



WAT Fundraising: First meeting held

I have been pleasantly surprised by the level of support for the new Funding Committee, which was launched at a meeting in Marsworth on Tuesday 18th November. Fundraising is not necessarily seen as the sexiest subject, yet several members indicated beforehand their willingness to join the Committee, or at least to help with specific tasks. The first Committee Meeting will be in the early part of 2009, and at that meeting the members will be asked to elect a Funding Director (Funding Committee Chairman) to take matters further.

After that meeting its membership and contact details will be announced, and printed in future newsletters.

Some idea of the tasks ahead can be gained by a simple comparison of two estimates:

- 1) The Trust has about £370,000 as cash in the bank, and net income averages at £45,000 per year.
- 2) Completing just Phase II will cost more than £1 million pounds, on top of money already spent.



Let's not be too pessimistic, and assume an ongoing successful Festival, with low inflation in years to come. Neither is certain of course.

When asked to give a completion date for Phase II, our Restoration Director estimates another **8-10 years** at the current rate of working, and assuming funds to be available.

However, by dividing the outstanding estimate (£1 million minus £370,000) by the optimistic income (£45,000) the timescale results as **14 years**, just for Phase II.

It is then clear that something additional has to be done to allow the restoration to continue without funds eventually drying up.

At the Council meeting on 19th November, the following remit for the Funding Committee was agreed:

1. *The overall remit of the committee is to raise the funds to complete restoration, and all associated actions leading to restoration.*
2. *Certain specific projects and issues need to be resolved before major funding is sought, and before Trust funds are expended. These are issues which unless resolved will prevent the complete restoration from being achieved.*

Typical examples are:

- a. *Quantifying what needs to be done for the phase 3 length to hold water at the proper navigable depth.*
- b. *Replacement of the crossing at Halton to one with a navigable height.*
- c. *Securing the support of residents adjacent to future restoration sites.*

Trust Council is responsible for identifying such issues, and questions requiring action or research.

3. *Where issues are clear or the need is specific and simple (e.g. replace the Trust Pickup), identify possible funding sources, develop and deliver a bid for funds.*
4. *The committee will report and liaise with Trust Council via minutes of meetings, via joint representatives, and appropriate reports and meetings.*
5. *The committee is a formal sub-committee of the Wendover Arm Trust, and as such is subject to the same Health and Safety and Working regulations as the Trust.*

I am sure we all want the Funding Committee to be successful – the future of the restoration depends on it. You can still let me know if you are able to help – we need members who are happy to get involved in any way, and everyone has something to offer.

As always I can be reached on 07860 286155 or via bob.wheal@btinternet.com

Bob Wheal, Chairman, Nov 2008



BLOCKAID – The story continues

In late October/early November, IWA Chiltern and Herts Branches and Tring Anglers each included our BLOCKAID leaflet as an insert with their newsletter.

As a result, BLOCKAID donations continue to trickle in, with the current total (as of Nov 30th):

Donations	119
Total Donated	£4,915
Total suitable for Gift Aid	£3,761 (at 28% = £1,053)

One enterprising donor sent £70 with a request for 35 certificates, each in a different name. These were duly printed and will be sent by her in lieu of Christmas Cards to her friends and family!



BLOCKAID continues as one of the Trust's important fundraising activities – we will soon have to reprint the leaflet as the initial print run of 5,000 is nearly used up.

Incidentally, if you are about to send a BLOCKAID donation (if you are – thank you) please don't send it to the Trust's registered address in Berkhamsted. Post sent there will be delayed before it finds its way to us and it presents an unnecessary work load. Instead, use FREEPOST BLOCKAID; it won't cost you any postage.

If you nevertheless prefer to put a stamp on an envelope, then use the address 467 Bideford Green, Linslade, LU7 2TZ.

Festival News

Two significant news items: We have our 'usual' field, and the Festival **will** be held over **three** days.

The site owners Land Planning Group have granted permission for our use of the field for 2009, and have wished our event well. That means we have a critical few months and weeks extra to plan the Festival with certainty, and our efforts can be directed at making the event a success rather than looking for an alternative site.



Permission to use the field has to be granted on a year-by-year basis, and we should still be on the lookout for a future alternative site.

The Festival will open at Noon on Sat 23rd May and run on Sat (12.00 to 5.00pm), Sun (10.00 to 5.00pm) and Monday (10.00 to 5.00pm). This means we have more chance of reasonable weather on at least one day; it is the weather which encourages the crowds, and it is the gate money from the attending public which results in profit for the Trust.

Plans are already well advanced, and booking forms for boaters and traders will be appearing on the website in time for the New Year.

High Tide?

Anyone who lives near the Arm, or who has walked it in the last few weeks cannot fail to have noticed how much weed growth there is, especially around Halton and between Perch Bridge and Wendover. The channel is quite choked in places. The water level at Wendover and Perch Bridge is higher than it has been for a long time. It is reasonable to attribute the water level to the weed growth (as well as the wet weather).

The Trust has always been aware that in addition to relatively major works to bridges at Buckland, the old A41, and Halton, we may be faced with raising the banks of the Arm near Wendover to cope with the increased levels needed to supply water to Phase II. Indeed Phase II cannot be properly completed until this issue is resolved, otherwise the newly restored section (Little Tring to Drayton) will be starved of water and the banks will quickly degrade.



It is therefore significant that the canal in Phase 3 currently has a raised level, **without any apparent negative affect on the banks or leakage into the surroundings.**



So, if the water level at Perch Bridge is already above Tring Summit level, does this mean we have no problem with flooding with the 'correct' water level, and also no need to raise the towpath level nearer to Wendover?

This question was put to our Restoration Director, Roger Leishman, who commented:

'I cannot guarantee an answer but my prediction is as follows, and assumes that the channel between Buckland and Wendover is cleared to allow the full volume of water to flow. John Kearsley of British Waterways supports the need to clear the channel and let us hope he gets the necessary funding, if so Operation Floodwatch can proceed.

I have checked my reference level at Perch Bridge and find that the water level was OS 119.232. BW state that the Tring Summit level is 119.090 although for convenience I normally use 119.100. The water level was therefore, say 130mm, i.e. 5", above Tring Summit level. No doubt this is due to excessive weed growth in the channel and possibly also the inability of the 18" pipe to cope with the full flow of water. Once the pipeline is out of use and the water flows by gravity from Wendover I can see no reason for the water level to rise more than an inch or two above the weir level near Bulborne Junction that controls the maximum water level coming from Wendover and hence the summit level. This is a very short weir and might not cope with flash flood conditions but British Waterways have asked for an overflow weir where the pipeline leaves the line of the canal near Little Tring and, provided that this is of sufficient length, should give extra overflow capacity via the pipeline from this point to Tringford Reservoir. In addition there are, as at present, draw off facilities to Weston Turville Reservoir near Wendover and to Wilstone Reservoir both at Saxonway Bridge and at Whitehouses although all these require manual control.

I therefore consider that the banks west of Perch Bridge will be no worse at holding water than they are at present and should not require raising except at the sluice to Weston Turville where the towpath was left low after the sluice was recently renewed.

I hope that this cheers you up!

The true picture of levels can only be measured when the channel is 'normal', i.e. free of weed growth. Plans exist to carry out a survey of levels under different flow and restriction conditions. Roger has named this work as 'Operation Floodwatch', and it is hoped to carry it out later in 2009.

The channel does need to be cleared before then, and British Waterways is currently looking into taking remedial action to be undertaken this winter, if resources can be diverted. Remember, thanks to financial cuts, British Waterways is severely restricted in what it can spend and any such work will have to be done at the expense of other work elsewhere.



Once the channel vegetation is cut back BW expect the water levels to return closer to the quoted Tring Summit level thereby increasing the freeboard.

AGM

£106 was made by the Sales stand at the AGM in October, of which £45 was from Christmas cards (which was entirely profit). Cards are still available if you hurry! £30 of items were also sold which are not on the Sales list. Sales items are now displayed on the Trust website, the prices of which include postage. www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk . The raffle was also well supported and raised £158.

Thanks to those who helped at the AGM, especially Rose & Graham (Ploughman's Supper), Beryl & Barry (Sales), and Johanna Wheal and Mary Fletcher (Raffle).

Thanks also to our speaker Peggy Batchelor-Clegg who took us back to days before most of us were born, to her war years with ENSA.



WAT Membership (November 2009)

Total number of memberships **520**

Total number of members **725**

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



Mr Tidey
Mr & Mrs East

Melksham
Chesham



Four memberships were deemed to have lapsed due to non-payment of subscriptions.

CLUB 100 (November 2008)

The 45th CLUB 100 Prize Draw was held at the A.G.M. on 29th October, with 87 eligible shares. The winners were:

Prize	Winner	Amount
First	Mrs G M Wright	£104,40
Second	Mr S J Bell	£43.50
Third	Mr R C Downs	£17.40

Since the AGM, two new CLUB 100 subscriptions have been started. In fact the first number drawn was that of our Chairman, but since he had omitted to renew his subscription the previous month, his entry was disqualified. That only goes to show the importance of keeping subscriptions up to date. Is yours?

The next CLUB 100 Prize Draw will be at the January 2009 Council Meeting. There are currently 89 shares eligible for that draw, and the maximum possible number could be 98 if everyone due for renewal does so.

GIFT Aid

In his April 2008 Budget, the Chancellor changed the basic rate of income tax from 22% to 20%. Since the Gift Aid amount reclaimed is calculated relative to the basic tax rate, this means that charities (including our own) were likely to receive less money under Gift Aid.

The original amount received back from HM Revenue & Customs was 28% of the sum donated. The new calculation yields 25%. Following lobbying by charity groups it was agreed as a concession that the old rate (28%) would continue, possibly up to 5th April 2011.

Of course it is not in Government's nature to leave things simple, so it has been decided that for all claims from 6th April 2008 to 5th April 2011, unless notified otherwise, the amount actually claimed must be calculated using the new 20/80 factor (25%), and that HMRC will automatically pay the amount claimed, plus the extra 3%.

For the first half of the current tax year we have therefore used the new formula and claimed £1,937.25, but we should actually receive £2,185.62. Unsurprisingly, HMRC 'regret that current claims are taking much longer to process' and there is likely to be a delay in payment. Watch this space?

For the second half of the current tax year the amount of Gift Aid claimable to date is £781.00.

Bridge Plaques (yes they are still available)

59 large and 78 small plaques have now been requested as of November 2008.

132 have been installed, and 5 are being manufactured ready to go onto the new wooden footbridge at Drayton Beauchamp.

Request your own plaque - Details from Barry on 01296 630599 or by email to BMartinTurner@aol.com



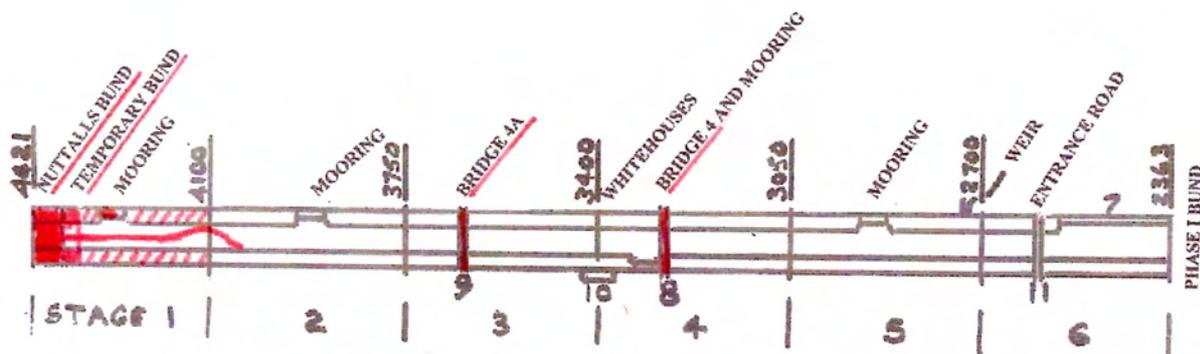
Restoration Phase 2 Status as at 31st October 2008 **Tasks completed are in red.**

CANAL LINING split into 7 stages, each approx 350m.		FOOTBRIDGES Bridges 4 & 4A Stages 8 & 9	VARIOUS OTHER WORKS Stages 10-14
Item	Stages 1-7		
Total length	2,058m		
Complete to date:		Work Needed	
Bulk Excavation	346m	Excavation	Whitehouses, Weirs, etc.
Pipe Capping	321m	Blinding	Cart Track, Narrows & Weir
Tipping to offside bank	321m	Wall base	Removal of Bunds
Profiling towpath bank	100m	Wall upright	Winding Hole Nose
Lining towpath bank	90m	Backfill	Removing Nuttalls Bund
Profiling offside bank	100m		
Lining offside bank	90m		
Level and line bed	60m		
Planting banks	60m		
Mooring wall length	437m	All Completed	
Excavation	108m		
Blinding, Wall base, Wall upright, Backfill	195m		
Estimated Cost	£1,029,000	£40,000	£73,500
Actual cost to date (Oct 08)	£82,096	£40,153	£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	£82,096
Footbridges etc (see above)	£40,000	£40,153
Various Other Works (see above)	£73,500	£3,501
Bed clearance etc	£15,000	£11,045
Environmental Surveys	£3,500	£3,245
Materials in Stock	£0	£36,688
Administration	£25,000	£8,304
Tools and Equipment	£5,000	£993
Vehicle maintenance etc	£10,000	£4,410
Unallocated monies	£49,000	£0
Total	£1,250,000	£190,435

SUMMARY INCLUDING
INDIRECT COSTS





E & OE

Errors and Omissions Excepted! In other words, don't expect perfection. The last Newsletter (Sept) gave a list of contact names, but unfortunately due to the haste in which the issue was prepared, a couple of mistakes crept in.

Ray Orth was inadvertently given the job of Deputy Restoration Director. In fact he is our **Restoration Health and Safety Coordinator**.

Ron Pittaway was inadvertently dropped from the Restoration Committee listing. Sorry Ron, you don't get away that easily. We still need your negotiating skills in sourcing and acquiring materials and supplies for the Restoration, so you get to be put back in the list.

Ray Orth, also slipped under the wire (he was probably away driving a digger when the Restoration Committee headcount was done!). You also get reinstated, Ray.

Katherine Deaney has taken over Gift Aid admin duties from Barry Martin, as well as Membership admin.

Apologies to those concerned. As far as I know, the list below is now correct. Unless you know better ...

Wendover Arm Trust Council			
Chairman	Bob Wheal	01525 381614	bob.wheal@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman & Restoration Director	Roger Leishman	01442 874536	rleishman@ukgateway.net
Hon Sec	John Rowe	01442 862619	johnm.rowe@virgin.net
Treasurer	John Brooman	01296 623542	jbroo66@aol.com
Restoration H&S Co-ordinator.	Ray Orth	01494 786868	rayorth@lowndes2k.fsnet.co.uk
Fundraising Director	vacant	you could fill this space	
Publicity	Nigel Williams	01844 353927	publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk
Newsletter Editor	vacant	you could fill this space	
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 Kearsley	01908 302573	John.Kearsley@britishwaterways.co.uk
IWA Nominee	Peter Winter	01494 813338	tyke1946@hotmail.com
Minutes Secretary	Margaret Leishman	01442 874536	rleishman@ukgateway.net
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, Ray Orth, Margaret Leishman, John Brooman, Ron Pittaway, Eddie Evans, John Kearsley, Bob Wheal, Jon Kelly			
Contact: via Roger Leishman (see above)			
Wendover Arm Trust Festival Committee			
Graeme Lockhart, Max Deverill, Lesley Deverill, John Brooman, Denise Laxton, Bob Wheal, Dave Leeson, Jo Leeson, David Page, Dot Zasadzka, Keith Jones, Rosemary Bennett, Graham Bennett, Andy Januszewski			
Contact: via Graeme Lockhart (see above)			

 Finally, you may wonder why this issue is printed on one side only. With the available printer it has proved quicker and less costly to print one-sided rather than try to print both sides. There is simply too much paper, ink and time wasted with misprints by duplex printing. For the record, it's an HP C5180, which is otherwise fine.