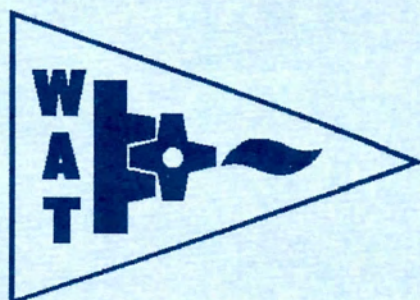


Wendover Arm News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



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THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Member,

On looking through the back numbers of the Wendover Arm News I see that for the past 5 years I have made the comment, in the issue immediately following the annual Canal Festival, that this year's Festival had been even better than the one held the previous year. Those remarks are equally valid for the 1995 Festival. I wonder, after every Festival, how we can make the next one even better but, thanks to the efforts of your very hard working Festival Committee, yourselves - the members of the Trust, Waterways Recovery Group, and the general public who come to enjoy themselves and see what is going on, we have yet again succeeded in producing a most successful event with another record profit this year.

Although we missed the Hertfordshire Caravan Club's attendance this year, the increase in the number of boats did help to keep up the number of people living either on the site or on the canal. How can we make 1996 even better? Any ideas which you have will be considered by next year's committee.

After all of the activity which took place earlier this year in preparing an application for a grant from the Millennium Fund and getting ready for the Festival things have been much quieter during the past two months. We are all, naturally, very disap-

pointed by the fact that we have not been asked to continue with our application for this year's Millennium Fund grant, but we are still encouraged by the fact that, together with BW and their Southern Highlands project, we have been put on "hold" and not turned down out of hand like so many other applicants.

Since the Festival, I have been enjoying my retirement from business by travelling over 500 miles on the canals (Plastic boats do sometimes go places!!) but I am convinced that there are not many places on the Waterways with better views than those that can be seen from the Wendover Arm - they will be even better when they can be viewed from a boat!

Please remember that much of the money which will be required for restoration must come from local public funds so, please, don't forget to plug the benefits of the restoration of the Arm whenever you are talking to your local councillors.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM at Aston Clinton on October 18th.

Yours sincerely,



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since the Wendover Canal Festival, events in Wendover, in Halton, the Lionheart's Open Day and the Bulbourne Event the Trust membership has increased rapidly and now stands at 483.

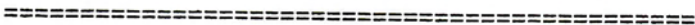
Listed below are the members who have joined the Trust since the last report.

We are pleased to welcome British Waterways as Corporate Members.

We also welcome all the new members listed below.

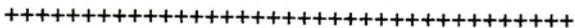
Mr D.W. Andrew	Great Missenden
Mr P.J. Andrews	London
Mr E. Astaire	Wendover
Mr & Mrs A.S. Bailey.	Milton Keynes
Mr & Mrs B.J. Bassi	Hertford
Mr & Mrs M.J. Bray	Tring
Mr D.J. Brough	Edgware
Mr A.P. Brown	Aston Clinton
Mr & Mrs R.T. Brown	Wendover
Mr M. Dodge & Ms. C. Hogarth.	Tring
Mr & Mrs G. Excell and Ms. B. Hunt . . .	Cowley Peachey
Mr E.J. Geary	Chadwell Heath
Mr M. Gore	Hatfield
Mr & Mrs R. Goswell.	Dunton
Mr K.J. Graves	High Wycombe
Mr D.E. Gray	Waddington
Mr & Mrs A. Hetherington.	Wendover
Mr & Mrs A.M. Hoyle.	Welwyn
Mr & Mrs T.J. Jenkins	Houghton Regis
Mr C.L. Jones	Ledbury
Mr G.D. Jones	Brentwood
Mr D.A. Key	Southwark

- Dr R. Lane Tring
 - Mr A. Macleod Tring
 - Mr & Mrs A. Maizels Weston Turville
 - Mr R.S. Mallatratt Birmingham
 - Mr & Mrs R.A. Orth Chesham
 - Mr & Mrs J. Owen Wendover
 - Mr & Mrs G.B. Page New Malden
 - Mr D. Roth Edgware
 - Mr J.A.Savage Tring
 - Mr & Mrs D.A. Scott Bracknell
 - Mr & Mrs A. Simpson Milton Keynes
 - Mr & Mrs S. Summers Tring
 - Mr P.J. Wardill Kimpton Bottom
 - Mr & Mrs R. Wetten Newbury
 - Mr C. Wood Great Missenden
- We also welcome Mrs Justice as a new "family" member



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 £10-00 - 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 front cover.

Barry Martin
Membership Secretary

FUNDING THE FUTURE

The letter arrived on
14th June.

"Thank you for your application for Millennium Commission funds for the Canal Restoration project. The Commission received 550 full applications in its first application round, with almost £6 billion sought in grants, significantly more than the Commission can distribute."

"The Commission has now selected the applications to go forward to the next, detailed appraisal stage, from which the successful projects will be chosen. As you know, the Millennium Commission is seeking projects nationwide which have the most potential to be seen by future generations as marking a significant moment in their local or national history. The Commission considered that your project demonstrated some potential to achieve such impact, but that by refining the elements of the project or its scale you would secure a more distinctive focus. Your project has not therefore been selected for further examination."

So that seemed to be it! We hadn't won the lottery, although I was not at all sure what they meant by "refining". Did they want us to plant trees on the towpath and turn the canal bed into a cycle track?

The next day, when the list of successful and unsuccessful projects was published, it became obvious that trees and cycling were the **in** things but I was somewhat encouraged to see that it was divided into 4 categories. "Section A" was the 83 "long listed" projects which included the Rochdale Canal and a new lock on the River Stour. Then came "Section B" with 76 projects "not sufficiently focused" but which could be long listed in a future round and this included us along with the Millennium Link and the Ribble Link. "Section C" listed 39 applications which did not "meet the Commissions' criteria" did not "have sufficient quality" or whose "viability not proven". Six waterway projects here - Bedford & MK, Chichester Canal, Wye/Lugg Navigation, Huddersfield Narrow Newry Canal, Lagan Canal. Finally, came the rest of the 1378 initial proposals which never became full applications.

Viewed from the point of view of that lot, we'd done quite well - but coming second was not good enough. The question was, was it just a polite way of saying no or would there be a worthwhile chance next time round?

Discussing the matter with our "Case Officer" revealed that there was very little wrong with our application, there was just no strong Millennium element. Remember, the Commission is looking for innovative ideas. Choices had to be made and we weren't chosen!

Should we be "refocusing" on the whole canal? Obviously that would make a stronger project, if we could fund it - the Commission is definitely limited to 50% - but my own feeling is that it is much better to stick with what is credible rather than risk falling into the "viability not proven" category. If the arm can be restored as far as Green Park, the rest will follow, a bit at a time if necessary.

So the fight goes on! The competition for money is very fierce, though. The 83 "long listed" projects are asking for £850 million from the Commission, whose quoted 1995 budget is £350 million. So they won't all get funding anyway and some of them may be left sitting on the short list waiting for money from next years' budget. When you add in all the new applicants, you wonder whether it's worth bothering!

Well the answer is that it is, because we have already done much of the work and gained valuable experience. Besides, we have a good project that deserves funding!

But it is a fight and although we already have a number of ideas for "tweaking" our application, we can do with all the help we can get. If anyone has any ideas for linking it to the Millennium or making it more "innovative", please pick up the phone and talk to me or any committee member.

One important weapon is a better idea of the cost of restoration and by the time you read this, we should have gone out to contract on a survey of the whole canal, building on the information in the Atkins survey and incorporating the site investigations recommended in it. There may be a lot of lottery money sloshing about but we clearly have to demonstrate our project is "value for money" to get any of it. The idea is to develop a strategy for the whole arm, so that should lottery funding fail, and, perhaps Local Authority money become available in Bucks, we can then quickly identify where best to spend it. Also, because of the state of the pipe line, it might be better to restore the dry section as a water channel first, rather than put all the Trusts' money into doing the bridge and winding hole at Little Tring.

Continued on Page 6

We have continued to work on obtaining "partnership" funding and there is some good news to pass on. Dacorum Borough Council has agreed in principle to support our bid with money coming from its Heritage Fund as the scheme progresses. We are hoping to put on a "Road Show" for the relevant committees of all the local authorities in the autumn. Contacts also continue with English Partnerships who are presently working out their strategy for dealing with canal projects.

funding via commercial sponsorship and we must talk to people living close to the arm, especially those at Buckland Wharf, whose support is essential. Demonstrating widespread public support is also a major key to getting lottery funding. In short, there's a lot of work still to be done before we can moor in Wendover basin for a quiet weekend. If there's anybody out there with ideas, imagination or energy, please come and help!

There are two other areas we need to work on. We must try to get some

Mike Chessher

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

At the Festival, Jennifer Thomas handed me a lottery ticket, which she had bought for the Trust.

The numbers were carefully chosen by Jennifer to be relevant to WAT that week - but unfortunately even that was not good enough to win us anything.

The numbers chosen were: 3, 6, 28, 29, 44, 48

The question is - can you work out the relevance of each number to WAT during Festival week? Answers on a postcard please to the Editor, together with your suggestion of a further relevant set. A stunning prize awaits the best suggestion - a share in what your numbers win that week when I buy the ticket!

Come To A Party

Dig 95 - WRG's 25th Birthday Party

Could you help to celebrate the Waterway Recovery Group's 25th Anniversary?

WRG are holding a weekend dig on November 3rd to 5th on the Thames & Severn Canal at Latton and they need YOU to go and help. The work will include several miles of jungle bashing, towpathing and a small amount of construction work. If you don't want to or can't work on site they will have hundreds of hungry navvies to feed and their cooks are always grateful for a hand in the kitchen.

You will need to book in before the weekend as the accommodation is at RAF Kemble and you will need a security pass to get on the site. This pass will be sent to you with your joining instructions.

If you have slightly more time to spare, they will need help to spring clean the airbase before the weekend and to clear up afterwards. The accommodation will be available from the Wednesday

before, to the Wednesday afterwards. All help will be gratefully received, if you're local and can't get away for long just a couple of hours would be of assistance. (Of course, if you are local to the Wendover Arm, we have a slightly smaller workparty on Sunday 5th November - but if we can get as many as WRG there it would be wonderful!)

The party will be on the Saturday night and will include (in different rooms!) performances by Mikron, a disco and a ceilidh, and no doubt the odd orange juice or two if required.

There will be limited caravan spaces available at £8.00 extra for the weekend - indicate on the form if you require a space.

If you require any more information, or would like a booking form, contact

Helen Davey
42 Orchard Close
Alresford
Hants SO24 9PY
01962 734909

or The Cotswold Canal Trust
Ken Bailey
109 Willis Road
Kingswood
Bristol BS15 4SE
0117 960 1710

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Meetings were held on 31st May, 21st June and 5th July. Next scheduled meetings are on 5th September and 4th October.

May

This meeting was called at short notice to consider the actions required to further the Millennium Commission application. Noted that decision on our application unlikely before mid-June.

Discussion held about surveys and investigations necessary quickly if application successful. Some identified in the Atkins report as:

- Site investigation on infilled section (core samples to test for toxic waste)
- Water table in mooring basin area
- Foundation works for bridges
- Additional drainage necessary west of Drayton Beauchamp bridge.

Also need a water levels survey.

Some form of Cost/Benefit study necessary.

Expected timescale for these studies would be 3-4 months, and would be necessary for Millennium Commission application to proceed. Agreed to postpone decision on committing funds for these studies to next meeting, as limited number of Directors present.

Partnership with local organisations essential to the plan. Agreed this should include WAT, BW, Bucks County Council, Herts County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Dacorum Borough Council. A presentation to be prepared for councillors.

June

BITM Waterways Recovery Group have written saying that they intend to make the Wendover Arm their WRG 25th birthday year celebration event.

Millennium Commission advise that application has not been selected to go forward on the grounds that relevance to the year 2000 had insufficient impact. However, invited to make a revised application next time. Agreed that Mike Chessher had done very well to have reached this stage (further news in Mike's report on pages 4 to 6. A number of points identified by meeting which would need developing.

Memberships increasing following Festival and Waterways World article. The Trust had also attended the Wendover VE day and Halton Air Show with good interest shown from the public making them worthwhile. Plans to attend the BW Bulbourne open day (to which we are lending our chairs) and the annual Canal Day at Slough.

An invitation has been received to enter a float in the 1996 Lord Mayor's Show. Further discussion to be held at future meeting.

July

This meeting concentrated on restoration funding issues. Possible alternative to Millennium Commission would be Heritage Fund - to be investigated further.

An Environmental Impact Analysis has been done independently, which with some revi-

sions should be suitable for WAT use.

Agreed that serious consideration should be given to working up a scheme to restore all the way to Wendover in single project. First step is to commission a study with a professional consultancy - topics to be included in the brief were identified for use in obtaining cost estimates for the work.

Partnership discussed further from June meeting - 30 organisations identified as possible partners. Data base to be prepared for approaching right prospects in right way.

A FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Looking back on this year's Festival, as ever one thinks of all the things that could have been better. However, so as not to get too despondent, I thought I would write down all the good points against the bad points, and the good won hands-down. Unfortunately, I did that straight after I got home from the weekend, and promptly lost my list, so these reminiscences are a little blurred by time.

The weather was pretty fair - dry beforehand so the ground was hard. In fact it was so hard that the marquee erectors had to use road drills to make the holes for the pegs; they just could not hammer them in at all even with a

pneumatic hammer. So, bad for them, but good for us because we were able to find every fence post hole from last year, and the fencing went up in record time. (Somebody suggested planting a daffodil bulb in each hole afterwards, so we could find them again next year!) Another benefit of the dry ground was that the marquees were much warmer at night than last year.

Despite the absence of the caravan club, we had more boats than in recent years, and with some willing hands volunteering to help there, and the ever-present and welcome help of BITM WRG, the whole site seemed to

continued on page 11

1995 GRAND FESTIVAL DRAW

1. Canal Holiday Donated by Grebe Canal Cruises	Mr Peter Cocup Heston, Middx	012170
2. Balloon Flight Donated by Chris Dunkley	Tricia Guildford Leighton Buzzard, Beds	001285
3. £100 Cash	D & A Freeman Potters Bar, Herts	012596
4. Framed Prints Donated by Diane House	Chris Tanner Berkhamsted, Herts	001840
5. House Contents Valuation Donated by Tring Market Auctions	Colin Perkins BW, Hemel Hempstead	005261
6. Food Hamper Donated by Phyllis Packe	Mr Lewis Berkhamsted, Herts	013777
7. Dinner for 2 Donated by Grand Junction Arms	Mrs Williamson Harpenden, Herts	012979
8. Cuddly Rabbit Donated by Janet Packe	John Hinton Wendover, Bucks	004088
9. Wine Donated by Janet Packe	C Bassford Eaglet Ind., Hatfield	001516
10. Decanter Donated by Joan Martin	Mr Baron	013025
11. Whisky Donated by Roger & Sheila Lewis	Mr F Piggott Luton, Beds	002697
12. Cosmetic Hamper Donated by Margaret Birchall	D Cave Uxbridge, Middx	013083
13. Ribbon Plate Donated by John & Jane Branch	Mrs S Wilkins Aylesbury, Bucks	009320
14. Biscuits & Chocolates Donated by Phyllis Packe	D Pepperall	012784

Our grateful thanks to all those who donated prizes, sold tickets, and indeed bought tickets.

take shape very quickly - so much so that we all thought we had finished and then found hundreds of minor jobs not done just before the public arrived. One sad consequence of this was an accident late Saturday night to Bob Wheal. Trying out steps to the lorry trailer we were to use as a stage, he discovered (as had Roger Lewis a few minutes earlier) that they were unsafe.

Whilst Roger got away with it, Bob was not so lucky, and cracked a rib as he fell. That made him a little quieter for the weekend, although he was to be seen walking stiffly around next day putting a brave face on what was obviously a very painful injury. Johanna Wheal just worked twice as hard to make up for it - and she never stops anyway!

The public days were a great success. Despite rain on Sunday, and not that good weather Monday, record crowds turned up each day. Seemingly there were very few problems - judging by the lack of messages being put out over the radios. In fact, most of Monday's broadcasts seemed to be jokes rather than calls for help!

The evenings for the boaters were very well attended - Fred Marshall and his crew from Lionhearts Club were kept running behind the bar each night, but managed to eke out the stock so nothing ran out. There is no truth in the rumour that they watered the beer down to make it last! The

jukebox on Friday night was very popular; our thanks to Roger and Lesley at Jooks for providing such a good selection of records. I've heard from them since - they say they thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and want to come back again next year, so you now know what to expect on Friday night!

Clearing up on the Tuesday seemed to take forever - even though a lot had been done on Monday night by kind folk before they left. I think a shortage of people was to blame - we MUST have more people next year. I know this is a perennial cry, but the few who stay to the end are just doing too much, and the stress level is too high. If we are to keep this Festival going and growing, members have to come forward to help. The Festival is far too important an event now to let go - the final profit this year is in the region of £28,800, and there is no other way we can make that up. Please - think about offering your help for next year - it is desperately needed.

Having had that one, small moan, overall the event has to be considered an outstanding success once again. Congratulations to all who had a part in creating it, and thanks to everybody who lent a hand. We should be back next year - EC permitting, so get your thinking caps on and tell us what we can improve on.

LETTERS

From Roger Mallatratt, Mosley, Birmingham.

We have today just had the most beautiful walk from Wendover to Aston Clinton and back. We shall return in a few weeks time to finish off the canal and probably include the Aylesbury Arm for the round trip.

We were attracted by the article in *Waterways World* and had meant to be at your Festival which we can perhaps catch next year. As you can see I live in a particularly beautiful part of the world - easy access to Cotswolds, Peaks, Shropshire etc. - and I was afraid that the longish journey might not be worthwhile. I apologise for my ignorance and have now discovered a lovely Canal and the superb Chiltern Countryside.

I did not mean to ramble on like this and don't invite you to comment in any way. The real reason I write is that with all the excellent presentation at the Wendover end of the Canal we felt there were some apparent oversights.

The principal one was lack of attention to the question of eating and drinking. As we approached Aston Clinton we

thought we would look for a pub for lunch. We headed to the first two shown on the O.S. map, namely at the A41 bridge and at the crossroads at Buckland and they were both closed. From Buckland we headed back to the main road to find a pub on the corner (name not noted I'm afraid) which wasn't on the O.S. map and where the landlord and staff were very pleasant, providing a good value snack.

The pub is less than half a mile from Stable Lane Bridge and ideal for walkers. Is the Landlord not interested in promoting his trade in publicity or with a notice by the bridge? Business was very slack today and he seemed quite pleased to see us.

The maps would benefit from showing accessible pubs and the older looking map by the A41 had good tips about walking time and the lack of buses back.

Sorry to poke my nose in like this. The place is brilliant and I don't mean to criticise.

Roger Mallatratt

RECRUIT A MEMBER TODAY

One of the things which is very evident from analysing the Millennium Commission criteria is the need for widespread public support - which can be readily demonstrated.

Our membership, as reported by Barry on pages 2 and 3, has been increasing nicely recently, but we cannot have enough members. You can play a part in getting our numbers up further.

We are appealing to every member to recruit another. You all know somebody who would love to join us, but just doesn't really know how to go about it. If you own a boat, talk to the boats moored next to you. If you fish, talk to the person on the next swim. If you walk, talk to anybody you meet, on or off the towpath. If you birdwatch, next time you are around the reservoirs tell the next twitcher you see about the benefits that restoring the canal in terms of wildlife. In short, whatever you do, there is somebody near you with similar interests who is a good prospect for membership.

Now - go out there and recruit!

WATERWAYS WORLD

Euan Corries article on the Wendover Arm in the June issue of Waterways World made excellent reading, and we hope you all bought a copy.

Some bought their copies from the Trust stand at the Festival, or subsequent events we attended. However, we have still got a few (and that really is a few, not the market trader's "last one guv!") copies left, so if you didn't get one before, call John Brooman now and reserve a copy.

We only charge cover price for it, which is remarkable value in anybody's books. Hurry though, there are only a few left (guv).

RETURN TO WORK

Yes, the work party season has crept inexorably round again!

You all know the formula I'm sure, but in case you don't, we meet on the first Sunday of the month, starting in October, at about 10.00. Those of you who are regulars (and we'd love to see more!) know that our chief aim last year was to finish the primary clearance of the whole of the dry section, so we could get on with the vital business of pulling roots out. We achieved the clearance target, but of course a load of growth has gone on all summer, so it does not look quite so good now. However, provided we can get the bodies there, I would like to really concentrate on the roots again, carrying on from where we left off.

So - where do you go to join us? I think we should return to Drayton Beauchamp again, where there is no shortage of decent size roots to work on. Park near the bridge, and walk towards Tring on the towpath - it's not too far so you can leave your lunch in the car if you wish. In case you are not sure which way to go, the signboard will be out as usual to guide you.

Bring some gloves, and any slashing and hacking tools you think would be useful - and if you've got a Tirfors winch or a hydraulic kit, do bring that as well! We look forward to seeing a really good turnout for the first session, which is on

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st

followed by

NOVEMBER 5th

DECEMBER 3RD

JANUARY 7th

FEBRUARY 4th

MARCH 3rd

The first Sunday in April is Easter, so we shall probably make it the second Sunday, 14th, but watch these pages for confirmation.

Go on - support your Trust and give us a few hours of your time this year - PLEASE

TOWPATH TALK

- ☞ I'd heard of "coals to Newcastle", but couldn't believe the tale I heard at the Festival from the caterers. Based in Yorkshire, they have a long drive down to Tring, and so you can sympathise with them wanting to stop on the way for food and drink. They did - at a branch of a well-known burger emporium, despite having untold thousands of burgers in the back of the vehicle! Not only that, but the burger house was only three miles from home - leaving a long drive without a break!
- ☞ Just a thought (by one of the Committee) - if canals were privatised, there would have to be a regulator, like Ofgas, OfTel etc. Would it be Ofcut?! And on the same bizarre train of thought would a privatised Wendover Arm Trust be under Ofwat?
- ☞ If you danced the Saturday night away at the Festival to our Ceilidh band, and wanted more, read on. BW are holding their annual Bardance/Ceilidh on November 17th at Leavesden, near Watford. If you've been before you'll know these are great fun and great value. Further details available from BW offices at Marsworth.
- ☞ Following my appeal in the last issue for somebody to help with printing this and future issues, I was delighted to receive a call from David Clark (husband of Caroline, our former BW Manager) offering his assistance. David runs his own printing business - Clark Colour - and not only offered to do the printing, but to sponsor it as well. Many thanks indeed David. Now I will have to confess that any lack of quality is totally my fault!

Disclaimer

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



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