



## WAT Membership

Total number of memberships **494**

Total number of members **745**

We welcome the following as new members (since November 2007):



Mr T J Cooper  
Mr C A Ball  
Mrs A M Bartlett  
Mr & Mrs R Clark  
Mr D Craven  
Mr I C Moodie  
Mr P J Snow

Wendover  
Aylesbury  
Halton  
Little Kimble  
Ealing  
Berkhamsted  
Aylesbury



In an annual review of memberships, 5 family and 23 single memberships were deemed to have lapsed due to non-payment of subscriptions.

## CLUB 100 Result

In the 43<sup>rd</sup> Club 100 draw held on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> April there were 97 shares, and the winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Ticket No 069 £116.40 Mr S J Sloan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Ticket No. 001 £ 48.50 Mr J Savage  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Ticket No. 016 £ 19.40 Mr D Ager

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.

The next CLUB 100 draw will be in July 2008. If you would like to take part and be a winner in Club 100, Barry Martin would be pleased to hear from you. He is on 01296 630599.

## Canal Festival

We have had conjurors and magicians at previous Festivals, but none have been able to make the event disappear then reappear!

Early in 2008 it looked like the field would not be available to us, and because traders, boaters, etc had already paid deposits and fees, we had to write advising that the event was not likely to take place at Tring this year. Of course this was interpreted by the rumour mill that the Festival was definitely cancelled! Meanwhile we began to look in earnest for an alternative site.

In fact negotiations over the Tring site continued. Matters took longer than we would have wished, but happily the outcome meant that we can go ahead with the Festival as originally planned.

We now look forward to a successful Festival, with many of the usual popular attractions, as well a few new ones.

Along with this newsletter are a couple of posters, just like the one shown. Please put up at least one of them where others can see it – even if it's only in your front window. Good places to try are local shops and filling stations., who often allow local charities to display posters.

The Festival is on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May, at New Mill off the B488 Icknield Way, 1 mile North of Tring Town Centre. Car parking is free.

Now you know it is definitely taking place, and you know where it is, you will have no excuse not to come along and enjoy the event.

See you there! Visit [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/Festival](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/Festival) for more information.



**TRING CANAL FESTIVAL** 

Sunday 25th & Monday 26th May 2008  
10am to 5pm - Icknield Way (B488) Tring

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**

- Decorated Narrow Boats • Falconry Display
- Farm Animals • Rock Climbing Wall
- Traditional Fairground Rides • Canal Trips
- FREE Children's Activities & Entertainments
- Live Music • Real Ale Bar • Fun Dog Event
- Large Craft Fair • Traction Engines • Speciality Traders
- Display of Latest Restoration Work

*The organisers reserve the right to vary the attractions advertised*  
Admission: £6 Adults - £3 Child - £15 Family - £4 Concession  
(No unaccompanied children admitted)  
**FREE parking**

For more details call: 07801 280426 or [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)



### A Grand Result ... so far

Is it because everyone thought the Festival would not be going ahead, and was prompted to help in some small way? Whatever the reason, the Grand Draw tickets sent out with the last newsletter are still dropping through the letter box along with cheques and cash. The majority of Grand Draw tickets are sold at the Festival, yet here we are, weeks to go to the event and over 180 members have already returned tickets. That's more than a third of all members – thank you. After costs of printing and prize purchases are taken into account we already have a profit of over £1,500. In fact, some members have asked for more tickets to be sent to them (in one case, twice!). If you still have unsold tickets please ask your family, neighbours, colleagues (in fact anyone) to support the Trust by buying a ticket, and at the same time have a chance of winning. If you want more tickets, just ask.



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### Tring Reservoirs – Where does the Water come from?

(a new booklet from Friends of Tring Reservoirs)



The Tring Reservoirs have been a feature of the local landscape for over two hundred years. The reservoirs – four in all – lie to the north and north-east of Tring. They were built as an important and essential part of the Grand Union Canal network – then the Grand Junction Canal - a transport system long superseded by more modern means, but despite this, they have retained their importance right up to the present time. Although remaining closely tied to the canal they serve, the reservoirs provide a haven for wildlife and a welcome and restful recreation area for both local residents and for visitors from further afield.

The booklet has been written to provide a detailed review of the complex and fascinating history of the water supplies to the summit of the canal as it rises over the Chiltern Hills at Tring, from their origins at the end of the 18th century right up to the present day, and includes a little about the wildlife habitat they provide and their conservation status.

The booklet takes as its start a series of articles originally written for the Friends of Tring Reservoirs own newsletter and it will be available at the Canal Festival for a small charge.

You can find the Friends of Tring Reservoirs in the Wendover Arm Trust marquee, by the main entrance.

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### Memorial Benches

Our volunteers are hoping to place the first of two memorial benches over the weekend of the Festival at Little Tring. Subscriptions and donations to the memory of our past Chairman and Vice President, Roger Lewis, allowed the Trust to purchase a 'Balmoral' style bench, complete with suitable plaque. The bench will be sited near to Little Tring Bridge, which Roger was so proud to navigate through when it was first opened. The bench is made from sustainably grown Teak, and is 180 cm long, so should comfortably seat tired walkers needing a short break while ambling along the Arm, or simply provide a place to 'stop and stare' in peace.



The second, similar, bench in memory of Trust Member Dick Cordell will be installed near to peg 30 on the Arm, once siting details have been agreed. Both benches are similar to the bench on the towpath near Drayton Beauchamp Bridge and Church, which was supplied by Drayton Beauchamp Parish and installed by the Trust.

Opportunities for memorial furniture or features along the Arm are limited, being more or less restricted to plaques, benches, or trees. The inclusion of these two additional benches will enhance the appearance and amenity value of the Arm, as well as reminding us of the personalities of those to whom the benches are dedicated.

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### BLOCKAID - What's that?

The Wendover Arm Trust is busy rebuilding the canal from Little Tring through to Buckland - a length of about 2 miles. For much of that length, the sides of the canal bed are built using special concrete blocks.



Our volunteers first clear out scrub and undergrowth, then dig out the proper profile of the canal before lining it with a bentonite clay material that keeps the canal watertight. The sloping sides that will be under water have to be covered with concrete blocks to protect the clay lining.



First we set a hollow concrete block at the 'joint' between the canal bed and the sloping wall which will be under water. This hollow block is filled with concrete to form a stable base for the rest of the wall. Solid blocks are laid in courses on top of the hollow blocks to form the sloping sides of the canal. The canal is waterproof because of the bentonite layer under the weight of the blocks.

Each block has to be brought to the canal and put in place, and altogether there are about 90,000 blocks needed (yes, 90,000!).

That is a huge number of blocks and a great deal of time and effort, but crucially a lot of money to pay for the blocks. Each block costs about £2 by the time it is put in place – hence **BLOCKAID**.

*'each block has to be brought to the canal'*

At the Festival in May, the Trust is launching an appeal for funds to pay for the blocks, and we have called it **BLOCKAID**. Pick up a leaflet from the Trust Stand in the marquee by the main entrance, or look on our website [www.blockaid.org.uk](http://www.blockaid.org.uk). Please also feel free to take a handful of leaflets and distribute them wherever you feel they may generate the best response.

Future distribution plans being looked at include inserts in local newspapers and canal magazines.

When sending a donation, you won't even have to put a stamp on the envelope, just put FREEPOST BLOCKAID (all capital letters, no stamp or other address needed) and it will find us.

Your donation however modest will go straight towards the cost of blocks, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have made a truly 'concrete' contribution.

ps: *If you are a taxpayer, make it a Gift Aided contribution and at no cost to you we can claim 28pence back from HMRC (Inland Revenue) for every pound you give.*

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### Will Somebody make Barry Happy?

As we all know, Barry Martin is our Membership Secretary. He diligently reminds us when our subs are due, he writes to tell us what has been done with our money once we renew our membership, and generally keeps our records and reports up to date. There are also other administrative things Barry does, which don't always get noticed. He collates and claims the Gift Aid monies back for the Trust from HMRC, he runs Club 100 (aren't you a member yet?), he administers requests for Bridge Plaques, and he has designed the Festival Plaque for every Festival as far back as anyone can remember, and together with Beryl he can usually be found behind the Trust Stand at the Festival.

Why isn't he happy? Well, Barry and Beryl are likely to be moving house soon, out of the area, and Barry is keen to have someone to take on his duties in time for new addresses to be arranged. So far the only response to pleas for a volunteer to come forward to take over has been a deafening silence. So, can you make Barry happy by offering your time and admin skills to take over?

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### New Legacy Information

Another project that Barry has recently completed is the revision of the Trust's Will/Legacy Information. The leaflet explains how you can arrange your affairs so that the Trust benefits from your legacy in the most efficient way, allowing you to continue your support into the future.

The revised leaflet will be available in limited numbers from the Trust Marquee at the Festival, before being printed and made more generally available later on this year.

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### Walk an Arm's Length

The Walk and Arm's Length (WAAL) was a great success in 2007. Of course it didn't just happen, it was well organised by Sue Hetherington and the walk generated a lot of good publicity as well as over £3,000 for the Trust. Sue is taking a rest from running the event, so the opportunity is there for anyone who wants to pick up the challenge to organise a 2009 WAAL. Sue is able to help with information and advice, so you would not be starting from scratch. Please let any Council Director know if you are interested. If you want to know more before committing yourself, give Sue a call on 01296 622955.

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### Any Old Iron?

This is your last chance to get hold of previous years' festival plaques. We have a number of unsold plaques from various years, and our Treasurer is fed up accounting for them every year! They are also quite heavy and are possibly worth a bob or two as scrap. Before we offer them to a metal recycling specialist, you can pre-order one now at a discount, to be collected from the Trust stand at the Festival. Call on 01296 630599 to see whether the plaque is available for the year you want. Prices are £15 for 2007, £8 for 2006, and £5 each for 2005 and earlier.



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### Contacts and Trust Officers

Since the last newsletter there are a few 'new recruits' to WAT Council and the Restoration Committee.

WAT Council has been joined by **Nigel Williams** as our Publicity Director. Nigel is a regular at our work parties, and as well as general publicity tasks for the Trust, Nigel has also bravely taken on publicity duties for the Festival at short notice.

Our new Hon Sec is confirmed as **John Rowe**, who is a long standing Trust Director with special interest in the Chiltern Society.

**Peter Winter** joins us as the official representative of the IWA, to whom we are affiliated. Peter is an officer of the IWA Chiltern Branch, and knows the Arm well.

Our Restoration Committee is augmented by **Jon Kelly**, who served on the Completion Committee and who also attends restoration work parties.

Wendover Arm Trust Council			
Chairman	Bob Wheal	01525 381614	bob.wheal@btinternet.com
Minutes Secretary	Margaret Leishman	01442 874536	
Vice Chair/Restoration Dir.	Roger Leishman	01442 874536	rleishman@ukgateway.net
Deputy Restoration Dir.	Ray Orth	01494 786868	rayorth@lowndes2k.fsnet.co.uk
Hon Sec	John Rowe	01442 862619	johnm.rowe@talktalk.net
Treasurer	John Brooman	01296 623542	jb0066@aol.com
Fundraising Director	<i>vacant</i>		<b>you could fill this space</b>
Publicity	Nigel Williams	01844 353927	WPvaluers@aol.com
Membership/Gift Aid	Barry Martin	01296 630599	BMartinTurner@aol.com
Festival Chairman	Graeme Lockhart	01525 374761	graemelockhart@btinternet.com
Council Member	Matthew Routledge	01296 524930	Mjwrouledge@aol.com
BW Nominee	John Kearsley	01908 302573	John.Kearsley@britishwaterways.co.uk
IWA Nominee	Peter Winter	01494 813338	tyke1946@hotmail.com
Wendover Arm Trust Non-Council Officers			
Trust Sales	Jill Pearce	01296 624472	jill@brutonpearce.co.uk
Trust Website	Robert Drury	01296 631121	robertjdrury@yahoo.co.uk
Wendover Arm Trust Restoration Committee			
Roger Leishman, Margaret Leishman, John Brooman, Eddie Evens, John Kearsley, Bob Wheal, Jon Kelly			

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