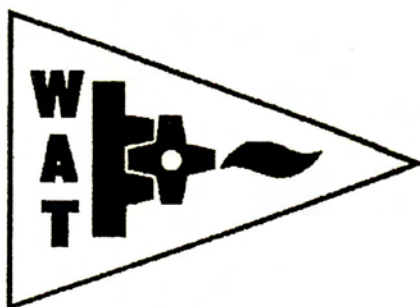


Wendover Arm

News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 13
Summer 1993

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The fourth annual Canal Festival at Tring has, for most of us, become a very successful memory. This year was the largest event so far -everything was so much bigger than in 1992. There were more boats and caravans more stalls in the 200 foot long marquee (which in itself made a vary impressive sight), the Leighton Buzzard Model Boat Club brought a much larger boating pool and there seemed to be an even better variety in the Classic Car and Stationary Engine exhibits.

We are very grateful to British Waterways for bringing their exhibition of working machinery which proved very popular with all the small boys who were allowed to work the machines under supervision. All of the children (and many adults) were thrilled to be able to see, and handle, the very varied selection of small animals in the small farmstead which was erected on site.

In addition to the records in attendance, exhibits and profits we also experienced the worst weather conditions ever. The terrible conditions which we had on Sunday did not keep the public away, and although Sunday's figure was lower than 1992, it would have been a record any other year, and on Bank Holiday Monday we were absolutely crowded out by visitors.

This wonderful turnout by the public made our finances look excellent but it also made us very aware of how stretched our small army of helpers were. One of the lessons which was forcibly brought home to us this year was that, if we are to carry on with another Festival we must have a much larger reserve of willing helpers - we cannot continue without much more effort by many more helpers.

The number of civic dignitaries who honoured us with their presence this year was magnificent. It gave me great pleasure to welcome the leaders of all the various districts and parishes through which the Arm passes. It was especially gratifying to welcome the Chairmen of both Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire County Councils - a sure sign that we are accepted and acknowledged by the highest authorities in the district!

As I have said after each of our Festivals the Wendover Arm Trust is extremely grateful to Mr & Mrs John Brown, the owners of the field, in allowing us to hold our money raising events on their land. Thank you both!!

Roger Lewis

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership of the Trust is still increasing!

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

Welcome to the Trust.

Mr M Auger	Weston Turville
Mr & Mrs R Clark	Little Kimble
Mr H Denton	St Albans
Mr A R Evans	Rickmansworth
Mr J S Francis	Tring
Mr & Mrs J A Garner	Linslade
Mr & Mrs G H Garner	Linslade
Mr F G Haysom	St. Leonards
Mr & Mrs D Honeyball.....	Wendover
Mr R J McCarthy.....	Tring
Ms S A Richardson.....	London
Mr A L Roberts.....	Aylesbury
Mrs J A Roff	Cheddington
Mr C Seeby	St Albans
Mr & Mrs N Swain & Family	Tring
Mr R Whatley	London

Currently the Trust has 413 members registered.

Corporate Memberships

In the last issue of Wendover Arm News I had the pleasure of reporting that the Trust had three new Corporate Members making a total of seven.

Now we are very pleased to welcome another four new Corporate Members in this issue.

We welcome:

Aylesbury Vale Community Healthcare N.H.S. Trust
Tring Anglers
Tring Society
The Council for the Protection of Rural England

Barry Martin -

Membership Secretary

DEEDS OF COVENANT

Not the first time we have mentioned this, but it really is “money for nothing”.

What is a Deed of Covenant? It is a written promise to pay the Trust a sum of money (the annual membership fee) each year for seven years. Resignation of membership (or death) will cancel the Covenant, so it is not an irrevocable decision - although we hope you will not resign (or die) of course! It is quite understandable, in the uncertain times nowadays, that there is a reluctance to make long term commitments which might create problems in future - this does not apply with a Deed of Covenant.

How does a Deed of Covenant help? Because the Trust is a Registered Charity, it can reclaim the tax you have already paid to the Inland Revenue. Thus, for a Family Member, your £8 subscription under Deed of Covenant becomes £10.66 in the Trust's coffers.

In the 1991/92 tax year, the Trust received £308.58 in rebates from the Taxman - equivalent to a further 61.6 members, and we don't even have to send them newsletters!

At present, a little under half our members subscribe under Deed of Covenant. Please, consider the extra benefit your subscription could give, and when you renew, do complete a Deed of Covenant as well.

LOST PROPERTY

A number of items were found over the Festival weekend. Despite most of them being publicised over the PA and some being of an ‘immediate’ nature, hardly anything was claimed.

If you think you lost anything, do call the Secretary who will be pleased to re-unite property and owners, subject to satisfactory identification of course. A small donation to the Trust to cover ‘salvage’ would be appreciated as well.

Please call Janet Packe on Hemel Hempstead (0442) 214126.

CORRESPONDENCE

MILEPOSTS

In the last issue, we published a letter from Ian Wilson regarding the plans which Buckinghamshire County Council have with regard to the towpath from Aston Clinton to Wendover. In particular Mr. Wilson was concerned about the milepost design, a point which others have mentioned also. The letter below to the Secretary should allay any fears you may have had.

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 1992, and the enclosed copy of Mr Wilson's letter and the Wendover Arm News. I will be writing to Mr Wilson to assure him that our plans are to copy the existing mileposts. I shall also ask him to pinpoint for us the locations of the existing posts so that we can take these into account in our plans.

Yours sincerely

A T A Lambourne

Principal Rights of Way Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council

MILTON KEYNES IWA

Dear Mrs. Packe,

I am writing to let you know that the Milton Keynes Branch of the IWA will not be able to host a waterside event in July of this year as we had hoped. As you published in the latest issue of the WAT newsletter, we had provisionally set a date of 10/11 July this year; but unfortunately, after difficulties in our negotiations with MK Parks Trust, we have had to cancel the event.

I would be grateful if you could mention this cancellation in your next newsletter. Looking on the bright side, we now have even more time to plan for a 1994 event, and we will invite the Trust if we are able to organise one.

Yours sincerely

Allan Jones MK-IWA Publicity

We are very sorry to hear of this - last year's event was excellent and we were looking forward to coming back. However, it is good to hear that MK-IWA are not daunted and hope all goes well for 1994. Allan Jones does add to his letter that if there are any questions do contact him at 2 Kenwell Court, Woolstones, Milton Keynes MK15 0BD.

MARSWORTH BOAT SUNDAY

This annual event had a gap last year as All Saint's Church at Marsworth did not have a Vicar. Happily, this year all was back to normal, and it duly took place on Sunday June 13th.

If you have not been before, do make the effort next year - it is a delightful afternoon. A procession of boats from White Lion Bridge departs at 2.30pm, to attend a Service on the canal bank near Marsworth Church at 3pm. This year Tring Salvation Army Band and local Church choirs provided the musical part, and the Service is always followed by cream teas in the Church.

The organisers welcome boats to take part in the procession - we will mention it again nearer the time for next year, but in case you want to start early, details can be obtained from Miss Bushell on 0442 822043.



CHURCHES ON THE ARM

Starting in the next issue, I am planning a series of articles on the churches along the Wendover Arm. By my reckoning, that gives me an article for each issue for almost two years, using a bit of poetic licence about the proximity of the actual churches to the cut in some places.

Unfortunately, I don't know a lot about any of them, so if you have any information do please let me have it. I don't guarantee that they will appear in any particular order - it all depends on what I find out when.

I have arranged for a local artist to make a drawing of each church to accompany the articles. Now, if we can find a suitable source to make a short run of prints of the pictures, they will be made available with part of the proceeds going to the Trust. Can anybody supply details of where to get the printing done please?

Richard House

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Meetings were held on 20th January, 17th February, 17th March and 21st April. Principal points arising at the meetings are listed below.

January

Further meetings between the Trust and British Waterways concerning land leases and other matters relevant to Phase 1 of the restoration. Progress continues, albeit slowly.

A planning application to erect three dwellings on the site of the old wharf at Wendover has been made. As so little remains of the old canal buildings there was no reason for the Trust to object to development.

Agreement with the latest draft of the Aylesbury Vale (Rural Areas) Local Plan to be sent to AVDC.

The "Waterway to Wendover" amenity document requires revision to reflect the progress made by the Trust to date. Alan Swaisland will work on assembling material and preparing the draft.

February

Agreed to take a pitch at Tring Show on 4th and 5th June. The need to acquire a suitable tent/marquee to take to such events was highlighted.

Chairman has been asked to give talks to Berkhamsted Branch of the National Women's Register on March 23rd, and to Dacorum Conservators on 21st September.

Agreed to continue corporate membership of IWA (Inland Waterways Association) for the coming year.

Tring and District Residents Association have expressed concern over the fate of the footpath which crosses the dry section between Drayton Beauchamp and Little Tring. Confirmed that W S Atkins report includes plans for a suitable bridge to carry the towpath, so re-watering will not sever this footpath.

Yet again, Rev. Roger Davis has passed on a donation following a talk he gave to the British Red Cross.

Agreed to attend IWA National Waterways Festival at Peterborough over the August Bank Holiday.

March

Action continues over the land leases. An early resolution to the situation looks less hopeful - as some of the leases date back to 1911 this is hardly suprising.

Chairman attended BW South East User Group meeting - no issues relevant to the Trust were discussed.

Department of Transport is expected soon to publish their decision regarding arrangements to carry the Wendover Arm water beneath the new road near Buckland Wharf.

Trust has been asked to host the April 4th meeting of the IWA Restoration Committee. This to be held on board "Countess of Tring" by kind permission of Rod Saunders.

Draft Bucks County Structure Plan shows a commitment to canals - Trust will respond appropriately.

April

The Trust is to have a stand at the National Waterways Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Presentation talks to be given to National Trust (Dacorum Association) on 21st September, and at the Autumn Lecture of the British Museum (Natural History Section) on October 1st.

Waterways Recovery Group have approached Trust with regard to holding a work weekend on the Arm. (see separate article)

A draft of the information map of the navigable length has been produced - this will be refined further. Final form will be included in planned information box to be positioned at Marsworth top lock.

The June meeting report will be in the next newsletter. No May meeting as the Festival preparations are too onerous then.

Committee meetings are normally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We are always grateful to Dunstable and District Boat Club for the use of their facilities for the meetings. If any member has any points for raising at Committee, please try to let the Secretary have them in good time for the next meeting.



FESTIVAL 4 - WHEN THE WIND BLEW

A totally unbalanced view of the 1993 Festival

With May 1993 one of the wettest Mays since Domesday, it seemed reasonable to expect dear old Mother Nature to balance things out and relent for the last week, or at least the last weekend, of the month. Unfortunately, somebody (probably at the Met. Office) mentioned the magic words 'Bank Holiday Weekend' in the old lady's ear trumpet and that was the end of that.

Actually, to be fair, it did not rain all weekend - indeed the Bank Holiday itself was really rather a pleasant day. Even the Sunday had some dry spells, but that was simply because the wind was so strong that the rain was completely horizontal so never reached the ground until another hill got in the way!

Wind - I think that will remain in my mind after all the rest has faded. For the small band of stalwarts who made up this year's Festival Committee, it seemed that if it could get somewhere it would - and then cause as much havoc as possible. ANN BROOMAN and her wonderful team in the tea tent battled against it to produce a warming cup of tea, but with the power supply to the urns going down regularly, this was no mean feat. A word of thanks here to the catering caravan who kindly lent their generator for a good part of the weekend.

BOB and JOANNA WHEAL had produced what we have come to expect - a really first class array of stands in the Craft Marquee. Even bigger this year, at 200 foot long, they had a very fraught weekend. The marquee more closely resembled an old tea-clipper under full canvas much of the time. With guy ropes coming out faster than they could be put in, water collecting in great lakes on the roof then coming through the seams, and stands being blown down by the wind getting in under the sides, it is a tribute to their diplomatic skills that there was not a mass revoit (either that or they hid very well!).



One part which seemed to go very smoothly was the accomodating of the visitors. Harbourmaster SHERRY SHERWOOD and his team, looking very professional with their radios, managed to get all 128 boats in, and I know they would like to thank all the skippers and crews

for mooring so neatly and tightly. When I walked the moorings it was very noticeable that every boat had moored up button to button, so that we got the maximum number into the minimum length. It is the little things like this which are, in the end, so important and help to make our Festival the best on the Waterways.

RON and ANN MELDRUM did the equivalent job for the caravans - more than 70 of them. (What is the landlubbers equivalent of Harbourmaster - Fieldmaster perhaps?) Apart from the Caravan Club members, they also organised the other caravans for us. It was Ann who came up with the very appropriate name 'dry boats' to describe non-Caravan Club members who nevertheless camped on land rather than water. Moving the caravan area further up the field this year made them a more prominent feature, and very attractive they looked too.

Site Manager GRAEME LOCKHART was everywhere. With the troubles cropping up all over the site he was on the go from morning to night, and found lamentably little time to support the bar. However, I did occasionally bump in to him there, only to be given a 13 amp plug to cannibalise for the tea-tent, or some other such job. Serves me right for interrupting his short breaks you might say. That bar we occasionally congregated

in, purely to get out of the rain for a minute you understand, was again superbly run by FRED MARSHALL and his team from Lionhearts Cruising Club. Although he complained that he sold less than last year, it appears that it was the general public who let us down, rather than those staying on site, or so the figures appear to show. Bearing in mind that some 10,000 of the public came through the gates, compared with probably less than 1,000 staying, perhaps we should congratulate the drinkers who managed to keep the sales so close to last year!

Perhaps the worst job of the lot over the weekend fell to RON WEM. As organiser of the essential man(person?)power it fell to Ron to find volunteers for the gate, selling programmes, car parking, and all the other jobs which have to be done. It was noticeable that, apart from the hard core who always muck in, the help from the boaters was less this year than last, but the caravanners came up trumps and kept Ron from having to do more than six things at once in three different places. Our thanks to all who gave up some of their time to help a very hard-pressed Committee - without the help there would never be a Festival. I will inevitably leave out people who should be thanked, but those I know of must include Colin Woodhouse, who

worked tirelessly from the moment he arrived on site to the moment he left, Rod Squires who assisted Sherry throughout, then stayed on to pull it all down afterwards, and Ray and Keith who helped so much with setting up. If I have left you out I apologise - some helped whose names I didn't know, and others were where I did not see them - so simply, if you helped, THANK YOU.

JANET PACKE spent all weekend selling tickets for the Grand Draw. As anybody who has ever sold raffle tickets will tell you, this must be just about the most thankless task there is, and Janet must be congratulated for keeping her temper and her smile so well. Not content with selling all day, Janet then organised the food for the barbeque on Sunday night, and very good it was as usual. IAN PACKE, it was rumoured, did nothing all weekend! After the hundreds of hours he must have put in over the months leading up to the event slaving over a keyboard, and preparing the excellent programme, he could have been forgiven for sitting back, but the rumour is untrue (actually I just made it up half an hour ago) - he was to be found running errands all over the site all weekend.

BARRY MARTIN had a successful weekend keeping the Trust stand going. When we remember that the Festival is not just for fundraising, but also an important vehicle for furthering public awareness of the work of the Wendover Arm Trust, the importance of this task is put in perspective. The rest of the time Barry was to be found with his chef's hat on keeping our



Treasurer, BERYL MARTIN fed and watered. Trapped in her office, Beryl must more than once have thought of 'liberating' the piles of money and disappearing for a well-earned holiday in the Bahamas -happily she did not, and whilst it is too early for an exact figure, Beryl estimates the profit from the weekend to be over £20,000 (which she and her tiny team had to count painstakingly).

ROGER LEWIS spent his weekend moving from one problem to another. As Chairman, a disproportionate share of the tasks leading up to the event fall on Roger, and I know I am not alone when I say that the event would not be anything like the success it was had he not worked so tirelessly. SHEILA LEWIS supported him nobly throughout, acting as memo pad, answerphone, public relations consultant, as well as coffee maker to the entire committee, and organiser of the boaters and caravanners raffle.

Exposed to the elements without any chance of cover was JOHN BROOMAN, who kept the ponies moving manfully (or should that be horsefully?) to give so much pleasure to so many children. At the other end of the field, comfortably ensconced in the PA caravan, were ANTONY ASKEW and DIANE HOUSE, who between them kept the loudspeakers busy and the public informed. Whilst they were sheltered from the weather, they took the brunt of all the hassles, being the first port of call for anybody with a problem. Both have missed their vocation - with the diplomatic corps.

And what did I do? Well, my story started with getting there late on Wednesday, getting drenched walking back to get the car from my moorings, working on the site all Thursday, starting a cold on Friday which kindly lasted all weekend, then starting to panic that the entertainment I had booked would not turn up on time. I am delighted to say that every act, turn, group, club and pressganged volunteer not only appeared on time, but agreed to carry on despite the conditions being less than ideal in many cases, and provided a very full programme with something for all the family. I thank them all, and if you missed any of them you should not have. Although I was unable to watch any of the entertainments entirely, I did see part of them all, and wish I had had the time to see more.

The highlights of my Festival? Watching the PA tower go up, complete with engineer, only to come down even faster. (The tower got bent, fortunately the engineer didn't, and the Range Rover he had left underneath to break his fall was unmarked.) The Friday night band, The Rockets, formed by their 9 year old guitarist, who raised so many 'ahs' and played so professionally. The farm animals, brought along by Janet Wright, which the youngsters (and the young at heart) were able to feed, cuddle, and generally make a fuss of. And, at the end of it all, my bath!

Richard House

Wanted

The bulk of the work of the Committee has been shouldered by a small number of dedicated people now for some time. New blood is badly needed to help with the growing workload as the Trust develops. Will you consider standing for Committee? The work is no more onerous than you care to make it, but with the current limited numbers there are opportunities which have to be passed up. If the Wendover Arm Trust is to fulfil the whole reason for its existence, we must take every chance to publicise, fund-raise, plan and restore. Do think about it.

CANALS OF MARS

by Bernard Banfield

In the 19th century Professor Lowell was convinced that Mars was crisscrossed by canals. How right he was!

About 500 BC the Martians, then suffering a mini ice-age, decided to try their luck on warmer earth, and made their landfall at OS.920148. Hence the ancient Britons' name of Mars-worth. (For those unfamiliar with the acronym "OS" this stands for "Order in Space".)

The Martians immediately started canal building, scooping long trenches towards Tring, Leighton Buzzard and Wendover. But a terrestrial warm epoch intervened, and the cool Martians found things too hot for them. So, back to Mars. "Mars bars Earth" as the Martian proverb says - but might not, had they known of the very recent happening on Mount Elbruz.

2000 years later, English canal surveyors noticed the pre-historic grooves, making good use of them for the Grand Junction routes to the South-east and North-west, and to Wendover.

When human astronauts make their Marsfall early in the 21st century, it is expected that reps of the "Wendover Arm Trust" will be aboard to provide expertise for the restoration of the now-dry Martian canal system, which had been drained hundreds of years ago because of complaints from Martian farmers that the porous soil of Mars, and the absence of puddling clay anywhere on the planet, left their cropping fields permanently waterlogged. New bed-sealants likely to be used in the Wendover Arm may be of inestimable value for the red planet's canal system.

It is possible that the derogators of Professor Lowell may not have known that the Martians tried re-watering some of their canals early in the last century, but again were forced to re-drain; just as for a short period on the Wendover Arm before its final closure in 1900. So Lowell's telescope would certainly have shown up the canals in water, but they would not have been visible in their re-dried state to later telescopic viewers.

References: Chiltern News, No 88, Page 13 US Space Agency Planetary Geology Reports, Feb 29th 1983, April 1st 1990

BRITISH WATERWAYS CHANGES

April 1st saw our region of BW change from South East Region to Southern Region. The region, under Regional Manager Peter Coyne, now includes the Kennet and Avon. The five waterways areas have been reduced to three, reflecting the policy of devolving responsibility from the centre to the regions, and from the regions to the waterways.

The reorganisation aims also to release some fixed overheads such as offices, thereby increasing the expenditure opportunities for the waterways themselves.

We continue to be within Grand Union South, managed as before by Caroline Clark. The area now goes as far as Weedon to the North, and Cowley Peachey to the South. The emphasis in Grand Union South, according to Peter Coyne, is very much craft and moorings (and don't forget restoration please).

We wish Peter, Caroline and their staff the very best with their plans -and hope that the date chosen for the change does not have any ill omens!

Milepost Appeal

The Grand Junction region of the IWA (Inland Waterways Association) decided that this year, the Bi-centenary of the Canal, called for something special and lasting. The ambitious idea was formed to try to replace all the missing mileposts on the Grand Union (over 100 still to be done, even allowing for those which the Grand Union Canal Society have managed to replace).

Each milepost apparently costs £75, so this was a formidable target. As an incentive, each milepost has a sponsor plaque at the base. Wendover Arm Trust agreed to the Appeal co-ordinators collecting at the Festival, and in return we were promised that if sufficient funds were raised we could have a commemorative plaque on our 'own' milepost.

Happily, we can report that the funds were raised, and that milepost 55, which is the nearest to the Arm, will bear the inscription 'Wendover Arm Trust 1993'. Thank you to all who contributed, and congratulations to the Appeal organisers who have reportedly reached the target and will be able to replace all those missing mileposts. If only all restoration could be achieved so speedily!

THE AYLESBURY RING

Long ago, in Issue No. 9, we mentioned that Bucks County Council were working on plans for a circular walk to be known as the Aylesbury Ring. Sunday May 9th saw the official launch of the route, which of course follows the Wendover Arm towpath from Aston Clinton to Wendover.

Unfortunately the great day arrived with rain beating down, so the 'crowd' who turned up in Aylesbury Market Square to witness the opening ceremony performed by Sir John Johnson of the Countryside Commission, was rather less than hoped for. Nevertheless, around 30 - 40 brave bodies turned up, and the rain dutifully stopped for them.

After a couple of brief speeches, those present split up into 7 parties, each walking a separate length of the Ring under the guidance of a knowledgeable leader. WAT Chairman Roger Lewis led the party on the towpath section, and whilst it would have been nice to see more people, Roger led the way out from the Market Square, the lone male surrounded by ladies. Your reporter decided he could not compete, and left Roger to it. (He finally got home, and says he enjoyed himself!)

I maybe be biased, but I think that 'our' section is one of the nicest on the Ring, but then, to be honest, I have not walked much of the rest, although I do intend to. An excellent pamphlet describing the route has been produced, with illustrations by Deborah Nickolls including the Rothschild Bridge over the Arm at Halton. The whole route is waymarked with the Aylesbury Duck motif, so you should have no trouble following it.

BULBOURNE OPEN WEEKEND

Right at the junction of the Wendover Arm with the main line of the Grand Union stands Bulbourne. Herts IWA, in association with BW and the Canals 200 promotion, are organising an Open Weekend which promises to be well worth visiting.

The pumphouse will be open for inspection (how many times have you wanted to see inside there?) and also BW will be opening the workshops where the lock-gates are made. Tugboat trips have been organised, and a number of other attractions are promised, including the presence of the Trust with its Win A Teddy Tombola.

For anybody interested in the engineering side of the canals this is a visit not to be missed; for others there should be more than enough to justify the trip. Do support the event, and help with the Trust's stand, if you can.

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) has approached the Trust with the suggestion of holding a Reunion Weekend on the Arm. Following a site visit on 8th May the date has been fixed as 6th/7th November, and has been publicised in the WRG newsletter 'Navvies'.

WRG expect about 200 to 250 people to turn up for the weekend. They assure us that they can fit on the dry section between the White Houses footpath (where this winter's workparties reached) and Drayton Beauchamp bridge, and indeed they could clear all that in one weekend, possibly pulling some roots as well depending on actual numbers, conditions etc.

For our part, we have to provide accommodation, entertainment, transport to site and lunches. This is where you come in. These hardy souls sleep on floors in schools, village halls and the like. Do you have access to such locally, with decent washing and cooking facilities? Can you arrange suitable entertainment for the evening? Do you have a coach or two we can move the bodies in? Can you help with providing lunch for hungry workers? If the answer to any of these is yes, do get in touch with the Secretary as soon as possible.

This is a major opportunity for us to show we really mean business. The publicity potential is extremely good, and we intend to make maximum use of it. If you can help - you know what to do!

AN APOLOGY

In the last issue (No 12) I gave a copy date of 24th April for this issue. Where, you might well have asked, is this elusive newsletter (No. 13).

Well, No 13 has lived up to its name. I had originally planned to have it out before the Festival, but the Editorial Team and the Production Team both had a busy period at work with a lot of travelling, and it proved impossible to get together to put the text in place in time. With the commitments we both had to the Festival as well, our free time was already stretched to capacity and something had to give. You are now reading what gave! I hope it was worth waiting for.

I apologise for keeping you waiting.

This does actually highlight the problems of a small committee doing a lot of things. We need more help, so please don't wait to be asked - this is the request.

TOWPATH TALK

- ☆ Well, once more we have moved our printers. With the very kind help of Rev. Roger Davis this issue is brought to you for the first time by a new (to us) process. Once we get to grips with the possibilities of this technology, anything might happen, but in the meantime, we hope you'll agree that the quality of the printing is excellent. Many thanks for your help Roger.
- ☆ Environmental Studies student Peter Blyth is using the Wendover Arm for the subject of his research at Manchester Metropolitan University. He is investigating the environmental impact of the canal, which I understand involves digging samples of soil and analysing them. Unfortunately the samples are barely enough to fill a tea-cup each time - couldn't a JCB be used Peter?, then some of the dig would be done for us.
- ☆ Congratulations to Trust Member and fellow editor Antony Askew, who is Assistant Secretary of Dunstable and District Boat Club (DDBC), and Editor of DDBC News, which has just been awarded the title "Best Club Magazine of 1992". The award is made by the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs, and those who have seen the DDBC News will agree that it is well deserved. Now then Antony, how would you like to take over Wendover Arm News and do the same again?!
- ☆ We note BW have put restrictions on the Watford flight of locks to conserve water. Now when we get the Arm open, there will be an even bigger reservoir at the summit (how many places can you think of with a 9 mile pound at the summit), so such action might not be necessary so early in the year. Yet more proof of the importance of a full restoration of the Wendover Arm.
- ☆ We hear that local canal gate maker Eric Keable, who worked at the Bulbourne workshops, has retired after 46 years service. He started with the Grand Union Canal Company in 1946, and we wish him a long and happy retirement at his home in Cheddington.
- ☆ At the February Southern Canals Association Meeting, I was amazed to learn that there are 131 canal restoration schemes in the country. Not only that, but 14 have actually been finished. So, we are not alone, and it is not impossible to succeed.
- ☆ Following my appeal for help regarding mastering this computer thing, I have received a number of letters explaining patiently that I am an idiot! I freely admit it. Thank you all for your help - I am now beginning to get the hang of it I think.



WENDOVER ARM TRUST

1993 Grand Festival Draw

List of Prize Winners

- 1st Prize. Canal Boat Holiday, Donated by Grebe Canal Cruises
Ticket Number 009173 Mrs S Barrow Hemel Hempstead.
- 2nd Prize. Hot Air Balloon Flight, Donated by Chris Dunkley
Ticket Number 006398 Mr M Stevens, Halton.
- 3rd Prize. £100 Cheque.
Ticket Number 014896 Mr C Markwick, Tring.
- 4th Prize. House Contents Valuation, Donated by Tring Market Auctions.
Ticket Number 006313 Mr P Adams.
- 5th Prize. Windmill Embroidery/Tapestry,
Donated by Trust Member Mrs Chessher.
Ticket Number 002125 Mr & Mrs Moore, Berkhamsted.
- 6th Prize. Dinner for 2, Donated by the Rose & Crown Tring.
Ticket Number 009039 Mr K Steel, Westoning.
- 7th Prize. Large Laundry Basket
Ticket Number 005050 Mr & Mrs M Wright, St Albans.
- 8th Prize. Food Hamper.
Ticket Number 005260 Mr C L Stevens, Brookmans Park.
- 9th Prize. Champagne.
Ticket Number 014092 Craft Stall Holder 31.
- 10th Prize Ribbon Plate
Ticket Number 011119 Donated by Mr & Mrs J Branch.
Mrs A. McDonald, Hemel Hempstead.
- 11th Prize. Chocolate Liqueur.
Ticket Number 014802 Mr Lloyd, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead.
- 12th Prize Board Game
Ticket Number 005166 Donated by Coxdome Limited.
M Wallace, South Oxhey.



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