

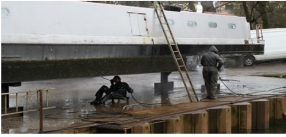


WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Summer/Autumn 2019



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Chairman's Column

As I write we are enjoying holiday weather as it should be – bright and sunny, pleasantly warm but not unbearably hot – a typical English summer.

Our long time Newsletter editor David Page has now stepped down after many years of devoted service to the trust putting together printing and publishing each edition. Please join me in thanking David for his magnificent contribution in this vital area of communicating with our members and the world outside.

In addition David has also handled printing and publication of our many leaflets, forms and posters etc and will be continuing to do so.

It is now with great pleasure we welcome Carol Williams as our new newsletter editor in this her first edition. Carol's husband Boyd is a long term



member of our restoration volunteer team and also puts together the videos of work in progress which we show at our open days and AGM.

You can contact Carol with any items or pictures for the newsletter or “letters to the editor” by email at : newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk or leave messages on the trust mobile number 07547 181 857.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue our volunteers led by operations director Tony

Bardwell have forged ahead taking advantage good weather and are now at bridge 4. Works to complete Whitehouses in the canal bed should be starting soon allowing the section between the two wooden footbridges to be re-watered, probably by early next year. The landscaping of the visitor area above Whitehouses needs to be completed also before machine access is cut off from Bridge 4.

We are on an exciting journey – come along for the ride !
Thank you all for your support.



Chris Sargeant – Chairman

Email: chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Mobile: 07457 181 857

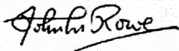


Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the thirtieth Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held on Wednesday 30th October in The Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton, Bucks starting at 2.00pm

Agenda

1. Apologies of Absence
 2. Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held on 31st October 2018
 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, approve the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust for the Year ended on 5th April 2018/2019 and the Report of the Independent Examiner thereon.
 8. To report 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

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 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 2019 AGM and the agenda of business is on the previous page. Tea and cakes will be provided. Please do try to attend, you can just turn up on the day.

Timetable of Events

- 2.00pm Welcome
- 2.30pm AGM
- 3.30pm Tea and Cakes
- 4.00pm Club 100 draw/raffle
- 4.15pm Guest Speaker: Sam Anderson-Brown CRT
- 5pm Finish



*Sam Anderson-Brown: Partnership and external relationships
Manager at CRT*

**This year the venue has changed to The Anthony Hall,
Aston Clinton.**

Address: The Anthony Hall, 33 London Road, Aston Clinton,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. HP22 5HG



Directions: Travel down Stablebridge Road, turn left - straight on past The Bell. The Hall is opposite a used car sales on the left. There are plenty of car parking spaces available.

Wendover Arm Trust helps build local partnerships

At the recent Parliamentary reception hosted by The Inland Waterways Association (IWA), Leanda Richardson from the Wendover Arm Trust met with Jo Henderson, the IWA's new Media & Campaigns officer who was talking about the charity's annual Pull Snap Stomp campaign which looks to eradicate Himalayan balsam.

The Wendover Arm does not suffer from this non-native invasive plant, unlike many other waterways that are being overrun by it. Leanda mentioned a link with Puddingstone Distillery based in Tring, which produces the artisan gin brand 'Campfire Gin'. Each year, Puddingstone produces a limited edition run of Himalayan balsam Campfire Gin which has become a firm favourite amongst gin connoisseurs.



Puddingstone Distillery originally produced the gin in partnership with the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, using the Himalayan balsam the volunteers were clearing from their sites. They were so successful in their clearance that there is very little Himalayan

balsam in their area this year. This meant that Puddingstone were looking for other areas where Himalayan balsam grows.

Leanda put Jo Henderson and IWA in touch with Puddingstone Distillery and the rest is history.

The first Balsam Bash where IWA will collect blossom for Puddingstone Distillery took place on 13 July, 2019 in Aylesbury. It was a pull that was run by the River Thames Conservation Trust on Bear Brook, a small tributary to the River Thames, which is

completely covered in Himalayan balsam. From that one discussion with Jo Henderson, Leanda's networking has led to relationships being built not only with IWA, but also Puddingstone Distillery, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the River Thames Conservation Trust. The more local partnerships that can be developed, the more

successful a local project becomes. Word is spread and support is gained. If you know anyone who you think we should get in touch with, please let us know. If you are interested in finding out more about the Himalayan balsam gin, please visit:

<https://puddingstonedistillery.com/limited-editions-gins/>

Word Search: All Things Canal



- ARM
- BANK
- BARGE
- BED
- BRIDGE
- CANAL
- CANOEING
- DUCKS
- HERONS
- LOCKS
- MOORHENS
- PATH
- REEDS
- RESTORATION
- SWANS
- WATER
- WINDINGHOLE

H	R	K	N	M	C	H	C	V	B	V	D	M	B	E
E	E	G	O	C	R	A	I	N	A	A	H	J	L	W
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S	D	T	R	D	E	U	R	A	N	I	O	T	Q	U
E	H	J	O	V	L	W	O	I	L	A	N	A	C	T
I	K	M	T	S	H	Y	D	C	A	F	C	G	R	J
S	J	A	S	N	E	N	M	O	O	R	H	E	N	S
D	K	V	E	A	I	E	G	B	T	Q	T	P	T	I
E	X	C	R	W	U	H	R	P	O	A	Q	O	P	H
B	R	G	U	S	J	I	T	H	W	L	O	C	K	S
L	S	G	H	D	D	F	L	J	K	P	K	C	I	S
M	Y	B	D	G	Y	P	B	M	Y	P	G	L	P	L
V	U	P	E	S	M	U	D	T	U	Y	W	H	Z	S

Making the impossible possible!



Roger Leishman, 87 this year, has just retired from his role as Restoration Director for the Trust after

devoting over 24 years dedicated to restoration of The Wendover Arm.

Mooted in the 1960's through IWA and Grand Union Canal Societies, Ray Orth recalls meeting Roger in 1993 during early undergrowth clearance.

In 1995, recognising his extensive civil engineering background Roger became Work party Coordinator and Council member.

The demolition of Little Tring bridge in March 1973, considered unsafe by the local council, had completely severed

the canal and in 1996 council asked Roger to lead moves to reinstate it.

With BW engineers and surveyors, ill defined canal boundaries were established and following much negotiation and fundraising, work began to rebuild the bridge in July 2000.

Restoration also began from Tringford Stop Lock to the



Winding Hole and Roger became restoration Director.

Finally 6th March 2005 this phase was re-watered, a tremendous milestone and the Trust.

March 28th 2005 saw the first boats through Little Tring Bridge in over 100 years led Roger Lewis's Aramis and Roger and Margaret Leishman's May Beth—a fitting tribute.



Getting the Bridge reinstated truly made the restoration a possibility once again.

Roger moved on to ensure the new A41 by pass did not compromise the canal, through patient negotiation with all parties. Provision for the

adjacent Winding Hole was included.

Becoming Vice Chairman he also received the IWA Christopher Power Prize in the recognition of his contribution.

More problems overcome included developing capping to protect the under bed pipe, installing footbridges to accommodate footpaths across the canal and through trails establishing sound lining procedures for the canal.

“I for one consider working with Roger over the last 25 years has been an honour and privilege , a great learning opportunity and a very enjoyable experience.”

Ray Orth, Assistant Restoration Director until 2019 when he relocated to Dorset.

Council will be offering Roger the position of Vice President in recognition of his tremendous service at our AGM

Operations Report - June 2019

Health and Safety We had a minor injury to a finger this month. This was caused by being trapped between two concrete blocks whilst they were being laid. The result was a small flap of skin on the fingertip. The wound was cleaned up and bandaged.

Apparently, healing is going well.

We move and handle many concrete blocks and there is little scope for changing the method or introducing handling tools beyond what we already have. Unless anyone has any bright ideas? The view from Bridge 4 (several views this month.)



The main thing to note is that the lining is now right up to bridge 4. Despite storm Miguel the spoil available to back fill the banks was far too dry to allow it to be placed to the correct thickness. However later in the week we had lashings of wind and rain but too late to help us. The exposed Bentomat will withstand some weathering and we will cover it up next month.

As can be seen in this picture and the next is that the lower edge of the mooring wall has now been exposed ready for the bed lining to be laid and blocks put on to the mat. The line of spoil that can be seen was placed there for next time in the hope that it will have soaked up the “right amount of moisture so that we can use it to backfill the bank.

In this view the soil on top of the mooring wall has been scraped back and levelled to start creating a grassed area. Most of the scrub and dead wood has been removed. The remaining desirable trees have been reduced in height and “pollarded”.



New trees have been planted and lots more are due in the Autumn. The point where the towpath lining has been stopped is where several features meet up. There will be concrete, and block work to connect with the pipe capping, the bridge bed and the bank lining blocks. The Bentomat will be tailored round the various features as we go.



This view shows the end of the bridge support wall (abutment) and the lining so far.

Another view from the top of the mooring wall.



Landscaping with Tidy Friday

Work continued on the whole area, stretching from the mooring wall right back to the Whitehouses compound. The previous pictures show the extent of the works. Also, as can be seen in the view above, that hard work has now created the start of a grassy picnic/mooring area.

The grass area around the Little Tring Winding hole and the “Oak tree” was cut back and tidied up.

Other things

We are considering another two-week work party for July. An extra week could be added after the advertised dates. This would depend on the level of volunteer support indicated.

I hope to hear from you!

Tony Bardwell, Operations Director

Tidy Friday dates

This entails light work keeping our canal, bridges and towpath looking spick and span and cared for. This is organised by John Reynolds, for further details or to volunteer please phone John on 07787 355 515.

August 9th 2019
September 13th 2019
October 11th 2019
November 8th 2019
December 13th 2019



Work Party Schedules

Working parties are held throughout the year, and typically take place from Friday to Thursday around the first weekend of each month. Please see the dates below:

Friday August 2nd - Thursday August 8th, 2019
Friday September 6th - Thursday September 12th, 2019
Friday October 4th - Thursday October 10th, 2019
Friday November 1st - Thursday November 7th, 2019
Friday December 6th - Thursday December 12th, 2019

For further information please contact Tony Bardwell via email, operations@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk or 01296 634 973. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Membership Update

We **welcome** two new members, one a local runner and another who attended one of Clive's talks. This brings our total membership to **652**.



Club 100 Lottery

The spring draw was made at the April council meeting. There were 195 subscribers in this draw, down 2 on the previous one. The winners were...



£234, Mrs Janet Elwin



£97.50, James Griffin



£39, Rosemary Pennells

This is a members only draw. A £15 subscription gives you 4 chances to win a year. Approx. 50% of the money subscribed is redistributed as prize, the remaining money will be used to restore the Wendover Arm. If you would like to take part, please visit the website, www.wendoverartrust.co.uk

The next draw will be in July.

Ray Orth

We wish Ray & Jo Orth every happiness in their new home in Dorset and thank them both for many years of devotion to the trust – this tribute from John Dodwell says it all.....

The end of an era.....and the start of the next one!

I just wanted to thank you for everything you've done over many years for the Wendover.

I well remember when I brought my boat to Little Tring (2013) and was walking along the towpath to Wendover when we met and you explained what was happening with the restoration. It was only later that I found out the vital role you played....and indeed had played for many years. You may recall that my own involvement with the Arm goes back to the later 1960s when we tried to stop the lowering of Halton Bridge, so I'm very pleased to see the restoration

progress...

The work that you and Roger have done to sustain the restoration has been fantastic. Your role in making sure everything went as it should (and I'm sure there have been times when it didn't!) is so, so



important...and not always recognised.

Now the time has come for you to move....and so start the next era. Our loss.....Dorset's gain! Grateful thanks also to Ray's wife Jo who was a long time helper with our refreshments at Open Days and other functions.

**John Dodwell, former Trustee
director CRT**

Events Report by Chris Sargeant

WAT Open Day – Drayton Beauchamp - July 7th 2019

Blessed with wonderful weather and a magnificent group of helpers this was one of our best Open days for some time. Attendances were well up thanks to better publicity on social media and many new faces came along – led precisely at opening time (12.30) by an eighteen strong band of walkers who planned their visit after seeing our website. Every crumb of the delicious cakes on offer went and over 200 teas were served ! Several “firsts” proved successful including a mini bus shuttle between Drayton Beauchamp and back to reduce walking distance to the work site for those who wished (with thanks to Dick Pilkinton) and our own Clive Johnson doing restoration talks in the church.

Near the site our “Little Lady in a Hard Hat, who does a Man’s Size Job” Leanda Richardson and Bob Wheal welcomed visitors and explained what we do.

Numerous offers of help and some new memberships were appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who helped or came along and to Drayton Beauchamp Church for their hospitality.



Bob Wheal talking to a group of visitors by Bridge 4 and inset

Aldbury Spring Fayre May 2019

Our stand, was busy all afternoon and whilst children flocked to our ever popular nail game. Parents were interested in restoration progress and upcoming family work camp in October half term.

The event exuded a happy atmosphere and our many visitors were most complimentary about the work of the Trust and progress to date.

Thanks to Jenny Brice for organising, John Reynolds for towing the trailer and for Beryl Hunter, Margaret Dunn, David Page and Chris Sargeant for helping to man the stand.



Teddy Bear Abseil



Beryl Hunter on the stand

Boat Trip April 2019

Our tranquil first boat trip of the year from Cow roast Marina welcomed a full complement for a leisurely cruise up the Grand Union to Bulbourn Junction and up the Wendover Arm to Little Tring Winding Hole.

Once moored and over lunch on board former Asst Restoration Director Ray Orth chatted and gave our guests a brief up date on our restoration progress to date.

David Page did a sterling job as skipper of the Kernel Cruises NB Albert for the day helped by yours truly in the galley.



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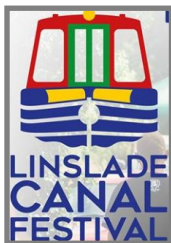
Rickmansworth Canal Festival May 2019

This festival attracts over 25,000 during the weekend, and has 100 narrow boats moored 3 deep along this stretch of the canal. Jenny was on the IWA stand advertising the family canal camp.

Jenny Brice on the stand

Future Events

WAT will be present at the following up and coming events. Please come along to see us on the stand, we can bring you up to date with the current work progress.



**Saturday
27th July**

**Tiddenfoot
Waterside Park**



**Saturday 3rd August
Long Marston Show**

**Friday 25th – Sunday
27th October
IWA Family Camp**



Trust Vacancies

Membership Secretary

This entails maintaining and updating the database and records. Also receiving subscriptions. This can be done from your own home in just a few hours a month.

Please contact Katherine Deaney for more information.
membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

September Boat Trip

The date for our next boat trip is **Tuesday 10th September**. We will depart Cow Roast at 10am cruise through the Tring Cutting to the end of the Wendover Arm. At the winding hole we will stop for those who would like to go on a guided walk to see the restoration team's works. Then a buffet lunch on board and cruise back to Cow Roast arriving about 4.30pm.

The trip is about 9 miles long and if you so desire you can have a go at being helmsman under expert tuition.

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

Anyone can come please contact Katherine on 07547 181 857 or email membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

👉 **Join Us!** 👈



Regards from your new Editor
Carol Williams (left)
Assisted by Janine Jones (right).



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 181 857 **Website:** www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Advertising Enquiries:

Contact the Publicity Director, (Email addresses on p3)

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. The Wendover Arm Trust, Registered Charity No. 801190.

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