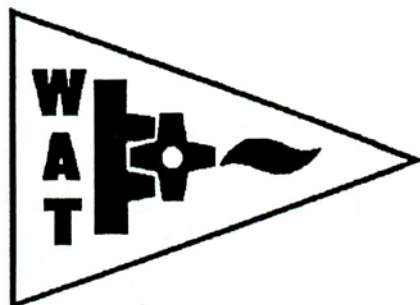


# *Wendover Arm*

## *News*

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 11  
Autumn 1992

# THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I was very pleased to see so many of you at the A.G.M. at Aston Clinton this week. I hope that you all enjoyed Ian Fletcher's marvellous audio-visual voyage down the Grand Union Canal and his trip towards Wendover. Let us hope that it will not be too long before he will be able to photograph the whole of the Arm trip from the front of his boat.

Bucks County Council are to be congratulated on their plans to spend £100,000 during the next two years on the refurbishment of the towing path of the Arm between Wendover and Stable Bridge, and to provide a car-park on Stablebridge Road with ramps so that disabled people can be taken down to the tow-path.

The work of the Trust Council still continues towards our aim of providing a "Waterway to Wendover" or, as one member put it recently, to provide a "Water Gateway to the Chilterns" although, at present, things are moving rather slowly. BW have once again served notice upon their tenants at Little Tring and we hope that this time they will be able to implement them so that we can really make a start on reinstating the bridge and the first stage of restoration by next September. I was delighted to hear our Waterway Manager, Caroline Clark, re-affirm, at her "User Group" Meeting last month, her determination, and that of British Waterways, to reopen the whole of the Arm to Wendover.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our workparties this winter - please make an effort to be present on the first Sunday of each month between now and March at Little Tring, complete with stout gloves and suitable tools to attack the undergrowth in the Canal bed.

Lastly, on behalf of you all, I would like to congratulate our President, Roger Cork, on his appointment as the Aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London for the coming year.



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Copy date for next issue is 25th December 1992.

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thank you to all Trust members who have renewed their memberships during the past few months. The percentage of renewals is still very high - but unfortunately there are a small number of members who have not yet renewed, whether by intention or because they have forgotten is not yet clear

Listed below are the members who have joined the Trust since the last report.

Mr & Mrs I A Biggs ..... High Wycombe  
Mr M A Grant ..... Little Billington  
Mr & Mrs F H Lines ..... South Oxhey  
Mr G S P Rowe..... Harpenden

### Welcome to the Trust

Currently the Trust has 382 members registered.

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### Corporate Memberships

At the moment we have 4 Corporate Members, and we would like some more!

Corporate membership is open to any canal society, rambling club, school, local council, angling club, local history society or any other group interested in the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

The Subscription - minimum £10.00 - covers one year from the date of joining. Corporate Members receive 4 copies of the Newsletter and one copy of any Notice, or other communication, from the Trust. Corporate Members are also entitled to one vote at General Meetings.

Application forms for Corporate Membership are available from the Membership Secretary - address inside front cover.

**Barry Martin**

Membership Secretary



## FESTIVAL 1993

Planning has started for next year's festival - but there's a lot to be done. Many of last year's committee have 'volunteered' to do the same jobs again, which proves what fun it is. People who would like to hear from you with ideas, offers of help etc. are:

- Bob and Yoka Wheal - trade and craft stands
- Ron Wem - manpower (or should we say personpower?)
- Janet Packe - Grand Draw
- Richard House - entertainments and charity stands
- Sheila Lewis - raffle

That is not an exhaustive list of the committee by any means; if you can help IN ANY WAY - now, next month, or on the day - with time, contacts, sponsors, raffle prizes, etc. etc. - PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

After one meeting we already seem to have organised three times as much as at the same time last year. The band for the Saturday night is booked (and has been since July). The logo has been designed, again by the multi-talented Martin family (carefully avoiding naming one in particular to prevent internal strife Barry!). The bar is again being organised by Lionhearts Cruising Club (who would like an old freezer if you have one spare please).

As you probably know, 1993 sees British Waterways Canals 200 celebration of 200 years of the canal system. We are being included in the programme of events, and look forward to a major participation from BW. More details as they happen.

The 1992 festival added £15,000 to the Trust funds, and we want to beat that in 1993. Don't wait, but get involved now. One member sold £3 of Draw tickets this week, without even knowing what the list of prizes is! So, what are you going to do before Christmas?

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**1993 Festival days will be May 29 - 30 - 31**

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## COMMITTEE MATTERS

Meetings were held on 15th July, 19th August and 22nd September. The 21st October meeting will be reported in the next issue.

### July

Local Euro MPs have been written to - replies awaited.

Chairman to talk to Phoenix Club in Berkhamsted in October 1993!

BW confirm they are seeking to recover leased land near Little Tring.

Waterways World published photo and (brief) Festival report - £12 fee received.

WAT attended Wendover Carnival - sales totalled £0.62 (disappointing!), but pony rides and Win a Teddy raised £85.95.

Toilet tent for workparties to be acquired - and a loo?

The winner of the Balloon Release at the Festival was 5 year old Simon Long. The ticket was returned by Mrs Townsend from Toton, Notts., who receives a WAT tee shirt.

### August

Big black pipes have appeared at Little Tring Bridge - WAT will check that the contractors are aware of intention to restore the bridge and ensure no hazard to restoration is entailed.

Michaelmas day deadline approaching for action on land leases - BW to be reminded.

Invitation received to attend BW User Group meeting - Roger Lewis and Bob Wheal to attend.

Interest rates falling - treasurer Beryl Martin will seek out best returns now available.



## September

Euro MP Mr Beazley has written with details of European Heritage Fund and is making further enquiries for WAT.

British Gas have been made aware of the proposed rebuilding of Little Tring Bridge, and their pipes will not delay work.

Barry and Beryl Martin reported a successful Teddy Tombola at the Milton Keynes Summer Sunday event , and recruited a new member as well.

Aylesbury Vale District Council spoken to regarding planning application for houses near the canal. Planning was refused, and appeal dismissed.

BW Chief Executive confirmed to Roger Lewis that they would support the 1993 Festival and it would be included in their 'Waterway 200' celebrations.

BW will give notice on leases by Michaelmas day (29th September)

Rod Saunders will submit an article to Waterways World to continue with the wider publicity drive. WAT banners to be purchased.

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## Spreading the Word

During the course of November, Roger Lewis is giving no less than 5 illustrated talks on the Arm. Obviously the word is getting around that there is something going on here which merits investigation. The programme is: **Nov 3rd** Aylesbury Methodist Ladies Group; **Nov 9th** Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers; **Nov 12th** Brill Vintage Preservation Society; **Nov 24th** Milton Keynes IWA; **Nov 27th** Tring Society.

Many of you may have seen the Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers at the Festival last year, laden down with masses of high-tech video equipment. The short version of their efforts was shown at the recent AGM, and was well received. Certainly the filming was of a very professional standard, superbly backed by a commentary from Anthony Askew who also added appropriate music. A one hour version is being put together now, by the same team.

Both videos will be available for use in promotional events, and if you would like to make use of either please let a Committee member know. I have not yet seen the 'rushes' of the long version, but understand that at least one Committee member is compromised in an undignified display of exuberance at the evening entertainment!



## VOUCHERS

The vouchers, coupons and assorted bottle tops keep coming in, but there has been a bit of a falling off just recently. Being generous we'll assume it's down to summer holidays giving you something else to think about.

Before Christmas looms up, why not get into practice addressing envelopes and write one to us, enclosing those vouchers you've collected in the pockets of the car, and kept meaning to get round to clearing out.

The favourites now are BP OPTIONS. A special scheme operated by BP for registered charities means that we can turn every Options voucher into 5 pence hard cash. However there is one proviso - we have to collect 5000 of them (which adds up to a very worthwhile £250). So please let's have every last one and reach the target. We are well on the way, and I'll print the running total in future newsletters, providing we are doing well enough!

As many of you will know Inland Waterways Association organise a collection to help fund the Waterways Recovery Group. I have just sent off a hefty envelope to them containing all the vouchers, stamps etc. which we have not collected sufficient of to be of practical use. With their much wider collecting powers IWA/WRG can make use of our 'rejects' so your donations end up helping in some way. Before too long we hope that WRG will be coming to the Arm for a major workparty, so do keep supporting them as well.

If you come across any other schemes which we might be able to make use of, either get the details to one of the committee, or ask for them to be sent to us.



**BP Options vouchers - worth money to the Trust**

Send them to Richard House, address inside the front cover.



## WORK PARTY - SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

After the rain of Saturday, Sunday dawned bright and clear; just right for a good physical day on the Arm. The usual crew were there, with a few new faces who were (we hope) made to feel welcome. The day's statistics were:

- 34 hands (on 17 bodies)
- 4 tails (on 4 dogs)
- 2 bonfires (1 superior to the other)
- 1 tent (ladies - for the use of).

And were we relieved to have the tent! In case you wondered, it was not large enough to keep us all dry in the one minute shower we had - and had more than one person entered at a time questions would have been asked.

The "Roll of Honour" of those who gave their time, and cleared about 60 yards more, reads:

John, Ann and Richard Brooman  
Mike, Judith and Gavin Cheshire  
Eddy Evans  
Richard Hope  
Richard House  
Brian Inge  
Clive Johnson  
Roger Lewis  
Barry and Beryl Martin  
Ian Packe  
Sherry Sherwood  
Bob Wheal

The Cheshire family came up from Berkhamsted by boat, all prepared for action, despite not being Trust members. They enjoyed themselves so much that they vowed to join immediately - but WHERE WERE YOU?

### Work Parties coming up

The next work party is on December 6th, followed by January 3rd (the perfect hangover cure), and February 7th. The rule is easy - the first Sunday of each month, so PLEASE - LET'S SEE LOTS OF YOU THERE.

## CALLING BW

(Extracts from) a letter from Roger Lewis to Mrs Caroline Clark,  
Waterway Manager, Grand Union South.

15th October 1992

**Dear Caroline,**

The committee of the 1993 Canal Festival met last week for the first time to make preliminary arrangements for the event which will be held during the Late Spring Bank Holiday.

The event will be of a similar nature to its predecessors except that we really would like to have a much stronger British Waterways presence, (they didn't do too badly at Wakefield!) and, with this aim in view, we would be very pleased if you can come to our next meeting, on Wednesday 4th November and discuss things.

I enjoyed the recent 'User Group' meeting and thought that it was a very worthwhile gathering. Referring to the minutes of that meeting I would call your attention to paragraph 2 of item 7 - Wendover Arm Restoration - where it is recorded that you said that BW are committed to a contribution of £50,000 for Phase 1. As I understand, it was agreed by Robin Garrett, Ray Calow, and the Trust in 1989 that the cost would be shared between BW and the Wendover Arm Trust on a 50/50 basis. The figure of £50,000 was the sum which Robin had arrived at when he estimated the whole cost, using his 'back of a cigarette packet' method.

Yours sincerely

**Roger Lewis**

Chairman,

Wendover Arm Trust.

++++

Editor's note:

I hope Roger will forgive some editorial 'cutting' of his letter. That is not to say he waffles, just that the two points I wanted to highlight were eloquently covered by the selected paragraphs.



Item 7 referred to reads as follows:

## Wendover Arm Restoration

This is a remainder waterway and CMC (Caroline Clark) congratulated the Wendover Arm Trust on their fund-raising efforts (£50,000 has already been raised). The Arm would have benefits for all canal users i.e. boaters, anglers, walkers, nature lovers etc.

BW and WAT commissioned a feasibility study last year. Phase 1 would cost approx £400,000, and the cost of complete restoration to Aston Clinton is expected to be in the region of £1.6million. BW are committed to a £50,000 Phase 1 contribution and are also pursuing a Derelict Land Grant. An area of canal bed which was leased is expected to be returned in September 1993. It is hoped that Stage 1 will be completed in 1994/95.

CMC confirmed BW's support for the opening of the Arm all the way to Wendover.

++++

It's very nice to see that BW support the restoration ALL the way to Wendover, and that the commitment to Phase 1 is not forgotten. (We make sure that they are reminded very regularly!) The 'fag-packet' calculation may look a bit out now, but those of you who have seen the size of the feasibility study will wonder how anybody could start to work the complex figures out without a fair size rain-forest worth of paper.

WAT WILL raise their 50% of the cost. Now we wait to hear how the Derelict Land Grant application goes, and of course will continue to report progress in the Newsletter.

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### Disclaimer

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

# IWAAC

This article, submitted by IWAAC Executive Assistant Tina van Zeller, outlines the work of IWAAC who are keen to raise their public profile. If you have any matters to raise with



them, they can be contacted at: 36 St Pauls Square, Birmingham B3 1QX, or phone 021 212 1333. An information pack is available on request.

## **What is IWAAC?**

IWAAC is the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council. It was set up under the 1968 Transport Act, to consider matters of amenity and recreation on the British Waterways Board's waters.

## **Who works for IWAAC?**

The DoE appoints a Chairman and at least 12 members, who are chosen for their "wide knowledge of, and interest in, the use of inland waterways for amenity or recreational purposes".

The Chairman is currently David Wain OBE, who retires at the end of October after 24 years service to IWAAC. Giles Baker will be the new Chairman.

The Members include MPs (to reflect matters of current concern in Parliament), and individuals with specific knowledge of the various problems of boating, angling, walking and nature conservation interests on the English, Scottish and Welsh waterways. They are supported by a secretariat of 3 in Birmingham.

## **How is IWAAC funded?**

The Chairman receives a small remuneration from the DoE. Members are unpaid. The Secretariat is funded by the DoE through British Waterways.

## **How does IWAAC meet?**

There is a Council meeting every two months attended by all Members. The DoE and BW also attend. Outside these, numerous smaller meetings take place, both formal and informal, covering a wide range of subjects, organisations and individuals.





## **What does IWAAC do?**

IWAAC's work falls into two main areas:

- (1) Advice and comment IWAAC discusses issues and then offers advice to BW, the DoE and other bodies on policy matters. Recently for instance IWAAC has been looking at BW fees, the Customer Charter and DoE Urban Regeneration Agency Consultation.
- (2) Promotion and safeguarding IWAAC is keen to cultivate a public awareness of waterways and to foster a national pride in them. It promotes waterways wherever it can, trying to improve their image, and paying particular attention to safeguarding environmental and heritage aspects.

To this end IWAAC monitors over 100 magazines and newsletters, the HMSO Daily Lists, and road and planning proposals. IWAAC keeps close contact with other waterway-related organisations, with whom they exchange news.

Five Regional Representatives, centrally co-ordinated, keep up to date with what is going on in their regions (which correspond to BW regions) and liaise with BW managers. They consider any issues brought to their attention by the Board's customers, offer advice, and attend user group and liaison meetings.

## **Where do you come in?**

If there is a matter which you think IWAAC ought to be looking at nationally or regionally contact the office. IWAAC can discuss matters at Council meetings and make recommendations to the appropriate bodies, or can produce a lengthier report for publishing. Locally, you may spot a new road proposal which could affect a canal, see a worrying planning application, or be concerned with BW action in the area. Also, if you have a complaint against BW, and have exhausted the BW procedure, let IWAAC try to help.

IWAAC can play an important role in the future of the waterways, and we are keen to support them. Do please help them to safeguard the interests of all canal enthusiasts by reporting anything of relevance -after all it's better to hear from 100 people on the same subject than to miss it, and end up with another canal lost for ever. Of course, if you see something relevant to the Wendover Arm, let us know also.

## TOWPATH REFURBISHMENT

The Chairman's report mentions the work to be carried out by Bucks County Council on the towpath between Aston Clinton and Wendover. This is a big commitment which is welcomed by the Trust.

Those of you who attended the AGM will have seen the plans and heard the Council spokesman describe what they are doing. For those of you who were not there, the idea is to spend £100,000 over the next two years on upgrading the towpath. Parking spaces will be provided on Stablebridge Road (making official the highly dangerous place where people already park on the verge above the bridge). Wheelchair ramps down to the canal will be put in, and for anybody who has tried to negotiate the slope after a spell of wet weather will be grateful for that. An area by the bridge will be cleared and seating provided, with space for artists etc. to set up their apparatus.

The entire length from there to the head at Wendover will be made suitable for wheelchairs and disabled use, which will enable many more people to enjoy the wonderful countryside our Arm goes through. At strategic points, together with each end, information boards will be put up detailing wildlife, flora, and other items of note. WAT are liaising with BCC to ensure that all major points concerning the canal itself are covered. Mileposts will be replaced, and we are currently working on the most suitable design for these bearing in mind the original style -sadly mostly disappeared now.

Naturally, we are anxious to ensure that the refurbishment of the towpath does not compromise or interfere with future restoration of the canal itself. We will be carefully monitoring the work through planning and practice, in order to safeguard the objectives of the Trust. BCC have been keen for our input so far, and we are confident that we will continue to work harmoniously together. After all, without the canal there would be no towpath to refurbish!

Thank you Buckinghamshire - now, Hertfordshire, how about matching that and setting up a plan for the section through your jurisdiction?

## TOWPATH TALK

- ☆ A frightening experience for our Chairman recently. On their trip back from the National Rally at Wakefield, a problem with the outdrive on the boat left Roger and Sheila drifting without power or steering on the Trent, with a 4 foot swell running. Thanks to another boat, no harm was done, and we are pleased to see them back in one piece.
- ☆ We are pleased to see the first 'commercial' advert in this issue - do support Messrs. Barrow and Holding if you have need of an arboriculturalist. Now, we would like more adverts, so please encourage friends, employers, local traders etc. to get in touch.
- ☆ Neil Harrison, our contact point at Aylesbury Vale District Council, is leaving for a new position elsewhere. He has been very helpful to WAT and carries our best wishes for success in his new job. We look forward to meeting and working with his successor.
- ☆ You may not believe this, but every word in this Newsletter is checked for spelling. Not by human means, but by the wonderful 'spell checker' on the computer. But why can it not learn to recognise such important names as Tring, Aston Clinton, Halton, or even Wendover after all this time? If you know how to break into it's dictionary, do let me know -please.
- ☆ Looking around the table at a Committee meeting recently, I realised that everybody there wore glasses. Now admittedly there were a couple of absentees, but does this mean that Committee work harms your eyes? Don't let HM Government know - or we'll have a health warning slapped on the minutes in no time.
- ☆ My apologies to all members for the delay in producing this edition. I could plead pressure of work, but the over-riding problem is complete ignorance of computers! Having typed almost the whole thing, I thought I'd be clever and clear up the disc. Unfortunately I cleaned up so well that I wiped this issue as well. The expert tells me that I could have retrieved it without problem - in a way I'd rather not know thank you. In future I shall leave well alone; it just goes to show that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.





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