

WAT Wins New Award

British Waterways are launching their new **Waterways' Volunteering Excellence** award, to celebrate and publicise volunteering organisations in each of their areas. The awards are to be chosen annually by British Waterways staff, and will be in the form of a framed photograph of the waterway.

By making these awards, BW aim to celebrate and recognise volunteer organisations on the waterways, and specifically the effort made by those organisations, which are freely given. The award will help raise the awareness of volunteering opportunities in general, and helps promote the selected organisation itself.

Additionally, BW hope to integrate the work of volunteers more fully into BW, and it is also a way of saying 'thank you'.

The Wendover Arm Trust was chosen unanimously by the BW Board to receive the first award in the Grand Union, South East Region, specifically for ongoing promotion and restoration work on the Grand Union Canal.

Other award winners are:



- West Midlands – **Waterway Recovery Group** and the Inland Waterways Association for towpath tidy activities on the BCN
- Scotland – **Royal Bank of Scotland** working with **The Waterways Trust Scotland** for an employee volunteer day at the Falkirk Wheel
- South West – **Kennet & Avon Canal Trust** for Minimum Safety Standards Work on Devizes Locks
- East Midlands - **Erewash Conservation, Preservation and Development Association** – for ongoing promotion and restoration work on the Erewash Canal
- South East – **Wendover Arm Trust** – for ongoing promotion and restoration work on the Grand Union Canal
- North West – **Inland Waterways Protection Society** for ongoing promotion and restoration work at Bugsworth Basin on the Peak Forest Canal
- London - **Slough Arm Canalkeepers** – Thames21 for ongoing rangering services on the Grand Union Canal
- Central (Droitwich Canals Restoration) - **Worcestershire Industrial Archaeology and Local History Society** for heritage recording of the canal

- Wales & Border Counties - **Shropshire Union Canal Society** – for visitor service improvements
- Yorkshire – **Adsetts Canal Project** for ongoing community involvement and practical maintenance at Tinsley Basin on the Sheffield & Tinsley Canal

It is expected that the award to WAT will be presented during the WAT AGM on October 29th.

CLUB 100 Result

In the 44th Club 100 draw held on Wed 13th Aug there were 101 shares, and the winners were:

1 st Prize	£121.20	Mr J A Savage
2 nd Prize	£ 50.50	Mr N A Binks
3 rd Prize	£ 20.20	Mr R W Naulls

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 at the AGM on 29th Oct. 2008. Currently only 54 shares are eligible for the draw, so the chances are good of winning (and helping support the Trust at the same time. If you would like to take part and have a chance to win, Barry Martin would be pleased to hear from you. He can be reached on 01296 630599 or by email to BMartinTurner@aol.com



WAT Membership (August 2008)

Total number of memberships 533

Total number of members 741

We welcome the following as new members (since April 2008):



Mr & Mrs B D Rose	Aston Clinton
Mr & Mrs S G Bell	Aylesbury
Mr R D A Hirschfeld	Weston Turville
Mrs A C Woodhams	Bovingdon
Mr R S Hood	Bovingdon
Mr & Mrs V Wareing	Burscough



Two family and seven single memberships were deemed to have lapsed due to non-payment of subscriptions.

With regret we report the loss of the following members:

- Mrs Christine Chamberlain of Harefield, who died last year (David Chamberlain continues as a Trust member)
- Mrs Pauline Pitman (member since 1989) who died in July (as per local press report)
- Jean 'Diane' Edwards, former member of working parties, who died in May after a long illness.

The Wendover Arm Trust offers sincere condolences to the bereaved relatives and partners.

Canal Festival

It couldn't happen again – could it? Yes it could, and did! Reasonable weather on the days leading up to the Festival meant that we were ready on time, and waiting for the expectant public to come in their thousands, all to have a good day out.

Sunday started wet, and stayed poor with frequent showers as the day wore on. Parts of the site resembled a mud bath, and we all hoped for a respite on Monday. It was not to be; the rain came down, only this time it continued raining heavily all day, more or less. A few hardy souls braved the elements (thank you, if you did) but our gate takings were effectively nil.

The net result was predictable – a loss of some three thousand one hundred pounds.

It has often been suggested that the Festival should be held over the whole weekend – including Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and this is seriously being considered by the Festival Committee under Graeme Lockhart. A three-day event will increase the chance of at least *some* good weather, and it is the weather which largely determines the financial success of the event.

As for next year's event, we are in a familiar situation. We have started the planning for the Festival, but we have yet to secure the venue. Our usual site at Tring offers several features which are hard to find together elsewhere:

- Space (22 acres) for the Festival site and including car parking in the same field.
- Canal side site, allowing boats and boaters to be present; it is the voluntary help given by boaters which makes the Festival possible
- (Fairly) Flat site for setting up marquees, etc.
- No immediately adjacent housing, reducing the noise nuisance for residents
- Good road access

If we are unable to secure the usual field for our site we will need to look very hard at alternatives. Because of licensing requirements we will need to have the venue decided at least 4 months in advance, and we need more notice than that to offer firm bookings to traders, exhibitors, etc. Several other sites have already been investigated but are unsuitable for a variety of reasons. **If you know of a canal side site** not too far from Tring that we may be able to use, please let Graeme know. You can reach him on graemelockhart@btinternet.com or 01525 374761

Meanwhile, the Festival Committee will continue to try and secure our normal venue. Watch this space!

A Grand Result Indeed

Wet weather or not, some people did make the effort to come to the Festival in May. Visitor numbers were well down, but many of those who were already on-site also put their hands in their pockets and invested in some Grand Draw tickets. Including pre-event sales (via Trust members) and after costs, the Grand Draw made a profit of just over £2,000. The prizes have now all been distributed.



The lucky winners were:

1 st	One week canal holiday on a Wyvern Shipping hire boat	J Churchill	High Wycombe
2 nd	Hot Air Balloon Trip	D Lawson	Rickmansworth
3 rd	One day on a Grebe Cruises Dayboat	J Lock	Fenny Stratford
4 th	Picnic Set	Chris Hogarth	Hove
5 th	Wristwatch	Alan Baker	Wendover
6 th	Teddy Bear with WAT waistcoat	Harold	Halton
7 th	Inspirational Photography Photo Print	Mr M Jeskins	Chorley Wood
8 th	Handbag with toiletries	E J Storm	Fleet
9 th	Bottle of Bacardi	Graham Bennet	Totterhoe

BLOCKAID - What's that?

The BLOCKAID scheme was described in the previous newsletter, but briefly the Trust is asking for sponsorship of concrete blocks to go directly into the restoration. Donors can opt to be listed as sponsors or not, and also have the opportunity to Gift Aid their donations (ie the Trust gets 28% extra from the Tax Authorities at no extra cost to the donor). The majority of donations so far have been gift aided.

Our appeal was launched on an unsuspecting public at the Festival in May. Only a few visitors braved the bad weather to come to the event, which meant that the appeal got off to a slow start. Most of the BLOCKAID donations were made by those on site, which probably meant a high proportion of existing Trust members. In fact over £1,400 has so far been donated, which is testament to the generosity of our supporters.

So why are there BLOCKAID leaflets included with this newsletter? If you haven't yet donated to BLOCKAID, please do consider doing so.

You will be helping the Restoration in a tangible and positive way. However, whether you have personally donated or not, please pass on a leaflet to a person or organisation that you think may be willing to donate.

It is the intention to distribute the leaflets more widely in due course, and this is just the first step.



The dramatic result of the work supported by BLOCKAID

Your suggestion on how to widen the 'catchment' for the BLOCKAID appeal would also be welcome – all ideas will be considered. As mentioned before, future distribution plans being looked at include inserts in local newspapers and canal magazines

You can check the progress of BLOCKAID at any time by going to www.blockaid.org.uk If you have donated, your name should also appear on the donors' wall which is featured on the site.

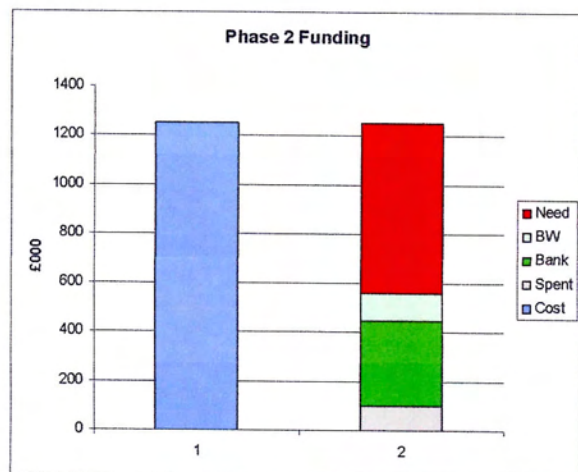
Remember, when sending a donation, you won't even have to put a stamp on the envelope, just put FREEPOST BLOCKAID (all capital letters, no stamp or other address needed) and it will find us.

Funding the Future

Barry Martin sums up the future funding shortfall very well in his membership renewal letter. He says (and I paraphrase) "The current estimate (for Phase 2) is that the lining will cost £1,029,000, at £500 per metre for about 2,058 metres. If we add in necessary ancillary costs, the total becomes £1,250,000.

He continues "In round figures to date we have spent £100,000, we have £350,000 in the bank, and we also have £110,000 to come from BW contributions (in lieu of replacement cost of the pipeline).

That leaves a further **£469,000** to be raised.



You may prefer to see the figures in a graphic way.

The blue column is the estimated total Phase 2 budget (£1.25 million).

The money we still need to raise to do the job is shown in red (£469,000), and represents over half the total needed.

Remember, this is only for Phase 2, up to the new A41 bridge.

Funding for Phase 3 (to Wendover) is over and above these figures.

The last two years' disastrous financial results from our Festival, plus the ongoing uncertainty over the venue shows that we should not rely on the £30,000 to £50,000 income each year we have enjoyed up to now. Instead, any such income should be seen as a (welcome) bonus.

All this is by way of introducing a re-born fundraising committee for the Trust. The term 'fundraising' is however so limiting. It suggests coffee mornings, bring and buy stalls, and occasional raffles. These have their place and are very necessary and welcome in keeping WAT solvent, and allow our members and friends to get involved in supporting the restoration work. However, if the Trust is to continue its work on the ground (or should that be 'bed') then sources of much more substantial funding have to be found and secured.

All this is by way of introduction and explanation for the launch of the **WAT Funding Committee**. This official WAT Committee will have a single overriding aim: to ensure enough money and support is raised to fund the restoration into the future. The Funding Committee will not concern itself with matters which Council should resolve, but instead will concentrate on identifying where funding can be obtained, and doing what is necessary to get that funding.

To do its work effectively, the Funding Committee will have to be well-informed about technical restoration issues as well as the more 'human relation' side of our work – eg involving and consulting with local residents, to whatever degree is both necessary and agreed by Council.

If we had members who were experienced in fundraising, we would have made use of their talents ages ago. As it is, we can do a great deal by enthusiasm leavened with a dash of common sense. Many funding bodies are only too keen to receive a realistic proposal for funding, and actively help those who need it.

The first meeting of the Funding Committee will be at **Marsworth Village Hall, on 7,30pm, Tuesday 18th Nov**. It will be an open meeting, in that anyone is welcome to come along, and you don't have to commit to joining any committee. In fact I am hoping that the Funding Committee (which will probably meet formally only about 3 or 4 times per year) will operate via its members and helpers communicating by email, phone, or post, without having to devote too much time attending meetings.



The Committee has a formal status (i.e. a Committee recognised by Trust Council), but as yet no fixed program or agenda. It is very much the case that the future direction of the Committee will be influenced and largely determined by those who contribute to it.

We have need of people with all type of skills, and it is most unlikely you have nothing to offer.

Please turn up to see what it's all about. If you are unable to make it that night, I will be happy to talk to you or hear from you separately. You can reach me on 01525 381614 or bob.wheal@btinternet.com, or chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Still No Editor

As you can readily tell from this edition, we have no-one yet prepared to take on producing a proper newsletter for the Trust.

Our members would surely like to read more about the Trust's activities, in a format which allowed for more extensive articles, pictures, etc.

Do think about volunteering to run this newsletter (for a trial period) if you have any experience of doing something similar.

We normally expect four issues per year, and the newsletter can be printed professionally.

Prize Call

Yes, we will have a Raffle at the AGM, but as yet we don't have too many prizes! Any donated prize would be welcome, and if not used at the AGM will be held over for the raffle at the next Festival. Please let Johanna know if you have anything. You could bring it with you on the night, or if necessary collection might be arranged. Suitable prizes include bottles (preferably full), or anything you wouldn't mind winning for yourself! johanna.wheal@btinternet.com, or 07789853250

Restoration Update (as reported by Roger Leishman in his Restoration Newsletter).

After the dreadful weather at the Festival we had hoped for some good weather for the August nine day working party. It was not to be and, apart from the strains of the work we did, most of us suffered from aching leg muscles just plodding our way through the mud.

At the July working party Bob Fletcher and his team pumped out the water below our new bund and removed the fence along the newly watered length including strimming the top of the bank. Alas, further rain resulted in Brian Harris and Brian Ing having to do another pumping session later in July.

Ray Orth and Roger were on site the Friday afternoon before the August working party, the whole area at Little Tring and Drayton Beauchamp was bone dry, even dusty, until late in the afternoon when the hired plant was being delivered and down came heavy rain again!

This put paid to cutting any more Bentomat and the ground didn't dry out for the rest of the week. By very good fortune we had cut ten pieces of Bentomat for lining banks on the dry Saturday of the Festival weekend and had a few cut last year. No need to tell you why we could not cut any more over that weekend. Despite the weather we were able to profile 30 metres of both banks, lay the Bentomat and complete the block laying with coir rolls on top. However time and wet weather precluded finishing the spoil fill above the coir rolls and it is hoped to complete this at the September working party.

It was also hoped to continue with work on the wall for the Stage 1 mooring bay but the weather again put paid to this as priority had to be given to the lining although bulk excavation for the second half of the wall was substantially completed.

However, all was not lost as Pete Bowers and his team on the weekday working party hand excavated and concreted enough blinding ready for the formwork for the third base of the wall to be set up at his next weekday working party in September.



AGM

It's AGM time again.

The date: **Wed 29th October**
 The Place: **Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club**
 The Time: **Starts at 8.00 pm**
 Car Parking: **Free, and monitored**

As well as the formal business, which should be over fairly quickly, we will have a speaker. The name is not confirmed yet, but we already know it will be interesting, as always.

A Ploughman's Supper will be served during the interval by our co-opted volunteers, for an extremely modest contribution of £2.50 minimum per head. The licensed bar will be open as usual.

If you are feeling lucky, try the raffle, or listen for your number to be called in the latest Club 100 draw, but your membership (ie payment for Club 100) must be with Barry by Friday 24th October.

The Social Club is off the old A41,

Somebody has made Barry Happy

As reported in the last issue, Barry and Beryl Martin are hoping to move house, to be closer to their family. Barry has been keen for someone to take over the Trust's membership admin, as well as the other things he and Beryl do, such as Gift Aid, Club 100, etc. Step forward Trust member Katherine Deaney, who read Barry's plea in the newsletter, and offered her expertise and time to take over Trust Membership. Katherine has run a membership scheme before, and will assume responsibility from Barry over the coming months. Thank you and welcome, Katherine.

Contacts and Trust Officers

Matthew Routledge has written tendering his resignation from Council. Matthew has a new job which involves a lot of travelling, and with his other commitments he feels he would not be able to attend meetings and play a full part as Trust Councillor. Matthew worked hard on the Trust's behalf when he was in a senior position with British Waterways, and subsequently helped with various issues concerning the Arm at Wendover. The Trust is grateful for his contribution and support, and wishes him well with his career. Matthew intends to remain as a Trust member.

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	jbroom66@aol.com
Fundraising Director	<i>vacant</i>		you could fill this space
Publicity	Nigel Williams	01844 353927	WPvaluers@aol.com
Membership/Gift Aid	Katherine Deaney	01442 246 523	membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Trust Archivist	Barry Martin	01296 630599	BMartinTurner@aol.com
Festival Chairman	Graeme Lockhart	01525 374761	graemelockhart@btinternet.com
BW Nominee	John Kearsy	01908 302573	John.Kearsy@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 Evans, John Kearsy, Bob Wheal, Jon Kelly			
