

WENDOVER ARM NEWS

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust

In this issue:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ Grand Draw Tickets
<i>It Could be You ..</i> | ◆ Festival Plaque 2000
<i>New Design</i> |
| ◆ Where on the Arm?
<i>Photo Quiz Returns</i> | ◆ Hoggin
<i>Solves a Sticky Problem</i> |
| ◆ New Hand at the Helm
<i>New Festival Chairperson</i> | ◆ Gift Aid and WAT
<i>Give and Take</i> |
| ◆ A Virtual Trip
<i>Where to on the Arm?</i> | ◆ Wild Birds on the Arm
<i>Worth Two in the Bush</i> |
| ◆ Spreading the Word
<i>Spinning the WAT Message</i> | ◆ CLUB 100
<i>Results and Winners</i> |
| ◆ A Plethora of Plaques
<i>A Brass from the Past</i> | ◆ Council Matters
<i>Council Minutes Summary</i> |

Issue No.32
Winter 1999/2000

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Free to members

From the Wendover Arm Trust Articles of Association:

To promote the restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal linking the town of Wendover in Buckinghamshire to the Grand Union Canal at Bulbourne Hertfordshire (hereinafter called 'The Waterway' which shall include all waterways, buildings, works and structures associated therewith) to good and navigable order and to maintain and improve The Waterway for the use and benefit of the public.

To promote the fullest use of The Waterway by all forms of waterborne traffic and for all forms of local amenity, tourist and recreational and water-related activities for the benefit of the public

To promote, and educate the public in, the history, use and associated wildlife of canals and inland waterways generally and of The Waterway in particular.

To restore, reconstruct, preserve and maintain canals and inland waterways and works and buildings auxiliary thereto generally provided that such objects shall be carried out in a manner beneficial to the public and recognised by the law of England as charitable.

Contributions to Wendover Arm News

Contributions are welcome on any topic related to the Wendover Arm, its construction, history, wildlife, and of course any aspect of the restoration project.

Letters or articles can be in any format, and accompanied by photographs or sketches/drawings if possible. All material will be returned if requested.

Send any contributions to WAT News Editor
467 Bideford Green
Linslade, LU7 7TZ

Disclaimer

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



Vice Chairman's Comment

Is this it? Is this the year that Little Tring Bridge finally gets rebuilt, with boats going under it and a decent place for them to turn? It seems we have been anticipating and waiting for years now for bridge work to begin. The perennial question asked by Festival visitors used to be: 'when will work actually start?' That question ignores the hours of work put in by dedicated volunteers on a regular basis. Hours spent keeping the bed of the canal clear of scrub and unwanted saplings. Without this maintenance work, the actual rebuilding work could not begin, or would be far less well advanced than it is.

This year the question is more likely to be: 'How much work has been done since last year?' Well, at last year's Festival, visitors were taken by bus to the site at Little Tring, where there was much evidence of work beginning and underway. Not too many base or wall sections were complete at that time; the emphasis was more on excavation and blinding work. Now, even a cursory glance at the site shows how much has been achieved. The excavation, blinding, base sections, and wall sections are complete for much of the towpath (Northern) side of the canal past the bridge. In fact a start has even been made on the opposite side of the canal.

In a couple of years it will seem as though the new bridge has always been there. The cars will still rush along the road over the bridge through Little Tring, but with the occasional cruiser or narrowboat providing a more sedate contrast, cruising the new length of canal to the winding hole. Only then will the achievement of the many Trust volunteers and members be really appreciated.



Bob Wheel

Membership Status (as at 14th December 1999)

Number of Memberships	
Single	123
Family	165
Corporate	14
Honorary	5
Special*	3

'special memberships'
are for a defined period
for services rendered
to the Trust

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are offered to the families of WAT members Mr Alan Russell (nb 'Auntie Barb') who died unexpectedly on the 28th October, and Mrs Joan Martin (of Milton Keynes) who died after an operation and short illness. Mrs Martin was the mother of Barry Martin, long-standing Trust Council Member.

Festival Grand Draw

As usual, your Grand Draw tickets are included with this newsletter. You are requested to sell as many of them as possible, at home, at work, anywhere you can. After a certain number, the income from the sale of tickets represents pure profit for the Trust, and much needed funds for restoration.

As in previous years, if the distribution of these tickets offends in any way, then the Trust apologises.

This year there is one major change. Tickets now cost £1 each, which is what most people spend. No-one need spend any more than they have in the past for tickets, and their chance of winning are the same (for the same value sold). However, with the higher ticket price fewer need be printed, fewer need folding at draw time, and there is less admin all round.

So what's on offer?

1st Prize is again a free canal boat holiday, in one of Wyvern Shipping's excellent hire boats. There is always a good demand to visit Wyvern's display boat at the Festival, with queues building up on the towpath to step aboard. If you can't wait until the Festival, visit their website at

<http://www.canalholidays.co.uk/> to get a sense of life afloat.

2nd prize is a generous voucher to be spent at one of the Brown and Merry auctions held at Tring. It's surprising how much excitement can be generated when the bidding gets going. Be careful not to sneeze at the wrong time though!

The 3rd prize appeals to a sense of adventure, being a trip in a hot air balloon. I'm told

there is nothing quite like it, drifting over the Buckinghamshire countryside in the early morning sunshine.

4th Prize is £50 cash to spend however you like.

In all, over £500 in prizes, and all for £1, with a much better chance than winning the Lottery. It could be you!

It could be you!

Send your sold ticket stubs each with the buyer's name and phone number together with the money to John and Renee Hopkins. You can also send the money with your Festival booking form to Barry Martin, or send (or give) it to any Festival or Trust Council member. This is your chance to help the Trust. In advance, thank you.



Festival Date

The Canal Festival this year will be on Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May, at the usual site in Tring. You have to be there!



IWA/WAT Council Member

Congratulations to Liz Payne, IWA nominee to WAT Council, on being re-elected last November for a further term of office as Deputy Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association.



To the Unknown Member:

Thank you for sending me 2,000 Benson & Hedges cigarette coupons last year. I'm sorry I can't thank you personally, but all I know is that the envelope was postmarked Milton Keynes.

my own contribution I was at the '99 Festival. This must smoke, at least salve donating your unwanted

Along with coupons from Pete Stanbridge, and able to get several prizes for the boaters' raffle year I'd like to do even better, so if you

good cause. Thanks also to Mr Martin (Tring Greengrocer) for his donation of a fruit basket, and to Mrs Mumford for the cake she donated.

Johanna Wheal

**Where on the Arm?:**

It's an easy one this time, to mark the return of the photo competition. Where on the Arm was the photograph taken? Just to make it even easier there's more than one answer!

It's so simple there are no prizes. However, if you have a photograph you think may intrigue, send it to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue (photos will of course be returned).

**New Hand at the Festival Helm**

Richard House has moved house (just to confuse everyone his last email address was house@houseshouse). Unfortunately his new non-virtual address is in Aylesbury, whilst his new job is in Hertford. Consequently Richard feels he cannot devote the time needed to being Festival Chairman, and has given his resignation. Richard's energy and dedication to the Festival will be hard to match. In fact it will be difficult to find anyone willing to take on the responsibilities of seeing that the Festival runs smoothly. However, BW's Recreation Co-ordinator Sue Burley has stepped forward (or did everyone step back?) and may be persuaded to take over the tiller with help from everyone concerned. Sue is supported by our local Waterways manager, Matthew Routledge, and this new co-operation between BW and WAT can only be of benefit to the Festival and the Trust. Already the next planning meeting is scheduled, and an urgent search is underway for suitable public entertainments for the event. If you have any ideas, please contact Barry (01908 312239) or Sue at BW's Marsworth Office (01442 825938).



It All Comes Together

One aspect of the Festival which is easily overlooked is the admin work. Not very exciting, maybe, but if we get it wrong, chaos is certain. Bookings and enquiries come in thick and fast, for all manner of activities. Booking forms for boats, barbecues, plaques, tents, caravans, displays, crafts, trades, and charities all have to be prepared, printed, and sent out well before the event. Approvals have to be applied for (use of site, alcohol licence, licence to hold Grand Draw). Safety statements and risk assessments prepared, and insurance sorted out. Someone has to organise the programme advertising and get the printing done. Grand Draw tickets have to be printed well in advance. Entry badges for the boaters, exhibitors and on-site traders have to be arranged. Letters are written and hand-delivered to local residents who may be affected by noise or disruption. A bunch of invitations to the official opening go out to local dignitaries. How all this was done before the advent of word processing PC's is anyone's guess (*ask Roger Lewis; he'll tell you - Ed*). Office photocopiers also get an extensive workout as the day approaches, and the Trust's postage budget takes a bashing. All this is a preamble to explain why there is a booking form in with this copy of your Wendover Arm News. Comments have been made in the past by WAT members without boats who didn't know they could come and

stay at the Festival. To help clarify things, and to help spread the word as widely as possible, the Festival Committee asked for a copy of the 'Non-Boater' Booking Form to be included with this newsletter. This way, members don't have to specially phone for a booking, and Barry Martin's job is made marginally easier.

You don't have to be a member of WAT, so if you don't use the form yourself, please pass the booking form on to anyone you know who may be interested

If you book space for your Caravan or Tent, you become a temporary resident of the site, and can attend the evening's entertainment in the bar marquee.

The entertainment is free (unfortunately the bar isn't!), but be warned, you

may be asked to buy a raffle ticket. Whether you are 'resident' or not you can order a barbecue pack, either meat or vegetarian. If you haven't been before, the barbecue is a great way to relax on the Sunday evening, chatting about the days' events as you 'cook your own'. If staying on site or cooking a barbecue is not your 'thing', you can still order an event plaque as a memento - perhaps to salt away for when you buy that boat?.

For boaters: if you came last year you will get a form for this year's Festival by separate mail. If you don't have a form and want one, phone Barry on 01908 312239 and he will sort you out. ➡

THE WENDOVER CANAL FESTIVAL

At NEW HELL on the WENDOVER ARM
of the GRAND UNION CANAL
Sat. 27th - Mon. 29th May 2000

All money will be used to restore the waterway and the surrounding area. The Festival is a public event and is open to all. It is not a charity event. The Festival is a public event and is open to all. It is not a charity event. The Festival is a public event and is open to all. It is not a charity event.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE BOOKING FORM AND SEND IT TO:
Barry Martin, 15 Clipperton Close, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 9EP
Tel: 01908 312239
E-mail: barry@wendoverarm.co.uk
Fax: 01908 312239
Web: www.wendoverarm.co.uk

BOOKING FORM FOR NON-BOATERS

IMPORTANT: For Caravans, Tents, etc. see back of this form.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone No: _____ Email: _____
Postcode: _____

PLEASE BOOK THE FOLLOWING:

Boat (12m)	£ 12.00	per boat	per day
Boat (10m)	£ 10.00	per boat	per day
Boat (8m)	£ 8.00	per boat	per day
Boat (6m)	£ 6.00	per boat	per day
Boat (4m)	£ 4.00	per boat	per day
Boat (2m)	£ 2.00	per boat	per day
Boat (1m)	£ 1.00	per boat	per day
Boat (0.5m)	£ 0.50	per boat	per day
Boat (0.25m)	£ 0.25	per boat	per day
Boat (0.125m)	£ 0.125	per boat	per day

PLEASE TICK THE BOXES:

I have read and accept the Conditions of Sale.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Hire.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Use.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Insurance.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Liability.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Cancellation.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Refund.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Transfer.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Assignment.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Sub-letting.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Joint Tenancy.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Co-tenancy.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Shared Ownership.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Leasehold Ownership.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Freehold Ownership.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Mortgage Lending.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Property Investment.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Business Development.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Social Enterprise.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Community Enterprise.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Social Enterprise.
 I have read and accept the Conditions of Community Enterprise.

Length: _____
Type: _____
Material: _____
Colour: _____
Finish: _____
Accessories: _____
Extras: _____
Notes: _____

You don't have to be a member of WAT ...

Thank You, GUCS

The Grand Union Canal Society (GUCS), was wound up in 1999.

The GUCS campaigned for many years to prevent the Arm being closed completely to navigation, and holding boat rallies to keep it in use.

They also organised work parties to clear the towpath, which at one time was completely overgrown in places. These activities were not necessarily with the approval of British Waterways at the time.

If you have picked up the Trust 'History Sheet', maybe at one of the Festivals, you will see a mention of the GUCS instigating the formation of the Wendover Arm Group, in 1985.

Other individuals and groups such as rambles, boat clubs and IWA branches were interested in keeping the Arm open, and restoring it where possible. It was GUCS that called a

meeting in 1985, out of which the Wendover Arm Group (WAG) was formed, under the Chairmanship of Martin Wood, the then GUCS Chairman. Martin also served as the first Chairman of the Wendover Arm Trust during it's first

year, when it evolved out of WAG. It may be true to say that without the action by GUCS, the Wendover Arm Trust may not even now have come into being.

The GUCS 'died' at their AGM last Autumn. Perhaps they had served their purpose. Perhaps they were formed at the right time to oppose the proposed wholesale closure of the Grand Union Canal.

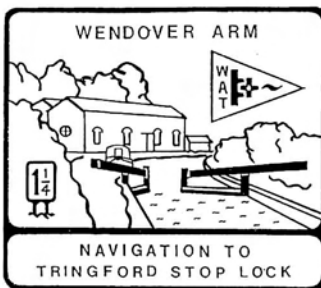
The annual WAT Festival was born from the GUCS boat rallies on the Arm which were held just upstream of Gannell Bridge opposite the Mill. Originally the WAT Festival was called the Wendover Arm Canal Festival. After visitors tried to find the event by driving

around Wendover in Bucks., it was decided to call it the Wendover Canal Festival at Tring.

GUCS encouraged navigation on the Arm, and produced a plaque in the form of a milepost only available to those who could prove they had achieved navigation to the stop-lock.

This was generally by means of a signed photograph and statement. When the stock of GUCS plaques ran out in 1991, the current Trust navigation plaque was produced as a replacement with the GUCS

milepost incorporated into the design.. These navigation plaques are still available (while stocks last) at £9.00, including post and packing. Evidence of navigation to Tringford is required.



This article based in information supplied by Barry Martin, past Committee Member of the Wendover Arm Group, and now of WAT



A Virtual Trip Down the Arm!

In the Autumn of 1893, Thomas Milner carried out a Chain Survey (measuring along the towpath with a steel band chain) of the entire Grand Junction Canal. His measurements of the Wendover Arm with certain later additions, make interesting reading today. Many of the features from Thomas Milner's list remain, while others are long gone. Some of these are marked by * in the list. If any reader has knowledge of these, or can comment at all, Wendover Arm News would love to hear from you.

Distances are given from the junction of the Wendover Arm with the Grand Union Canal at Bulbourne. Distances are in miles and yards; metrication hadn't hit Britain in 1893. 'L' is Left and 'R' is right in the direction of travel.

	miles	yards
Bridge No 1 - main line towing path	0	0
Toll office (R)	0	25
Paddle to Marsworth reservoir (R)	0	410
Garnel Bridge No 2 - Tring to Long Marston road and turnover (towpath L to R)	0	1144
New Mill Wharf (Bushell Brothers boatyard) (L)	0	1177
Tring Flour Mill Wharf (L)	0	1315
Culvert taking the Tring Drainage under branch	0	1408
Tring Feeder enters branch (L)	0	1494
*Site of coal wharf (L)	0	1640
Tringford Pumping Engines (R)	1	326
Tringford stop lock (start of dry section)	1	440
Little Tring Bridge No 3 - Tring to Wilstone road	1	532
*Site of Wilstone Bridge No 4 (wooden swing accommodation)	1	1720
Weir and heading to Wilstone reservoir (R)	2	183
Drayton Beauchamp Bridge No 5 - road to Tring	2	1364
Drayton Beauchamp Wharf (L)	2	1370
Flood paddle to Wilstone reservoir (R) (end of dry section)	2	1749
Buckland Wharf (R)	3	506
Buckland Bridge NO 6 - main Aylesbury road (A41) and turnover (towpath R to L)	3	604
*Site of Buckland Gas Works (R)	3	672
Aston Clinton Bridge NO 7 - road to Halton (Stable Bridge or Wellon Head Bridge)	3	1520
*Site of landing (R)	3	1584
Site of bridge (ornamental swing bridge with wooden top)	4	93
Hare Lane Bridge No 8 - accommodation	4	992
Park Bridge (ornamental iron bridge on Rothschild Estate)	4	1753
Halton Bridge No 9 - road to Weston Turville and turnover (towpath L to R)	5	151
*Site of Halton landing (L)	5	286
Halton weir (R)	5	396

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*Site of Halton Gas Works (L)	5	726
Paddle to Weston Turville reservoir (R) (est.)	6	160
Heading enters branch (L)	6	374
Site of railway bridge into Halton RAF Camp (est)	6	600
Heading enters branch (L)	6	1254
Wendover Basin and Wendover Wharf (L)	6	1264
*Site of Wendover Gas Works (R)	6	1285
Stream (Wendover Drain) enters branch (L)	6	1338
Termination of branch, Wharf Road, Wendover and mill stream weir	6	1352

This table was previously published in an earlier Newsletter, and was originally contributed by Alan Faulkner – Ed.



Spreading The Word

It is important that we continue to let as many people as possible know that the Trust is active and that we are making progress. There is real interest in what we are doing: a short media release following the last AGM led to radio interviews on BBC Three Counties and Mix 96, and to articles in the Bucks Herald and The Gazette, as well as in Canal Boat & Inland Waterways and Canal & Riverboat.

These are obvious outlets. But there are also many local journals and newsletters that might be interested in carrying news about the Trust. For example, I have recently provided short articles for the newsletters of both the Tring Environmental Forum and the Tring branch of Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service. The problem for

me is identifying the existence of such outlets: the two named were drawn to my attention by other Trust members.

So this is where you can help. If you know of a newsletter or other publication whose readers might be interested in reading about the Trust's activities, please let me know. All I need is the name and address of the editor and an



.. let many people know ..

idea of who the publication is aimed at, and I'll do the rest! My address is at the [back] of the newsletter, or send me an e-mail to: wat@quantera.co.uk

Peter Cleasby, Publicity Officer



A Plethora of Plaques

Every year, when the Wendover Canal Festival Committee first meets the same question is asked: 'Does anyone have an idea for the plaque design?'

The question is more or less rhetorical.

Occasionally someone will suggest a design idea which gets discussed and

given due consideration. Finally though, the result is the same - Barry Martin produces a drawing which seems to encapsulate the theme whilst being both practical and attractive.

Barry didn't design the first couple of plaques. The 1990 'boat under bridge' was



based on an idea by Sandy Rance, whilst the next year's design was thought up by Ian Packe. The 1990 blue and red plaque of course heralded the intention to restore navigation under Little Tring Bridge, whilst the 1991

plaque depicts a ground paddle in royal blue, perhaps reflecting the graphic of paddle gear on the Trust logo,

which itself appeared for the first time.



A unique photograph of it's destruction by a charge of black powder features in most talks about the Arm. The mill was celebrated in the 1993 plaque design, which was finished in dark blue.

The theme behind the 1994 plaque (black in colour)



was the two Counties through which the Arm runs. The Stag and the Swan are the emblems of Herts and Bucks respectively. The Swan has a crown on

a chain, which has slipped to form a collar.

Perhaps a Herts-based member would care to explain the imagery (if indeed it is a Swan?).



A more conventional bird in an unconventionally oval-shaped plaque featured in 1995. The Heron, on a dark blue background, is clearly looking forward to the return of water (and fish!) to the dry section.

Restoration work was imminently expected to start in 1996, and the



bright red Festival plaque represented the work by showing typical hand tools. The diamond shape was also a



novelty, not yet repeated.

1996 was also an important year for the Trust in that our President Roger Cork served as Lord Mayor of London. The Trust celebrated the honour by joining in the 1995 Lord Mayor's Parade through London with the narrowboat Little Grebe. Sir Roger opened our Festival in 1997, and his year as Lord Mayor was remembered in the plaque design, which cleverly

included not only Dick Whittington, but also his cat, both on a bright red background.

A dragonfly featured on the 1998 design. The lime green colour was not to everyone's taste, but certainly got the plaque noticed! At least the rectangular shape was more conventional,

making it easier to mount on a board, as so many boaters do.

Work started in earnest in 1999 at Little Tring, foreseeing the rebuilding of

the road bridge. In Council there was discussion and agreement that the bridge should be brick-faced to keep it in character with the waterway. This was reflected in the interesting and original design for the plaque, showing a boat in profile cruising through the



restored bridge hole. The plaque itself was bridge shaped, and finished in brick-red and sky blue, making it one of the more attractive plaques to date.

Bob Wheal 

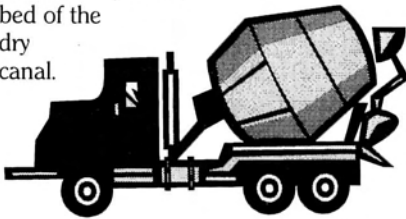
Festival Plaque for 2000:

Barry Martin has done his usual excellent job of designing the commemorative plaque for this year's Festival in May. The theme is a Canada Goose landing on water, as hopefully there will be extra water to choose from before long! Barry assures us there will be fixing holes on the real thing, although not shown here. Plaques for the Festival do not make a large profit; in fact it's not unknown for the sales income to equal the cost. However, they do have a publicity value, and many people (not just boaters) collect these plaques as a matter of course. Those who have attended all 10 Festivals to date have a weighty reminder of previous events..



Hoggin!

In the Autumn, deliveries of ready-mixed concrete to the site at Little Tring were made more exciting by the real possibility that the heavily loaded vehicles would slip off the temporary ash roadway in the bed of the dry canal.




Rain, ash and a little clay form a lethal mixture for the ready-mix vehicles. On one occasion the pour had to be made short of the intended spot, with final delivery by hand barrow. Roger Leishman reported to Council that a layer of Hoggin had been

needed to stabilise the roadway surface. Everyone nodded wisely, but no-one owned up to knowing what Hoggin actually is.* A quick surf through www solved the mystery and came up with the following definition, so we can all be instant experts.

‘Hoggin: A material composed of screenings or siftings of gravel or a mixture of loam, coarse sand, and fine gravel, used in making filter beds, as a binder, etc..’

Source: U.S. Bureau of Mines Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms

*No, I didn't know either Ed. 

Gift Aid and WAT

There are two certainties in life – Death and Taxes. One of those is about to change, at least as far as WAT is concerned. From April 2000 the complex and somewhat harsh rules concerning Covenants and Tax Reclamation by charities is to be revised. The new arrangements include measures for treating tax issues for Charities as well as trading companies set up by charities for tax and VAT purposes. WAT does not run a trading company, so the regulations have a simpler effect. Please note that a more detailed inspection of the regulations may show a different light on matters.

- The £250 minimum for gift aid will be abolished, so that all donations will qualify for tax relief, whether large or small, one-off or repeated. As with the existing Covenants, we can claim back the tax originally paid by the donor on the donation. Normally that means for every £100 donated, WAT claims an extra £23 from Inland Revenue. To be able to claim the tax back, WAT will have to be able to show an 'audit trail' for the donation from the donor. In practice this may be as simple as the donor signing a confirmation of the donation, or countersigning a receipt. It may well be future good practice for the Trust to ask any donors to make their donations under the Gift Aid scheme, and our Treasurer will, I'm sure, be looking into ways to make this simple to do.



- Deeds of Covenant will be phased out in favour of Gift Aid arrangements. However, if you already do the sensible thing and covenant your membership fee you won't have to fill in a Gift Aid Certificate.

- If you haven't already set up a Covenant to pay your WAT membership (no, it doesn't mean your soul is sold to the Devil) it will be easy to join the Gift Aid scheme. You will be able to join by phone, or via the internet, as well as by post.

- As well as Tax clarification, the new regulations also confirm that the Festival organised by WAT is exempt from VAT, provided we don't hold more than four Festivals a year!. Also, all charity advertising and preparation costs are zero-rated for VAT.

I am certainly not an Accountant, so please be 'gentle with me' if the interpretation is wrong. However, on the face of it, it seems as though charities in general, and WAT in particular, are being given a welcome financial opportunity. Of course, we still have to wait for the budget to learn the details!

RLW 

Thanks are due to the IWA, in whose December Bulletin information was published on which this article is based.

Wild Birds on the Arm

On specific dates in the late Spring of 1999, an ecological survey was carried over the whole length of the Arm. This was commissioned by BW as a first step in the Environmental Impact Survey to be co-funded by BW and WAT. The EIS is itself a necessary precursor to restoration. The survey in effect takes a snapshot of flora and fauna at a specific point in time.

The records of bird presence were taken on two separate dates in mid May and early June as part of a larger survey, and does not pretend to be a definitive ornithological survey.

The dates chosen for the survey were not ideal for recording breeding, being past the main season when birds will defend their territories. The weather was also not ideal.

Nevertheless, observations from the draft survey showed an impressive total of 59 species, several of which were breeding or probable breeding pairs.

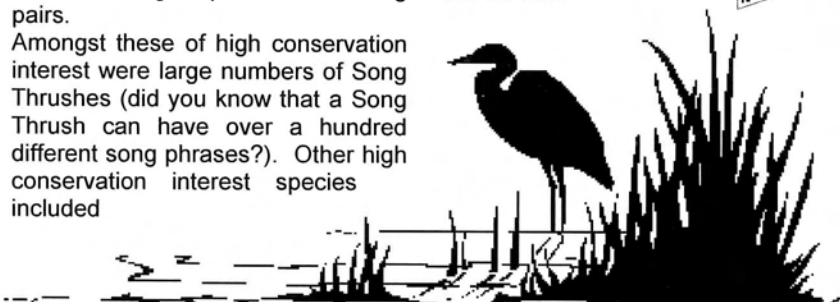
Amongst these of high conservation interest were large numbers of Song Thrushes (did you know that a Song Thrush can have over a hundred different song phrases?). Other high conservation interest species included

Bullfinches and Reed Bunting, as well as Linnet.

Naturally enough, on a water course such as the Wendover arm, species wholly or partly reliant on a watercourse can be expected. These include the popular but fleetingly seen Kingfisher, which continues to use the Arm as a breeding and feeding habitat. Many Moorhens and Mallards live on the watered sections, and Herons are seen feeding regularly.

Water in the Arm has a gentle flow from it's source in Wendover, augmented by the pumps at Little Tring. The flow helps to keep the water clear, especially above the sewage treatment discharge below Tring. The clear shallow water is ideal for Little Grebes, seen in three locations.

Finally, although not recorded in the BW survey, Swans from the Grand Union Main Line travel the Arm, adding to the charm and diversity of the bird life.



Pssst! Wanna Buy a Bottle?

At the Festival in May, Chiltern Branch IWA will be selling bottles recovered from the excavations at Little Tring, with all proceeds to the Trust.



CLUB 100

DRAW RESULTS: 1999



Autumn 1998

Drawn Oct 27th 1999

73 CLUB 100 Members

1 st	Mrs J Martin	£87.60
2 nd	Mr S J Bell	£36.50
3 rd	Mrs O Shaw	£14.60

Winter 1999/2000

Drawn Jan 18th 2000

73 CLUB 100 Members

1 st	Mr R Squires	£87.60
2 nd	Mr R Leishman	£36.50
3 rd	Mr S J Sloan	£14.60

New Face on Council

At the last AGM our Vice Chairman once again referred to the vacancies on Trust Council, and appealed for volunteers to step forward. Shortly afterwards, a letter was received from John Savage, a Tring resident, offering his time and support. With Council's agreement, he attended the Council meeting in January as an observer, but it wasn't enough to put him off. Council unanimously agreed to co-opt John, so now we have another face on Council. John has recently retired from a long service in management at Royal Mail. Unfortunately we won't get discount on postage, but John's experience will be put to good use in the service of the Trust!



It's Blinding!

13 Base sections and 10 wall sections have been completed at the restoration workings at Little Tring. Roger Leishman reports that poor weather has caused problems, especially with wet surfaces and delivery of materials (see 'Hoggin' this issue - Ed.)

Blinding at Little Tring showing the extent of excavation work needed before base and wall sections can be poured



Council Matters

September

- Roger Leishman reported that blinding and base excavation work is now completed for stage 1. A start has been made on stage 2.
- Concern was expressed about the apparent slow progress by BW on talks and the supply of information on the A41 crossing.
- The Health and Safety Guide is in draft form.
- The newsletter will be printed together with the annual accounts and posted to members together.

October

- The treasurer reported that expenditure almost balanced income for the year, but expenditure is due to increase due to the build up of restoration work.
- The Trust was not successful with a grant application to the Bulldog and Hitachi Trusts.
- Applications supported by data and information prepared by Peter Cleasby will be made to local councils for financial assistance.
- Restoration work is now concentrating on wall sections.
- The Health and Safety Handbook is complete. Every volunteer is required to read and sign it.
- Bob will write to Wendover News contributing to the ongoing debate over the state of the Arm at Wendover, with an offer of help, if wanted.
- A meeting is scheduled between BW and WAT on 5th November to

agree joint approaches to Herts CC concerning the Aston Clinton Bypass.

- Beryl reported that the WAT sales stand will be at the AGM in October.

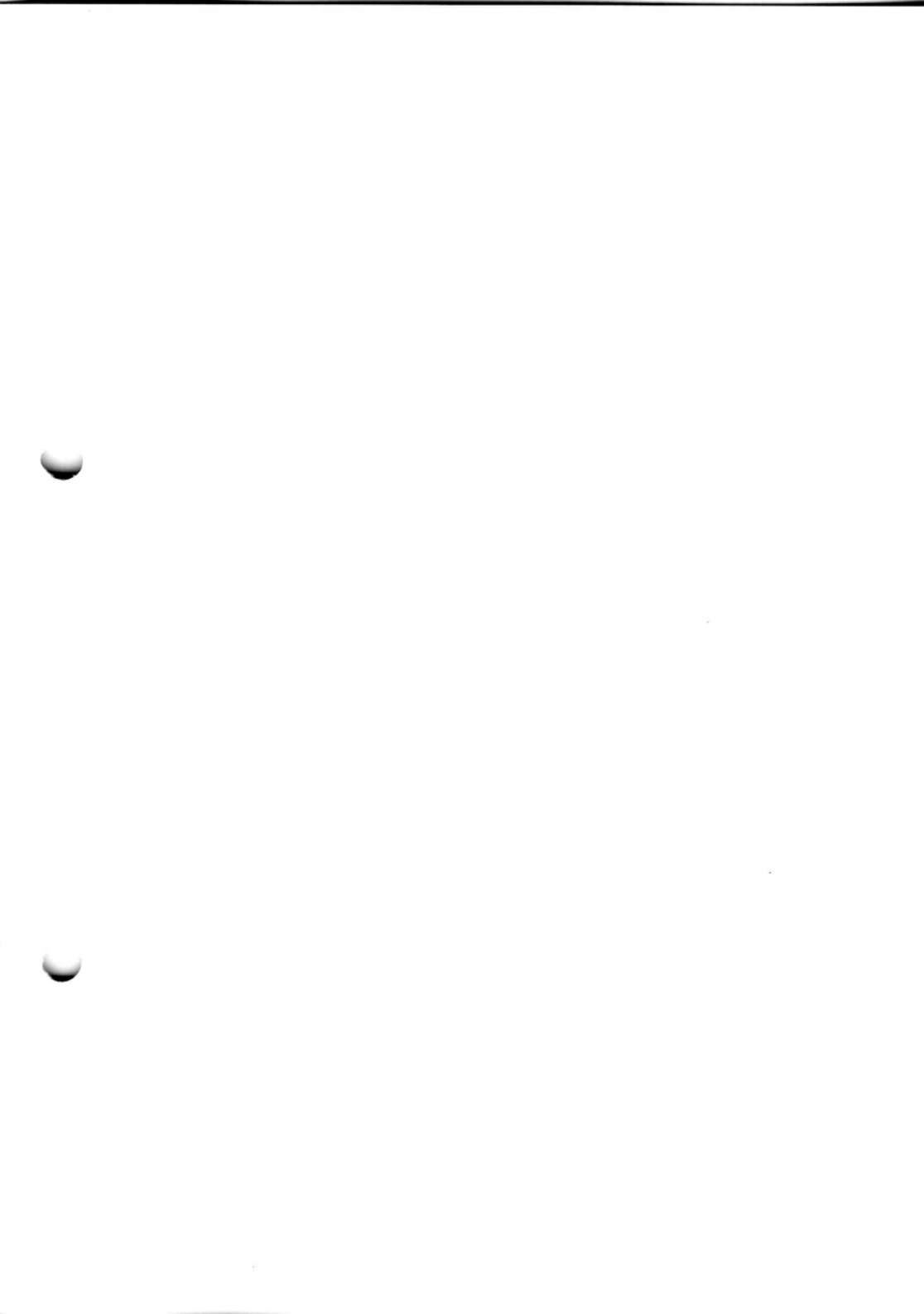
November

- Officers of Council were re-elected. The Chairman's post remains vacant.
- IWA Lichfield Branch has donated £100, as a thank you for the welcome shown to them at the Festival in May.
- WAT will join Bucks Community Action as an Ordinary Member.
- John Hopkins will attend the Annual Waterways Societies meeting in Birmingham Nov 27th.
- It was agreed to apply for display space at various national venues for 2000.
- Restoration costs are on target, but plant hire costs may over-run.
- It is estimated that Little Tring Bridge will take 20 weeks to build.
- WAT has agreed a donation to BW towards the cost of the Environmental Study.

December

- 13 base sections and 10 wall sections have now been completed at Little Tring Bridge. Wet weather has slowed progress on site.
- Hoggins has been laid on the site roadway to give a better surface.
- The Trust sales stand took over £90 at the AGM.





Erratum:

WAT Grants Officer

Gregg Bisgrove's Phone

Number is 01442 233937

Wendover Arm Trust

Reg. Office: 3 Brampton Court, Bradville, Milton Keynes, MK13 7HR
A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee. Registered in England number 2353392
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President

Sir Roger Cork FCA FICM FIPA

Vice President

Mr Roger Lewis

Chairman

Situation Vacant

Secretary

John Hopkins
3 Brampton Court
Bradville,
Milton Keynes
MK13 7HR
☎: 01908 311521

Publicity Officer

Peter Cleasby
3 Tatlers Hill
Wingrave nr Aylesbury
Bucks.
HP22 4PU
☎: 01296 682385

Council Member

Matthew Routledge
% GU Canal South
Watery Lane
Marsworth, Tring
Herts. HP23 4LZ
☎: 01442 825938

Council Member

John Savage
16 Lakeside
Tring
Herts. HP23 5HN
☎: 01442 827702

Vice Chairman

Bob Wheal
467 Bideford Green
Leighton Buzzard
Beds. LU7 7TZ
☎: 01525 381614

Restoration Director

Roger Leishman
7 Hall Park
Berkhamsted,
Herts,
HP4 2NU
☎: 01442 874536

Trust Sales

Beryl Martin
12 Chipperfield Close,
New Bradwell,
Milton Keynes,
MK13 OEP
☎: 01908 312239

Council Member

John Rowe
Fox Meadow
Water end Lane
Potten End
Herts. HP4 2SH
☎: 01442 862619

Treasurer

John Brooman
66 Bryants Acre,
Aylesbury Road,
Wendover, Bucks.
☎: 01296 623542

Membership Secretary

Barry Martin
12 Chipperfield Close,
New Bradwell,
Milton Keynes,
MK13 OEP
☎: 01908 312239

Grants Officer

Gregg Bisgrove
100 St Agnells Lane
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP2 6LH
☎: 01923 233937

IWA Nominee

Elizabeth Payne
23 Hopping Hill Gdns
Duston
Northants.
NN5 6PF
☎: 01604 587125

Minutes Secretary

Rene Hopkins
3 Brampton Court
Bradville,
Milton Keynes
MK13 7HR
☎: 01908 311521

Editor: Bob Wheal

☎: 01525 381614

bob.wheal@btinternet.com

Wendover Arm Festival Plaques from 1990

