



This is not the format or layout of the Newsletter you are used to!

That is because our Newsletter Editor has decided not to continue, and as Trust Chairman it falls to me to produce this temporary and ad-hoc news-sheet. I lack experience with the software, so please be tolerant.

Along with this news-sheet is a letter, asking for your help. Please give it your immediate and serious attention.

I have also taken the opportunity to make the fullest use of postage and include our Grand Draw tickets for this year. As always, if the inclusion of these tickets causes offence, I apologise.

As you will see below, our need for funds is even greater than before, so please make every effort to sell the tickets, returning the stubs and monies to the address given on each ticket. Remember that as our major prize is donated, nearly all of the income from the Grand Draw goes to the Trust, so please don't be shy.

Bob Wheal, Chairman

Council and Committee Changes

Resignations from Council by key officers have prompted a review of operations, and a re-assessment of how we conduct the business of the Trust.

Members of the Completion Committee have done a valuable job in terms of investigating background issues.

However, it has proved difficult to properly coordinate the activities of the Restoration and Completion Committees, and avoid duplication of effort. Council has agreed that the future work of the Trust is best achieved by integrating the work of the Completion Committee into Council or other Committees.

Effective as from January:

- The **Completion Committee** itself is wound up as a separate body, with its members joining one or other of the Committees, or Trust Council.
- **Trust Council** remains as the main governing body of the Trust.
- The **Restoration Committee** has expanded to take on board some of the members and functions carried out by the former Completion Committee.
- A **Fundraising Committee** will concentrate on identifying sources of funding, and issues needing resolution before funding can be requested.
- Our **Festival Committee** continues as before, arranging and organising our single biggest fundraising event, with a contribution of £20,000 to £50,000 per year to Trust funds.

With the revised structure in place, some important positions are unfilled, and Trust members are asked to consider volunteering to fill the 'empty chairs'.

Please see the accompanying letter for more detail on organisation, current Council/Committee members, and vacant positions.

CLUB 100 Result

In the 42nd Club 100 draw for January, held on Wed 23rd, the winners were:

1 st Prize	Ticket No. 005	£120	Mrs J E Smith
2 nd Prize	Ticket No. 021	£ 50	Mrs S O Shaw
3 rd Prize	Ticket No. 064	£ 20	Mrs M Leishman

The number of participants in this quarter's draw was coincidentally exactly 100. There is no limit to the number of members who can take part in the draw, but the more who take part, the higher the prize values.

Bridge Plaques

As of January, 126 plaques have been ordered (54 large and 71 small). All but one have been installed on the footbridge near Drayton Beauchamp. Plaques are still available; for more details call Barry Martin on 01296 630599 or check our website

www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk





Canal Festival

The Canal Festival had to be cancelled half way through in 2007, thanks to the terrible weather. As a result we did not benefit from the normal income, and in fact we suffered a relatively small loss (just over £500). In the circumstances we were fortunate as our



loss could have been much more. Some of our visiting traders were not as lucky as they lost their marquees and stands. However most gave us their support and said they would be back for 2008.

Preparations for the **2008 Canal Festival** are well advanced, with the event taking place over the Bank Holiday Weekend of Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May. Bookings are being taken for Boats, Trades, Crafts and Charities, and the weekend's entertainments are also well in hand. Check the Trust's website www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk for more details, or call 07801 280426, 07703 475297 or 01525 374761 (answer phone) if you have a general query. Incidentally, if you took a boat to

last year's festival then there is a good chance that a photo of your boat exists.

Contact 07860 286155 if you would like a copy.

Restoration - Where are We Now ?

Although the 2007 Festival was a great disappointment, the bright side is that we are at last making progress on the Phase II re-lining.

As you can see, the first 60 metres of experimental section at Drayton Beauchamp is in water and we believe we now have a design and procedures in place to make real progress.



Drayton Beauchamp, OCT 2007 - photo Margaret Leishman

Bulk excavation and pipe capping of Stage 1 is now 2/3 complete and the first half of the excavation for the first mooring bay has been completed despite the weather.

If you attended the AGM last October, you will have heard that the estimated cost of completing phase 2 has been revised upwards, by a significant amount. At the risk of boring those of us who are less than comfortable with figures, I have included the estimated costs for completing Phase 2, which is from the current end of navigation at Little Tring through to join up with the new section in water under the A41 Saxon Bridge. The figures are for the full cost of Phase 2, including monies already spent, and are as reported in October 2007. These are realistic estimates based on the construction methods currently employed.

Our income up to now relies heavily on the success of our annual Festival. The cancellation of the event mid-festival in 2007 was financially a slap in the face. In a 'normal' year we could expect an income of from £20,000 to £40,000 or more. However, even taking the higher figure, simple calculation shows it would take more than 30 years to fund the restoration solely from the Festival.

And that is only for Phase 2 - That puts the task of the new Fundraising Committee into real focus.

Work Party Volunteer Schedule to March 2008

<p>We intend to experiment with some five-day work parties commencing early in 2008. All dates are for work near Drayton Beauchamp:</p>	<p>Thu 14 Feb, Fri 29 Feb Sat 1 Mar to Tue 4 Mar Thu 13 Mar</p>
<p>For more details contact</p> <p>Roger Leishman Restoration Director</p>	<p>Tel: 01442 874536 e-mail rluishman@ukgateway.net</p>



WENDOVER ARM CANAL RESTORATION PHASE 2 as at 31st October 2007

CANAL LINING		FOOTBRIDGES	VARIOUS OTHER WORKS
split into 7 stages, each approx 350m.		Bridges 4 & 4A	
Item	Stages 1-7	Stages 8 & 9	Stages 10-14
Total length	2,058m		
Complete to date:		Work Needed	
Bulk Excavation	346m	Excavation	Whitehouses, Weirs, etc.
Pipe Capping	159m	Blinding	Cart Track, Narrows & Weir
Tipping to offside bank	134m	Wall base	Removal of Bunds
Profiling towpath bank	72m	Wall upright	Winding Hole Nose
Lining towpath bank	68m	Backfill	Removing Nuttalls Bund
Profiling offside bank	70m		
Lining offside bank	66m		
Level and line bed	60m	All Completed	
Planting banks			
Mooring wall length	437m		
Excavation	110m		
Blinding, Wall base, Wall upright, Backfill	4m		
Estimated Cost	£1,029,000	£40,000	£73,500
Actual cost to date (Oct 07)	£43,910	£40,046	£3,501

On top of the costs of lining the canal, we have also to consider other (but still very real) costs:

	ESTIMATED COSTS	ACTUAL COSTS
Canal Lining (see above)	£1,029,000	£43,910
Footbridges etc (see above)	£40,000	£40,046
Various Other Works (see above)	£73,500	£3,501
Bed clearance etc	£15,000	£8,216
Environmental Surveys	£3,500	£3,245
Administration	£25,000	£5,998
Tools and Equipment	£5,000	£869
Vehicle maintenance etc	£10,000	£3,262
Unallocated stock	£49,000	£19,297
Total	£1,250,000	£128,344

SUMMARY OF INDIRECT COSTS

Water from Wendover

Copies of Shelley Savage's excellent guide to the whole of the Wendover Arm are still available at a modest £4.95, plus £1 p&p.

The full colour 24 page booklet is A5 size, and makes a unique gift.

The guide describes sights and signs along the route of the Arm, with each page complemented by historic and other background information.

Colour and archive B/W photos abound. Three suggested walking routes are also described in detail.

This is a valuable addition to any collection of canal guides and books, and is available by post. You can order a copy by sending your cheque made out to 'Wendover Arm Trust' to Jill Pearce, 15 Halton Village, Halton, HP22 5NS.





Future Work Parties

The use of tracked dumpers, although expensive, has meant that we have been able to keep working despite atrocious conditions along the temporary road in the 'dry' canal bed. It has enabled us to take delivery of ready-mix concrete on both Saturdays and Mondays hence speeding up progress. Up to 30 metres of pipe capping can now be completed over one weekend, albeit the mud in places comes over the vehicles' caterpillar tracks.

Swan Upping

On the Monday morning after the September Working Party Weekend a small group of volunteers gathered to tidy up the Trust's storage site at Little Tring. We were topping up the fuel tanks of the excavators and dumper trucks, and the gates were open for Morgan's low-loader to collect the equipment.

As we waited, we received an unexpected visitor; a young adult swan waddling unsteadily in through the open gate.

Three of the working party, led by Ray Orth, began to gently drive the swan back out of the site. The swan went a few yards and then sat down. It was gently stroked but refused to move, so Ray tucked the swan under his arm and carried it into the field next to the track which leads up from Little Tring Road.

The swan was gently deposited on the ground near two other young swans.

Ray recalled that he had noticed the 3 swans in the field on the previous day. We returned to the storage area to continue the clearance and tidying up.

About half an hour later we had three visitors, waddling line astern, along the track through the storage area.

The gate at the far end of the storage area was hurriedly unlocked so that the swans could gain access to the watered section of the canal. The swans were exhausted having walked about half a mile from one of the local reservoirs across rough dry fields looking for water (imagine walking half a mile wearing a pair of rubber swimming flippers with no drinking water and you may have some idea of the state these young swans were in).

Each of the swans had to be carried by Ray several hundred yards through the storage area to the edge of the newly watered section of canal behind Little Tring Farm. The third swan had sat down in a large area of stinging nettles making Ray's task of lifting it especially difficult!

On reaching water, each swan drank heartily, and then headed for the planted area that was part of the Phase 1 restoration, where they were all seen to be feeding and regaining their strength.

During working parties wildlife is often rescued to prevent unnecessary risk from our restoration activities and many birds share our lunches.

Barry Martin

And now to show we are into the world of computers:

We've made it into the world of Facebook with the start of the **Wendover Arm Trust Facebook Group**. It's all very new and so we're not sure what we'll be doing, but please do join the group and spread the word! Visit our website www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk and follow the Facebook link on the home page. Alternatively try going to www.facebook.com and entering 'wendover' in the search box.

Walk an Arm's Length

Did you walk the Arm in September last year? Do you still have money collected as sponsorship? You will make our Treasurer very happy by passing it on to him! Contact details below. So far WAAL raised over £3,400 and a huge amount of goodwill for the Trust.



Contacts

To save space, only one contact is printed here: Chairman 01525 381614 or bob.wheal@btinternet.com
