Drayton Beauchamp, 12.30 – 4.30pm – I look forward to seeing you there.

Chris Sargeant

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Village cottage for rent January to May 2019

Situated in the heart of Wilstone close to the Half Moon pub, this fully furnished two bedroomed (one bedroom+office) end terrace cottage is available for short term rent from mid-January 2019 until mid-May. It has a sitting room and modern kitchen diner, leading to the private garden. There is a wood burner in the kitchen, an open fire in the sitting room, and full central heating. 20mg broadband is available.

Call Peter Walker on 01442 827891 for more information.

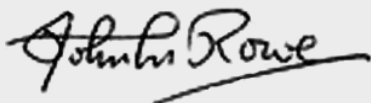
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held on Wednesday 31 October 2018 in the Village Hall, Wilstone, Bucks starting at 2.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting held on 18th October 2017.
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 20178 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 18 July 2018

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 /her 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

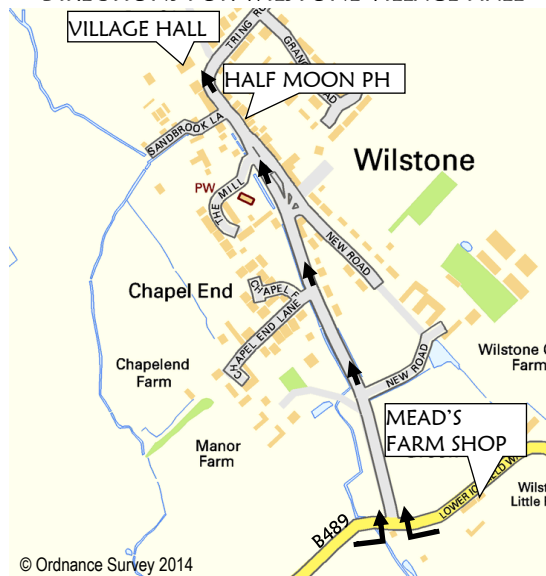
The formal notice of the calling of the 2018 AGM and the agenda of business is on the previous page. This year we make a change to an afternoon meeting with tea and cakes to follow the main business of the meeting.

Since we are not providing a meal there is no need to identify your proposed attendance but we'd hope as many paid-up or Honorary Members of the Trust as possible will attend, or else we'll be left with a surfeit of cake!

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

| | |
|--------|--|
| 2.00pm | Welcome |
| 2.30pm | AGM |
| 3.30pm | Tea and cakes |
| 4.00pm | Club 100 draw; raffle draw |
| 4.15pm | Guest speaker: James Clifton <i>ex. CRT*</i> |
| 5.00pm | Finish |

DIRECTIONS FOR WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL



Wilstone lies off the B489 Aston Clinton to Marsworth road by the reservoirs. Those of you who are unfamiliar with the B489 please note there are many sharp corners in the reservoir area and the turn into (and out of) the Wilstone isn't an easy one.

If you want refreshment before the meeting, Guy and Abi at the Half Moon, a few yards from the Village Hall will be delighted to feed and water you, but please book in advance if you want a meal. The Half Moon's contact details are in the advertisement on the back page of the Newsletter. Alternatively you may wish to go to Mead's Farm Shop Café on the B489 just by the Wilstone junction.

* As we go to, press we don't know what will be the subject of James' talk to us. Now he has retired from CRT it's unlikely to be that much related to waterways but we do understand that he has a new career in acting and it might just be about his thespian exploits. Come along and find out – could be interesting!

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Late this year on account of their being no Summer Newsletter so time is short. A book of ten tickets is included in this issue and we encourage you to support the Trust and buy them; persuade your family, neighbours, friends, colleagues to buy some too. Should you need more (and we hope you do) then just get in touch with the promoter – address below – and he'll be delighted to send you some.

To repeat the message from previous years again we do understand that some people, for one reason or another, just do not buy lottery tickets but, it is easier to stuff a book 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. There is no need to return unsold tickets.

Time is short as we said above and Michael would like to have to have the money and ticket stubs in his hands by 24 August.

This is the prize list, there are more cash prizes this year and fewer in kind:

- 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:** Royal Worcester ' Lock Keeper's Cottage' Plate
- 7th Prize:** £25 Garden Centre Voucher donated by Mrs G Wright
- 8th Prize:** £20 Cash
- 9th Prize:** Lady's Fashion Necklace
- 10th Prize:** Gentleman's Watch

The **DRAW** will take place on **Sunday 2 September 2018**
at our **Restoration Open Day at Drayton Beauchamp**



Draw promoter:

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

OBITUARY



Margaret Leishman 27 September 1941 – 15 June 2018

The Trust is extremely sad to record the death in care of Margaret, one of its stalwarts, and dearly loved wife of Roger for over 30 years. Many members and representatives from across the boating community gathered at Amersham crematorium for her funeral on 28 June to pay their last respects.

The congregation heard that Margaret had been born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and her first visit to the UK was at the age of three on a ship in a protected convoy. Moving to the UK at the age of ten, as her parents were MoD personnel and moved around she boarded at St Stephen's, Broadstairs. After school it was secretarial college then jobs with the BBC, Murphy's Chemicals and as a private secretary to a shipping millionaire

She met her first husband Angus on a cruise but the marriage ended when Angus died with daughter Catherine just three months old. Bringing up her two girls on her own was a struggle but she met Roger in 1976 and their relationship blossomed; they married

in 1985 and spent the next 33 years happily together with their many interests and hobbies and six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren

Apart from her work for the Trust being its Minutes Secretary for eight years, recording everything in shorthand we remember her for running the Lock Café on narrowboat Mary Beth, a feature at the stop-lock at many of the Festivals and for providing cakes and organising the Teas Stall at Restoration Open Days.

Other than her Trust activities, which included a lot scrub-bashing in its early days, Margaret was an excellent cook and housekeeper, a keen gardener, a member of the Cyclamen Society and carer for her four retired racing greyhounds that she rescued.

An ever-smiling countenance, never fazed by anything, always totally organised, competent, kind and encouraging; we will all miss her.

RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from restoration reports, newsletters and other sources

APRIL 2018

Another extremely wet and muddy week and, as you'll see from the photo in the gallery, almost enough water in the cut to float a battleship, let alone a canal boat!

When conditions are this bad we can do little constructive restoration work so the whole of the first two days were spent pumping out the canal to reduce the amount of water in it in the hope that when we eventually get some good weather the conditions will dry out enough for us to be able to get on with restoration.

The remainder of the work party was spent scrub bashing along both sides of the canal between Bridge 4 and the cart track and we made excellent progress (see photo gallery) with the removal of a good amount of the roots of both bramble and the infamous Old Man's Beard, the roots of which are something to behold and a real menace. It will now be easier to keep on top of any new growth.

It's a wonder our volunteers turn out in these awful conditions and work, often up to their ankles and above, in deep mud and water (are they a particular breed of masochist?) and everyone's thanks must go to them.

MAY 2018

A better month at last.

We spent the first day of the work party pumping out the last of the water in the bed to give the sun a fighting chance of drying it out to give us firm conditions

underfoot for our work. By Sunday things had dried out well and we were able to clear up the bed of the canal and remove the remaining sludge that had accumulated over the winter.

With the drier conditions bulk excavation restarted and continued until Wednesday by when it was complete on the offside as far as Whitehouses and on the towpath side opposite Whitehouses.

On the Wednesday conditions had dried out to such an extent that we were able to take plant back up to the end of the site where lining has been completed and repair the land slip that had occurred on the offside bank just before Christmas (see photo in gallery.)

We can now press on with the final profiling and lining all the way up to Whitehouses. This does mean that the work that CRT has specified and designed on the weir at Whitehouses must be carried out as a matter of urgency otherwise our continued progress on restoration beyond Whitehouses will be put in jeopardy, and we could be prevented from continuing until this work is completed. To this end the Trust has decided to apply for a grant under the Leader Programme for the Whitehouses area in the sum of £75,000. This will cover a contractor's costs for the weir and concrete canal bed, environmental improvements, information boards, literature, seating, provision for educational visits etc. and will protect our reserves for the job of completing the restoration back to Little Tring.

For your information, the Leader Programme is part of the EU's rural

development programme for England and, of course, there's urgency as the UK is leaving the EU.

The final task this week was to expose more of the old bridge abutments at Bridge 4 in order to be able to get a better idea of what was actually buried in the banks. (see story on p 24) Whether the abutments remain or are removed has yet to be agreed with CRT.

JUNE 2018

Getting back to something like normal!

The first day was a pumping out day to remove water from the storms over the previous week. Once done we were able to do much to finish profiling on both offside and towpath banks and by the end of the work party we had completed 27m of finished bank on both sides to be lined in July. If things go really well we might even be in position to make a start on another section of bed lining.

It is good that we are, at last, able to make good progress. However, this does mean that we will be at Whitehouses long before the weir work is even started. So we will have to stop and consider how best to proceed past Whitehouses whilst maintaining access to the site for the weir wall work.

JULY 2018

Good to be able to report on a successful work party during which there was no need to use the pumps – *hooray!*

However we can't let a report go by without some reference to the weather so here it is:

For our volunteers' welfare we worked shorter days due to the excessive heat, packing up on most days mid-afternoon when the heat was at its worst. Never satisfied are we?

Short working days or not we lined the (approximately) 27 metres of both banks, profiled last month, 6 drops of Bentomat® on both banks. This was followed with the hollow blocking fully completed on both banks. So we now have 27metres of canal ready for solid blocking and back-filling.

Despite the short working day we also made a start was also made on laying the next bed roll with the roll being placed in position, the joint covered by a 'sleeping policeman' and the first couple of metres unrolled and back-filled. One bed roll is sufficient to line 20 metres of canal and we can gradually unroll it and use the spoil removed during the next phase of profiling to be used to lay on the 30cm of back-fill over this roll rather than having to take away the spoil removed elsewhere for storage prior to use.

And the last bit of news from the last knockings of July is that we've just got the 1st-stage approval on our Leader Fund Application. Huge thanks due to Leanda Richardson who put it all together and Bucks CC for their help and advice.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Following from the report in the Spring issue that Ray Orth could be moving to Dorset, this has now crystallised. Ray and Jo have found what they describe as the 'perfect place' and once their house in Chesham is sold they'll be off. We'll miss them both: Ray for his dedicated efforts

to pursue the restoration (and what he does with the Work Parties is a small fraction of the service he has given to the Trust) and to be a stalwart deputy to Roger Leishman: Jo, for her support of Ray and for the volunteer work she has done (notably on the cake stall!)

Ray then, resigned from his position of Assistant Restoration Director at July's Council Meeting and Tony Bardwell was appointed as his successor (see pen picture of Tony on p 21). Clive Johnson assumes Ray's role as the person who goes all over the place giving talks to organisations.

FINANCES

Resulting from the withdrawal of the Heritage Lottery bid our Restoration cost estimates have been reviewed. For the stages we haven't yet started there'll be no revised estimates until we've decided what to do. The three stages on which we are working currently have been reassessed in the light of current costs and progress, and on the basis that most of the work will be executed by the Trust's volunteers. Overhead costs have also been reviewed.

Stage 3: (the work up to Whitehouses) is the first stage to exceed the estimate of £175,000 made over 10 years ago and is now estimated at £225,000 for these reasons:

- The extra work in dealing with the high offside bank in front of the Herts County Council tip under which the pipeline ran.
- Adverse weather conditions this winter; costly hired plant stands idle while we pump and our volunteers work more slowly in deep mud and water rather than a dry site

- Plant-hire costs for stage 2 were £98,000. We have already spent over £112,000 on plant and the work is but 80% complete and this is a consequence of the closure of Morgans plant hire.

Stage 4: (Whitehouses to Bridge 4 plus a bit) is fairly straightforward with part of the capping and the mooring wall already completed but, allowing for weather and higher plant hire costs, the estimate is increased to £200,000.

Stage 10: (Whitehouses) awaits an estimate from CRT for their contract work that includes the short length of pipe capping. The Trust has so far spent £17,552 on this stage We are adding £50,000 to this stage pending a proper estimate.

WORK PARTY SCHEDULES

All work parties run from Friday through to the following Thursday

31 August to 6 September
(includes Restoration Open Day on 2 Sept)

5 October to 11 October

2 November to 8 November

30 November to 6 December

The work in September is Stage 3 profiling and lining, thereafter whether we can get onto the Stage 4 work depends on what happens with CRT's work at Whitehouses.

In addition we should be welcoming WRG BITM on 15 and 16 September and they'll be filling in old coal cellars at Whitehouses and removing the abutments of the old swing bridge.

(Continued on page 18)

RESTORATION GALLERY APRIL TO JUNE 2018



This is how our Portaloo gets transported for service.
Picture: Stephen Bonser



Offside scrub clearance in a foot of water. April 2018.
Picture: Stephen Bonser



Manual scrub clearance at the cart-track (Little Tring) April 2018
Picture: Stephen Bonser



John and Pete removing saplings from Holy Trinity Prestwood to replant at Whitehouses.
Picture: Ed



Our Emeritus Assistant Restoration Director, Ray Orth, in a familiar pose at the June Restoration Day.
Picture: Eric Rose



May 2018 and better weather at last! Profiling work now at Whitehouses, view from both banks.



Pictures: Tony Bardwell

Restoration Open Day 3 June 2018

The team arrived promptly at 9.15am to erect the various gazebos. Tables, chairs and the trailer arrive from all directions, delivered or towed by our WAT volunteers. All went smoothly as we are now in our fifth year at Drayton Beauchamp. We are lucky to be able to keep using this site as recently the old rectory was sold, and the Revd Liz Moxley had retired but both new occupants are happy for us to continue our events twice a year.

At midday our tea ladies arrived with cakes and fired up the urn, we were now ready with car park attendants in place. Our donation tins were also well positioned at the gate. The day looked good with no rain forecast and welcome heat. A lot of the regulars come for the tea and cakes and a natter in the sun. It is also a good place for the volunteers to keep in touch.

Our regular guided walks along to the restoration site give an insight as to how progress is being made, but this progress also entails a longer walk each year from



The cakes all look 'yummy'

Drayton . . .and from personal experience, they are! (Ed) Beauchamp church. Each tour I guide, I am surprised how many people have not been before. We are therefore able to publicise the Canal, which hopefully leads into new memberships being signed up.

WAT is supported by the Chiltern Canoe Club, for each event it sends a few members to kayak or paddle board on one of the re-watered stretches of the canal. This showcases its future use as a cruising destination.



Rapt attention from the visitors at the restoration works

Meanwhile back at the Church, a screening of the restoration is showing for those unable to walk the towpath. Our volunteers were available to talk you through the publicity stands photos of past and present. WAT clothing and books are on sale, plus



*Three wise monkeys?
Our sales-stand team of Bob, Chris and Margaret*



Smile and the punters may buy a Grand Draw ticket or two.

our famous nail game, at 20p a go you would be surprised how profitable this is – it's addictive.

A good result from a one-day event. Thank you to all the volunteers involved.

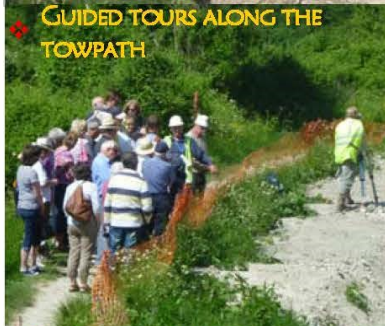
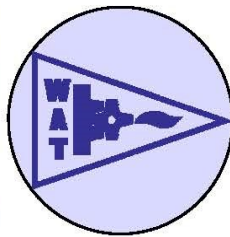
We look forward to our September Restoration Day on Sunday the 2nd September where the Grand Draw prizes will be drawn.

Jenny Brice

WENDOVER ARM TRUST

In association with St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Invites you to our
RESTORATION OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018 12.30-4.30PM



THE LAST CHANCE THIS YEAR TO WIN A WEEK'S NARROWBOAT HOLIDAY IN OUR 2018 GRAND DRAW THE MAYOR OF TRING TO MAKE THE DRAW AT 3PM



WHO COULD RESIST BUYING A TICKET FROM THIS LOVELY LADY?



Free admission, donations welcome

Car parking at St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp, HP22 5LS

More details: ☎ www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk ☎ 07547 181857

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

Come and Enjoy

Cruise from Cow Roast through Tring cutting to the end of the navigable Wendover Arm and return.



Spot kingfishers in Tring cutting!

See the restoration progress.
Try your hand at the helm (tuition given!)

NOW BOOKING for TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

a Grand Day Out



**ONLY TWO PLACES LEFT ON THIS TRIP -
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

With us!

Depart: 10am

Return 4.30pm

The cost is £30 per person including morning coffee, lunch, soft drinks and afternoon tea.

You can book in your friends and family too.—just one person in the group must be a WAT member

Contact Katherine, Membership Secretary to book:

☎ 07547 181857 ✉ membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GDPR

Do we hear a groan? Yes, it's all a bit of a pain in the butt but the good news is that around 60% of our members have returned their forms sent out with the Spring Newsletter. From the jungle telegraph we understand this response is GOOD but we do need to capture the remaining 40%.

Stuffed into this issue is another re-permissioning form and a reply-paid envelope, please do fill it in and send it back. The consequences if you don't are that we have to rely on what are called 'Legitimate Interests' and as you pay your subs, we can send you the Newsletter, give you access to the members' section of the website, send you AGM notices and annual reports, notify you of Trust events and that's about it.

We extend a big welcome to new members:

Ben Grinstead and family
from Wendover

Simon Woodhead
from Amersham

We welcome back re-joiners:
Willam and Jean Lawley-Yorke
from St Albans

Sadly we say goodbye to:
James and Ann Macdonald (joined 1989)
Alan and Sandra Maziels (joined 2011)
Alison Delany (joined 2016)

And final goodbyes to members who have died:

Mike Malone (joined 1994)
Margaret Leishman (joined 1989)
whose obituary you will find on page 9.

CLUB 100

SPRING DRAW

There were 203 subscribers to the Spring Draw and the prizes winners were:

1st Mrs Sandie Calow £243.60
2nd Mr Clive Chandler £101.50
3rd Mr Donald Smart £40.60

SUMMER DRAW

There were 201 subscribers to the Summer Draw and the prizes winners were:

1st Mr Ken Stone £241.20
2nd Mr ML Fowler £100.50
3rd Mrs Mary Miller £40.20

Once again, as you can see the number of subscribers to each draw is slowly declining and only increases when we nag you about the benefits. . . So, here's another nag!

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. All you have to do is to contact the Membership Secretary and she will send you the subscription form. Complete and return and, hey presto, you'll be in the next four draws.

It's one way in which the Trust can raise funds for its work in restoring the navigation to Wendover; it doesn't raise huge sums but the £1500 or so a year that is the net income is a welcome addition and all you have to do is sign-up.

(Continued from page 12 - Restoration Update)

To volunteer contact Tony Bardwell:

✉ restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

TIDAY FRIDAYS

We got the Cabstar working again and John and Pete dug up and moved the trees from Holy Trinity Prestwood that had been promised.

Bank tidying continues and it makes quite a difference to the look of the canal.

The only future date that has been fixed is Friday 10 August.

If you'd like to help the group contact John Reynolds in advance on:

☎ 07787355515 or

✉ scubajr4@gmail.com

Meet at 9am at Little Tring, bring a picnic lunch, finish at 2pm. The work, although manual is not strenuous and would suit those who wish they could help with the restoration but feel they don't quite have the strength to do that work.

A FEW WORDS FROM ROGER LEISHMAN ABOUT MARGARET, REPRODUCED FROM WORK NEWS ISSUE 127

Many of you already know that Margaret died on Friday 15th June and I was very touched that so many involved with the Trust attended her funeral on Thursday 28th June. Margaret and I started our support of the Trust in the 1980s scrub bashing the canal bed.

I well remember Eddy Evans suggesting one evening at a Chiltern IWA meeting that we should sell teas and cakes at the restoration site during our annual festivals. Margaret landed the job of organising this on our boat, Mary Beth, and the first 'Lock Café' was in 1997. It subsequently became the 'Bridge Café' when Phase I was completed and finally a tea stall at the two annual open days held at St. Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp. She handed over to Jo Orth after twenty years.

As a former BBC secretary she was able to take notes in shorthand and the then WAT Chairman Bob Wheal persuaded her to act as Minutes Secretary to the WAT Council, a job she did for eight years.

Tring Carnival Report – 23 June

Hope you all got home last evening from the *Day-at-the-seaside* safely. May I say a BIG thank you to you all. Your help was essential to the very successful day at the Tring Carnival. Greta and I have now got our senses back again and had a hearty breakfast. It was a also an enjoyable day, where the event was lively and the weather played a large part in the proceedings. I will also record how lucky we were with the tide. Nobody got

their feet wet . . .

It is always hard to review the benefits of our attendance, but it was good to meet the Mayor, Penny Hearn, who was well aware of our presence and her impending visit to Restoration Open Day to draw the tickets for the Grand Draw 2018. I must have had interest in the Wendover Arm Canal from many people when I

(Continued on page 19)

*Margaret Leishman, an appreciation
from John and Jenny Brice:*

WAT recently received the sad news of Margaret's death after the last few years fighting Alzheimers.

Margaret was a staunch supporter of both WAT and the IWA, she was secretary for WAT for many years and helped at many IWA events. Margaret never made a fuss, she just got on with the job in hand in an efficient manner.

During the WAT festivals which ran for over 20 years, she could be found organising her team of tea ladies. After 2005 they positioned themselves at Tring Bridge and worked from Mary Beth, Margaret's Narrow Boat. This encouraged the public to walk down

from the festival to see the restoration, and you could be sure there would always be a queue awaiting an enticing slice of homemade cake with their tea. Over the years, the tea ladies produced an impressive amount of fund-raising towards the restoration.

We also had many holidays with the Leishman's, one will always stand out. Eight IWA members hired a Dutch Barge with a skipper and hostess to cruise the Scottish Caledonian Canal. The skipper realised that we all had NBs, so often let us take the steering wheel. Margaret got the first prize for the best transit of Fort Augustus Locks.

She will be sorely missed by all her WAT and IWA colleagues, but for us, most importantly as our friend.

(Continued from page 18 - Tring Carnival report)
distributed the *Join-us* leaflets. There was also a great interest in the hazardous waste matter that has arisen and the contorted faces when the remedial costs were announced! I wonder now if those that learned of the matter lay awake last night pondering the eventual outcome?

The finances were such that Beryl did a magnificent job taking the grand sum of

£22.20 with her bed of nails, even though the £1 'Yellow Nail' was found by a child before lunch. That to me proves that there is one on the board at least! The Grand Draw tickets sold were to the sum of **£76.00**. It was interesting that the introduction of the £2 coin allows punters to invest in two tickets at a time, rather than the new one pound coin! Still a few hundred remaining tickets though.

Michael Wright

NEW CRT STRUCTURE

This is beginning to unfold with the appointment of directors for the six UK regions (replacing the previous ten regions and Waterways Managers).

WENDOVER ARM is now part of the London and South East region with external appointee Ros Daniels as director – she will be joining from English Heritage. Tav Kazmi, who has been acting Waterway Manager South East since the departure of Vicky Martin, becomes Deputy Director to Ros. London and South East is the only one of the six regions to have a deputy director.

Another Grand Day Out!

Tuesday 8 May had been chosen for the first of our boat trips this year to the Wendover Arm from Cowroast Marina on the Grand Union. The weather was wonderful, with a virtually cloudless sky following many days of atrocious weather in the Spring.

Six participants arrived promptly at 9.30 to be met by Nigel Williams, helmsman for the day and Michael & Greta Wright who acted as crew. Our boat for the day was named *Victoria* – a 35ft (or thereabouts) steel narrowboat.

Once loaded with bags and other paraphernalia, we duly cast off at 9.55 am. Manoeuvring within the marina proved somewhat challenging owing to other moored craft close behind.

We entered the Grand Union after passing through the Marina bridge and continued through the Tring Summit, which is largely wooded. Shafts of sunlight through the trees onto the water made for some excellent photographs and we were blessed with two Kingfishers which continually flew ahead of the boat.

At approximately 11 am we reached the entrance to the Wendover Arm and cruised beneath Gamnel Bridge, past Heygates Flower Mill and shortly afterwards neared Tringford Pumping Station which has recently been the

subject of a major overhaul by the Canal & River Trust. Just beyond was Little

Tring bridge rebuilt by the Trust at a cost of £223,000 and opened in 2005.

Once at the winding hole the boat was moored and to be Chris Sargeant joined us with all the M&S food, including delicious wraps, sandwiches, mini-quiches and fresh fruit sticks. Coffee, Tea and soft drinks were served during the morning, lunch and afternoon.

Most of the party chose to inspect the restoration site led by Michael Wright, which took just over an hour. We then cast off and duly arrived at the marina at about 3.30 pm – a journey of 1.5 hours when the participants disembarked with all remarking that they had much enjoyed the trip.

Another trip is planned for September and is already nearly full so contact Katherine Deaney as soon as possible if you wish to come! (see advert on p16)

Michael Wright

Post script. Jenny Brice records:

Helen Biggs one of our elderly long-time volunteers at events was on the trip this week with Eunice and said how much she enjoyed the day, and would like to

thank the crew involved.

Spot the heron – sorry no prizes on offer!



A view from the bridge—but where's the helmsman?



Enjoying lunch

A PEN-PICTURE OF OUR NEW ASST RESTORATION DIRECTOR



I am 66 years old, married and have two children and four grandchildren. I also have four step children and four more step grandchildren.

My working history started with me taking a five-year mechanical engineering apprenticeship in the aerospace industry. I then stayed at the same factory site for the next 40 years whilst the company name changed several times. During that period, I started as a production engineer and then moved into design and project management ending up as the Engineering Manager for the whole site. During this period, I also studied and gained many qualifications including an NVQ5 in Management, a Diploma in Operations management and membership of the Institute of Management.

All of this experience revolved around specialist coatings for aircraft windscreens and anti-icing systems for protecting various parts of aircraft manufactured all around the world.

I have had various hobbies over the years including playing a saxophone with a forties swing band, paragliding from hills and mountains, restoring several large military vehicles, extensive off road motorcycling, racing a hovercraft and researching the history of the local area.

So, how does all of this relate to restoring a canal? To start with I had many happy holidays on narrowboats with my friends and family, and my Dad was always keen on taking us as kids to canals and reservoirs for 'long walks'. After a very technical and intense career I had decided to retire early and find a new interest that was completely different in order to learn more about something 'new'. I also wanted to contribute to a long term project. After a house move I found a perfect new activity less than a quarter of a mile away and joined WAT.

From the new start I had to work through a new 'Apprenticeship' not knowing much about how to do restoration: how to use a shovel effectively, all of the safety rules and the history of the Arm, how to fall over in mud gracefully and so on. After a six year training course I can now lead the work parties, drive the equipment and do the work planning.

I am hoping to bring some of my problem solving skills developed during my job, to the Council and the general restoration work.

I want to continue the restoration work and enjoy the companionship and camaraderie of the other volunteers at the same time.

Tony Bardwell

LETTERS

From Don Smart:*

Thank you for my cheque for £40.60 which arrived safely and is now in the bank. The most interest was in the envelope carrying a row of one penny stamps. . . most unusual. I thought they had disappeared like half-pennies.

Many thanks

Don Smart

**for winning 3rd prize in the Spring Club100 draw. Surprisingly you can still use half-penny stamps as long as you use them in pairs or multiple pairs. - Ed*

From Tom Chevalier to both the Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster:

Having just read the latest Newsletter . . . thanks for taking on the webmaster role. I am an Engineer and therefore like the detail! So don't lose the detail, but by all means make it more structured and fully support your comment about making key messages very clear. I also like the immediacy of the content – like the photos from last Sunday.

I am a more recent member, for a few years. So this may all be well known to long term members:

- What I have found interesting but hard to find any detail is the relationship between the arm, the reservoirs and the pumping station. Some explanation of the water flows, the relative water heights of the canal, each of the reservoirs and the source at Wendover would be interesting. The associated connecting pipelines would be relevant, and possibly the normal operational activity – water into [which] reservoir then pumped or flows to [where] then pumped into canal.
- Last year we walked the arm from Wendover and the banks seem to only be a little above the water level. So if the water level is raised by ~500mm what impact is expected? Is there going to need to be work to raise the canal sides?
- The sewage works pumps water into the arm, what is the operating regime for this? It seems erratic but high volume. What sort of volume of water is pumped up, relative to the CRT Tringford pumps? I presume the sewage works is seasonally different due to rainfall adding to the volume in winter.
- I presume the goal is to get boats to Wendover. I am unsure of the work required from the A41 towards Wendover. I believe there is a low bridge. Although this is longer term activity, having some summary of the headline challenges would be interesting.
- Some clarity of the lining construction may also be interesting. The different materials in different positions and their purpose. How the lining work is intended to prevent the canal leaking in the future?!
- What is going to happen to the pipe when the water reaches Whitehouses and the new weir? Will the pipeline remain 'open', if so will it fill with sediment making it impossible to use in the future should need arise? Or will it be

capped, with water to prevent collapse?

If you can find someone who could document the above aspects then I think it would add interest to the website and/or newsletter.

On the website there is limited information about the Trust Governance, finances, etc. It would assist the wider membership if this was available via the website. The least could be a link the Companies House website that shows the information in the public domain:

<https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/02353392/filing-history>

Keep up the good work.

regards

Tom Chevalier

Thanks for these comments Tom. Food for thought and yes, these things may be known to some, particularly long-standing, members but not to the Membership as a whole. Our intention is to commission a series of articles that answer the points you make. – Ed

From Ken Stone to the Membership Secretary re. Club100:

It's not on many occasions I get a letter not asking for money! I was delighted to receive your envelope this morning enclosing a cheque for the first prize, no less. As today is exactly a month after my 92nd birthday, I shall treat it as a birthday present! I don't manage to get around as I used to but I still have many happy memories cruising the canals, particularly the Grand Union, and would like to thank you for all the work you are, and have, been doing all these years. And good luck to the Wendover Arm and the Trust.

Kind Regards,

Ken Stone

EVENTS REPORT

2018 wasn't a successful year as far as events are concerned. Aldbury Fête and Tring Carnival were successful, but set against that we could not get enough volunteers to man the stand at Rickmansworth or at Linslade so our participation at both was cancelled.

We tried to get a stall at Wendover Celebrates in May but couldn't establish contact to book one and CRT cancelled '2Arms on 2Legs'. Likewise BBOWT cancelled their 'My Wild Event' at College Lake.

The June Restoration Open Day was a good day but not as successful as previously and we wonder whether Open Days have now run their course; we may need to devise other events to bring in the crowds and show them what we are doing – and to 'sign them up' and get their donations.

Overall, as you will see from Katherine's Membership Update, we haven't been able to recruit nearly as many new members this year as in summers in the past.

The final event this year is Restoration Open Day on 2 September

We have a dedicated band of volunteers helping at events but we need more to lighten the load on them.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

When we do teas and cakes we need someone to take charge. This entails keeping the boxes of cups etc. and arriving with milk on the day.

Contact Jenny Brice

jenny@johnbrice.co.uk for further details or to offer to help

WHAT IS IT?

While excavating at the old swing bridge at Whitehouses this was uncovered on the towpath side of the abutments. What is this stone shown in the picture below with a rectangular indentation and a couple of holes?



The answer has nothing to do with canals.

When Stephenson constructed the London-Birmingham railway in 1838 the track was laid on stone blocks, each weighing about 1/3 tonne, with transoms every few feet to keep the gauge. The indentation you see in the picture is the recess for the rail chair and the two holes are for the bolts holding the chair to the block. About half-a-million blocks were used between London and Birmingham and then another quarter-million for the branch he built in 1845 between Blisworth and Peterborough.

This track-laying method proved to be unsatisfactory; other than at horse-and cart speed it was very rough-riding and as trains grew heavier and faster it was difficult to keep the gauge and derailments became common. Eventually the stone blocks were

replaced by transverse wooden sleepers similar to those in use today.

So what do you do with ¾ million redundant stone blocks? I first came across them as a lad as stepping stones across the Nene flood plain at Ringstead Station on the Blisworth-Peterborough line. Much later, on becoming a boater, I began to see them built into canal architecture, particularly in locks; so it seems the Canal Companies acquired lots of them. You can see them too in gardens, on farms and country estates and there are quite a few in the Tring area and there is one outside Tring Museum, moved there in 2016.

Now you know, look out for them. Got nothing better to do with your time and a **very** thick anorak – why not catalogue the locations of all of ‘Stephenson’s Stones’ that you can find?

What was the function of the block in the picture? We’re not sure but, as the bridge pivot was on the offside (the Tring side) it may be the pad-stone for the bridge deck and, just maybe, there was a drop-bolt that went into one of the original holes in the sleeper to lock the bridge into place.



The offside abutments (deck-pivot side) of the Whitehouses swing bridge

STAMPS AND CANAL BOATING

This brief message from Katherine about some stamps I'd provided for her for the Trust's use. . .

Hi David

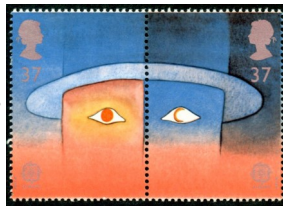
These stamps are all joined, are they special issues that are sent together or can I split them into singles? I didn't want to fall foul of Royal Mail!

Katherine

(one is pictured here)

. . . prompted me to reflect on the paucity of stamp issues on a canal and (inland) boating theme produced by Royal Mail over the years.

It was not until 1989 that you could first see an inland boat on a British Stamp, a narrowboat crossing the Pontcysllte viaduct and that was incidental as the issue was to do with industrial archaeology. Then hooray! 1994 and a set celebrating 200 years of inland waterways. You have to wait until 2009 for a set on the pioneers of the industrial revolution and, saints be praised, Brindley and the



Bridgewater canal aqueduct features on one of the set. And that's yer lot, mate!

There are loads of stamps that picture trains and planes and automobiles (and sea-going boats) and all sorts of weird and wonderful subjects, and even a stamp on Peppa Pig (do ask your grandchildren!) but canals and inland boating? It's a hen's-teeth job.

What is CRT, and that matter IWA doing to get the Royal Mail to issue stamps about canals? After all, canals and canal transportation were really the instruments that made the industrial revolution in the UK workable, and everything else followed. Stick that in you pipe, Peppa Pig, and smoke it!

Now, before you all write/email/phone in to say, 'I've got something like this, is it worth anything?' the answer quite firmly is, 'No, its only value is to pay the postage rate.'

The answer to your question by the way, Katherine, is, 'Yes, of course you can split them, the only thing you can't do is cut one in half and use it.'

Ed

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HS2 IN BUCKS ANYONE?

We've a leaflet giving details of what looks to be an interesting day's conference on 29 September (9.30-4.30) about the findings of archaeologists excavating ahead of the construction of the HS2 line across Buckinghamshire and it includes a number of sites in the Wendover area.

It's being organised by Bucks Archaeological Society and is being held at the Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Road Aylesbury. If interested you need to book in advance, tickets £15 each (£20 including lunch) and send a cheque drawn in favour of 'Bucks Archaeological Society' with your details to BAS Library, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP22 6QH

WAT SHOPFRONT

from the Sales Director

GET SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE?

Perhaps a birthday, an anniversary, birth of a grandchild, getting your driving licence, or you've bought a new boat? What better way to mark your celebration than with a permanent plaque on public display on the Wendover Arm of the GU Canal? Plaques are prominently located on one of the two wooden footbridges over the Arm, a site well-visited by ramblers, dog walkers, and the general public.

Support and commemoration plaques are a well-established feature on the two footbridges over the Arm near Drayton Beauchamp. Both WAT members and non-members have either shown their support, or established a permanent memorial to a loved one (or even a cherished pet) by donating to the WAT Plaque Scheme.

Mostly, plaques are a modest statement of name, date, etc. They are all smartly finished, durable, with a black background and raised silver lettering.

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on the step or bridge plank on one of our footbridges there's space for 25 to 30 characters, a name can be declared or a unique statement made, with the content limited only to the imagination.

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donor wishes within reason and the realms of decency! Up to 80 characters, including simple graphics (e.g. a logo) can be incorporated.

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To find out more, visit <http://wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/bridge-plaques.html>, or send Bob an email on sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk



WENDOVER ARM TRUST

President Dr David Fletcher CBE
Vice President Barry Martin
Patron David Suchet CBE

Wendover Arm Trust, A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Charity No.801190. Its **AIMS** are:

To promote the restoration and maintenance of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, (including all waterways, buildings, and related structures), to good and navigable order and to promote the fullest use of the waterway by water-borne traffic (subject to the regulations of The Canal and River Trust) and for local amenity, recreational and water related activities for the benefit of the public.

To restore, preserve, maintain and to educate the public in the history, use and associated wildlife, of canals and inland waterways generally and the Wendover Arm in particular.

General telephone number: 07547 181857 **Website:** www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1WA

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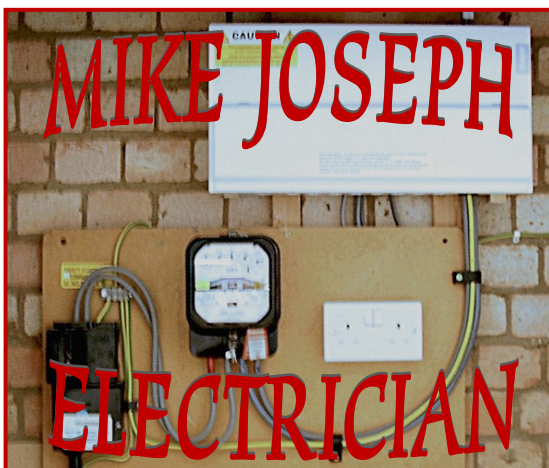
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