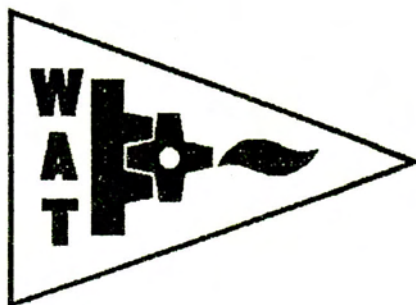


Wendover Arm News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 16

June 1994

Price 50p

Free to Members

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

Spring has arrived and work is well advanced for the Trust's fifth Festival. This will be our biggest event to date and I hope you will all make an effort to attend. We will be very pleased to see you as your help will be greatly appreciated over the weekend. If you can give up an hour or two on either Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday please seek out Graeme Lockhart who will be only too pleased to use your services. Car parking, collecting money at the entrance and manning the Trust stand are the principal areas in which help is needed.

Considerable progress has been made recently concerning the restoration of the Arm. Mr Bob Grace, the owner of Little Tring Farm, has at last agreed to relinquish the lease on that part of the Arm that he rents from BW and to surrender the licence which allowed him to cross the dry bed of the canal. This agreement has been reached after a lot of effort by Bob Parnell, BW Senior Management Surveyor, and has, alas, cost the Trust and BW a lot of money in compensation and legal and land agent fees. However this is all now behind us and in early April BW held a meeting of all members of their staff who will be involved in the future work on the Arm to determine their policy.

As a result of this meeting Chris Mitchell (the Acting Waterway Manager) is now preparing a detailed plan for Phase 1 of restoration as suggested in the 1992 Atkins report.

Bucks County Council are to be congratulated on completing the resurfacing of the towpath from Buckland Wharf to Wendover. It is a pity that they have not yet replaced the stiles which were removed during this operation. I realise that the stiles made access to the towpath difficult for wheelchair users but they do keep out horseriders and motorcyclists who will, if not deterred, soon destroy the surface recently laid.

Finally, it is with regret that we have to say farewell to Bernard Banfield who is having to retire from the Trust Council because of ill-health. Bernard was a founder member of the Wendover Arm Group and has been a Director of the Trust since its inception. I will miss the very considerable work that he has put into coordination between the Trust and Bucks County Council, The Chiltern Society and many similar bodies and for the very wise advice that he was so ready to give to me and all the other Directors. We will miss his dry humour at our meetings. Thank you Bernard.

I look forward to seeing you all at New Mill at the end of May.

Roger Lewis

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership of the Trust is still increasing!

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

Mr & Mrs A K Brown.....Sutton Coldfield
Mr & Mrs V Smith.....Halton

Currently the Trust has 418 members registered. My next thought has been inspired by the wife of one of our 'single' members who, when posting her husband's membership renewal thought it would be nice if the membership were changed to a family membership since the family was now "all canalified". So how about all our other single members who are married considering changing their memberships to include their families? Although this would increase Trust funds only slightly it would increase the Trust's membership by a significant number which will be important to our restoration efforts.

Corporate Memberships

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 - covers one year from the date of joining. Corporate Members receive four copies of the Trust 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, and other members, are available from the Membership Secretary - address inside the front cover.

Barry Martin

Membership Secretary.

SPECIAL FESTIVAL ISSUE

Members and regular readers may have noticed that there is a cover charge listed this issue of 50 pence. Do not be alarmed - we don't mean you!

Taking advantage of the undoubted publicity opportunity of the Festival this month, we thought it would only be right to relieve the public of a bit more of their money. The newsletter has always been, and will continue to be, free to members.

Now, if you have just paid for this, thank you. You shouldn't have, or rather you needn't have. What you should do is to join the Wendover

Arm Trust and then you can receive regular newsletters, 4 times per year. Membership costs just £5 for a year, or £8 for a family membership.

If you would like to help the Trust in it's aim of restoring the Wendover Arm, then please contact the Membership Secretary, Barry Martin, whose address and number are listed inside the front cover. If not, then thank you for buying this magazine and taking the trouble to read it - now please pass it on to a friend and help us spread the word further. Then again, you might just throw it away, but we hope you won't - do think again first please.

STANDING ORDERS

Many members have already sent back their new standing order forms using our new account at Yorkshire Bank.

If you have not yet sent your standing order back, please do. It costs us 64 pence for every one which goes through the old account with Barclays, whereas Yorkshire Bank costs us nothing. They are public spirited enough to offer free banking to charities (admittedly Barclays have dropped their charge from 68 pence to 64 pence, but they

put up the monthly charge to compensate!).

Please - help us make your money go further - and don't continue to support Barclays' shareholders to make even bigger dividends (unless of course you are one I suppose!).

If you have lost the original Yorkshire standing order form, or would like to switch your payment method to standing order, get in touch with Barry Martin who will pleased to send you one.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Due to the appalling weather and difficulty for many members in getting there, the February meeting was cancelled. Meetings were held on 16th March and 20th April - brief details as follows:

March

St John Ambulance presented the Trust with a first aid kit at a brief ceremony - this will be formally presented at the Festival.

Essex WRG have asked to hold a workparty on the Arm over the weekend of 6th/7th May. Agreed that they would be very welcome.

BITM WRG wish to hold their Christmas Dig on the Arm in December. Welcome again.

Roger Lewis and Bob Wheel to attend BW Grand Union Canal user's meeting on 29th March.

Agreed to contribute towards the cost of WRG 'Support Your Local Restoration Scheme' booklet which is handed out at canal festivals and in response to enquiries. WAT details will be included in the next issue.

£331.61 has been received from the Inland Revenue in respect of tax refunds on covenanted subscriptions. (Is yours covenanted? If not please contact Barry Martin and help us make more of your money - it costs

you nothing, but Kenneth Clarke is keen to give us his help!).

Since 5th February, Canon Roger Davis has forwarded £75 being the proceeds from his canal talks and slide show. Many thanks Roger.

WAT will attend the St John Ambulance fund raising event at John Colet School in Wendover on 4th September. Trust will also attend Wendover Parish Council centenary event on 2nd July.

The Quiz night with the Buckingham Canal Society has had to be cancelled due to an apparent lack of interest by members of both organisations.

Halton Village Hall has been booked for the Southern Canals Autumn meeting which WAT are hosting. Help from members would be appreciated with preparing and serving a buffet lunch. Please contact Janet Packe if able to help.

April

BW have instructed solicitors to serve formal notice to Rothschilds Estates to quit the leased land from September 1994.

WAT learnt with regret of the death of IWA Chief Executive Mrs Frances Hart's husband Gordon. A letter of sympathy has been sent to Mrs Hart.

Alan Lambourne of Bucks County Council has sent a draft text for a leaflet detailing three circular walks incorporating the Arm for our comments. Suggested corrections have been passed back by the Chairman, together with notification of complaints he has received from towpath users regarding the motor cycles and horses using the towpath. He has asked for a form of barrier to be erected to prevent such activities without affecting wheelchair access.

Accepted with regret letter of resignation from the Committee from Bernard Banfield. Unanimous vote of thanks passed for all his diligent work.

Agreed to invite Chiltern Society to suggest a possible replacement for

Bernard, but stressed this would be in an individual, not nominee, capacity.

Discussion over venue for AGM. Last year some vandalism occurred, and it was agreed to investigate the possibility of hiring a security guard to police the car park at Aston Clinton as that was still felt to be the best venue in the area.

BW user group meeting did not cover any aspects directly relating to the Trust, but there was considerable discussion of mooring policy which could have an indirect impact in the future.

No meeting in May unless through emergency as all Committee will be heavily involved in Festival preparations. Next meeting June 15th.

Wendover Arm News - What the critics say:

The fun filled issue 15 of your favourite read elicited the following rave reviews.

“The style is similar to the Downing Street Years, the author wields his pen like a handbag.” - Andrew Neil, Sunday Times.

“I particularly enjoyed the WRG Reunion Weekend article, it ran the whole gamut of waterways restoration from A to B” - John Gale, Essex WRG.

“We are instructing our solicitors” - A Spokesman for WAT Work Party Volunteers.

“Forget tiffors, my ambition has always been to ‘pull’ Judith Moore” - An unidentified WRG volunteer.

“The Wendover Church article was quite, quite perfect! I loved the prose, I admired his use of words.” - Ian.L.Literate (aged 6 months)

“A reet riviting read.” - Ken Walsh, former WAT Committee member.

FESTIVAL 1994

The arrangements for the Festival are (apparently) proceeding well - perhaps it does run a bit smoother with practice after all. That is not to say that it is easy - far from it - and there is still a great deal of work to be done if our usual high standard is to be maintained.

One thing we have noticed is the lack of volunteers who are approaching Graeme Lockhart with offers of help over the weekend. This could of course be the editor's fault (yet again). In the March newsletter we gave Graeme's phone number twice - but unfortunately only got it right once. Being charitable we will assume that you all have been ringing the wrong number. The correct number is 0442 865241 so now you have no excuse. Please do let Graeme know if you are going to be able to help for a little bit on one of the days so he can stop panicking and start compiling a rota of jobs.

We have had some forms back from members who are not bringing boats, but want to take up our incredible big value offer in the last newsletter. We would still like to see more of you - and we promise not to press-gang you into any job you don't want to do! Don't forget, you can come to the 3 evening events AND both days for the cost



of a normal daily ticket. The programme of entertainments is now completed, and to tempt you along here are the evening highlights.

FRIDAY Dancing to **Billy & the Bonquas**. If you don't know them, they play good old fashioned **rock and roll**, so dust off your winklepickers for an 8 o'clock rock.



SATURDAY The return of the **Rockets** - by popular request. Last year this young group (led by a 9 year old guitarist) proved a highlight of the weekend for many, and they are back to start us off at 7.00.

At 8.00, **Bishopswyc** will take the stage for a barnstorming **barndance**. If enough people dress up we will award a prize for the best outfit - but don't let that put you off, we

will be very discreet as usual!

SUNDAY The **barbecue** will be lit, and if you have ordered in advance you can cook your own. If you haven't booked a barbecue don't worry, the catering vans will still be happy to feed you. To provide the music we are delighted that **Mr Kite's Benefit Band**, who many of you will recognise from the famous Sgt. Pepper concerts in Berkhamsted, have agreed to appear. They play old favourites from the 50's to the 90's, and most people can't tell the difference (between them and the original record I mean)!

I hope that has whetted your appetite now, and you will come and join us on at least one of the nights. Fred's happy band will be there to keep the alcohol flowing at fiercely competitive prices, so get your tickets NOW. We will not be selling tickets on the gate, in order to ensure security, unless you are introduced by a boater or caravanner on site. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.**



The day time events are a mixture of old and new. The ever popular Novelty Dog Event is back on the Monday, so bring Rover along and join that - but do please keep him on a lead at all times.

Animal Outings are coming along again with their delightful

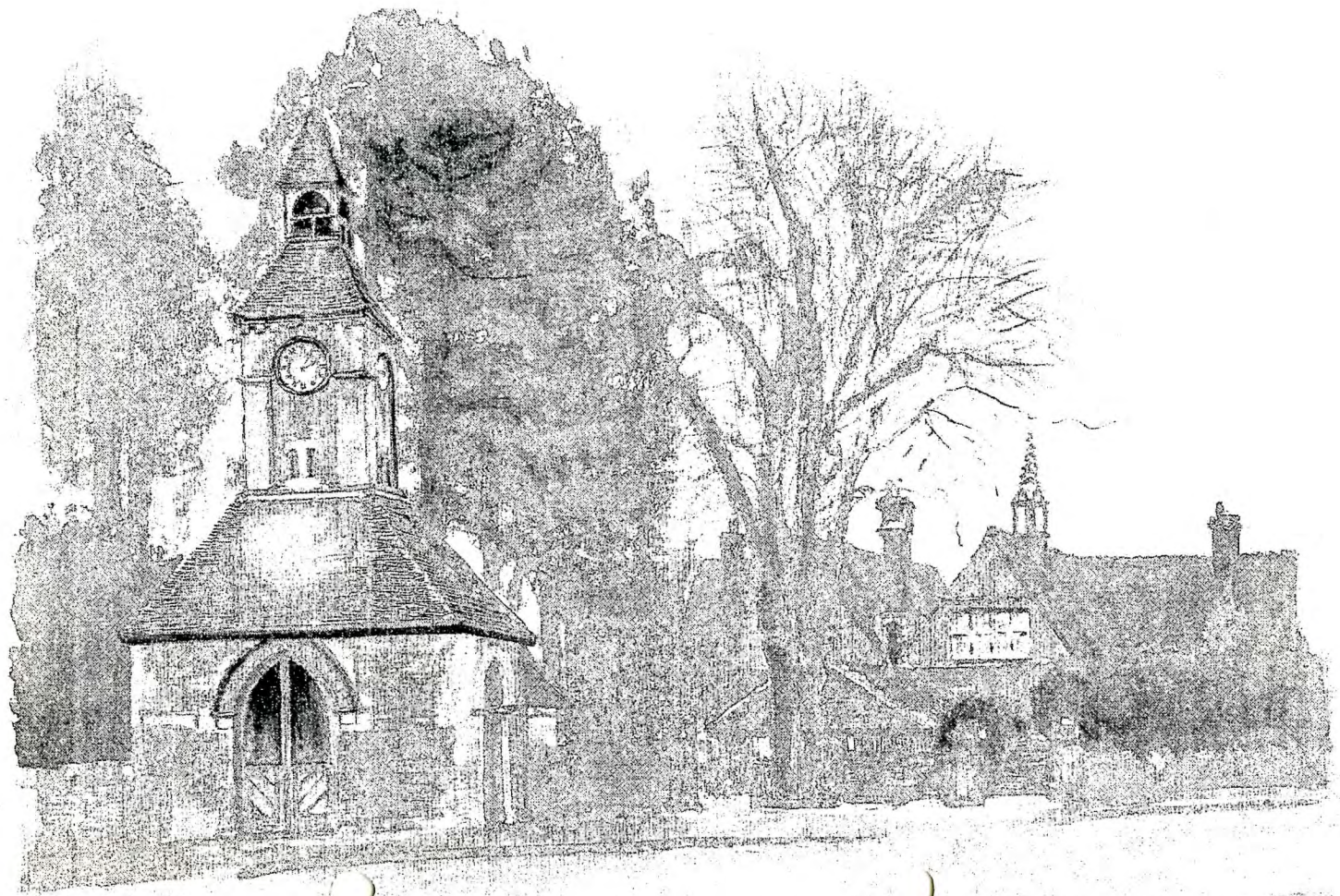


farm animals that you can hold and feed. Children's entertainers are coming on both days, and there will also be jugglers performing as well as teaching you the secrets of the art. A new event this year is the Walk - A - Ted, of which further details are given elsewhere. This idea is the brainchild of Jennifer Thomas who did so much last year towards the Milepost Appeal, and decided it would be nice to celebrate it this year with a sponsored walk from 'our' milepost at Bulbourne to the Festival. Do get the kids to join this one.

Other reasons for coming to the Festival? Well, apart from supporting your Trust, the wonderful craft fair is worth the entrance money on its own - buy early for Christmas. And of course, while you're on site, do see Graeme and offer your help for a bit - please. Above all, turn up and enjoy yourselves, and tell everybody you know how good it always is.

'Al Ias'





PARISHES OF THE ARM

No. 2b - WENDOVER TOWN

The modern town of Wendover lies in a fertile fold of the Chilterns, centred around where the Icknield Way crosses the Wellhead stream. However, there are traces of early habitation in the area going back to Early Briton times, when there was a settlement of considerable size at the foot of Bacombe Hill. (This modern spelling derives from the former Backham, and Backcomb, meaning Beacon).

It is said that from the top of Bacombe Hill you can see all of the Icknield Way which lies within Bucks, and incidentally St Paul's Cathedral dome as well, although you would need a pretty good day for that I feel. The other high point locally, Coombe Hill, which lies between Wendover and the Prime Ministers' "weekend cottage", Chequers, also provides far-reaching views, apparently to the South Downs, Isle of Wight, the Malvern Hills and Edge Hill in Warwickshire. These claims come from a book written in 1909 - perhaps the air was clearer in those days before the infernal combustion engine changed our lives.

The origins of the name Wendover are unclear. The simple explanation is that it simply comes from 'wend -

over' the hills or a stream. More esoteric is a derivation from the Celtic 'Gwaen-Y-Dyffryn', meaning 'marsh in the glen'. In modern Welsh Gwynddwfr, meaning white or clear water, is found in many places in Wales and I'm told is pronounced somewhat similar to Wendover. A third explanation is a Saxon origin - 'ofer' meaning a bank, or shore, so the town on the bank of the winding (wand, or wend) stream. Then again, perhaps the stream was called Wend. One thing seems certain - nobody really knows, although the Saxon root seems most popular.

The earliest recorded mention of the name Wendover (actually Waendofron) is in the will of Aelfheah, Aldorman, around AD970. Aelfheah was a relative of King Aedgar, who also recorded the name Aegelesbyrig (Aylesbury). At that time, the Chilterns were covered in thick Beech woods (Chiltern = White or Wooded in Celtic). The Abbot of St Albans, Leofstan, in Edward the Confessor's time (a few years before the Norman Conquest) cleared much of the woodland, as it was "a refuge for divers sorts of wild beasts such as wolves, wild boars and wild bulls, robbers, outlaws and fugitives, to the great annoyance of all passengers". If only BR would take

similar heavy action today for their passengers!

The Icknield Way, which accounts for the early importance of Wendover, is often mistakenly attributed as a Roman road. In fact, it is British (and therefore earlier), the name coming from the Iceni. The Icknield Way runs from Norfolk, through Suffolk, Cambs, Beds, Bucks, Oxon, Berks, Hants and Wilts to Dorset - the size of the ancient Iceni kingdom of which Boadicea is by far the best (and only to most of us) known monarch. Further evidence that this route is not Roman in origin is that there is no evidence of it ever having been paved, or raised, as Roman roads were.

Domesday Book

The Domesday Book lists Wendover as a Royal Manor, with an annual rent of £25 in 1042, which had risen to £38 by 1086 when the book was compiled. Aylesbury commanded an equal rent, but Buckingham only half as much then. Later there were 2 Manors of Wendover - the central area known as Wendover Borough, and Wendover Forrens (foreign), which comprised the Hale and other outlying areas. This entitled 2 "M.P.'s" to attend Parliaments, 200 years before Aylesbury or Buckingham had even one. In 1300, Edward I called a Parliament in Lincoln to which Walter de la Hale and John de la

Burg travelled - surely a much more arduous job than attending Westminster today.

William Hakewill, 'sometime solicitor to Queen Anne', whose memorial slab can be found in the church aisle, secured the restoration of Parliamentary representation for Wendover, with John Hampden being the first to occupy the seat in 1624. Other notable M.P.s for Wendover included Edmund Burke, John Addington and George Canning, who became Prime Minister (although not elected for Wendover then).

The Register of Marriages for the period 1678-86 shows that there were a good variety of industries in the town. Listed amongst the bridegrooms' occupations were: hemp dressing, weaving, cloth working, lace making, collar making and chair making. Obviously this was quite a prosperous town. At that time the old part of the town (the High Street, and a little bit of Aylesbury Road and around) already had some of the buildings which still stand today - The Red Lion dates from 1619, and is associated with Oliver Cromwell. Bosworth House is notable for the 16th and 17th century wallpaintings found there - only 2 are still there, with the rest at the Victoria & Albert Museum and Aylesbury Museum. There is also a 15th century piscina here beneath an arch. The Baptist

chapel must be one of the oldest in the country, dating from 1649.

Wendover has literary connections too. Robert Louis Stevenson stayed in the Red Lion in 1875. Roger de Wendover was perhaps the most ambitious scribe - his 'Flores Historiarum' was a history of the known world from the Creation to 1235 - why stop there? Less global scale Wendover authors, but better known perhaps than Roger, were H J Massingham and P H Newby.

Those of us who mourned the passing of Rates for the controversial Community Charge and the new Council Tax might reflect on the good old days, when rates were 10/7d in the £ (1967), or even 7s in the £ (1808). This latter must have been a lot then, although perhaps rateable values were a little different in those days. Of course, there were no water rates then - just a long trudge up the Hale to the Wellhead I suppose. It was also interesting to discover that agricultural rents were by no means cheap in 1808, averaging £1 per acre in the area. No wonder landowners became so wealthy.

No article on Wendover would be complete without mention of John Colet, after whom the school (which stands by the wharf at the very end of the Arm) is named. His father, Henry, left for London aged around

15 to begin a lowly apprenticeship. He obviously prospered, becoming Lord Mayor of London twice, and managing to marry one of his grand-daughters to the Duke of Buckingham. He sired 22 children (11 of each), but only one, John, survived to any age. Born in 1465, he managed enough in his life for them all, becoming Dean of St Paul's, a friend and teacher of Erasmus, and the founder of St Paul's School.

Further reading

If this article has whetted your appetite to find out more, there are some fascinating old books in the County Library which I used as my sources. I could have gone on for pages (you might feel I already have), but have tried to limit this to the bits one does not find in the usual town guides.

As usual, there is a picture to go with the article - this time of the Victorian Clock Tower, as seen from Aylesbury Road. This is available in limited edition print, either on its own or in a 'triptych' with the two in the last newsletter. Prices are very reasonable - details from the Editor on 0296 748036, or see the whole set to date (there are still 4 more to be produced) at the Festival on the Trust stand. Every sale raises money for the Trust.

Richard House

LETTERS

From: The Clerk to the Council, Tring Town Council

Dear Mr Lewis,

I have been asked to write concerning a recent item on page 6 of the March 1994 issue of the Wendover Arm News concerning Streamside Walk, Brook Street, Tring.

The Town Council was somewhat concerned (and amused) to read that it had contributed £500 towards the Groundwork Trust's Scheme there. In fact, the scheme is a Town Council initiated and led scheme which the Groundwork Trust is managing on a day to day basis, with input and co-operation from Dacorum Borough Council, The County Council, The Institution of Civil Engineers, Durham University, Eastern Electricity, British Waterways and local residents and businesses.

The Town Council contributed £2,000 last year to the scheme's initial work and has obtained a further £2,000 from a Rural Action Grant. It will also contribute a further £2,500 this year, specifically to work on electricity cables. Dacorum Borough Council has contributed £4,500, the Groundwork Trust £4,500 and British Waterways £500, quite apart from the time and effort of officers of all these organisations.

This scheme is marked by a high level of co-operation from a number of interested parties and the Town Council is extremely proud of it.

We hope you continue to take an active interest in the project.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. S Johnson,

Clerk to the Council.

The editor replies:

I apologise for my errors in reporting this initiative.

It is very heartening to hear of the high level of both commitment and co-operation which marks the project, and the Trust are as ever pleased that a sympathetic scheme is being carried out by the canal.

My mis-reporting shows that even with good information I still get things wrong, so you should not believe everything you read in these pages. Of course, if more of you sent me articles I could blame you sometimes, but I suppose that is just the unhappy lot of a newsletter editor!

REFUGEES ON THE WENDOVER ARM

This article first appeared in issue 2 of the Wendover Arm News in Spring 1990. With the site of the White Houses now cleared during the work parties this winter, it seemed an appropriate time to print it again.

Before the 1939 War, there was a solidly built double canalside house, with huge deep cellars, between Drayton Beauchamp and Little Tring - the "White Houses", date c.1820. They were occupied by two families of maintenance canal folk who controlled the adjacent submarine sluice which can divert the eastward flowing Arm water, away from the mainline canal summit at Bulbourne, into a deep adit feeding the Wilstone reservoirs.

In November 1938 the houses, which had wonderful mature gardens, choice fruit trees (including the luscious giant golden gage, never seen nowadays), and a 100 foot well, were vacant.

A London Youth Group, with which my wife and I were closely associated, rented the double house, knocked it into one, cleaned out the well (dozens of lost buckets and several bike frames recovered), and took in refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria, mostly Jewish. This with generous financial help from the Quakers.

My wife ran the venture as a voluntary warden. Many of the refugees were broken psychologically, and racked by anxiety for relations still within Hitler's reach.

During the blitz, Londoners came down each night to get some sleep, and were put up in every nook and corner of the house. In 1942 the landmine which parachuted down in Aylesbury, six miles away, blew open doors and windows in the refugee building.

After the war the house fell vacant again. Regrettably the then canal authority levelled the building and garden, and filled in the well, on the poor pretext that there was no right of way to this very desirable country cottage; end of an epoch.

Bernard Banfield

14 Feb 1990

As you will have seen from Roger's report, Bernard has sadly decided that he must leave the Committee. We will all miss his keen interest in all that goes on in the area, and the valuable contributions he has made over the years to the work and knowledge of the Trust. Please don't lose touch Bernard - you will always be very welcome at all the Trust functions, and I will always be pleased to receive articles for publication.

CALLING ALL TEDDY BEARS

Walk with us from Bulbourne to New Mill.

Hertfordshire Branch of the IWA, and the Festival Committee, invite you to a sponsored walk for Teddy Bears (and their owners/handlers) on Sunday May 29th.

Last year Jennifer Thomas and her team were very successful in raising money for the replacement of the missing mileposts on the Grand Union, and at the Festival raised sufficient funds to sponsor Milepost 55 at Bulbourne. You can find it just 100 yards North of the junction of the Arm with the main Canal, with a commemorative plaque bearing the inscription 'Wendover Festival 1993'. To christen 'our' milepost, and raise further funds for the restoration of the Arm, we ask as many of you as possible to meet at the milepost with your Teddy.

A special guest will lead the walk along the towpath to the Festival site, where there will be free cold drinks for all walkers (courtesy of Ronald Macdonald) and a judging of bears, with prizes for all the classes we can come up with. So, no matter how big or small, how old or new, how cuddly or ugly (no, surely not!) your bear, you owe it to him to give him a chance.

Every bear will receive a certificate if they have carried sponsorship for the Trust, and the owner will get FREE ENTRY to the Festival. If you feel excluded because you don't have a bear, well, we've thought of that too. The Trust have some very chic fellows wearing a Wendover Arm Trust sash for sale at just £1.50, which you can purchase in the Marquee.

The walk is not very onerous - it is only a mile and a half - so is suitable for all the family. 1994 is the Year of the Family, and of course Teddy is one of the family isn't he? The route will be well patrolled by marshalls but do please accompany any very little ones (children, not bears) for your own and our peace of mind.

The timetable for the walk is set out opposite, and you will find a sponsorship form tucked in your newsletter.

Do join in please - this is a unique event which will not be repeated next year, so this is your only chance to show off your Teddy and help the Trust.

If you want to know more about the walk, ring Richard House on 0296 748036.



WALK A TED TIMETABLE

1.00 Meet at the milepost (No.55). Parking facilities have been arranged with British Waterways to use their yard at Bulbourne - but space is limited so please try to double up lifts. The yard is on the left just over the bridge by the Grand Junction Arms.

1.45 The special guest who will lead the walk arrives. He is not very big (in fact his Teddy is probably bigger than him) so keep your eyes open!

Please try to be there at this time - we want the press photos to look really impressive with a big crowd of walkers lined up. After the photos session the walk moves off.

Cold drinks will be served to all who complete the walk.

3.00 The Teddies (with their owners) enter the Arena, and parade in front of the judges.

3.15 Winners are announced and prizes awarded.

3.20 Every Teddy is presented with a certificate as they leave the Arena.

ABOVE ALL - ENJOY THE EVENT AND WALK CAREFULLY

RESTORATION

Not a lot to report this time. The workparties have continued to occur on the first Sunday each month, but attendance has been lamentable. Now part of this is our fault, as we only decided at the last minute to hold one in April, so nobody knew we were there. However, some more roots gave up their ground, and the rest of the cut wood from the WRG weekend was finally burned.

Essex WRG are coming for the day on May 7th, not the whole weekend

as originally planned, so by the time you read this they will hopefully have added some more to the roots-pulled tally.

In summer we let the birds have their way, and would not want to disturb any nests, but if enough people can be gathered for a session pulling the roots we would be glad to arrange it. Do give Roger a ring if you have a free day and can get a couple more people together, and he will try to sort out the equipment necessary.

TOWPATH TALK

- ❑ I was very interested to see the launch recently of Fibreway Ltd., the partnership venture between BW and Telephone Cables Ltd. This company has been set up to install fibre-optic cables along the canals for a new telephone network, and promises to have all major centres linked up within 4 years. I understand that the cables will be sited such that there is no danger from dredging or boats going aground, but does anybody know any more?
- ❑ When, in a moment of weakness, I agreed to become editor of this journal early in 1991, I foolishly thought that was the job - editing! Nobody told me that I would also have to write most of it! I apologise to you all if I bore you, but the solution is in your hands, or would be if you would please pick up a pen and write a few lines for me. We would all like to hear what you have to say, so please, do write. (If you prefer, use BT and talk to my ansaphone, and I'll transcribe your words.) Otherwise, Al las and G Host will be writing more in future!
- ❑ Are you aware that the Act authorising the Wendover Arm (and the Aylesbury and Buckingham Arms) was passed in March 1794. That makes this year the 200th anniversary of the Arm proper. Although work began on a feeder in 1793, it was the Act which allowed it to be navigable. All the more reason to come and celebrate with us at the Festival, and to join the Teddy Bear Walk - it won't be a centenary year again in our lifetimes after all.
- ❑ The Lockhart Boats display at the Festival this year is Graeme's own boat, Clee Hill, which he has been restoring for the past year. This historic wooden cruiser was one of the very first specially built hire craft for the canal system, and those who saw it before he started will be amazed at the transformation. A launching ceremony is planned for the Tuesday morning, which those who are staying over on site will find a moving sight if last year's launch is any guide.
- ❑ We are always keen to enlarge our library of photographs of the Arm. If you have any which might be suitable, or take any at the Festival of which you are particularly proud, please let us have a copy. Costs of any prints accepted will be refunded to you of course.

WAT DIARY

- May 24** Richard House to lead walk from Bulbourne to Stable Bridge Road - all welcome
- May 28-30** Wendover Canal Festival *
- July 2** Attending Wendover Centenary Event *
- July 9** Attending Lionhearts Open Day, Milton Keynes *
- July 16-17** Attending Bulbourne Open Day *
- Aug 27-29** Attending IWA National Festival at Waltham Abbey *
- Sept 4** Attending St John Ambulance event at John Colet School, Wendover *
- Oct** WAT AGM (date to be announced)
- Oct 23** Southern Canals Association meeting at Halton
- Dec** Essex WRG Christmas workparty on the Arm (date to be announced)

* The Trust Display and Sales stand will be at these events. If you can spare an hour or two to help the overworked Committee to man (or woman) the stand on any of these dates, please contact any Committee member. (phone numbers on the inside of the front cover).

Disclaimer

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



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