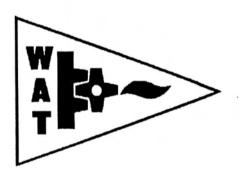
# Wendover Arm News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 10 Summer 1992

## THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

A non-profit distributing Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 2353392, Incorporated 1989 Registered Charity No. 801190

**Registered Office:** 

2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor,

Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NT

PRESIDENT

Roger W Cork, FCA, FICM, FIPA.

CHAIRMAN Roger Lewis

Hastoe Hill, Tring, Herts. HP23 6LU

Tel: Tring (0442 82) 3378

VICE-CHAIRMAN lan Packe

2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NT Tel: Hemel Hempstead (0442) 214126

SECRETARY Janet Packe

2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NT Tel: Hemel Hempstead (0442) 214126

TREASURER Beryl Martin

12 Chipperfield Close, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 0EP Tel: Milton Keynes (0908) 312239

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Barry Martin

12 Chipperfield Close, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 0EP Tel: Milton Keynes (0908) 312239

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard House

'Kingsclere', Lower Icknield Way, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5JS

PUBLICITY OFFICER Rod Saunders

Tel: Day - (0296) 661920; Eves - (06284) 72500

SALES OFFICER Bob Wheal

Tel: Leighton Buzzard (0525) 381614

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bernard Banfield

John Brooman

Graeme Lockhart

IWA NOMINEE Alan Swaisland

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is the third time I write to say "What a wonderful Festival we have just enjoyed". Thanks to the hard work of a relatively small Festival Committee for 9 months preceding the event and the efforts of so many of you - the members of the Trust - during the Bank Holiday, we all enjoyed an excellent weekend. There is a full report starting on page 5.

It is gratifying to know that we had an even greater number of civic dignitaries to support us at the opening on the Sunday, and many have written since the event to congratulate us on the quality of it, and promising their council's support for the future of the restoration.

Those of you who have walked the Arm recently will have noticed that British Waterways staff have been busy painting and re-pointing Perch Bridge at Halton. It looks vastly improved - thank you Caroline Clark!!

BW have recently announced that they have appointed a new South-East Regional Manager, Peter Cowen. Mr Cowen replaces Robin Garrett who is now at BW Headquarters. We wish Robin well in his new appointment and the Council and I thank him for all of the assistance he has given to both the Trust, and the Wendover Arm Group before the WAT formation. At the same time we are looking forward to meeting Mr Cowen, and working with him to achieve our aim of full restoration of the Wendover Arm.

I look forward to meeting you all in the autumn, at the AGM on 30th September or at the first work party on 4th October.

Roger Lewis

Copy date for the next issue is 12th September 1992.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Again our membership has increased. At 17th June, statistics were:

Single members 113
Family members 130
Corporate members 4
Honorary members 3
TOTAL 250

This gives a total of 381 members, assuming that a Family membership is 2 people.

#### Payment method

Cheques/Cash 103 with 11 on Deed of Covenant Bankers Order 144 with 102 on Deed of Covenant Honorary 3

Please remember - it saves the Trust money on renewals if you can set up a Bankers Order, and if you sign a Deed of Covenant we are able to reclaim the basic rate Income Tax, thereby increasing the value of your subscription at no extra cost to you.

The following new members have joined the Trust since the last report:

Mr & Mrs G Bisgrove	Hemel Hempstead
Mr & Mrs R L Butler	Parslows Hillock
Mr & Mrs A Eager	Berkhamsted
Mr I M Fletcher	Wheathampstead
Mr C L Johnson	Luton
Mr & Mrs J Lewis	Penn
Mr & Mrs P Payne	Duston
Mr D A Robinson & Miss S Kay .	London
Mr & Mrs Santon	Aston Clinton
Rev & Mrs J Wyatt	Wendover

#### Welcome to the Trust

Don't forget - if you are moving home, PLEASE tell us.

Barry Martin - Membership Secretary

#### Letters

#### Prop Shaft Perils from Mrs Molly Sim

Dear Editor.

Is it too late to tell you about our 'prop shaft' experiences? (No! -Ed) (see issues 8 & 9) Last year on the way to our very first National Festival in our very own boat, we were trundling along the North Stratford, minding our own business as you might say, admiring the views and saying a quick 'thank heavens', no more locks for a while, when there was a sudden jerk and we slewed across and hit a tree on the opposite bank. Very disconcerting if it is the first time it has happened to you. After a few reverse thrusts it seemed easier so we pressed on to Kings Norton junction. This was the time for the first exploration down the weed hatch so off came the cover and after some fishing about and grunting my son began to pull something out. At first it appeared to be just bits of rope and fishing line but next came the sleeve of what appeared to be a green Cub jersey. We did wonder if the owner might follow! This was our first weed hatch experience and not that exceptional you might say.

On the return journey, however, we were doing well and decided we could make it up the Atherstone flight before dark and some welcome supper. Just below lock no 3 there was an almighty clonk and we virtually stopped short. We had to clear the last three locks as the lock keeper was waiting to close and drain the flight to do some emergency repairs to the top gate of No 2 lock, so we limped up to the top clanking most alarmingly and fearing the worst. The keeper was very kind and helpful and allowed us to moor by the water point for the night and offered us tools and torches should we need them. Off came the weed hatch again. My son started to feel around and discovered something metal. It was very tough and we couldn't get the cutters or the hacksaw to it so it was a case of strain and struggle, push and heave, grunt and swear for about half an hour. Eventually it came off - an old electric kettle element! We couldn't understand how it could have wrapped itself round the prop at all but were very relieved to get it off and find no damage done.

By this time it was nine o'clock so we made for the nearest Fish and Chip shop and did they taste good! After that, just common old weeds were a doddle.

#### Yours sincerely, Mrs Molly Sim

Ed. - Very pleased to hear that I'm not the only one to pick up strange objects! It does raise the question - why should anyone want to boil the canal in the first place?! Keep the letters coming in - otherwise you get too much of my ramblings in the Newsletter which can't be healthy (or interesting!)

# A visit to the K & A Canal Centre at Devizes.

On Sunday 23rd February, Roger Lewis, Ian Packe, Beryl & Barry Martin attended an indoor

meeting of the Southern Canals Association in the Canal Centre on the Kennet and Avon canal at Devizes. The weather was overcast but the warmth of our welcome soon cast any gloom aside and after a welcome from Robin Higgs, the Association chairman, we watched "Enchanted Waters" - an entertaining audio/visual produced by Arthur Dungate.

The speakers who followed gave advice on how to "make friends with local authorities" and stressed the importance of making certain that restoration schemes are included in all local development plans. Proper engineering studies such as the W.S.Atkins report on the Wendover Arm are an essential part of this process.

Then more audio/visual entertainment - "Basingstoke Canal, the Royal Re-opening" - great stuffl - a marvellous achievement! After lunch David Stevenson, IWA National Chairman, spoke of the difficulties facing restoration groups and canal users. The message was clear - Don't sit back and assume that all will be well - keep pushing both to preserve the existing system and to support restoration. There is never going to be enough cash - so fund raising is essential.

Michael Handford re-emphasised the importance of "proper" engineering studies as a step towards restoration and reported that £3,400 was raised last year from used stamps - this is a way we can all help - please see the notice on page 13 of the Spring newsletter!

A final audio/visual presentation entitled "The Wilts and Berks Big Dig" - over 1,000 volunteers arrived and a good length of derelict canal bed was cleared - all great publicity! - the organisation was fantastic, especially in the catering, housing and work force transportation departments - Well done W.R.G. (Even the then Minister for the Environment, Mr Baldry - a canal enthusiast - attended and worked hard.)

Thus ended a very entertaining and useful meeting of the Southern Canals Association.

**Barry Martin** 

#### Festival 1992 - What a Scorcher!

Yet again, the Festival ensured that the Bank Holiday weather broke with the age-old tradition of the sun only shining Monday to Friday (unless you are retired!). We could not have asked for better - blazing sun all day long to draw the crowds, and even a cooling shower to clear the site on the Sunday, just after closing the public events at 5 o'clock.

The boats began to arrive on Wednesday, and the final tally of 119, although down on last year, made a fine spectacle filling the cut from the stop-lock, along both banks, for a good way past the Mill (or so I'm told - I never actually got to walk there with so much else going on). By Thursday afternoon, the party atmosphere was apparent. Crew left the comfort of the boats to help fence the site, and set up the 101 other items which need doing before such events. Tired but still smiling we all turned in after nursing blistered hands, aching backs, and the odd beer or two. Friday and Saturday the work continued, with caravanners from the Hertfordshire Branch of the Caravan Club joining in the fun, and the bar being kept busy refreshing the parts ...!

Harbourmaster 'Sherry' Sherwood again showed that there is no substitute for experience by ensuring that traffic kept moving on the canal, with boats seeming to slide into impossible spaces with ease. Watching one fairly late arrival pass through the lines of craft moored on both sides, to take up position right by the Festival site made a few skippers green as the bow-thrusters seemed to effortlessly keep him out of trouble. Thanks to BW's work in the weeks beforehand, the channel was sufficiently wide to handle every boat, although the water level was perhaps slightly down until Saturday. (Memo to BW - please can you put on the full pumps a day or two earlier next year.) Nevertheless, judging by the length of boat which managed to wind at the feeder, there must have been a fair depth - was that really a 56 footer?

By Saturday night, all were ready for the festivities to begin. Music from '60s band Jetstream soon had the marquee moving, with some spirited performances being seen from the dance floor. How anybody had the energy remains a mystery, but perhaps that bar, which was so professionally organised and run all weekend by members of Lionhearts Boat Club, had something to do with itl

And then it was Sunday. Malcolm Miles' scaffolding bridge over the Arm as ever proved its worth, keeping the site within easy reach of the boats down the towpath, so that the hordes were able to look at the great variety there. And hordes were what we got! We estimate that as many as 10,000 people poured through those gates over the two days -having stood for several hours on the main gate some of us felt as if they were coming through at 10,000 an hour. Tring Air Training Corps cadets did a marvellous job parking cars and keeping the traffic moving. The Agfa hot air balloon (was that a 35mm or 35 metre film can?) in the car park made a wonderful attraction to passers-by, and I suspect some came as a result who had somehow managed to miss all the adverts around the place. Once inside, they all got very good value for their money.

Bob and Yoka Wheal had a huge marquee filled with all manner of crafts. The Beds and Bucks Stationary Engine Club put on their usual fine display. Mr Downs brought his fairground rides, and British Waterways kindly supplied the obligatory Bouncy Castle, run for us by Chiltern IWA all weekend.



The ponies from Hastoe Hill trudged up and down bringing out some lovely smiles on the little ones' faces. A very popular exhibit was supplied by the Leighton Buzzard Model Boat Club. All manner of craft, from ancient galleys rowed by lines of slaves,

through Victorian steam launches to a paddling dog, all elegantly floated on the pool at one time or another, skilfully handled by their radio-controllers. Unfortunately one attraction which did not come was the helicopter - but at least that kept things quieter for Brian Ansell on the PA.

The opening at noon was attended by a good number of local dignitaries, including our two MP's., Robert Jones and David Liddington, and our President Mr Roger Cork. We are very grateful to Mr Trevor Marwood MBE, Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council, who performed the official ceremony, surrounded by enough chains of office to stretch round the arena. It is extremely heartening to see so many busy people prepared to give up their time to show their support for our work - we do appreciate it.

Events in the arena began with the Aldbury Morris Men braving the uneven ground - they say they will come again next year so it can't have been too bad. Then the children had their turn with two shows

by 'Cheeky Dog Magic Show'. Cries of "Behind you" and all the favourite Punch and Judy moments, plus screams of delight as animals grew out of balloons. The classic cars which had gleamed in the sunshine in the middle of the field paraded round with informed comment over the PA on the diverse history and mechanics of each, and those of us old enough had memories stirred which perhaps we should not admit tol

Unfortunately the wind prevented the Agfa balloon from taking off in the afternoon, but as evening wore on we were in for a real treat. Not one but two balloons were filled and began to lift and fall on tethered lines. The crews from the boats and caravans tucked into their barbeques - again Janet Packe excelled herself obtaining excellent value meat packs and a huge selection of salads. The balloons continued to take people up until the gas ran out, well after dark, and the sight of the two huge envelopes lit up from inside by the flames was spectacular. Inside the marquee more energetic dancing, this time to Roy's Disco, and of course - the barl

Monday dawned, at least for some, promising to be even hotter than Sunday. Not ideal when you are nursing a hangover (so I was told you understand) but perfect for drawing the Bank Holiday crowds. The first thing I saw was Graeme Lockhart, loaded down with loo rolls, visiting every single cubicle. However, he had not overdone it the night before, but was taking his job as Site Manager very seriously. In fact, I don't believe he can have slept more than a few hours in the whole week, and the smooth running of the event is a tribute to his efficiency and energy.

Also up bright and early was Ron Wem. With the unenviable task of organising manpower for gates, programmes, and a host of other things, poor Ron must have walked round that field 100 times, carrying his list. Seeing him coming, most people ran the other way to avoid being added to the rota, but he managed to catch over 70 individuals to assist. Didn't the press-gang get outlawed years ago Ron? We owe a debt of gratitude to all those 'volunteers', and must mention Dunstable and District Boat Club here for providing so many of them. (Mind you it is harder to refuse a fellow club member!)

The one job which never seemed to be short of enthusiastic volunteers was driving the train - even our Chairman got a turn, complete with his very fetching bowler hat. An indication of the heat was the curious site of a man, hanging off the back carriage with two

Coke cans full of water. Apparently the track had expanded so much that derailing was becoming a problem, and by measured application of the water on the rails the train just stayed on. Now why didn't British Rail think of that one to go with 'the wrong sort of snow' - 'we've got the wrong size Coke cans'!

The public were entertained first by Tricky Mickey, who managed to keep a lot of kids, and quite a few adults, amused with his puppets and magic. He was followed by the novelty dog classes, organised by Alison Robertson in between representing at least two other charities. This proved immensely popular, and to the untrained eye produced just as high a standard as Crufts. There were a large number of dogs on site all weekend, and well done all the owners for keeping them

under control and 'scooping' so efficiently.

A display of fire safety by Messrs. Ardenoak of Tring followed the dogs, then the classic cars again did their cavalcade for all to admire and envy. That gave us a chance to clear the arena of the petrol and other inflammables from Ardenoak so that the Grand Draw could take place. The winning tickets were drawn out by the Mayor of Dacorum, and a list of prize winners is on page 9. Our thanks to Rod Saunders of Grebe Canal Cruises, and all those who kindly donated prizes.

At the end of it all, a very weary but satisfied gang at last sat down. Beryl and Barry Martin finally stopped working out the money, and as the sun went down some lunatic said "next year ..." then thought better of it. However, there will be another Festival next year, and we hope that more Trust members will come and lend their support. If this report has given the impression of a list of names I make no apologies - it took a lot of work from a lot of people to make the event the success it was, and more help is always needed. Inevitably there are those I have not mentioned - you know who you are and we thank you too.

My impressions of the weekend were summed up by one man's comment to me. "I used to go to a lot of rallies but now I only attend this one - because of the fantastic atmosphere it engenders." And that came not from a canal enthusiast, but one of the stationary engine owners. Like Arnold Schwartzenegger - I'll be back!

**Richard House** 

#### Grand Festival Draw - Prizewinners

The winning tickets were drawn by Councillor Penny Hearn, Mayor of the Town Council of Tring, on Monday 25th May 1992 at the Wendover Canal Festival.

Canal Boat Holiday, donated by Grebe Canal Cruises.

Ticket No. 001628

Mr T Wheeler, Tring

**Colour Television** 

Ticket No. 001589

Mr & Mrs C Melhuish, Rickmansworth

Hot Air Balloon Flight, donated by Phil Dunsdon Insurance & Wycombe Insurance.

Ticket No. 015954

Mr & Mrs L Prior, Marsworth

House Contents Valuation, donated by Brown & Merry.

Ticket No. 006563

F Curtis, Berkhamsted

Dinner for two, donated by The Rose & Crown, Tring.

Ticket No. 019214

Mr & Mrs Downs, Rickmansworth

Silver Plated Coffee Service

Ticket No. 015775

R Allingham, High Wycombe

Hamper

Ticket No. 001889

Mr Salmon, Kelshall

**Large Teddy Bear** 

Ticket No. 016334

Mr M Marsh, Hemel Hempstead

Champagne

Ticket No. 009748

S Smith, Haddenham

**Large Silver Dish** 

Ticket No. 009145

Mr T Bamford, Hertford

## Visit to the Basingstoke Canal

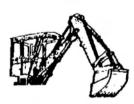
On March 29th, Roger Lewis, Ron and Jean Wem, my wife and myself attended the Spring meeting of the Southern Canals Association where we were guests of the Basingstoke Canal Society. After renewing old acquaintances over coffee we boarded the coach for the first part of our visit.

During the half-hour coach ride BCS chairman Robin Higgs and David Gerry, Canal Manager, gave a potted history of the canal and the restoration work, pointing out places of interest along our route to the first visit of the day.

Our first stop was at the restored accommodation bridge at Woodend, situated between locks 9 and 10 near St. Johns. This bridge has been rebuilt using the traditional design method of drawing both plan and elevation ellipses by means of a 100 ft line to determine the curvature. Interest in the design has been shown by the Road Research Association as to its construction as an example of the strength of a brick built structure. Service conduits have also been incorporated at the rebuilding stage in order to minimise future work on the bridge.

We then walked along the towpath towards locks 10 and 11. The water level along this section was some 2'6" down and due to the lack of water the canal is not being used. It was very noticeable that there was no leakage on any of the pairs of lock gates.

Boarding the coach again, we passed through the Aldershot Army Camp whose land borders the canal at Ash Lock, stopping for a quick look at the original canal worker's cottages and an original wharf crane, purchased, moved to the site and restored. The canal restoration at this point had its complications, especially as live ammunition had been dumped by it on the MOD side, and had to be carefully removed prior to starting work. This section of the towpath is considered a very sensitive area and is regularly patrolled by the MOD.



Back on the coach once more for our last visit before lunch. The steam dredger 'Perseverance' was certainly worth seeing. Originally built in 1934 for the Grand Union Canal Company, and having worked on the Kennet and Avon, it was completely rebuilt and started work in 1975 dredging at Colt Hill near

Odiham. Capable of dredging a ton of silt at a time, the vessel has cleared about 140 ft of canal each working weekend, operated completely by volunteers.

The silt is loaded onto a mud barge, which is then towed by tugs to the silt dump. The dredger is held firmly to the bank of the canal by mooring lines, and is moved forward by on-board winches. The crane operator straddles the open crank-shaft and valve gear, working a multitude of levers and foot pedals in a cloud of steam, which is supplied by a wood-burning boiler behind the crane. The all too short a visit to the dredger was followed by a most enjoyable lunch at the local village hall.

The weather turned against us after lunch. Not wishing to miss the last visit of the day, however, we all donned our waterproofs and wellingtons and set off for the Western end of the Greywall Tunnel. 1230 yards long, it is owned by Hampshire County Council who also own almost a mile of derelict canal beyond. The approach to the western end of the tunnel was along a bridle way and down a steep incline. At the bottom we were amazed to see the top section of the tunnel just visible above the earth slip that had filled in the entrance. The eastern end of the tunnel is in water and closed off by steel gates; a feasibility study has been undertaken for rebuilding the tunnel and is currently being considered.

We then walked along the derelict section of the cut, sometimes along the canal bed as the towpath has completely disappeared in places, until we arrived at the cleared section around the Wately Brickwork Arm. Here the canal has been completely cleared but further restoration work is not being considered at the moment due to the objections of the Nature Conservancy Council to the re-opening of the western end and the Greywall Tunnel. Further discussions are still being sought with the NCC to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, therefore the area has been declared a heritage site for the present.

Back to the village hall for tea and cakes and to dry out. Our thanks to the Basingstoke Canal Society for their hospitality and we look forward to the next meeting to catch up on all the news. Hopefully the shortage of water will soon be a thing of the past and the canal will be opened for visitors to travel along this most delightful stretch of inland waterway.

John Brooman

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the third Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held at the Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, on

Wednesday 30th September 1992 at 8pm.

#### **AGENDA**

- Apologies for Absence.
- Minutes of the second Annual General Meeting held on 4th July 1991.
- Matters Arising.
- Chairman's Report.
- Honorary Treasurer's Report.
- To receive and, if thought fit, approve the report of the Committee (Council of Management).
- 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 1992, and the Report of the Honorary Auditor thereon.
- 8. To re-appoint Mr J.R.Lewis F.C.A. as Honorary Auditor.
- To elect Members to the Committee. (See note 1 below)

10. Any other Business.

By order of the Committee

Registered Office:

2 The Driveway,

**Anchor Lane** 

Janet Packe - Secretary

30th June 1992

Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead

Herts. HP1 1NT

Note 1. Under Article 39, nominations for election to the Committee 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 Committee members standing for re-election and other members standing for election will be given at the meeting.

Note 2. Any person being a member of the Trust is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf at the Annual General Meeting. Such a proxy need not be a member of the Trust. A letter nominating the proxy, signed by the member, must be received by the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

#### **Illustrated Presentation**

After the AGM there will be an illustrated talk on a waterway topic.

## Have you lost a waterproof jacket?

This item was found at the Wendover Canal Festival. If you know who it belongs to, please contact Janet Packe on 0442 214126.

#### **Committee Matters**

As promised last time, below are brief details of points which arose in Committee meetings in the past three months. Meetings were held on 18th March, 15th April and 17th June (No meeting in May due to the pressures of the Festival)

#### March

Rural Areas Plan contained favourable plans for the Arm - WAT to write confirming agreement.

Roger Lewis to speak to Reading Branch of Kennet & Avon Trust on 30th October, Brill Vintage Preservation Society on 12th November.

Advised that derelict land grants may be available - investigation to be undertaken.

#### April

Herts County Council have nominated Derek Clark, Head of Heritage & Design, to look at ways the Council can help the Trust.

WAT suggested modification to Aylesbury Ring Circular Walk (to incorporate more of the Arm) cannot be incorporated.

The deliberations regarding the Aston Clinton by-pass continue. BW and NRA are in discussion with Dept. of Transport regarding minimum flood water level clearance needed. It is just possible that Dept. may construct new water course to carry the Arm through the new bridge hole which was forced on them by the Trust's success at the Public Inquiry.

WAT will attend Wendover Carnival on 4th July.

Aylesbury Vale Local Plan is resisting canalside development at Wendover.

#### June

Various donations have been received - to spare the blushes we just say 'thank you' to those responsible.

We have been advised that a solicitor with relevant experience would be prepared to act for WAT regarding planning and other restoration problems.

Funds have never been so high - following the Festival over £40,000 sits in the account.

#### **Working Parties**

October 4th 1992

♦ November 1st 1992

◆ December 6th 1992

AC

K

◆ January 3rd 1993

♦ February 7th 1993

March 7th 1993

#### BY POPULAR DEMAND

So popular were the working parties last winter, that we have been inundated with requests to have some more.

During the summer, with the birds nesting, boaters boating, mowers mowing, holiday-makers holiday-making ... and a host of other feeble excuses, we stop work on the Arm. But the good news is, when you have nothing else to occupy your time, along comes this wonderful idea to get out in the open, and avoid cleaning the house for another few hours.

As from October, on the FIRST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH, there will be a working party on the dry section. The fun starts by 10.00, but it doesn't matter if you oversleep. You can turn up any time before it gets dark and you're bound to find that the team are still hard at it (probably sitting down having a cup of tea and watching the smoke rise lazily from the bonfires by then actually) so do try to join in for a bit.

The work is only as hard as you care to make it - our chairman has been persuaded to leave his horsewhip at home this year! I calculated in an earlier issue that if every member turned up once

for a day, we would clear two-thirds of the dry section. Of course, if every member brought a friend as well, we would lose quite a few in the wet section as well - so if you've had a row about your whereabouts on Saturday night, why not invite your 'better half' to join you on Sunday for a wonderful day out!

We look forward to seeing lots of you as often as possible - put it in your diary now - first date is October 4th, the Sunday following the AGM.

'Slasher'



# Towpath Talk

- ☆ Milton Keynes IWA and Park Trust are holding a 'Summer Sunday in the Park' on 6th September at Campbell Park, Milton Keynes. Entrance is free, and the Trust will be attending (personnel permitting - do tell us if you can help).
- ☆ Provisional figures for the Festival show that the profits were up by around 20% on last year - not bad for the middle of a recession.
- ☆ The sign for the bridge at the entrance to the Arm is still not up, but it has not been forgotten! The box to accompany it, which will hold guides to the Arm, is under construction. Perhaps too late to catch most of this season's cruisers, but we'll be in plenty of time for next year.
- ☆ The two hire boats on display at the Festival proved very popular. One family liked the boat so much they set up their picnic on the front deck whilst other visitors were being shown around the stern.
- ☆ On the same theme, another visitor switched on the TV and sat down to watch his favourite programme.
- ☆ The Swap List for the Newsletter is growing do please pass it on to anybody who might be interested in exchanging (free) copies of other society's newsletters. If you want another copy sent to an editor somewhere, let us know.
- ☆ When you send in your copy for the next issue, please note that the deadline is going to really be the deadline (for once). The editorial office is moving, hopefully by the end of July, and although mail will be forwarded it is likely to be delayed. So please, send in your copy as early as possible, to give me a legitimate excuse to stop decorating for a bit.
  - ☆ Next issue: Copy date 12th September.

#### HELP

Sorry to have to keep on about it, but we really do need YOUR help.

Rod Saunders has done a great job of rejuvenating the Trust's publicity boards, as many of you will have seen at the Festival. Now we would like to get them out to more different venues, to obtain the maximum publicity value from them. However, they do need somebody to be with them, and whilst the Committee do their best, we cannot always be there all the time.

All we want is perhaps an hour of your time - please come forward and say you will join the list of members we can call upon. We promise not to take advantage of you, but we do need more of you, the members, to help spread the word.

Thank you to all those members who have already volunteered their help - but that doesn't mean we have enough. If every member could do 1 hour a year, think of all the extra publicity, leading to new members joining, we would get. More new members means more publicity opportunities, and so it goes on.

Just get in touch with any of the Committee, or come and see one of us at the AGM.

#### Disclaimer

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Trust.

#### The Editor

is always pleased to receive articles, news, letters, photographs, illustrations etc. for publication.

