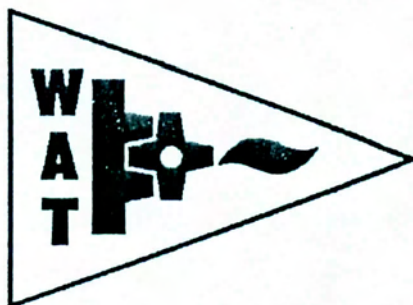


Wendover Arm News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 2
Spring 1990

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Trust. The Editor is always pleased to consider articles, news items and letters for publication.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we reach the beginning of our second year as a Trust and you receive your second Newsletter, you are probably asking the questions - What now? - When will we begin the task we set ourselves? - Questions each member has every right to ask.

After a year of consolidation the Trust, I feel, must now be seen to achieve something that the layman would regard as a physical start to restoration. We must start a project that is achievable in a relatively short space of time. If this does not occur we may well lose the impetus we have built up. Thoughts echoed by Sir Kenneth Cork, our president, at the recent social evening. If we were seen to be doing something then the Trust would gain further recognition and increase the scope of its membership.

As members you will realise that the Arm will not be restored overnight, so to speak. We have a very long term aim which we will approach in a manner best suited to the prevailing political climate. We must seek and utilise various tools to help us. The Aston Clinton By-pass crossing for instance, or the proposed development at Halton Camp, both crucial to the future success of the Trust in its aims of total eventual restoration.

However in the short term we must be seen to do something soon. I sincerely hope 1990 will be the turning point for us. We will be looking at various projects, some major, some minor, and setting goals such as time scales and funding. We need to move to save bridges, create and establish footpath links and perhaps the greatest challenge so far, extend the head of navigation (and create a winding point and perhaps other services).

One thing is for certain the committee will be working as dedicatedly as ever on behalf of the Trust . Please bear this in mind, especially as the first A.G.M. approaches. If you have any suggestions we would love to hear them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Martin Wood.

Stop Press

We are pleased to announce that in February the Trust became an affiliated member of the Inland Waterways Association. The IWA actively supported the formation of the Trust and David Moore, South-East Region Chairman, is the Association's Nominee Director on our Committee.

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST SOCIAL

Saturday 24th February 1990

After agonising for weeks over how many members would support the first social gathering of the Trust, we decided that probably the event would attract about one hundred people. However we decided to cater for one hundred and fifty just in case. It was encouraging to see members and visitors arriving before 7.30 pm and during the next half hour over one hundred and twenty people arrived. If you allow for twenty invited guests this means an incredible 40% of members attended and made the evening a tremendous success.

The guest list, headed by our President Sir Kenneth Cork and Lady Cork, included Robert Jones MP, Timothy Raison MP, Robin Garrett from British Waterways and representatives of local councils and village societies.

In his address Sir Kenneth indicated that he was very pleased with the way the Trust had progressed and thanked various committee members for their efforts over the last year. Particular mention was made of our Hon. Sec. Janet Packe whom Sir Kenneth rightly described as indispensable. (Janet, apart from writing to everyone under the sun, also spent the day preparing the superb buffet - Thanks Janet, from everyone!) However on a more formal note, Sir Kenneth stressed that we must be seen to be doing something on the Arm. As you will see from the Chairman's notes in this newsletter, we are actively planning to step-up our campaign for restoration.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Ralph Wynroe. Mr Wynroe is a retired radiologist who spent most of his thirty-one years in the RAF at Halton. This, coupled with a love of photography and great local knowledge, provided a most informative and sometimes irreverently entertaining slide presentation. The photography was superb and included some marvellous pictures such as a Band of Hope outing on two narrow boats at Wendover Wharf in the 1890's (he did not take this one!) and photos showing the inside of Halton House, and the rebuilding of Halton Bridge which is one of the major obstacles to restoration. We all enjoyed this part of the evening immensely.

After a huge buffet, provided by Janet Packe (thanks again Janet!) and volunteers in the kitchen, I was able to mingle and discuss various topics with many people. I am delighted with the enthusiasm and support shown and the committee are encouraged by this.

Before the evening closed the raffle was drawn. Donated prizes with a total value of well over £150 included a beautiful watercolour of the Tringford Pump painted and donated by Brian Pitman, which everyone present cast covetous eyes upon. The raffle raised a total of £121 for the Trust funds.

The evening was a resounding success and if we get as much support for the Canal Festival in May, we will have a major event on our hands.

Martin Wood.

VOTE OF THANKS

In January, Mrs Sandie Rance, a founder member of the Trust, moved away from the area and resigned from the Committee.

Sandie has been involved with the GUCS annual Wendover Events for many years and joined the Wendover Arm Group as a representative of the Aylesbury Canal Society in 1986.

When Sandie and David Rance moved their boat engineering business to the Dry Dock at Bulbourne, she became a very effective ambassador for the Trust. Any passing boater or member of the public who displayed the slightest interest in the entrance to the Arm, which is opposite the Dry Dock, invariably became the recipient of a Trust Membership Form.

The Committee greatly regret the loss of Sandie and hope that in due time she will be able help us again.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Now that the Trust has been in existence for one year and open for membership for nine months, I am able to report that we have 268 members registered.

We are pleased to welcome all those members and have listed them on the centre page supplement.

In future issues of Wendover Arm News we will mention only the names and towns of members who have joined the Trust during the previous three months.

Barry Martin - Membership Secretary.

REFUGEES ON THE ARM

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 100ft 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 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 free in every nook and cranny 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 epoch.

Bernard Banfield. 14 Feb 1990.

WATERWAY MANAGER RESIGNS

Early this year Mr R. Calow resigned, for personal reasons, from his job as Waterway Manager, Grand Union Canal (South).

The position has been advertised and during the interim period the Trust will continue urgent discussions with British Waterways through Mr Robin Garrett, Regional Manager - South-East .

WENDOVER ARM TRUST

Notice of the First Annual General Meeting

Thursday 5th July 1990

Notice is hereby given that the First General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will take place on Thursday 5th July 1990, at the Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club, Aston Clinton, Bucks commencing at 8pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's Report.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Adoption of accounts.
6. Appointment of Auditor.
7. Election of Committee members.
8. Any other business.

Nominations for election to the Committee must be in writing, signed by the proposer and containing the signed consent of the nominee (both of whom must be paid up members of the Trust). Nominations should reach the Secretaries at 2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NT, not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting.

After the meeting, Trust member and well known waterways writer, Alan Faulkner, will give an illustrated talk about the Wendover Arm.

WENDOVER CANAL FESTIVAL

By Roger Lewis, Festival Chairman

As reported in the first issue of the Wendover Arm News, the Trust are holding a Boat Rally and Canal Festival on the Wendover Arm at New Mill, on the field adjacent to the Arm on the B488, Upper Icknield Way, over the weekend of the late Spring Bank Holiday - May 26-28.

Order appears to be emerging from the chaos of our early plans and we are all looking forward to a very happy weekend and, we hope, a profitable one for the Trust.

For Boaters, an entry form is enclosed with this news letter. Please return it to Barry Martin as early as possible. Barry tells me that he is already receiving a steady flow of completed forms.

We are hoping to have a large number of craft and trade stands, both in the marquee and out of doors. Beryl Martin has had quite a number of requests for stands but if you would like to book space on either or both of our open days, Sunday and Monday, please contact her. The hire of the marquees is our biggest cost and so it is essential that we fill them to cover the expense.

A licence has been applied for and the bar will be open on Saturday night, Sunday lunch time and evening and again during Monday lunch time.

The Boaters will have a Jazz Band to entertain them on Saturday night from 7.30 - 11.30pm. A Fish and Chip van will be on the site during the evening. On Sunday evening the entertainment will be provided by a 1960's style Disco and the inner man/woman/child will be satisfied by a Barbecue meal.

We have been promised a display of Classic Cars from Jensen, Morris Minor and others. On the Monday afternoon, Kodak have promised to send their Hot Air Balloon and make tethered flights, weather permitting. A novelty Dog 'Event' is being arranged on Sunday afternoon. A local riding school has promised to provide ponies for the youngsters to ride and there will also be a Bouncing Castle for the children. The local Muzzle Loading Gun Club hope to put on a display of ancient muskets and yet more local enthusiasts will entertain us with a form of War Games.

Security is very much in the forefront of our plans and we are arranging to have dog handlers on site throughout Saturday and Sunday nights.

We are still looking for ways of entertaining the public who will join us on Sunday and Monday. If any of you Trust Members have any ideas for other ways of attracting them to the Festival, or better still, are prepared to set up any form of stall which will bring in funds i.e. Bowling for a Pig, Roll a Penny, or even a White Elephant stall, will you please either write to me at Hastoe Hill, Tring, Herts. HP23 6LU or telephone me on 0442 82 3378.

LIST OF MEMBERS - FEBRUARY 1990

Mr J.L. Adamson	Kingsbury
Mr R. Allingham	High Wycombe
Mr D. Allison-Beer	Uxbridge
Mr A. Askew	Berkhamsted
Mr & Mrs J.E. Aston	Rickmansworth
Mr & Mrs M. Atkin	Puttenham
Mr & Mrs W. Atkin	Tring Ford
Mr C.R. Baker	Hazlemere
Mr W. Baker	Northampton
Mr B. Banfield	Leighton Buzzard
Mr & Mrs R.F. Barnaby	Chelmsford
Mr & Mrs A. Barnard	Dunstable
Mr & Mrs J.T. Barnell	Eaton Bray
Mr & Mrs B. Barnes	Watford
Mr D.R. Barrow	Bletchley
Mr & Mrs I.R. Barrow	Hemel Hempstead
Mrs K. Basnett	Berkhamsted
Mr & Mrs H. Bell	Trowbridge
Mr S.J. Bell	Leighton Buzzard
Mrs E.A. Bennett, Mr J. Bennett & Mr Wilson	Wendover
Mr C.N. Biggs	Wendover
Miss H.M. Biggs	Wendover
Mr & Mrs D. Binney	Tring
Mr & Mrs E.J.R. Bird	Kings Langley
Mr G.M. Bishop	Sydenham
Mr & Mrs R.F. Booth	Marsworth
Mr P.J. Bowers	Parkston
Mr J.F. Branch & Mrs M.J. Baker	Tring
Mr & Mrs S.P. Brabner	Amersham
Mr A.E. Brown	Sheerness
Miss C. Bushell	New Mill
Mr M.D. Caldicott	Prestwood
Mr R. Calow	Bulbourne
Mr E.M. Capron	Chesham
Mr P.T. Chapman	Tring
Mr L.H. Choles	St Albans
Miss V.I. Clark	Northchurch
Dr R.K. Clarke	Aylesbury
Mr R.P. Cleasby	Tring
Mr A. Collier	Leighton Buzzard
Sir Kenneth Cork	Great Missenden
Mr & Mrs P.S. Cox	Berkhamsted
Mr A.C. Davis	Tring
Rev & Mrs H.R. Davis	Berkhamsted

Mr R. Davies	Bentwood
Mr R. Downs	Higher Denham
Mr & Mrs J.T. Dunkley	Marsh
Mr & Mrs R. Edlin	St Clement - Jersey C.I.
Mr & Mrs D. Eggleton	Halton Village
Mr M.J. Eland	Watford
Mr & Mrs B. Evans	Bracknell
Mr A.H. Faulkner	Colchester
Mr & Mrs M.R. Fenn	Sevenoaks
Mr M.L. Foote	Aylesbury
Mr D.W. Foster	St Albans
Mr & Mrs W. Fox	Bletchley
Mr & Mrs L.C. Franklin	Linslade
Mr R. Garrett	Chesham
Mr J.W. Gerber	Tring
Mr & Mrs G.N. Giddings	Marlow
Mr & Mrs D.E. Gilbert	Towcester
Mr J.S. Glock	Leighton Buzzard
Mr D.T. Goseltine	Dunstable
Mr P.D. Grant	Dartford
Mr & Mrs M.J. Griffin	Chesham
Mr G.P. Gurney	Southfields
Mr S.R. Gurney	Southfields
Mr M.A. Handford	Hinckley
Mr R.D. Hardwick	Northampton
Ms J.D. Harlow	Newport Pagnell
Mr & Mrs W.G. Hawkins	Marsworth
Mr R.M. Healey	Amersham
Mr C.W. Hearn	Tring
Mr C. Hines	Leighton Buzzard
Mr & Mrs J.M. Hogarth	Watford
Mr R.A. Hope	Berkhamsted
Mr J. Hopkins & Miss R. Claire	Winslow
Mr & Mrs R.W. Howell	Edgeware
Mr D.G. Humphreys	Waddesdon
Mr P.B. Hutchinson	Watford
Mr B. Impey	Tring
Mr & Mrs H.J. Ingleby	Kings Langley
Mr & Mrs P.S. Jackson	Dunstable
Mr & Mrs C. Jenkins	Welwyn
Mr Robert Jones MP.	Westminster
Mr & Mrs W.R. Kempton	Hemel Hempstead
Mr & Mrs A.S. Kimpton	Hemel Hempstead
Mr G.W. King	Luton
Mrs H.W. King	Luton
Mr & Mrs F.W.P. Lea	Berkhamsted

Mr & Mrs R.W. Leishman
 Mr & Mrs J.R. Lewis
 Mr & Mrs L.R.N Lewis
 Dr & Mrs P.J. Lock
 Mr & Mrs G.M. Lockhart
 Mr & Mrs J.E. Long
 Mr & Mrs J. Macdonald
 Mr & Mrs M.C. Macdonald
 Mr F. Marshall
 Mrs B.J. Martin
 Mr B.M. Martin
 Miss S.Y. Martin
 Mr & Mrs K.P. Matthews
 Mr D. Monk
 Mr D.L. Moore
 Mr R.D. Morgan
 Mr & Mrs J.S. Murray
 Mr & Mrs S.J. Murray
 Mr & Mrs A.P. McCullagh
 Mr & Mrs R.W. Naulls
 Mr & Mrs B.M. Needle
 Mr & Mrs C.J. Newbury
 Mr & Mrs G.C. Nichols
 Lt. Col. C.G. Nuttall
 Mr P.C. Orton
 Mr I.A. Packe
 Mrs J.I. Packe
 Mr J. Parker
 Messrs Parker, Godsall, Snookes & Chorlton
 Mr K.J. Parker
 J. Parrott
 Mr N.R.R. Paton
 Mr & Mrs D. Payne
 Mr & Mrs N.L. Payne
 Mr D. Pearson
 Mr N.J. Phillips
 Mr & Mrs B.D. Pitman
 Mr M.J. Porter
 Mr & Mrs R.E. Powell
 Mr & Mrs N.J. Preston
 Mr & Mrs L.A. Prior
 Mr & Mrs K.R. Proud
 Mr G.E. Pursglove
 Mr & Mrs R.E. Pusey
 Mr & Mrs D.W. Rance
 Mr C.A. Rayner

Berkhamsted
 Harpenden
 Tring
 High Wycombe
 Leighton Buzzard
 Gerrards Cross
 Watford
 Dunstable
 Milton Keynes
 Hemel Hempstead
 Hemel Hempstead
 Hemel Hempstead
 Milton Keynes
 Welwyn Garden City
 Stanford-le-Hope
 Aylesbury
 Turvey
 Hemel Hempstead
 Wendover
 St Albans
 Beaconsfield
 Hendon
 St Albans
 Bugbrooke
 Watford
 Hemel Hempstead
 Hemel Hempstead
 Aylesbury
 Wendover
 Brockley
 Wendover
 Hemel Hempstead
 Welwyn Garden City
 Chalfont St Giles
 Marsworth
 High Wycombe
 Cheddington
 Aylesbury
 High Wycombe
 Maidenhead
 Marsworth
 Iver Heath
 Cowley
 Toddington
 Bulbourne
 Wendover

Mr C.J. Rees
 Mr & Mrs D.A. Rose
 Mr D.W. Rugg
 Mr G. Russell
 Mr R.H. Saunders
 Mr & Mrs C. Scrafton
 Mrs J. de Selincourt
 Mrs O.M. Shaw
 Mr R.R. Sherwood
 Mr S.J. Sloan
 Mr D. Smart
 Mr D.C. Smith
 Mr J.A. Smith
 Mr & Mrs R.A. Smith
 Mr & Mrs L.W. Snowden
 Mr & Mrs R.A. Soper
 Mr & Mrs M.F. Spatcher
 Mr & Mrs A.J. Squires
 Mr & Mrs R. Squires
 Mr C.J. Stephens & Miss M.A. Adamson
 Mr & Mrs M.L. Stevens
 Mr K.W. Stone
 Mr & Mrs A. Swaisland
 Mr & Mrs P.A. Swanson
 Mrs G. Titley
 Mr T.N. Tompkins
 Mr A. Turnbull
 Mr R. Ullah
 Mr M. Wallis
 Mr & Mrs K.A. Walsh
 Mr A.R. Ward
 Mr & Mrs P.J. Ward
 Mr & Mrs P.A. Wareham
 Mr & Mrs C.J. Webber
 Mr R. Wem
 Mr & Mrs R.L. Wheal
 Mr & Mrs J.A. Wheatcroft
 Mr & Mrs M.A. Whitney
 Mr & Mrs S.J. Willott
 Mr I.J. Wilson
 Mr & Mrs M.J. Wood
 Mr D.J. Woodhouse
 Mr & Mrs C. Woodruff
 Mr & Mrs J. Wright
 Mr & Mrs M.W. Wright

Berkhamsted
 Twickenham
 Wendover
 Aylesbury
 Marlow
 Marsworth
 Berkhamsted
 Prestwood
 Hatfield
 Haddenham
 Winslow
 Ealing
 Marsworth
 Uxbridge
 Wendover
 London
 Stevenage
 Little Gaddesden
 Chinnor
 Kensworth
 London
 Leighton Buzzard
 Little Brickhill
 Shenley
 Aylesbury
 Aylesbury
 St Albans
 Plumstead
 Aston Clinton
 Aston Clinton
 Milton Keynes
 Hounslow
 Tring
 Tilehurst
 Dunstable
 Leighton Buzzard
 Berkhamsted
 Haddenham
 Potters Bar
 Golders Green
 Leighton Buzzard
 Wendover
 New Bradwell
 Leighton Buzzard
 St Albans

CAR BOOT SALE

FESTIVAL CAR PARK, Sunday 27th May - 9am till noon.

Cars £5 Vans & Trailers £7

Why not take this opportunity to clear out the attic, garage, shed, under the stairs and similar places where things lurk which are no longer used or needed? There is a steady demand for records, tapes, books, tools, crockery, kitchen ware, ornaments, pictures, baby clothes & equipment, toys & games, nearly-new ladies & mens clothes and garden produce. How about all those boat bits-and-pieces? With (hopefully) 100 boats attending the Festival someone is sure to need that mushroom vent, window, odd can of paint or off-cut of marine ply.

So gather everything together and bring it along on Sunday morning. No car? - you came by boat - so use a wallpapering table or spread a groundsheet or blanket. Remember all the entrance money will go to W.A.T Funds and everything you make over that is yours! All enquiries to Beryl Martin.

BARBECUE and SOCIAL

Following our first very successful social evening in February we are now inviting all members and their families to come to the Barbecue Evening at the Festival at Tring on Sunday 27th May. We expect that the evening will attract upwards of 250 visitors so advance bookings are essential.

Meat packs (or vegetarian packs to the same value) are supplied which you cook for yourself on the large charcoal barbecues and then top up your plate with salads, coleslaw, french bread, etc. If you don't get on with cardboard plates & plastic cutlery and would be more comfortable using the real thing do bring it with you - also a glass or tankard if your drink is not going to taste right served in plastic!

Please use the enclosed form to book the number of adults in your party, the barbecue packs required and also to reserve an event plaque if you would like one.

Why not come for the day? Pack a picnic lunch and your folding chairs and have a whole day beside the canal. For early risers - the Car Boot Sale starts at 9am and the Festival opens at 10am.

Roger Lewis, our Festival Chairman, has written of the attractions being planned and the more members who are able to give their help for an hour or so to collect entrance money, sell programmes, direct cars or run a game such as darts, pick-a-nail, etc, the more successful the weekend will be.

Its more fun when you join in - try it and see!

Cruising Plaque

About twelve years ago the Wendover Arm was derelict, overgrown, silted up, half blocked by rotting sunken narrow boats and a boom had been placed across the entrance at Bulbourne Junction.

In 1978 the Grand Union Canal Society held the first boat rally and shortly after, to encourage boats to use the Arm, designed and produced a cruising plaque.

Any boater providing evidence that they have navigated to Tringford may purchase one of these unique plaques - so far well over 150 have been sold.

G.U.C.S. have asked the Trust to take over the organisation of the now annual boat rally and the issue of the cruising plaques.

Have you navigated the Arm yet?
- If not, why not beg, borrow or buy a boat and head for Tringford.

May 26th, 27th and/or 28th would be ideal because then you can stay and enjoy the Canal Festival as well.

Cruising plaques are now available from Mrs J Packe, 2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1NT. Price £5.00 plus 50p P&P.



Trust Sweatshirts

We now have a stock of attractive and very good quality grey sweatshirts bearing the Trust's Logo in dark blue on the left breast and the words Wendover Arm Trust. Priced at £10.00 each plus P&P, they are available in Medium, Large, XL and XXL sizes.

Enquiries to Ray Powell on High Wycombe (0494) 35152.

BRIAN PITMAN - CANAL ARTIST

Ever since the early days of the Wendover Arm Group, local canal artist Brian Pitman has supported efforts to restore the Arm.

Brian's drawing of the bridge over the entrance to the Arm at Bulbourne Junction is the central feature on the front of the Trust's Membership Form.

This sketch and others are also included in "Waterway to Wendover" - a study of the amenity benefits arising from restoring the canal. (Available price £1.25 plus 25p P&P from Janet Packe - Trust Hon. Secretary.)

The Trust is further indebted to Brian for the gift of an original water colour painting showing the Pumping Station and Stop Lock at Tringford. This painting was the major prize in the raffle at the First Anniversary Social Event on Saturday 24th February 1990.

More of Brian's paintings can be seen in the main marquee at the Wendover Canal Festival on Sunday 27th and Monday 28th May 1990. Brian will also be one of the canal artists exhibiting at the annual Canal Artists Weekend which will be on 23rd and 24th June 1990 at Stoke Bruerne.

LINFORD WATERWAYS FESTIVAL

To be held at Great Linford, Milton Keynes on the Grand Union Canal on 21st - 22nd July 1990. Details from Bruce Harding, Project Officer Grand Union Canal, British Waterways, Gayton Yard, Blisworth Arm, Northampton NN7 3EF. Or from the Waterways Marquee, which is being generously sponsored by B.W. at the forthcoming Wendover Canal Festival. (see pages 6 and 7.)

WATERING HOLE DRIES UP

In the first issue of the Wendover Arm News we gave a brief report on the only public house along the Arm. We regret to report that, although trade had increased since the refurbishment of the Buckland Wharf about three years ago, economic pressures have now forced the Aylesbury Brewery Company to close the establishment. The final pint was pulled on Friday 23rd February and the premises are now "For Sale".

Future walkers of the Arm will either have to carry a hip flask or walk fast enough to reach the Grand Junction Arms at Bulbourne before closing time.

Extracts from Bucks Herald - February 1990

CALL FOR BRIDGE TO BE RESTORED.

"Halton woman Alwyn Roberts is calling on the RAF to repair a bridge she says they have allowed to decay over the past 50 years.

The brick and marble bridge, which spans the Wendover arm of the Grand Union Canal, has Grade II listing and was built originally as part of the Rothschild Halton House estate.

For the last six years the bridge has had to be supported by iron bars, after a tree fell on it, knocking off a marble pillar and the wrought iron hand rail.

Since then the parish council has repeatedly asked the RAF to look into the cost of repairs, and the bill has risen from an estimated £70,000 in 1987 to £200,000.

There is no public right of way over it, but the RAF recognises that the bridge is used by villagers.

So disgusted was Mrs. Roberts at the state of the bridge, that she went down with a scrubbing brush, got a bucket of canal water and began cleaning it herself.

"I have written to the RAF asking if some of the young cadets could come and clean it up, give it a coat of paint and remove some of the RAF graffiti from this wonderful Victorian bridge," she said. "All I used was a bit of elbow grease. The RAF have repaired a gate in Weston Turville and built a cairn up in the Chilterns and its about time they did something in their own backyard."

The RAF have said in the past that there is subsidence, but Mrs. Roberts says the RAF are just trying to wriggle out of having to do any repairs, before the base closes in five years time.

She has been in touch with English Heritage, who told her to write to her MP and do all she could to embarrass the RAF into doing something.

"It's the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. I think its time the bridge had a birthday and the RAF helps preserve our Victorian architecture."

But a spokesman for the RAF said: "We have a number of priorities and demands on our finances. A choice has to be made between restoring the bridge and possibly renovating and damp proofing one of the houses of RAF personnel."

He said the estimated cost of repair was high because only two companies in the country could do the ironwork repairs, but the Ministry of Defence land agents were seeking lower estimates to repair the bridge and make it safe."

Reproduced by courtesy of The Bucks Herald.

Editor's Note

The Trust has also become very concerned at the lack of progress towards repairing this bridge and has now written to both the Property Services Agency and the English Heritage. In his letter, our Chairman, Martin Wood stressed the importance of this major feature of the Wendover Arm and the necessity for urgent remedial action.

By-pass Inquiry.

"A Public inquiry into the route of the proposed Aston Clinton by-pass will be held at the Green Park Centre, Aston Clinton, opening on April 9th 1990.

Aston Clinton Parish Council has campaigned for the preferred Department of Transport northern route to be adopted because it claims the southern route, favoured by the villages of Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp, would damage its village.

Both the villages of Aston Clinton and Weston Turville feel they would suffer from an increase in traffic.

The southern route was rejected by the DoT on environmental and economic grounds but the villagers of Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp objected and are making a case for a southern route."

Reproduced by courtesy of The Bucks Herald.

Editor's Note

Representations have been made by the Trust to the Department of Transport to ensure that navigable headroom is provided whichever route is eventually chosen.

Charity Stamp Bank

Dear Editor,

Could I please appeal to your readers to send postage stamps of all denominations; Green Shield, Pink, Look, Premier Gold, Co-op and Blue Chip stamps; Texaco, BP, Shell, Esso, Gulf, Fina etc. petrol vouchers; Air Mile points and all cigarette coupons to:-

WRG / IWA Stamp Bank, c/o 6 Spa Lane, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 1JB.

This is a *permanent* request which will continue indefinitely.

The Inland Waterways Association is a national charity campaigning for the multi-functional use of all Britain's inland waterways by fishermen, walkers, naturalists, boaters etc. The Waterway Recovery Group carries out voluntary canal restoration work and runs canal camps for young people interested in working on renovation schemes and giving their free time to help others.

We turn the used stamps into cash and the petrol vouchers etc. into goods for sale. We have already raised £1500 since August 1988 and aim to raise at least £1000 every year this way.

We would be most grateful if your readers would make a note of our address and keep us posted with stamps and vouchers.

Yours faithfully,

David Stevenson

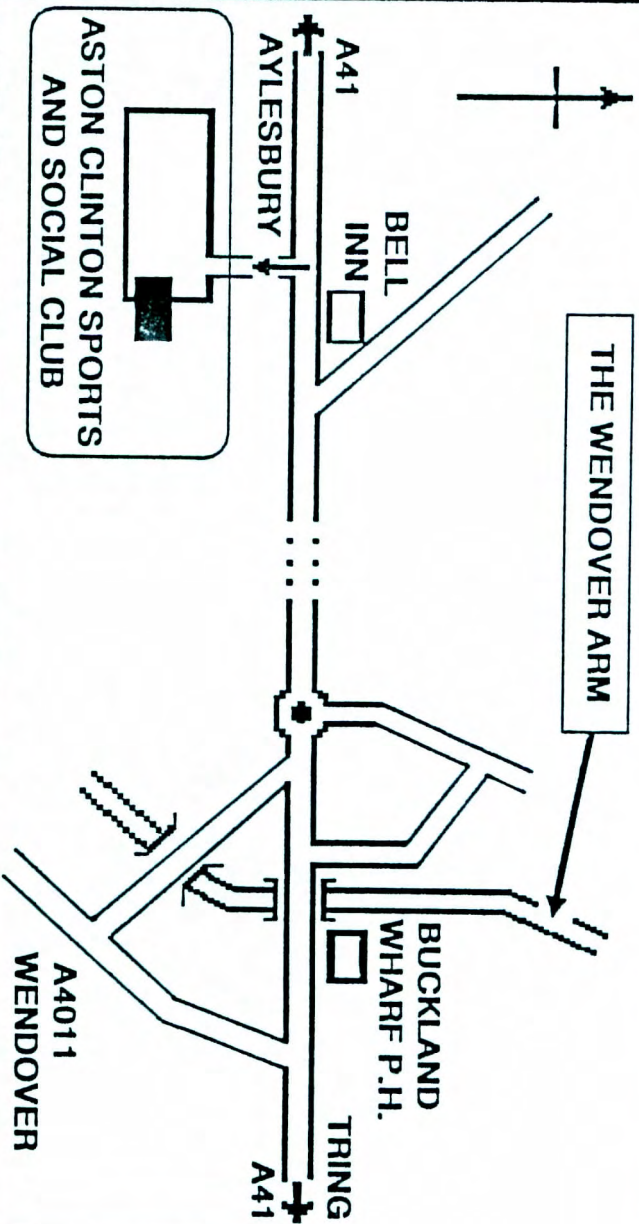
National Chairman, The Inland Waterways Association.

ACTIVITIES

1. **Saturday 31st March** is the date that the Trust will undertake a little rubbish clearance along the dry section of the Arm. If you can spare an hour or so to help, please meet the Committee at Buckland Wharf at 11 am bringing a plastic rubbish sack with you. Stout gardening gloves are also recommended.

2. **On Saturday 7th April**, Pitstone Local History Society will be taking a guided walk along the full length of the Arm. Trust members wishing to join this walk should meet at the Grand Junction Arms, Bulbourne, no later than 1.30pm for the car "shuffle". The walk will commence at 2.00pm, arriving

Copy Date for the Next Issue - May 14th 1990



WENDOVER ARM TRUST - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WENDOVER ARM TRUST

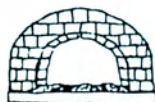
Presents



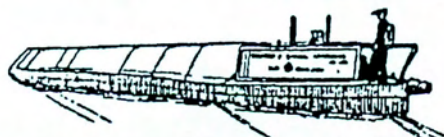
Classic
Vehicles

Music

Games



Bouncing
Bridge



More boats than ever before



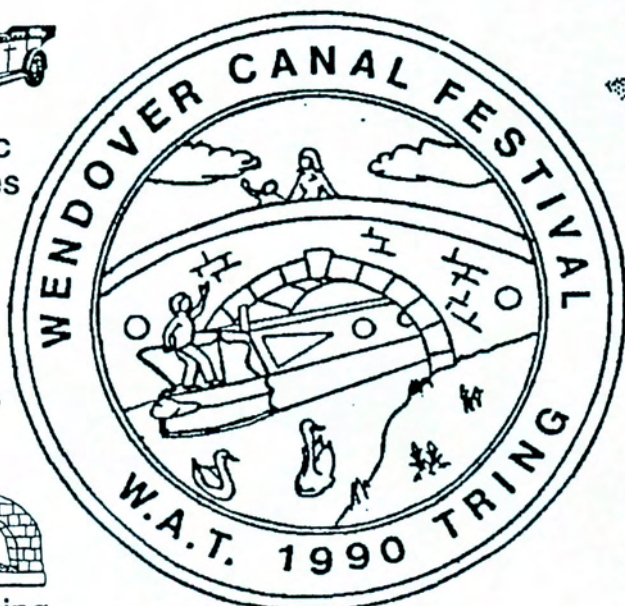
Pony Rides

Stationary Engines - "Sudden Impact" War Games -
Craft Stalls - Sunday Morning Car Boot Sale & More

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Sunday 27 May — Monday 28 May 1990, New Mill
(on the Upper Icknield Way, B488) TRING, HERTS

See the boats - Join the *FUN*



KODAK
Hot air
balloon
(Monday)

Beer
Tent



Novelty
Dog Event
(Sunday)

AT TRING