



# WENDOVER ARM NEWS

*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2018/3  
Winter 2018*

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## Your contacts on the Trust

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<b>CRT Representative</b>	<b>vacant</b>

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Cover Picture: laying hollow base blocks  
and tamping the concrete August 2108

Picture: Stephen Bonser

**Copy deadline for the Spring 2019  
issue — to be advised**

## From the Editor

Goodbye!

As some already know I have decided to relinquish my post as Editor so this is the last edition that you'll have to put up with my quirky ways of trying to give you, the membership, a journal that's both informative and interesting. Despite the dearth of feedback I hope you've liked it over the past five years. Certainly it's only when accidental (or sometime deliberate) typos are left in that I get the eagle-eyed coming back to me with comments like, 'Did you mean *from* or *form* on p xx?' then I know that at least one or two of you have read it! . . .and there's a gloop in the Summer/Autumn edition that the eagle-eyes spotted and for which I have to apologise – see at the foot of page 24.

So the Trust needs a new Editor and there's a 'job advert' on p27. I'm not backing out completely as Council knows

that I will continue to manage printing, distribution and stockholding of the Newsletter if they want me to.

Literature too is another area in which I intend to continue my involvement. About six years ago the Trust set out to produce a number of leaflets and pamphlets only half of which have yet seen the light of day. Now with the Trust applying to organisations for grants to further and accelerate its work one of the key questions asked is it's methods communicating with the public; although modern methods – Website, Facebook and Twitter are of major importance the 'old-fashioned' hard-copy publications too have an important place.

I hope you have a good read, I wish you Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

*David*

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## Chairman's column

A busy and hopefully fruitful period with much happening both on the worksite and elsewhere.

Another very productive work party has now brought us past Whitehouses and Bridge 4 is clearly in sight. Well done to Tony and our volunteers.

The brickwork in the canal bed in front of Whitehouses is provisionally planned to be done by contractors around the second quarter of 2019

Restoration volunteer Leanda Richardson has toiled night and day to complete our European LEADER Funding bid application which was finally submitted on 20 October, a form of 20-plus pages with 19 supporting documents! If successful the money will be used to fund the Whitehouses work – anticipated to be up to £100k. It was well inside their 31 October deadline and it will now be 12-16 weeks before we hear anything from them unless they want to ask any supplementary questions. If successful the actual work can be carried out during the post Brexit transition period.

Our AGM on the afternoon of 31 October went well with 67 people attending and over 20 apologies. The experiment of having it in the afternoon was successful and the tea and cakes format proved popular. Thanks to Jenny Brice, events team and tea ladies for all help.

We were delighted to welcome James Clifton, recently retired CRT Enterprise



Manager and long time supporter and friend of the trust who gave a lighthearted view of his *Life after Canals*.

We have recently had great support from The Mayor of Tring, Cllr Penny Hearne who arranged and chaired a meeting with all parties and residents involved in the Little Tring tip infill area on 7 November. Tony and I were pleased to meet Ros Daniels, new CRT Director London & South East for the first time. We look forward to developing a good relationship with her and will invite her to the site in the Spring.

Following on from discussions at the meeting we need further investigation of the tip itself and options for dealing with it – i.e. to go through it or to bypass it – for this we need a 'champion' to take on the task for WAT. Please let me know of anyone with knowledge of waste disposal in this area who may be able to help.

With best wishes for the festive season!

*Chris Sargeant*

## AGM 31 OCTOBER 2018—REPORT

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust was held on 31 October 2018 in Wilstone Village Hall. There were 67 persons present (including 3 non-members) and there were 30 apologies for absence.

The minutes of the 2017 meeting, circulated before the meeting were approved as a correct record of that meeting.

The **Chairman, Chris Sargeant**, welcomed everyone to the new venue for our AGM and presented his report for the year:

He remarked that it had been dominated by our efforts in partnership with CRT to secure Heritage Lottery funding to help expedite our restoration programme, especially the section from Bridge 4 through to Little Tring. This had involved much detailed investigation into all aspects of the project including technical feasibility, detailed costings, heritage benefits, environmental considerations and benefits to the community. A grant request for £1.9M had been submitted and following first-stage approval a provisional offer of £1.6m with our contributing the remaining £300,000.

The bid area included the infilled section of approximately 250 metres at Little Tring which had been used as a domestic refuse tip by Tring Urban District Council between 1918 and 1928 with permission from the Grand Junction Canal Company (precursors of CRT) who charged ten shillings per year for the privilege! Our joint proposals for dealing with this area were to dig out the tip and remove

contents to CRT-owned land adjacent to the Little Tring winding hole at an estimated cost of £50,000.

Ground investigations prior to the substantive Lottery Bid submission however showed the presence of potentially toxic elements, e.g. lead, commonly used in paints at the time. This meant the original plan could not be followed and that such waste would have to be taken to a licensed site, the revised estimate for disposal being now £1.3 million. This made the bid untenable and together with CRT we withdrew the bid in November 2017 to look at other ways of dealing with this area. This was a major setback to both parties after all the hard work devoted to it and he particularly thanked CRT for their massive input through Charles Baker, James Clifton and many of their colleagues.

After much deliberation Wendover Arm Trust's preferred alternative approach is to leave the infill undisturbed and to by-pass it alongside with resulting uncontaminated excavation spoil being disposed of on-site as originally intended. This plan is being developed and would involve purchase of a strip of land of about 1 acre from Herts CC and then securing change of use though Dacorum Council.

The other significant obstacle to progress has been works required to complete reinstatement of brickwork in the canal bed at Whitehouses pumping station site. It is hoped that this will be done in 2019 with contactors help. A European

funding bid has been developed and submitted towards the estimated £100k cost.

The work of the Trust is only possible by virtue of those who enthusiastically give their time and expertise to help in so many ways in order to fund and support our volunteers working on site – those who help with our events, fund raising, publicity, newsletters, financial control and so many more – huge thanks to you all.

Particular thanks to Michael & Greta Wright who have run our Grand Draw for many years – they alone have raised enough money to fund the restoration of 60 metres of canal – a truly magnificent achievement; they are standing down for a well deserved break.

This year we have been particularly fortunate to receive a substantial legacy from former restoration volunteer and Tring resident Eileen Cavenagh for which we are truly grateful. This should enable us to fund the proposed tip by-pass project from our own resources.

Our Tidy Friday team led by John Reynolds has grown in numbers during the period and is making a major contribution to our keeping the canal looking cared-for. Our events team led by Jenny Brice have again been active in raising our profile in the area. Thanks to them all.

In conclusion he thanked all fellow Council Members for their support during the year and most importantly our members.

### **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer who was

indisposed, the Chairman referred those present to the accounts in the Annual report and asked if there were any questions – he would try to answer them or refer them to the Treasurer. There were no questions and the accounts were approved.

### **Council of Management Report**

This was approved.

### **Appointment of External Examiner**

Ashby's Chartered Accountants, Morton House, 9 Beacon Court, Pitstone Green Business Park, Pitstone were re-appointed.

### **Election of Members of the Council**

There were two members not seeking re-election:

Ray Orth and David Page

There were two persons co-opted to Council during the year for election to council:

Tony Bardwell and Clive Johnson

There were three nominees for re-election to council:

Marion Birch, Roger Leishman and Clive Wilson

The following Council Members were not due for re-election and have indicated their willingness to continue:

Katherine Deaney, John Rowe, Chris Sargeant, Bob Wheal and Nigel Williams

and Jenny Brice as IWA Nominee

Although no election was necessary as there were under 20 nominations, the

Chairman requested a vote of confidence in the Council, which was proposed, seconded and carried.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

Before the adjournment for teas and cakes, the Trust had the pleasurable duty of conferring Honorary Life Membership on Ray Orth for his unstinting efforts as a restoration volunteer for over twenty years and latterly as Assistant Restoration Director. This duty was carried out with great pleasure by Roger Leishman. Jo Orth also received a bouquet in recognition for her work on the catering team, latterly assuming the mantle of organiser when Margaret Leishman could no longer do it.

The meeting then adjourned for teas and (scrumptious) cakes during which the AGM Club100 draw was made and a raffle was held. The raffle raised £183 towards the Trust's work.

After refreshments James Clifton (who had helped us greatly on the Heritage Lottery bid) regaled us with his 'Life After Canals.' Remarking that 27 years with BW and CRT had left him with canals in his blood that he said would never disappear, he'd gone completely left field and was working as a film extra, and gave us clues to the two seconds or so in which he could be seen in various recent film releases. He also name-dropped the numerous film stars with whom he had become well acquainted or, as he then had to admit, had seen on-set in the distance and had waved to them!

The **BALANCE SHEET** and **SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** are shown on p9.

The full **ANNUAL REPORT** was available at the AGM; others can view a copy on the Charities Commission and Companies House websites or the Trust is happy to send an electronic copy to anyone who asks – contact the Secretary or the Editor.

## CLUB 100

### AGM draw

The prizes winners were:

<b>1st</b>	<b>Richard Downs</b>	<b>£222.00</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Leslie Needham</b>	<b>£92.50</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Norman Binks</b>	<b>£37.00</b>

The numbers in this draw were only 185, down from our peak of over 200 owing to a number of members not renewing and others taking fewer numbers than before.

**Club 100** is a valuable source of funds to the Trust. While it won't get the big sums we need to complete the restoration it's an easy way for members to help with regular small donations with the possibility of winning prizes!

So, for this reason we have no apologies in our enclosing with this Newsletter a **Club 100 membership application form**. A £15 subscription (sorry but members only) buys you four chances to win in a given year. About 50% of the income is redistributed as prizes.

Please do complete it, return it to the Membership Secretary and, hey presto, you'll be in the next four draws.



# SUMMARY OF WAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2018

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2018

	Notes	General Funds 2018	Restricted Funds 2018	Total Funds 2018	Total Funds 2017
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	287,083	200	287,283	16,075
Charitable activities					
Other trading activities	3	16,457		16,457	18,588
Investments		4,498		4,498	4,763
<b>Total income</b>		<b>308,038</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>308,238</b>	<b>39,426</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
Raising funds (incl. management)	4	19,355	2,250	21,605	11,098
Charitable activities (restoration)	4, 11	41,715	200	41,915	58,193
Other					
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>61,070</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>63,520</b>	<b>69,291</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>246,968</b>	<b>(2,250)</b>	<b>244,718</b>	<b>(29,865)</b>
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
<b>Net movement of funds</b>		<b>246,968</b>	<b>(2,250)</b>	<b>244,718</b>	<b>(29,865)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		360,670	2,250	362,920	392,785
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>607,638</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>607,638</b>	<b>362,920</b>

	Notes	2018	2018	2017	2017
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	5		800		1,200
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock		2,281		2,197	
Debtors	6	125,000		0	
Cash at bank		484,973		368,754	
Cash in hand		766		166	
		<b>613,020</b>		<b>371,117</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year	7	(6,182)		(9,397)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>606,838</b>		<b>361,720</b>	
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>607,638</b>		<b>362,920</b>	
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds - General	9	307,638		51,320	
- Designated	9	300,000		309,350	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<b>607,638</b>		<b>360,670</b>	
Restricted funds	9	0		2,250	
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b>607,638</b>		<b>362,920</b>	

## Membership Update

Not a lot to report in this issue except the worrying downward trend in membership numbers and in subscribers to the Club 100 lottery.

We welcome as members:

**Lorna Archer & family**

from Hemel Hempstead

**Bob White**

from Aston Clinton

who joined at Open Day in September

Sadly we have to say goodbye to the following members, some of whom, as you see, have been with us almost from the formation of the Trust.

From the 1989 intake:

**John Glock**, Leighton Buzzard

**Richard Hope**, Berkhamsted

**Margaret Payne**, Stowmarket

**Weston Turville Parish Council**

From the 1991 intake:

**Roy & Wendy Pemberton**, Luton

From the 1995 intake:

**Jill Graves**, Cryers Hill

From more recent years:

**Dennis Cater** (2010)

**John & Jackie Bussien** (2014)

**John Fox** (2014)

And, from 2017: **Tony Defreiz;**  
**David Sidwell** and **Colin & Pauline**  
**Wilkinson**

We are sorry to see them all go and in particular that one of the Local Councils on whom we rely to show support for the Trust in the community has decided to relinquish membership.

We also have to record the deaths of two members:

**John Norton**, High Wycombe,  
a life-member since 2002  
in a road accident

**Alan Faulkner**, one of our original  
members from 1989.

The Trust sends its condolences to both John's and Alan's families.

## Yet more Grand Days Out

Over the past two years a number of our members have enjoyed our Days Out on a narrowboat, cruising the Tring Summit and the Wendover Arm.

For 2019 no dates have yet been fixed but Katherine would welcome expressions of interest. If we can get enough takers then we'll run two trips again; if so then they'll likely be in May and September.

Just as a guide, the cost is around £30 per person for the full day including lunch and refreshments. These are members' trips but a member can invite family and friends to join in.

Contact Katherine: ✉ [membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) or ☎ 07547 181857

# RESTORATION NEWS

Adapted from restoration reports, newsletters and other sources

After the 'Beast from the East' and the very soggy spring it was a delight to get almost wall-to-wall sunshine throughout the summer months and into the autumn – if only it had been rather less sweltering in high-summer! You can get a good impression of the conditions from the front cover of this issue although you can't see the sweat dripping off our restoration team! So, carrying on from the previous Newsletter:

## AUGUST 2018

With the hot, dry conditions chalk dust was the problem rather than the usual mud, but it got a bit cooler as the week progressed and some light rain helped.

More widths of Bentomat® were laid on each side of the canal complete with the base layer hollow-blocking (as shown in the cover picture). In addition a length was laid on the bed and back-fill spoil laid over it. Further bank profiling ready for the September work party concluded the week's work.

As well as the restoration work, there was exploratory work on the abutments of the swing-bridge by Bridge 4. This was at CRT's request in order that it can make a decision about what to do with the historic remains. What we found was that the brickwork on each side rests on foundations on the underlying chalk and there is no brickwork across the canal between the abutments. The bitumen layer is generally intact but where broken there were broken bricks

underneath it suggesting there was prior degradation of the bridge's structure.

## SEPTEMBER 2018

More good weather! More Bentomat® and hollow blocks were laid to get us within 10 metres of the culvert wall at Whitehouses. We also laid 14 metres of solid blocks with the topping of coir rolls and backfilling. A start has been made on the rough profiling beyond Whitehouses leaving a gap there until the contractor's work is done – with a fair wind in the 2nd quarter of 2019.

Additionally we had to be on our best behaviour on 2 September showing the visitors to Restoration Day how to restore a canal.

### **BITM:**

BITM – 'Bit in the Middle' came on 15 September, worked like Trojans and departed by Sunday lunchtime; we must set out a more extensive work programme to keep them occupied for their full two days' stay! They laid 100metres of solid concrete blocks in just over a day (50 metres on each side of the canal, this is 3000 blocks each weighing 11kg.) and put the coir rolls on top ready for WAT's team to backfill in October.

Not only that but the cellar of the cottage at Whitehouses was filled with rubble and topped with pea shingle.

Their efforts have advanced significantly the progress of restoration.

## OCTOBER 2018

The good weather continued and allowed us to back-fill the section lined by BITM. Since there's a long length to fill (plus the 'blank' section at Whitehouses awaiting the contractors) we've been able to use spoil directly from the profiling beyond Whitehouses rather than having to get it out of the way to 'somewhere' until required; this has speeded up the work considerably.

Additionally during the week we cut enough sections of Bentomat® to get a long way to Bridge 4 and did further remedial and landscaping work on the Whitehouses site.

## NOVEMBER 2018

Apart from a wet Wednesday, the weather continued to be 'with us' and allowed the continuation of the good progress made since the spring 'wet'.

At Whitehouses site we continued BITM's work by covering it with a good layer of soil then levelled and compacted it as the first stage of opening up the area to the public.

On the cut itself we continued to drop-in lengths of lining, to lay the base layer of hollow concrete blocks and to lay some solid concrete blocks. We now have the last section of lining in place on the offside before Whitehouses and have got the Bentomat® lining on the towpath side past the 3400m bench-mark that marks the start of stage 4 of phase II (see pictures p 13). The achievement of this landmark was further amplified by our starting to lay lining on the Little Tring side of Whitehouses (*note to those of you who*

*go and take a look, on the offside there is an unlined 5m either side of Whitehouses; this is deliberate so that CRT's contractors can do their work on Whitehouses in 2019.*) The lily was gilded by our moving our access steps 50 metres closer to Little Tring – progress indeed!

## WHITEHOUSES

To remind members who don't visit the canal (or at least, not regularly) Ray Orth has produced an article about it that you'll find on p 19&20.

What's to do the finish the work there?

Firstly we have to get the false weir constructed in front of the culvert wall – this is to prevent boats from damaging it (once, of course that we can get boats to this point!)

We hope the cost will be covered by an EU Leader Fund grant. Leanda Richardson has done a sterling job for us in getting a grant application completed and submitted in time to get a grant before the UK leaves the EU and we now await the outcome. Many thanks from the Trust for your work, Leanda.

Secondly we have to complete the landscaping and public access works and we've looked at an **IWA Family Camp** for an October weekend in 2019. These are one of IWA's recent innovations and the idea is to encourage youngsters to enjoy and get satisfaction from conserving our heritage waterways. AND the '**STOP PRESS**' news is that it's going to happen between 25 and 27 October.

*(Continued on page 18)*

# RESTORATION GALLERY AUG - NOV 2018



*Volunteers, young and not-so-young  
Picture: Stephen Bonser*



*Filling bags with ballast for the footings  
Picture: Stephen Bonser*

*Mat and back filling at point 3,400 (black arrow)  
About 1100 metres to go to get to the water at the  
winding hole.*

*Picture: Tony Bardwell*

*After October's work party looking towards Bridge 4a.  
The lining on the towpath side now beyond  
Whitehouses. The black arrow is at the 3400 metre  
mark.*

*Picture: Tony Bardwell*



**Not our restoration  
work but still  
'restoration.'**  
CRT dredging to clear  
the channel from  
Aston Clinton to  
Drayton Beauchamp

*Now you don't see it*

*But now you do!*

*Both views at the old A41  
crossing at Buckland Wharf.*

*Pictures: Les Needham*



*Who'd have believed it? A boat on  
the canal on the Wendover side of  
the restoration. More please!*

*Picture: Stephen Bonser*



# WRG-BITM BLOCK-LAYING WEEKEND

15-16 September



*...but you've still got the 'grunt' of getting them laid*

*Picture: Ed*

*You can offload the blocks the easy way. . .*

*Picture: Stephen Bonser*



*...or the hard way . . .*

*Picture: Ed*



*No, not slacking, just pausing for breath waiting for the next truckload of blocks!*

*Picture: Ed*



*...and this is what they were waiting for. Another truckload goes down into the canal bed at Little Tring*

*Picture Ed*



*The result of BITM's work Both sides lined, blocked and with coir rolls*

*Picture Tony Bardwell*

# RESTORATION OPEN DAY

## 2 SEPTEMBER 2018



*Picking the Grand Draw winning tickets, the Mayor and Michael preside over the event. And with our thanks a floral gift for the Mayor, and a WAT mug.*

*Pictures: Ed*



*The afternoon's circus act – the acrobatic dog on a paddleboard. We do assure our readers that no animals were harmed in the process!*

*Thanks to the Chiltern Canoe and Paddleboard Club for the entertainment and for coming along again and making use of the water in the restored sections*

*Pictures Ed*



*A quick getaway with the proceeds? Michael and Greta caught in the act!*

*Picture: Ed*

What a glorious late-summer afternoon for the second Open Day of the season. Cakes and teas went down a treat resulting in an income of £329. Michael and Greta Wright were kept busy with last-minute sales of Grand Draw tickets – an extra £216 into the kitty after which he invited Penny Hearn to draw the winners from the drum. You'll find Michael's comments about the Draw on p22.

The tour guides took five parties averaging twenty people to the 'work face', which kept Ray busy all afternoon explaining how we did it and answering questions

*Mike takes another group to the restoration site and is glad of the shade under Drayton bridge.*

*Picture: Ed*

*Entertaining(?) the visitors, the restoration team furiously laying base blocks to be ready for BITM*

*Picture: Ed*



With subscriptions, donations at the gate, sales and other miscellaneous items the event raised £919.

*'I have in my hand this piece of Bentomat®, no leaks for our time!'*

*Ray explains the waterproofing method to a group of interested visitors.*

*Picture: Ed*





# Letters to the Editor

*From John Lovelock who won first prize in the 2017 Grand Draw:*

Dear David,

The prize was for a 5-berth boat in October or November last year. My wife is a teacher plus I had no leave left at work so I contacted the MD who kindly offered us a generous discount on any boat for a 2018 booking hence our cruise in June.

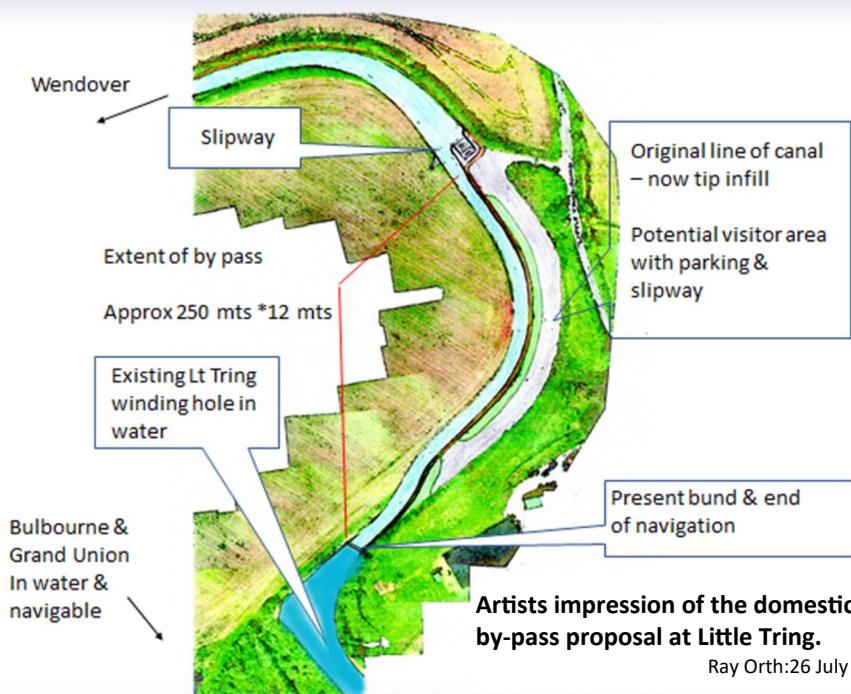
I met volunteers from WAT and IWA at Marsworth bottom lock this morning and mentioned that I won 1st Prize in the draw last year and at the end of June (in wonderful weather) had a marvellous cruise (courtesy of Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd) with family members on the Grand Union Canal from Leighton Buzzard to Braunston and back. They mentioned that you may like a photo taken during our holiday for your Winter edition of *Wendover Arm News*

Attached are a couple of photos taken during

our voyage. The first is showing Kingfisher emerging from the Three Locks at Stoke Hammond (England flags were flying for the World Cup) and the second is a stunning sunset at Stoke Bruerne bottom lock.

Kind regards

John Lovelock





# THE LITTLE TRING BYPASS PROPOSAL

## LOCAL INFORMATION AND CONSULATION MEETING

The Trust is extremely grateful for the assistance of Councillor Penny Hearn, Tring's Mayor this year for convening a meeting of interested parties on 7 November.

Present were local residents and farmers, as well as representatives from CRT and Hertfordshire CC, plus the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.

Chris Sargeant and Tony Bardwell represented WAT.

Chris presented the case for a by-pass if the contaminated original line of the canal could not be cleared at a reasonable cost. If that were the case and no by-pass option were available, then that would likely be the end of the Trust's hopes to restore the canal fully back to Wendover and the loss of a valuable resource and amenity for the community.

Chris remarked that the by-pass proposal could reduce the overall cost of restoring the canal and that the contaminated land lay on top of a (largely intact) bitumen layer laid down 150 years ago to try to seal the canal against leakage; that would help to immobilise the contamination. If the extra strip of land were to be used for the 'by-pass', the existing filled in section of canal could be used for ancillary activities, for example car parking, a simple boat launching ramp and angling. The possibility of the ancillary activities is proposed as part of a larger plan with regard to the visitor attraction at Little Tring Pumping station, currently under

restoration. CRT's representatives indicated their overall support for the Wendover Arm restoration.

Those attending were then asked for their opinions and feelings about the proposal, which were mainly positive. There were concerns raised about the increase in traffic and foot-fall that the restored canal could bring, concerns about undesirable use of any increased ancillary area, e.g. by trespassers and fly-tippers. Local residents stated a concern about being 'over-looked' and the possible effects of any leakage or flooding. A question was raised as to whether any land other than the canal line was contaminated, something that needs to be checked.

There were questions about where excavated spoil would go and if spoil had to be taken away from the area were there ways of avoiding heavy vehicle movements through the hamlet? It was also pointed out that the Trust's proposal would amount to 'development' rather than 'restoration'.

Not all the points raised were totally germane to the by-pass proposal but it is important that they are carefully considered. It was agreed that points raised and alternative suggestions put forward would be investigated by WAT and a further progress meeting would be held in approximately two months' time.

### **Restoration update** *(Continued from page 12)*

What could a Family Camp do? We think it might include attention to the woodland walk beside bridge 4, scrub clearance, cleaning of benches, planting of trees plants and bulbs, make and place bird boxes and bug stacks.

The cost is borne by those who attend and is set out and advertised by IWA. IWA covers all administration, H&S, transport, leadership and identifies accommodation. The Trust would need to identify the work to be done and have people available for access and advice. Tools are often supplied by IWA and donated to the host society at the end of weekend. WAT gets the benefit of work being done by and within the community, a lot of publicity – and we might even sign up a member or two!

### **LITTLE TRING TIP**

See article on p 16&17 regarding the current scheme and progress.

### **WORK PARTY SCHEDULES**

All work parties run from Friday through to the following Thursday

**4 January to 10 January**

**1 February to 7 February**

**1 March to 7 March**

Subject to the weather of course, the work will be to continue the profiling on stage 4 towards Bridge 4.

Because of the uncertainties in the starting date for CRT's contractors at Whitehouses we are not setting any work party dates beyond March 2019.

To volunteer contact Tony Bardwell:

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

### **TIDY FRIDAYS**

The dates for the next three months are  
**11 January, 8 February and 8 March**

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

☎07787355515 or [scubajr4@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Richard Bird Medal**



The Trust is delighted to record that Pete Bowers was one of the four recipients of this medal in 2018. This annual award is made by IWA to its members in recognition of the sustained efforts and benefits brought to it over many years.

Pete has been an IWA restoration volunteer since 1992 and, in the past five years has attended 22 WRG Canal Camps across the country. Not only that, Pete was a tireless restoration volunteer for WAT and then, after retiring from that work, now gives his all to Tidy Fridays.

Congratulations from us all Pete and well deserved!

## WHITEHOUSES AND THE FUTURE

### Introduction

The following brief explanation is an attempt to inform people who may not get our regular newsletters etc. and thus may not be aware of the plans for the old Whitehouses site. If reading this article you have further questions or want to know more please visit the Trust's website or contact any members of the Trust's Council who will answer your questions or put you in touch with 'a man who can.'

### History of Whitehouses

Briefly, the pumphouse was constructed in 1802 by Jonathon Woodhouse to lift water from Wilstone reservoir and to feed it into the Wendover Arm. It consisted of two adjoining buildings, the pump house itself and a cottage for the pump house manager and his family. Whitehouses became redundant around 1836 following the expansion and centralisation of pumping operations at Tringford.

Around 1842 the pump house itself was converted to a dwelling and coupled with the cottage; the whole site then became a residence for canal company staff. Some years later the houses were again vacated and left empty until 1938 when a gentleman by the name of Bernard Banfield, assisted by a London youth club with which he was associated, rented the property and once again improved the buildings, and converted them into one

large dwelling. During the war it became a refuge centre for German and Austrian refugees, mainly Jewish, escaping from Nazi occupied Europe.

After the war the house again became vacant and finally, in around 1953, the buildings were demolished.

### Future Plans

The current plan for the structure is to bring the site back on line as part of the water management system for the Arm and also the Tring summit. There are no plans to rebuild the houses but parts of the original structure are to be brought back into use and these consist of the

settlement tanks, pump shaft and culverts that remain to this day.

When it was used to pump water from the reservoir water was pumped up the pump shaft, through the settlement tanks

through the culverts into the canal. By this method water in the canal was maintained at the Tring summit level.

Today, the supply of water to the Arm required to maintain the depth comes from the pumps at Tringford Pumping Station. However there has to be a way of managing the depth in times when there is an excess water flowing into the Arm. In other words an overflow, or 'spill weir' as it is known, is required. To satisfy this requirement, Whitehouses is being restored and adapted to carry out this function as follows:

Rather than the water flowing out of the



three culverts in the Whitehouses wall, the water will flow into the culverts from the canal. Water will then fill the settlement tank, at the bottom of which has been built a low wall topped with planks (weir boards). The planks can be adjusted as required in order to control the depth in the canal at the correct level. If there is an excess of water in the canal it will flow into the tank, flow over the planks, out of the settlement tank, down the pump shaft and into the reservoir. In this way the level will be controlled. If Wilstone reservoir is full and no water needs to be pumped from Tringford then overspill goes into Gudgeon Brook and eventually joins the River Thames.

This is a significant historical part of the Arm's restoration as we are actually being able to bring back into operation part of the original infrastructure that was in use when the Arm was fully operational back in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The diagram below shows a pictorial view of the operation at Whitehouses with the water flowing from the canal, through the

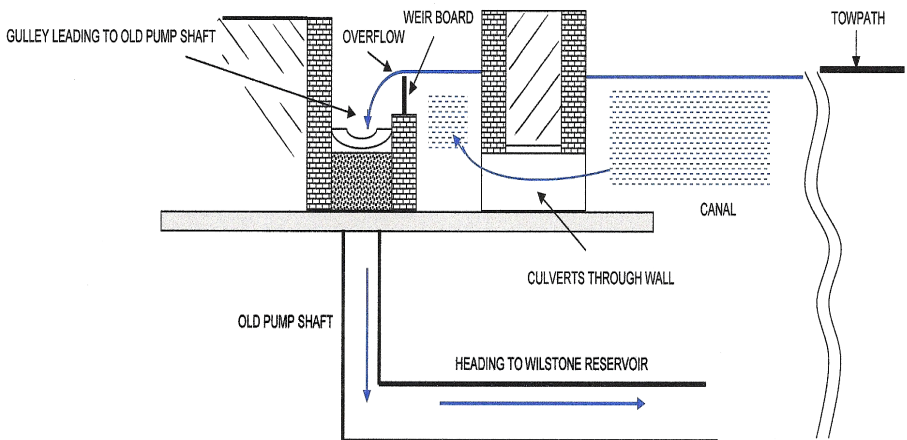
boards, into the gulley, down the pump shaft and into the reservoir.

## Progress Update

Much of the work has already been done with the front wall restored, the settlement tank restored, including the weir board wall. The gulley and feed to the pump shaft has also been completed.

The facility for draining the canal for maintenance has also been reinstated and the original rack-and-pinion gear used to raise the gate paddle to drain the canal is now back in its original position on top of the wall.

All that is left to do is the completion of the canal and weir structure leading to the culverts immediately in front of the wall. This final part of the operation is planned for the Spring of 2019 after which the water level maintenance facility will be complete, the Trust can 're-water' the next section from Bridge 4a past Whitehouses and water can flow into Wilstone Reservoir.



# Autumn Boating to Lechlade

by Nigel Williams

Health problems prevented my using our narrowboat in 2017 but by September I had the wish to at least enjoy a week before the approach of winter.

We decided to cruise up the River Thames to Lechlade. With only four locks from our mooring on the South Oxford before reaching Dukes Cut (one of the two entrances onto the Thames) we then had the benefit of keepers at the majority of the Thames locks.

We overnighted at the 24 hour free mooring at Eynsham Lock and the following morning purchased a one week's licence there for £54.90. The weather on the Saturday was very poor but we reached Newbridge with a dinner booking at the Maybush Inn. There are two pubs either side of the river here. This pub has changed hands since our last visit in 2016 and we received good service although disappointed that hot food was served on cold plates. When questioned the waiter said they had a plate warmer – we wondered why it was not used.

By Sunday lunchtime the rain had stopped and we left our mooring at 11.45 a.m. The following five days were sunny although chilly in the evenings. The wood burner was used daily – a problem with the central heating system still remained, despite two previous attempts by the Engineer to solve it; perhaps it'll be third time lucky?

We also moored at Radcot on the way up river. There was virtually no traffic and during the whole return journey we only shared one lock. The pub at Radcot is unusual in serving food on a Sunday evening up to about 6 pm.

Upon arrival at Lechlade there were only two boats moored south of the bridge. A short walk into the town, past the old Toll House, revealed that both our favourite restaurants had closed this year – there now appears to be only a Fish & Chip Shop and the usual Indian.

The first stop on the return journey was the Plough Inn at Kelmscott, which is within easy walking distance of the nearest mooring. We met a friend there and had an enjoyable meal, probably the best of the week. The Grade 1 property, Kelmscott Manor, summer home of William Morris, was built around 1600 and is reached a few hundred yards before the pub.

Our final overnight stop was at Tadpole

Bridge with moorings offered by the Trout Inn (however it can only take about 2/3 boats depending on length). Once again this hostelry has changed hands since our previous visit.

We covered about 55 miles

in all and apart from a leaking water pump the home mooring was reached without incident.



*Early morning sunshine at Tadpole Bridge*

**PRIZE-WINNING NUMBERS DRAWN AT OPEN DAY ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2018**

- |      |   |               |
|------|---|---------------|
| 1st  | <i>A week on a canal boat, donated by Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd.</i> |               |
|      | Ticket 24060  | A. Evans      |
| 2nd  | <i>Day boat hire, donated by Narrowboatdayhire.com*</i>           |               |
|      | Ticket 04889  | T. Smith      |
| 3rd  | <i>Virgin experience day – Visit to the SHARD for two people</i>  |               |
|      | Ticket 00046  | 'Brian'       |
| 4th  | <i>£100 Cash prize</i>  |               |
|      | Ticket 17955  | S Richards    |
| 5th  | <i>£50 Cash prize</i>   |               |
|      | Ticket 01518  | R. Woollatt   |
| 6th  | <i>Royal Worcester 'Lock-keepers' Cottage' Plate</i>              |               |
|      | Ticket 01906  | J. Barnaby    |
| 7th  | <i>Garden centre voucher – £25, donated by Mrs G Wright</i>       |               |
|      | Ticket 11343  | Mr D R Bury   |
| 8th  | <i>£20 Cash prize</i>   |               |
|      | Ticket 01223  | Mr Morris     |
| 9th  | <i>Ladies fashion necklace</i>                                    |               |
|      | Ticket 20136  | C & R Thomas  |
| 10th | <i>Gentleman's watch</i>  |               |
|      | Ticket 02758  | Mrs J Burnip  |
| 11th | <i>£5 Boots' token</i>  |               |
|      | Ticket 07767  | B Perkins     |
| 12th | <i>£5 Boots' token</i>  |               |
|      | Ticket 18027  | Mrs S Emerson |

\*The winner has declined his prize and wishes it to be offered to raise funds for charity – and what better charity than WAT? So the Trust is inviting sealed bids to auction it off. Closing date 15 January 2019, bid form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

As an indicator the boat can accommodate 10. The prize can be claimed at anytime but preferably not during school holidays. If you wanted to hire the boat the cost would be around £150/day.

## And the last word on this year's Grand Draw from the promoter

Well here we are again. The pressure's off now, the Draw has taken place, the winners, bar one, notified and a few 'thank-yous' received. At the time of writing this piece efforts to contact Mr T. Smith, one of the winners, have failed (I won't go into my methods, but previously they've been successful.) It may be that by the time this article has been published contact will have been made . . . fingers crossed.

*(Editor's note: 'T Smith' has now been contacted and as you'll see from the list of winners had declined the prize; we are going to auction it in a 'sealed-bid' auction, details on the enclosed flyer.)*

The actual draw is, to me, the main event. The culmination of my efforts. There must be 12 winners, will they be local or from all corners of the UK? I'm always interested in the source of the counterfoils. Most people will fill in the counterfoils – but sometimes just the front ticket is completed! Around 10% of the issued tickets were sold – a reasonable return by my estimate.

We seem always to be blessed with fine weather for the Draw, no exception this year. Despite the closing date on the tickets, people want to purchase tickets up to the time when the Mayor plunged her hand into the drum, rather disconcerting. Then the fun begins; deciphering hand writing; telephone numbers; postcodes; trying to get addresses. There are the letters to winners and negotiating with sponsors.

This was my last year as promoter and a memorable one too. The Chairman tells me the money raised in 2018 paid for the restoration of six metres of canal. Now that puts it in context! Thank you all for generously supporting the Grand Draw and the restoration.

*Michael Wright*

## Yet Another Grand Day Out!

Our second canal trip of the year took place in September with seven guests plus Nigel Williams as helmsman with Michael and Greta Wright as crew.

Unlike the previous trip in May we were indoctrinated with H&S rules thus delaying our departure so we telephoned Chris Sargeant to postpone meeting us at Little Tring with the lunch goodies by quarter of an hour

Although not as warm as May it was dry with some sunshine. About an hour and a half after leaving we reached Little Tring, moored-up and had lunch onboard, supplied courtesy of M&S.

Following lunch some of the party walked as far as Whitehouses to see the latest restoration progress and all were impressed by the hard work carried out.

We departed around 2.30pm arriving back at the marina at 4pm having met the boat crewman on the towpath just outside. He clearly didn't trust Nigel's 40 year experience with narrowboats to negotiate the moored craft inside!



*Cruising Tring Cutting*

*Approaching the junction with the Wendover Arm*





# EVENTS UPDATE

From Jenny Brice

## 2019

Following my plea for someone to take over from Jo Orth, Sheila Barry has kindly offered to do the on-the-day organisation. Please give her your support and volunteer to help her.

So far WAT has planned to be at two fêtes in 2019:

6 May: Aldbury Fête

29 June: Wendover Junior School  
PTA afternoon fête

At the moment we have not set dates for any **Restoration Open Days**

## Will you help us in 2019?

If it's only for an hour or so we'd welcome your help. There's a

### VOLUNTEERS FORM

loose in this issue and we'd be delighted if you could complete and return it

Whoops! It should have said Heygates **flour** mill in the autumn edition NOT Heygates **flower** mill



## Local IWA Branch Meetings

### CHILTERN BRANCH

All meetings on Wednesdays at 8pm Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont HP8 4UD

#### 23 Jan 19

Going Boldly (Across, Beneath and Beyond) the Ocean with Jeremy Batch

#### 27 Feb 19

Cruising the River Charente, a talk by Bobby Cowling

#### 27 Mar 19

Branch AGM

#### 24 Apr 19

The River Nene and the Fenland Waterways, a talk by John Pomfret

### MILTON KEYNES BRANCH

All meetings on Thursdays at Bletchley Royal British Legion, Melrose Avenue, Bletchley MK3 6PU

#### 17 Jan 19

The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals, with Brian Nelson.

#### 21 Feb 19

Branch AGM, and Canal Boatmen: their origins & development, a talk by Roger Squires.

#### 21 March 19

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Trust, with Jane Hamilton, Trust Chairman.

#### 25 April 19

The Manchester Ship Canal, a talk by Richard Thomas



# FUND-RAISING UPDATE

## EASYFUNDRAISING

Nigel Williams writes:

In November 2013 I suggested to Council that **Easyfundraising** would be a way of earning additional funds for WAT at no cost to the Trust. At that time **Easyfundraising** had signed up approximately 2,700 retailers including shops, insurance companies, Amazon, Booking.com, Expedia, Aviva, Sky etc. and once a customer had registered detailing their preferred charity cashback would follow once an order had been placed with the appropriate outlet. There are now 3,300 retailers.

John Brooman, our previous Treasurer, was the first to test the system and, as far as I can recall, he earned about 7p on a very small purchase. This proved that the idea was successful and I set a personal target of raising £2000 by this method. We have now reached that total in five years equating to around £8 per week for WAT which almost the equivalent of one new member each week.

**Easyfundraising** has a donation reminder

toolbar which can be downloaded as a memory jogger prior to any purchase.

Having exceeded my hoped-for initial goal the next major target will be £5,000 but to achieve this we need more supporters. At present we have 63\* but if we could achieve 100 the new target could be possible in 3/4 years. WAT will receive £5 bonus for every time someone successfully joins and spends £5 or more.

The purchaser does not pay a single penny extra but WAT benefits with every purchase. Give it a try!

\*At the time of going to press the total was £2147 with, now, 64 members.

A promotional graphic for Easyfundraising. It features a large white speech bubble on a dark red background. Inside the bubble, the text reads: 'Psst...! Raise free donations when you shop online!'. Below this, there are three numbered steps: 1. Visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk, 2. Support: Wendover Arm Trust, and 3. Shop & raise with over 2,700 retailers including: followed by logos for Amazon, Argos, Expedia, and John Lewis. The Easyfundraising logo and website URL are at the bottom right of the bubble.

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

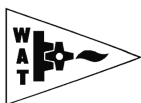
- 1 Visit: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- 2 Support: Wendover Arm Trust
- 3 Shop & raise with over 2,700 retailers including:  
amazon Argos Expedia John Lewis

**easyfundraising**  
org.uk

## DUNSTABLE AND DISTRICT BOAT CLUB

Continues to support the work of restoration with frequent small sums, and have just donated £200 being the proceeds of their annual Harvest Festival. As well as that Rose and Graham's bric-a-brac stall at the Boat Club continues to pay dividends and a cheque for a further £157 has been presented to the Trust; since Rose and Graham started the stall it has raised a total of £3815, that's 76 metres of restored canal that one man's junk (but another man's treasure) has funded.

The Trust's grateful thanks go to the members of the Boat Club for the support they give us.



## WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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**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](http://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.

### **In Brief:**

**CRT** has announced 200 jobs 'at risk': As well as the recent reduction in the number of areas that cover the country, managerial staff in Operations and Construction, Volunteer Development and Development & Engagement Managers have been advised that they are 'at risk' of redundancy.

**Buckingham Canal Society** placed the steel beams on bridge 1 at Cosgrove over the Remembrance weekend. It only took them five minutes (well, it did in the time-lapse photography!) Work seems well on target to have the bridge completed during 2019.

**Bedford & MK Waterway** A short section of the waterway near the new Campbell Park Marina has been dug, not filled with water yet but it will be early in the New Year. 'Just a few yards' the Trust records but it makes the breakthrough from the GU mainline that otherwise would have been expensive. Also, at the Bedford end dredging has started to extend the head of navigation to Kempston Mill from where it is planned to operate John Bunyan, their trip boat. Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.

Their newsletter records another record year for the John Bunyan with 7500 passengers and this despite low river levels this summer and a shortage of Boatmasters.

# SITUATIONS VACANT

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Trust is seeking an Editor for the Newsletter as the present Editor is stepping back to concentrate on other publications that are vital to the image of the Trust.

### The job entails:

- ♦ Gathering news stories and pictures, editing them and laying-out text and pictures to produce four issues each year.
- ♦ Producing a print-ready PDF document.

(Arrangements for printing, distribution and stock-holding will be made by others as will management of advertising.)

Applicants would benefit from having some knowledge of publication layout principles and typography and the ability to use computer setting applications, no one setting application is mandated.

Please apply to the Chairman. For further information please feel free to speak to the current Editor.

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# WENDOVER ARM TRUST

## A NARROWBOAT FOR A DAY

The winner of the second prize in this year's GRAND DRAW has declined it and has offered it back to the Trust to raise more money, which it will do by way of a sealed bid auction.

If you would like to have a boat for a day\* then put your bid here:

My bid is £

Add your name and address and telephone number here:

.....  
.....  
.....

And send it in a sealed envelope marked '**day out on a boat**' to:

The Grand Draw Organiser,  
Michael Wright  
54 Meadowcroft  
St Albans  
AL1 1UF

To be received by 15 January 2019

Envelopes will be opened at random and the highest offer will win. In the case of two or more identical bids the first opened will be declared the winner

## ALL THE BEST!

\*departure and return point: Cow Roast Marina, Tring. The boat can take a maximum of ten people. The boat is not available during school holidays and for preference you should plan your day out on a weekday. The winner will be notified of the contact with whom to make arrangements for using the boat.

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED

## FOR THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST'S EVENTS TEAM

What do we need? **WE NEED PEOPLE** to assist in running our stand at various local sites during the year:

**MAN THE STAND FOR AN HOUR OR SO**

Or longer if you can.

**EXPLAIN THE ASPECTS OF RESTORING THE WENDOVER ARM**

**RUN THE NAIL GAME**

Our game to attract the public to the stand

Adults and children alike It's addictive!

**ASSEMBLE THE GAZEBO AND DISPLAY STANDS**

Before event, or dismantle at the close.

**TOW THE WAT TRAILER TO LOCAL EVENTS**

Retrieve from the Wiggington garage and tow to event

Return at the close of event.

☐☐☐☐☐

## PLEASE HELP

Contact Jenny Brice from the Events Team:

. . . Look on the website: [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

. . . Or E mail [events@wendovertrust.co.uk](mailto:events@wendovertrust.co.uk)

. . . Or call 01494 873298 or 07547 181857

. . . Or fill in and return this form to:

Jenny Brice, Woodstock, Cedars Close, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 0LL

---

Yes I would like to help. Tick choice above.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

Telephone: .....