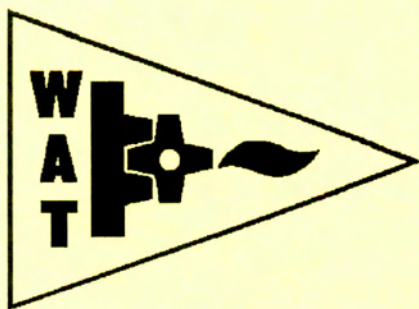


Wendover Arm News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 6
Spring 1991

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

A non-profit distributing Company Limited by Guarantee

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member

As I write these notes winter is really upon us, about 9 inches of snow covers the whole of this part of the country including the Wendover Arm. Road and rail travel has varied from difficult to impossible and thick ice makes boating and fishing just as impossible on the "in-water" part of the Arm as it is on the dry-section. However, by the time that you read this news-letter I have no doubt that navigation will again be possible to Little Tring. How nice it would be if the rest of the Arm could be transformed as quickly and easily.

We were very lucky to be able to clear the scrub and undergrowth at Little Tring last month before the snow came upon us. It was very encouraging to see so many of you at that event working so enthusiastically on this our first practical work as a restoration organisation. I am also pleased to report that the R.A.F. have made a start on the restoration of the Rothschild Bridge at Halton - scaffolding was erected around and under the bridge and the old ballast road surface removed before Christmas, but since then little has been done, Gulf wars or weather may be the cause of the hold-up!

Preparation for the 1991 Festival is well in hand - there is an update report on pages 6 and 7.

After 10 months we still await the result of the Aston Clinton By-pass Inquiry, maybe the result will be with us in time for the next newsletter along with the W.S. Atkins survey and report.

Last, but not least, it is with pleasure that I congratulate Beryl Martin, our news-letter Editor, on her recent secondment to the Council of the Inland Waterways Association - a well deserved honour.

Roger Lewis

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Listed below are the members who have joined the Trust during the previous three months. **Welcome to the Trust.**

Mr Furse	-----	Chartridge
Mr & Mrs Harries	-----	Dunstable
Mr & Mrs Heal	-----	Beaconsfield
Mr Margrave	-----	Dunstable
Mr Stanbridge	-----	Leighton Buzzard

Thank you to all Trust members who have renewed their memberships during the past 3 months. The percentage of renewals is still very high - but unfortunately there are a small number of members who have not yet renewed, whether by intention or because they have forgotten is not yet clear! Another reminder is included with their copy of this newsletter.

May I especially thank all those members who, having originally joined by sending a cheque or cash, have now continued their membership by Bankers Orders - this will greatly help the Trust by reducing the postage costs and the number of letters which have to be written.

Members who pay their subscriptions by Bankers Order will receive a new membership card when their payment appears on our bank statement.

Currently the Trust has 336 members registered.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

The Trust seeks to establish links with waterways societies, boat clubs, local authorities, and interested commercial organisations.

We would be pleased to hear from Secretaries of any clubs or associations interested in becoming Corporate members of the Trust. This membership class has a single vote and receives four copies of all Trust newsletters. The annual subscription is £10.00 .

Barry Martin - Membership Secretary

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST

The Trust has sent a letter of congratulation to the Rt.Hon. Sir Timothy Raison M.P. on his knighthood announced in the New Year's Honours List.

RESTORATION ROUND-UP

In Issue N0.5 of Wendover Arm News, we called your attention to Part Two of Michael Handford's annual review of restoration schemes throughout the country.

Although we expected this report to be in the January issue of Canal and Riverboat Magazine it did not appear until February.

The report which gives the year 2000 as an estimated date for completion is as follows :-

Grand Union (Wendover Branch)

"W.S.Atkins and Partners are preparing an engineering feasibility and cost survey of restoring the canal beyond the current terminus, through Little Tring Bridge and into the land beyond. The Wendover Arm Trust have funded this study jointly with BW who have already given tenants notice to quit. The current projected start date is 1992. WAT also fought a skillful battle at the Aston Clinton by-pass Inquiry and look forward to the results with confidence.

This has been one of the great successes of the year with the scheme coming from nowhere and developing into an active planning unit for restoration in the near future."

WATERWAY TO WENDOVER

Copies of this amenity study of the Wendover Arm, with illustrations by Brian Pitman and a foreword by Robert Jones M.P. are available, price £1.25 plus 25p postage, from the Trust Secretary - Janet Packe at 2, The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NT.

Copy Date for the Next Issue

May 14th 1991

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the second Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held at the Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire,

Thursday 4th July 1991 at 8pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting held on 5th July 1990.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report.
6. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the report of the Committee (Council of Management).
7. To receive and, if thought fit, to approve the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust for the year ended on 5th April 1991, and the Report of the Honorary Auditor thereon.
8. To re-appoint Mr J.R.Lewis F.C.A. as Honorary Auditor.
9. To elect Members to the Committee. (See note 1 below)
10. Any Other Business.

By order of the Committee

Janet Packe - Secretary

4th March 1991

Registered Office:

2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane

Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead

Herts HP1 2AE

Note 1. Under Article 39, nominations for election to the Committee may be received by the Secretary up to seven clear days before the date of the meeting. Nominations must be in writing and signed by the proposer and by the person nominated, confirming his willingness to be elected. Only members qualified to vote at the meeting may make nominations or stand for election.

A list of Committee Members standing for re-election and other members standing for election will be given at the meeting.

Note 2. Any person being a member of the Trust is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf at the Annual General Meeting. Such a proxy need not be a member of the Trust. A letter nominating the proxy, signed by the member, must be received by the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

SLIDE PRESENTATION

After the AGM there will be an illustrated talk on a waterway restoration topic.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

11-19 MAY 1991

As our contribution we will hold another litter pick to tidy up the dry section near Drayton Beauchamp.

Meet at Buckland Wharf on the A41

10- 00 am on Sunday 12th May.

1991 WENDOVER CANAL FESTIVAL AT TRING


The preparations for this year's Festival are going ahead well. I know that this event will be bigger than last year's - whether it will be better remains to be seen, the success of the last Festival will be a very hard act to follow but "here's hoping".

Boat entries are already coming in well and we have already filled one marquee with Craft stalls while Bob and Joanna Wheal are working hard to fill a second one, thus doubling the number of stall-holders over last year's event. We are hoping to have Morris Dancers on Sunday and Monday and I have asked Mr Downs to bring his childrens swings and roundabouts again this year - he will also operate a coconut shy for you dads to have a go at.

British Waterways will again loan us a marquee for their own and other charity stands and for use during the evening entertainments. They have also promised to put on a practical land-based demonstration (dredging), loan us their Bouncing Bridge and their "dipping pond" for the youngsters. I am delighted that they are giving so much assistance.

Last years stationary engine exhibitors all hope to return in force and with more working exhibits. At least one Classic Car Club has promised to attend - we are hoping that more will follow in due time.

Mr Miles is once again lending us his scaffolding bridge to make the crossing of the Arm so much easier and we are very grateful to the firms which have sponsored it's erection.



In addition to the boaters we will be joined, this year, by members of the Hertfordshire Branch of the Caravan Club. This should promote some friendly rivalry during the Saturday afternoon games that Colin Rees is organising. Colin is arranging a live music 60's style dance band on Saturday night and the same disco for Sunday night as we had last year. He is also organising, with Clive Knapp and Heather Alsop, another novelty dog show for Sunday and a dog agility course on Monday. Janet Packe will be organising her superb barbeque suppers on Sunday night. Fish and Chip will be supplied by Mr Poole who catered so well last year, he will be in attendance from Friday night onward this year. The new Chiltern Branch of the IWA will provide sandwiches and non-alcoholic refreshments each day.

We have applied for a licence to open the bar on both Friday night and Saturday lunchtime this year in addition to last year's opening times.

At present we are looking for a supply of chestnut paling fence to make the perimeter of the show-ground secure and so, if any of you can help me to obtain about 400 yds. of this material I will be very pleased to hear from you - please telephone me on Tring (044282) 3378.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the official opening ceremony at 12-00 noon on Sunday 26th May.

Roger Lewis.



BOOK NOW FOR THE FESTIVAL

Enclosed with this issue of Wendover Arm News is a booking form for the 1991 Wendover Canal Festival.

Please return your completed form as soon as possible so that we will be able to order enough commemorative plaques and plan the Barbeque and Social Events.

If you have already completed a booking form then please pass the enclosed form to a friend.

HELP NEEDED

As we found last year lots of help is needed during the time the Festival Site is open to the public. Only by having enough personnel available can we make the most of all the attractions and money raisers organised.

Areas where help will be needed are the Car Park, the Main Entrance, selling programmes, sale of Draw Tickets, the Towpath Gate and the Footbridge Entrance, the Bouncy Castle, the Trust Stand, the Refreshment Tent - the list seems endless. Ken Walsh will be coordinating helpers and needs as many offers of help for an hour or so each day as possible.



CAR BOOT SALE

A Car Boot Sale will be advertised and take place at the Festival on Monday morning from 9-12 noon. This raised nearly £100 last year. The fee will be the same this year - £5 for a car and £7 for larger vehicles.

If you have come by boat or caravan you could sell from a table or a blanket spread on the ground. The Sale will be sited more prominently this year so that people arriving to go into the Festival will walk through it and hopefully buy lots of the bargains on offer.



One of the primary functions of the Trust is to raise funds for the restoration of the Arm. - Here is an opportunity for every member of the Trust to help.

GRAND FESTIVAL DRAW

Tucked in with this newsletter you will have found five books of Draw tickets. This is another first for the Trust and we are hoping that everyone will be able to help in this fund raising effort by selling tickets to family, friends and workmates.

The Canal Narrow Boat Holiday has been generously donated by Rod Saunders of Grebe Canal Cruises and the "Many Other Prizes" include a good variety of desirable items.

Please return all the completed ticket stubs and money (cheques should be payable to "Wendover Arm Trust") to Janet at the address on the tickets. If you can sell more tickets Janet will be pleased to send these to you, but do let her have all stubs, money and unsold tickets back by Saturday 18th May at the latest.

The Trust will have a stand at the Festival displaying the prizes and selling tickets - we hope to sell out - **but this depends on how many tickets you sell now.** - Thank you for your help.



ARE YOU CRAFTY ?

Space is fast running out in the two (yes two) Craft Marquees at this year's Festival in May.

We still have a few stands left though, so if you want to show off Granny's crochet work, Dad's scrimshaw, Mum's embroidery, or simply to make a bob or two from your own work, book now !

This year's reservations include seasoned professionals as well as first-time exhibitors, so don't be shy.

If you took space in the Craft Fair last year and haven't booked yet for this year - shame on you !

Call Bob or Joanna Wheal on 0525-381614 for rates and reservations.

TRUST LECTURES AND SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

Talks illustrated by colour slides are all part of our efforts to publicise the canal and the aims of the Trust, to gain more members and increase restoration funds through fees and donations.

Early in February, David Moore using the Trust slides, gave a talk to the Chelmsford Branch of the IWA and a £25 donation has been received.

Roger Lewis and Dr Wynroe gave a talk on the 1990 Festival and the Wendover Arm to the Beds and Bucks Stationary Engine Club on the 12th March.

Ken Walsh will be speaking to the Lionhearts Cruising Club on 18th March, and a presentation will also be given to Halton Parish on 23rd March.

Jim Macdonald, a Trust member, gave a talk on "Boats & Boating Disasters" to the Milton Keynes Branch of the IWA. Jim requested that a donation, in lieu of a lecture fee, should be sent to the Wendover Arm Trust. We are grateful to both Jim and the Milton Keynes Branch for this £25 donation.

BOAT FOR SALE

NAUTICUS 27 ft.

Professionally refitted interior, vgc, regularly slipped and well maintained. 4/5 berth, recent new canopy/windows, SS hand-rails. Ford Watermota Seawolf engine. £7650 - Tel. (0525) 381614.



The Buckland Wharf Inn, situated about halfway along the Arm on the A41, has been converted to offices and Homesitters Ltd., previously based in Tring, moved in a few weeks ago. The building now looks very smart and we are pleased that this small part of the history of the Arm will survive although not for it's original use.

CIVIC TRUST

Having registered with the Civic Trust with a view to obtaining financial assistance from the Department of the Environment "UK 2000" Scheme, an application was sent for a grant to cover 50 % of our costs for the W.S. Atkins feasibility study.

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that the sum of £2,000 has been awarded to the Wendover Arm Trust by the UK 2000 fund at their meeting on 21st March.

Following our letter of acceptance, arrangements will be made for the cheque to be publicly presented.

SALES GOODS

THE COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF SALES ITEMS IS AS FOLLOWS:-

- * SWEATSHIRT in a variety of colours incl. blue, red, green and sizes XXL, XL, L, M, S. £10.00 each
- * T-SHIRT in same colours and sizes as above plus children's sizes. Adults £4.50 each - Childrens £4.00 each

SPECIAL OFFER

Sweatshirts in grey and sizes XXI, XL, L, M, S are available at the reduced price of £8.00 each

- * TEA TOWEL - printed in either blue or green on white - £2.25 each
- * BURGEE £4.00 each * BALL POINT PEN £0.60 each
- * AYLESBURY & WENDOVER ARMS BOOKLET £2.00 each
- * POP-UP CANAL GREETINGS CARD £1.20 each

POSTAGE WILL BE CHARGED AT COST.

The above may be ordered by telephoning Ray Powell on 0494-35152 or by writing to him at 116, Cressex Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 4TZ.

CANAL WORKING PARTY REPORT

Although the 3rd week of January started with some extremely wet weather, the rain stopped before Sunday 20th January, in time for the working party to clear the area between Tringford Stop Lock and the filled-in bridge at Little Tring.

Over 50 members and friends cleared all the trees and other undergrowth that had accumulated in the canal bed and disposed of it all on an enormous bonfire. The steps up to the road above the filled-in bridge were also cleared and should now be much safer.

Many local organisations were represented including the Dunstable & District Boat Club, the Aston Clinton Boat Club, the Aylesbury Canal Society, the Grand Union Canal Society, and at least six Branches of the Inland Waterways Association. A large proportion of those attending also happened to be members of the Wendover Arm Trust.

The clearance was reported in the Bucks Herald and a subsequent report in the Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring Express spoke of "the excellent work being undertaken by volunteers of the Wendover Arm Trust".

So thank you to all who were able to help. For many others, who were unable to make it this time, we are hoping to arrange something similar later in the year.

It is obvious that there is a great enthusiasm to do work to progress the restoration of the Arm and we hope that we may be able to persuade BW to allow further clearance of other areas which have now become overgrown again. Eg. Whitehouses site.



A WAY UNDER LOW BRIDGES

When the Arm has been restored to Wendover, the Halton Village and Buckland Wharf low clearance bridges will be a problem. The first can be rebuilt to give boat clearance at a possible cost, but the latter, which carries the A41, would be very expensive to replace. Only smaller craft and low cabin cruisers would go under. Narrow-boat owners will be frustrated.

There is a relatively simple solution, much less costly. The answer is a short "bed-depression" reach. Don't rush to the idea that this would be difficult, or involve precise civil engineering. All that will be needed is a bed bottom excavation for about 50 cms extra water depth, extending under the bridge plus one narrow-boat length up and down-stream from each side of the road bridge, ie: a total depressed-bed length of about 60 metres. A single shallow lock gate would be fitted at each end of the 60 metre reach, and normally left open for the passage of small craft. As will be seen in a minute, these gates need not be ultra precise in sill and jamb fit; they would only extend upwards roughly 10 cms above the restored water level. A small metered electric pump would be arranged to lower the water level in the 60 metre reach by 50 cms when both gates are closed. This does not need an enormous pump to do this job in a few minutes, even with somewhat leaky lock gates! A narrow-boat and crew, having entered the lock, could pass under the A41 bridge, open a simple gate paddle, fill up the 50 cms dropped water level, and proceed to Wendover. The pump motor operated by a 50p coin-in-slot electricity meter, or by a key obtainable at a small cost from our Trust.

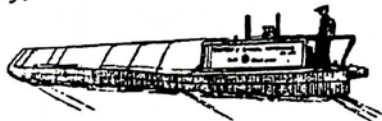
If either gate is inadvertently left closed, no harm would result, as the upstream water level would only rise 10 cms and flow over the top of the gate.

The work is not beyond the ability of a voluntary work group.

Should the Aston Clinton By-pass Inquiry bridge and headroom go against us then the same boat passage solution applies.

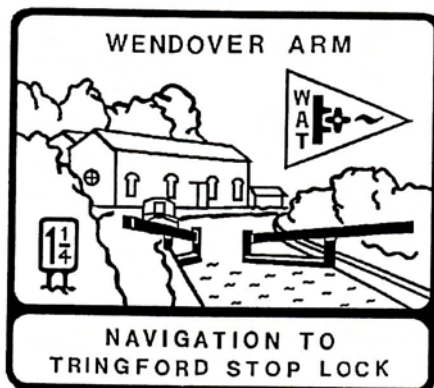
(If you haven't taken me seriously, at least have a good laugh.)

Bernard Banfield.



A NEW CRUISING PLAQUE

At last the stock of G.U.C.S cruising plaques has been exhausted - did you navigate to the Tringford Stop Lock and obtain yours?



A new Wendover Arm cruising plaque has been designed and will be available from Easter onwards. The plaque, shown above, is 4 inches by 3.5 inches.

So if you missed the old plaque and/or would like a new plaque - spring is almost here - so everyone head for Tringford!

The plaques can be obtained from the Trust Secretary - Janet Packe - 2, The Driveway, Anchor Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NT. The cost will be £7.00 each plus 75p for post and packing when necessary.

The Trust is grateful to the Grand Union Canal Society for the original plaque scheme which encouraged navigation of the Arm.

If your boat is booked to attend the Wendover Canal Festival why not obtain your new cruising plaque then?

THE ROTHSCHILD BRIDGE



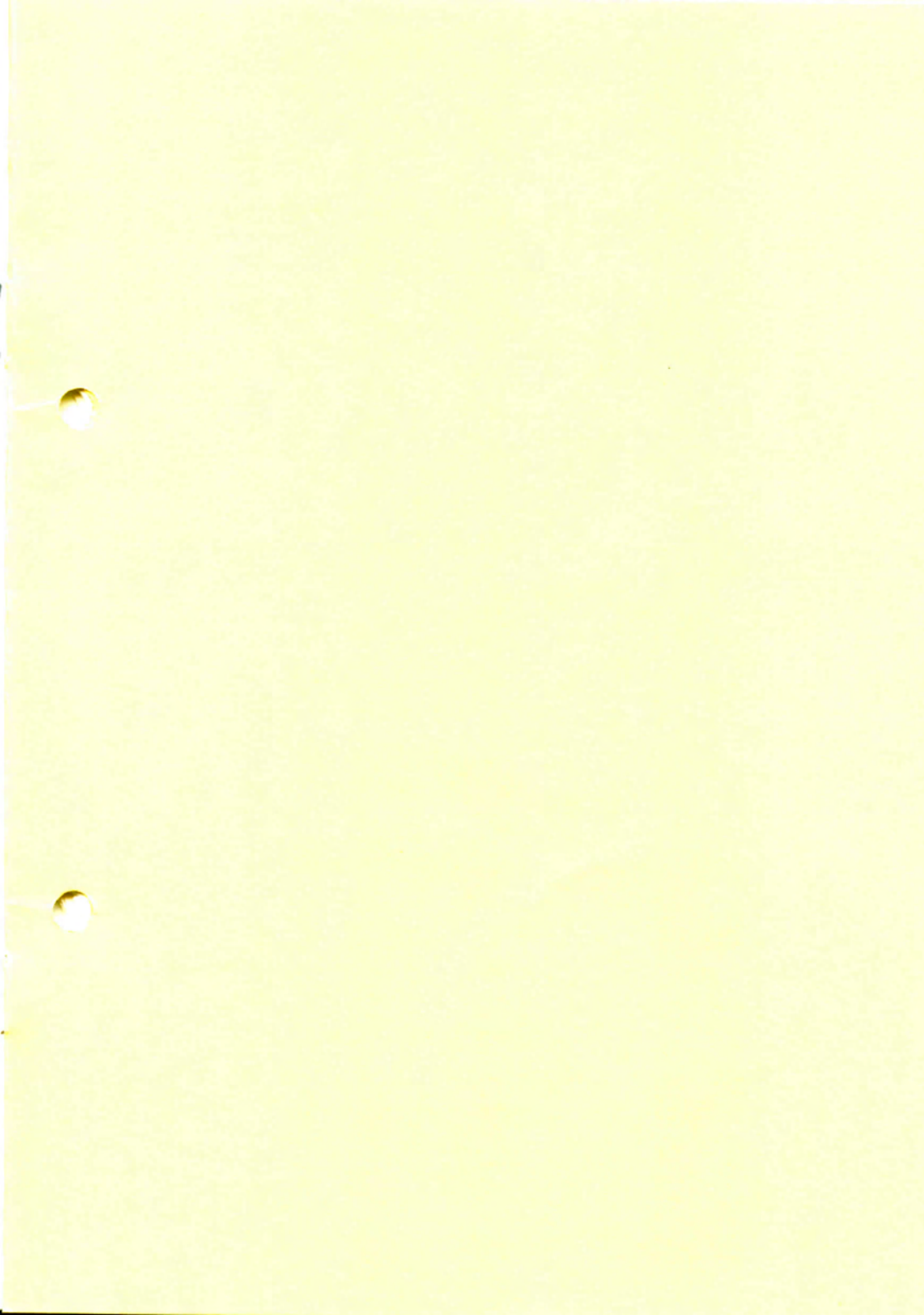
**THIS MONOGRAM OF ALFRED de ROTHSCHILD
IS THE CENTRAL FEATURE OF THE BALUSTRADES**

In Issue No.5 of Wendover Arm News, we printed a letter from Wing Commander C.R.Parkhurst RAF giving details of the scheme to restore the Rothschild Bridge over the canal in Halton.

We are pleased to report that the work, which has been started, is making good progress and seems to be on schedule for completion in the summer.

Kevin Maddern of the Property Services Agency has stated that they intend to restore the bridge to "as new condition". He is going to great lengths to research the history of the bridge and to obtain pictures showing the balustrades in their original detail.

Halton Parish Council are reported as being very pleased that the bridge will soon be restored.



The Wendover Arm Trust

Presents



THE WENDOVER CANAL FESTIVAL 1991

A campaigning
and fund raising
event to bring
boats back to the
Wendover Arm

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Saturday 25 May to Monday 27 May 1991

At NEW MILL on the Wendover Arm of the Grand
Union Canal near Tring, Herts



**Boater's Barbecue, Live Band, Boater's
Disco, plus many other attractions**



Booking Forms are available from your boat club or from
Barry Martin at 7 Northridge Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
HP1 2AE, or 'phone Hemel Hempstead (0442) 254031