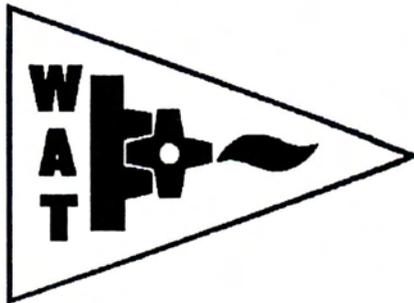


Wendover Arm

News

The newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



Issue No. 9
Spring 1992

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I was writing my report for the Spring 1991 newsletter I remarked upon the fact that we were enduring around 9 inches of snow and the waterways were covered with thick ice. The present winter is very much milder and it has been possible to make a very useful start on clearing the bushes from the dry section to the west of Little Tring Bridge.

To date we have cleared nearly 300 yards of the bed of the canal on the three work parties which have taken place. The January workday was very well attended and 140 yards were cleared in the day. It was a pity that the first Sunday in February was so foggy because I feel that many more of you would have attended if the visibility had been better. Nevertheless the stalwarts who did turn up worked very hard and about 90 yards were cleared on that occasion. By the time that you receive this Newsletter I hope that we shall have had the last of our clearance days for this winter and that we shall have a record turnout and a record clearance.

It is interesting to note that whilst the media are reporting many of the local rivers ceasing to flow the Wendover streams are still flowing into the Arm and supplying water to the reservoirs and pumps at Little Tring - the purpose of the Arm since 1797.

Plans are going ahead well for this years Festaival which will again be held on the Late Spring Bank Holiday weekend. There is an update later in the Newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all again at New Mill in May.

Roger Lewis

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As at 12th February 1992, membership statistics were as follows:

Number of memberships -

Single	111
Family	123
Corporate	4
Honorary	2
TOTAL	<u>240</u>

Assuming that a Family membership is 2 people, this gives a total of 364 members.

New Members

Listed below are members who have recently joined the Trust, You are all most welcome and we hope to see you at the social evening on 21st March.

Mr R W Dabrowski Twickenham
Mr & Mrs I M Evans Wooburn Green
Mr & Mrs R Pittaway Aston Clinton
Mr & Mrs P R Sim North Harrow

WELCOME TO THE TRUST

To any members planning to move house in the near future PLEASE remember to notify the Membership Secretary so that Wendover Arm News can be sent to the correct address. Thank you.

Barry Martin - Membership Secretary.

PERCH BRIDGE

Those of you who walk the Arm around Halton will be familiar with Perch Bridge, which is the first bridge over the Arm as you come down from Wendover (or going the other way, the next bridge to the road bridge at Halton going towards Wendover). The structure has been deteriorating for some time now, and has been a cause of concern to both the Trust, and local residents. Halton Parish Council and the Trust approached British Waterways, and we received the following letter recently.

24th January 1992

Dear Mr Lewis,

For your information, I am delighted to be able to confirm that remedial works at Perch Bridge will take place by the end of April this year. The brickwork will be repaired and the ironwork rubbed down and painted. The works should take 4 weeks to complete and I am hopeful that the contractors will be able to start in mid-February.

However, weight limit signs will not be erected, since the bridge has been assessed to be structurally sound for normal loads i.e. 32 tons. If weight limit signs are needed to control the use of the bridge, then that is a matter for the local highways authority.

Yours sincerely

Caroline M Clark,

Waterway Manager, Grand Union Canal (South).

This is really very good news. It is encouraging to know that the bridge is structurally sound, and we are of course delighted that BW are planning the work so soon. If you go to have a look at it sometime, note the strange structure of the brickwork. On the opposite side to the towpath, there is an recessed arch coming up about one third of the pier. In Issue No. 4 (Autumn 1990) this was explained by David Bligh from BW Midland region. Apparently the recess allows stop planks to be installed, but it does seem a very elaborate way of doing it and one wonders why more bridges do not display the feature.

LETTERS

COFFEE (CHECK)MATE from (name and address supplied)

Dear Editor,

Prolonged discussions during the very cold weather December Committee Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust at the Dunstable and District Boat Club's Pitstone Headquarters (thankfully put at WAT disposal by DDBC) led to very dry throats and a demand for coffee. Alas, the main water tap was frozen! Discussion wilted. EIGHT canal devotees present, yet not one thought of the only thinly iced-over and highly nutritious Grand Union water right outside the door! An exceptional coffee break would have resulted.

Yours, "Home and (too) dry".

Ed. - I suspect that eight committee vacancies might have resulted. We do however thank DDBC for the use of the Clubhouse for our meetings - it is much appreciated.

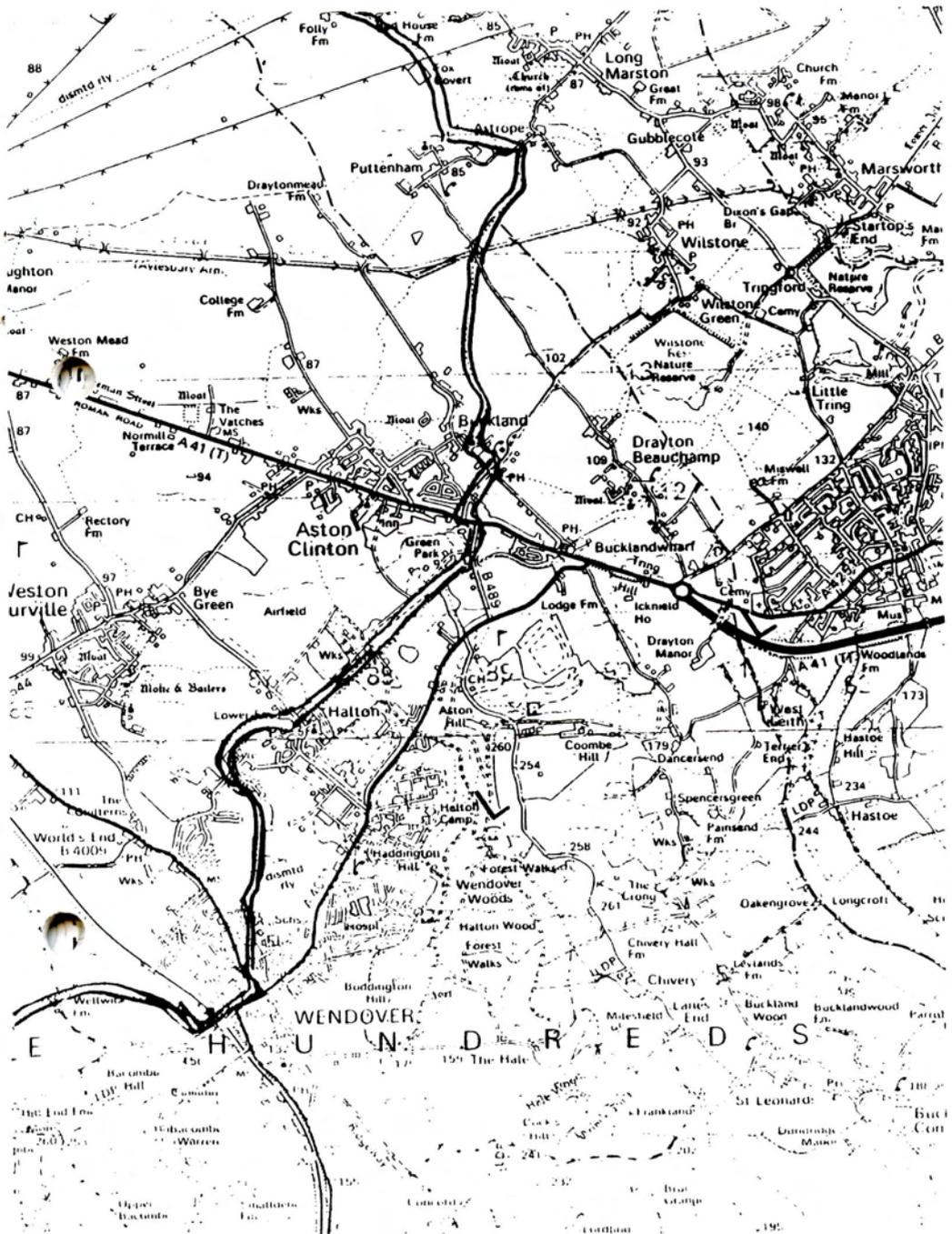
AYLESBURY RING CIRCULAR WALK from A T A Lambourne,

Dear Mr Lewis,

I am writing to let you know that Buckinghamshire County Council are now working on the above 31 mile walk which will use part of the Wendover Arm towpath. I have enclosed a map showing the complete route and would be pleased to receive any comments you, or members of the Wendover Arm Trust, may like to make.

Yours sincerely, A T A Lambourne, Principal Rights of Way Officer for County Engineer, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury.

Ed. - I regret that printing constraints prevent us reproducing the whole map here, but the relevant section is shown opposite. The whole route runs through Aston Clinton, Astrope, Hulcott, Rowsham, Weedon, Hardwick, Waddesdon, North Bucks Way to Dinton, Ford, Kimble, Ellesborough, Wendover, Halton and back to Aston Clinton. There is virtually no section on public roads, and whilst I have not walked it yet, it looks interesting. Perhaps a sponsored walk around the whole ring in aid of the Wendover Arm Trust - any volunteers?



I'D LIKE TO HELP

We often hear the comment "I'd like to help, but what can I do?"

There are all manner of ways you can help - after all there is only so much that the Committee can do as we all have to earn a living as well. A few ways we have identified recently are:

Legal skills - if any of you have legal knowledge, we would greatly appreciate being able to call on you from time to time to advise us.

Printing facilities - either photocopying for Newsletters etc., or printing of stationery, Festival programmes, publicity material etc.

Publicity stand - we would like to attend many more events where we are invited to set up a stand. We need people to man the stand, even if it's only for an hour or two.

PLEASE - if you can help in any of the above ways, or feel you have something to offer - let us know. Please feel free to contact any of the Committee whose addresses and telephone numbers are listed inside the front cover.



Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Trust.

The editor is always pleased to receive articles, news, letters, photographs, etc. for publication.

We can also advertise boats etc. for sale - a small donation to the Trust is requested for including any private advert - please contact the Editor on 0296 630317 or send copy to the address shown inside the front cover.

RURAL AREAS LOCAL PLAN

Aylesbury Vale District Council has published the 'Rural Areas Local Plan'. This document is intended to be a long term plan, and outlines the Council's intentions for the countryside. It is expected to be adopted as firm Council policy later this year.

Section 9.72 of the Plan, headed Canalside Development, is of special interest to us, and is very encouraging. It reads:

The Council recognizes the great amenity potential of the Grand Union Canal, particularly in quiet places in the open countryside. The Aylesbury Arm is open to canal users and its enhancement creates a significant opportunity for further recreation in the area. The Wendover Arm, although closed to navigation for much of its length, constitutes an important amenity resource, and considerable leisure and amenity benefits can result from the restoration of this arm of the canal. As such, the Council supports in principle its reopening as a navigable waterway and the provision of facilities necessary for its use as such and appropriate to its location and setting. Opportunities exist for angling, boating, casual walking and nature conservation. There is also potential for tourism and canal related activities such as the establishment of launching facilities, car parking and boat based businesses, provided that the essential open and quiet nature of the canal in the countryside is protected.

RRT.32 The Council will seek to exploit the recreational, amenity and wildlife potential of the Grand Union Canal.

RRT.33 There will be a presumption against development which would prejudice the restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal to a navigable waterway.

We think you will agree - Well Done AVDC. Let us hope that this is adopted by the Council, and we will endeavour to give our full support to them to maintain the aims, especially with regard to prejudicial development proposals.

Please, if you see or hear of any plans which are relevant to the Arm, let a member of the Committee know as soon as possible. We try to keep our eyes and ears open, but another few hundred pairs does help!

FESTIVAL 1992

Preparations for the 1992 Wendover Canal Festival at Tring are well in hand. It will almost certainly be bigger than the two previous Festivals but whether we can make it better is in the lap of the gods, hard work before and during the event, and fine weather during the whole weekend. For their part all of the members of the Festival Committee are working flat out.



Bob and Yoka Wheal already have the makings of a bigger and more varied Craft Fair. We will only have one very long marquee this year instead of two or three smaller tents, thus enabling all of the Crafters to be under one roof - last year some of our visitors didn't realise that there were, indeed, two tents!!

Barry Martin reports that boat entries are coming in well and, once again, we will have a large entry from the Hertfordshire Branch of the Caravan Club. I expect that last year's figures of 150 boats and 70 caravans will be equalled this year and, for those of you who will be resident on the site for the weekend, the entertainment will be very much as it was last year. We have applied for a bar licence (for badge holders only) for Friday evening, Saturday mid-day and evening, and Sunday evening. The bar will also open to the general public on Sunday and Monday mid-days. Fish and Chip suppers will be available on Friday and Saturday evenings and packs of Janet's excellent barbeques will be available for you to cook on Sunday night (if you order them in advance).

"Jetstream", the band which entertained us last year will again be playing for dancing on Saturday night, and "Roy's" 60's style Disco will again be in attendance on Sunday night.

There will be the usual attractions for the public on Sunday and Monday, including British Waterways Bouncing Castle, Mr. Down's childrens swings, round-a-bout, "test your strength" machine and his coconut shy for the Dads (and Mums). The Beds and Bucks Stationary Engine Club will again attend in strength and there will be children's entertainment on both days.

A dog show is being organised for us, pony rides will be available on both days and the Leighton Buzzard Model Boat Club will give displays of their craft in a pool on the site throughout the public days. There will be a Clay pigeon shooting range, using infra-red beams rather than live ammunition, for you to try your hand at.

We would be only too pleased if any of you would like to set up your own stalls (roll-a-coin, lucky dip, darts or even a second hand clothes stall) if you can make a few pounds for the Trust.

Michal Porter of the Aylesbury Canal Society will be organising a Car-Boot Sale on Sunday morning. If anyone feels like organising another Car-Boot Sale for Monday morning I will be only too pleased to hear from you.

The Agfa company, through their agent, Flying Pictures, have promised to send a balloon on Sunday, negotiations are at present being held which may result in a helicopter being present to give flights; both of these attractions, of course, will be entirely dependent on suitable weather conditions.

One of the biggest problems we have encountered during the two previous Festivals has been a shortage of volunteers to help collecting entrance money, selling programmes, car parking etc. If you can help in any way, Sherry Sherwood, the Harbourmaster or Ron Wem, coordinator of volunteer helpers, will be only too pleased to hear from you. We have found in the past that Monday afternoon - when we have our biggest influx of visitors and many boaters are thinking of returning home - is the time when we have been hardest pressed for helpers.

We are again holding a bumper draw, tickets for this are enclosed with this Newsletter, and I wish to thank Rod Saunders of Grebe Canal Cruises for again donating the main prize, and all the other people who have very kindly given prizes.

The Festival will be officially opened at 12 noon on Sunday by the Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council. He will be supported by our local Mayors and Chairmen of local Councils of both Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. If you come to the Festival please try to be present at the Opening Ceremony to show these local dignitaries that we really mean to get on with the job of Restoring Navigation to Wendover...

Roger Lewis

2 The Driveway
Anchor Lane
Boxmoor
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP1 1NT
Tel: 0442 214126

1 March 1992

Dear Trust Member

GRAND FESTIVAL DRAW

Once again Rod Saunders has kindly donated a weeks holiday on one of his luxury hire narrow boats which is a very appropriate prize for the Wendover Arm Trust's Grand Festival Draw. Last year saw the first draw organised by the Trust and a profit of over £1,000 boosted our restoration fund.

Enclosed with this newsletter are five books of draw tickets. Please, please, please will you help the Trust in its task of fund raising for the reopening of the Wendover Arm by selling as many tickets as you can before the Festival?

These prizes are surely worth having:-

1. Canal Narrow Boat Holiday for 4, may be taken this year or next.
2. A Colour Television
3. A trip in a Hot Air Balloon
4. Dinner for Two

And there will be still more prizes.

If you can let me, or any Committee member, have the counterfoils (and the money, of course) for sold tickets well before the Festival, it will be most appreciated as it is surprising how long it takes to fold umpteen thousand ticket stubs. These will all go into the Chairman's antique butter churn ready for the draw to take place on Monday 25th May.

I would also appreciate the return of unsold books to enable us to maximise the sale of all the tickets. All your efforts will be very much appreciated and the funds will bring us nearer to the final goal of restoring the canal to Wendover

Yours very sincerely



Janet Packe

PS. There are plenty more where these came from so if you can sell some more just let me know.

GRAND FESTIVAL DRAW

FIRST PRIZE

CANAL NARROWBOAT HOLIDAY

Donated by

GREBE

CANAL

CRUISES



CRUISE INTO THE CHILTERNs

Win a superb 1 week canal narrowboat holiday on a 4 berth luxury canal boat from Grebe Canal Cruises who are based at Pitstone Wharf near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, on the Grand Union Canal.

This holiday may be taken in 1992 or 1993 — Date subject to availability of craft

SECOND PRIZE

COLOUR

T.V.



THIRD PRIZE



HOT AIR
BALLOON
RIDE

MANY OTHER PRIZES

Organised by the Wendover Arm Trust, Registered Charity No. 801190
All proceeds to be used to support the restoration of the Wendover Canal Arm.



Draw to be held at the Wendover Canal Festival on
25th May 1992

Promoter: Mrs J.I.Packe, 2 The Driveway, Boxmoor,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Reg. with Dacorum B.C. (No. 894) under the
Lotteries & Amusements Act 1976 (Sec.5)

Tickets 20p
Each.

SOCIAL EVENING

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST AT 8PM

As promised, we have an excellent speaker for the Social Evening on March 21st. Under the title "From Severn to Thames", Bruce Hall of the Cotswold Canal Trust will be telling us of the problems and progress of restoration in his part of the country, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then. What better way to spend Saturday evening than talking to interesting people and eating and drinking well - the alternative is another round of Party Politicals on TV!

The venue as usual is the Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club - a map was printed on the back of the last issue in case you get lost.

See you there (and please bring along all those coupons, vouchers etc. which you have not yet got round to posting).

COMPETITION ANSWERS

In the last issue, I set a couple of posers to pass off the Christmas hangovers. It seems that I'll have to try harder, as I only got two answers!

Jean de Selincourt from Pitstone correctly specified the optimum capacity of the Marsworth reservoirs at 1200 million litres. To be honest, I assume that's correct, but converting Imperial to Metric never was my strong point. Anyway the Editor's decision is final, and since nobody else tried, Jean wins!

Dr. Wynroe took me at my word, and visited the 'office' to prove that the monograms on the Rothschild Bridge are indeed not facing the way they once did. (They now face the roadway, not the canal). Whilst we have heard some moans that things should be put back as they are found, I think the bridge looks so good now that it is really not that important - anyway of such little things is history made.

Prizes for both winners are on order, and will be forwarded as soon as I receive them. Well done.

I also asked for letters describing items caught round the prop. Would you believe it, the System is now so clean that not one member has ever had anything, not even weed, slow their progress! Having done the Coventry 'five and a half' last year, I don't believe it.

The water there was crystal clear, and we were able to see shoals of fish all the way to the basin in Coventry. The crystal clear water had the added bonus of being able to see the hoovers, shopping trolleys, bicycles etc. which we were about to hit - the only time I've ever thought of having a leadsman sounding over the bow. Despite this obvious advantage over the usual murky soup we cruise on, we still stopped five times on the way there to clear plastic bags, fishing line with additions, and a curious piece of rope tied to a stout branch and studded with bolts. This last we could only presume had been put there deliberately to damage a propellor - and those responsible might be pleased to hear that it did. It also took over half an hour hanging off the stern with a sharp blade to clear it off.

It was interesting that the fish down there were obviously a pretty intelligent lot. Along the towpath were the usual rows of fishermen, all with a frustrated expression on their faces. As we passed they asked if we could see any fish - and the answer was always the same. There were literally thousands of them on the non-towpath side, going happily about their business, with a good canopy of weeping willow overhead to stop any cunning angler from casting down into their favourite restaurant! At last I (a non-fisherman) understood the reason for the massive carbon-fibre poles you see nowadays - but not a single one did we see the whole way to Coventry!

FREE OFFERS

Many thanks to all those who have sent in vouchers and coupons following the last newsletter. The response has been terrific, and the variety quite amazing. Please keep it up - I have a lot of sets made up from bits sent in by different people, and plenty more awaiting that last coupon or two. Especially useful are petrol tokens, as these are so easily exchanged for goods of our choice, but please, everything is of value.

WATERWAY TO WENDOVER

Most of our members will be familiar with the study originally published by the Wendover Arm Group "Waterway to Wendover". We are aware that this is now out of date in some sections, and plan to rewrite the entire booklet to reflect the progress that has been made by the Group originally, and the Trust in the past few years.

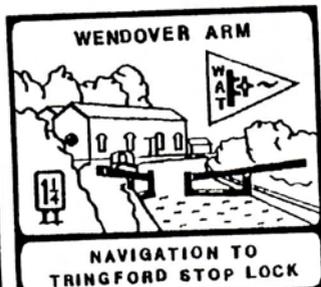
If any member has some historical or technical information which could be of value, please let us know. We would appreciate any photos of times gone by, and anecdotal stories or sources of such are always welcome.

DONATIONS

A number of donations have been received recently, and we are very grateful to all for their generosity.

A special thank you to Rev. Roger Davis who continues to support us with his excellent slide shows. He has regularly asked that the 'fee' be given to the Wendover Arm Trust, and has already raised £130 this financial year - a splendid achievement.

As the start of the restoration gets nearer, so does our need for funds get greater. If any member can find a way in which to raise money for us, do please have a go, or let us know. If you are running the London Marathon this year, how about running for WAT. If you're not that energetic, there are always other ways to help - and with the Festival coming up we need plenty of volunteers don't forget.



CRUISING PLAQUE

The cruising season will soon be here again, so if you haven't already done so, why not get one this year (at the Festival?). Available from the Hon. Sec. at £7.00 each, plus 75p post and packing.

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
- * WATERWAY TO WENDOVER (Amenity Study) £1.25 each
- * POP-UP CANAL GREETINGS CARD £1.20 each

POSTAGE WILL BE CHARGED AT COST.

The above may be ordered by telephoning Bob Wheal on 0525 381614 or by writing to him at 467, Bidford Green, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 7TZ

TOWPATH TALK

- ☆ **Tug of War:** As part of the fun at the Festival in May, we hope to organise a Tug of War contest. A number of boaters teams have expressed interest in the idea, and we hope the caravanners will join in as well. More teams means more entertainment, so do have a bash. If you can raise a team, or would like to be part of one, let Richard House know as soon as possible.
- ☆ **Society talks:** Remember that the Trust have an excellent slide show which we are pleased to bring to societies, WI groups and such like. All you need do is supply an audience, and Roger Lewis will talk Wendover Arm - as long as you lubricate his voice occasionally!
- ☆ **Car Boot Sale:** We would like to run a Car Boot Sale on Monday 25th May at the Festival. CAN YOU ORGANISE IT FOR US? Please let us know as soon as possible if you can - it is a very good way of raising a useful sum without a capital outlay.
- ☆ **Committee meetings:** In future issues the principal items of interest from the monthly Committee meetings will be listed in brief - this time suffice it to say that our attention has been centred on the Festival, and other topics which have been covered elsewhere in this issue.
- ☆ **Thanks:** to insurance brokers Towry Law of Windsor for their help in providing printing facilities for the newsletter now. We are indebted to STC for their help in the past - mere logistics have forced the change.
- ☆ **Next issue:** Copy Date 31st May. Reports from the Festival, news of Perch Bridge works, and most importantly the articles and letters YOU send.

S T O P P R E S S

Wanted - Books, Magazines etc. for sale

The Chiltern Branch of the IWA are going to run a 2nd-hand bookstall at the Festival.

All the profits will be given to the Trust towards the restoration fund.

If you have any suitable books, magazines or suchlike, please let JOHN BRICE know - phone him on 0895 256416

If required, John will arrange collection.

LATE MAY BANK HOLIDAY



SUNDAY + MONDAY
MAY 24TH + 25TH

10 am — 5pm

ADMISSION
ADULTS - £1
CHILDREN &
O.A.P.S 50P



Classic Vehicles
and Stationary
Engines



Bouncing Castle and
Children's Rides



LARGE CRAFT
MARQUEE



Pony Rides



Music



CHILDREN'S
ENTERTAINMENTS

FREE
PARKING

Trade Stands - Canal Boats - Canoes

☆ Car Boot Sale - Sunday morning ☆

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

New Mill (on the Upper Icknield Way, B488)

NEAR TRING, HERTS

Organised by the Wendover Arm Trust (Tel. 0442 214126), a registered charity, to promote the restoration of the canal between Wendover and Tring.



BOATER'S BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO BARRY MARTIN
Tel: 0908 312239