



Wendover Arm News

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2010/4
Autumn 2010*

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*



Our President, Dr David Fletcher, assisted by Jeff Whyatt, the BW nominated Director of the Trust cut the cake at the AGM and Dinner to celebrate the Trust's 21st anniversary

We badly need a new Chairman

If the Trust is to survive and prosper we badly need **someone who is willing to take on the role of chairman**. As can be seen from Roger Leishman's report he cannot act in the role for very much longer. If any of our readership is willing to consider taking this on we would really like to hear from you. You don't have to be a boffin

on restoration or canals but you do need to be able to commit the time to it.

We still need more interested people to **work on the council without specific roles** so the many ad hoc activities that we could do can be done. Please make contact if you can help.

AGM, Dinner and Festival

In this issue we look back on the 21st celebrations together with the AGM, the on-going progress in the restoration and all the prize winners then we look forward to the Spring and our new relocated festival for 2011.

The **AGM and dinner** was a great success, the catering was top class and it goes without saying that the company was intelligent and amusing. Our front cover on this edition features the cake kindly donated by BW — not bad I have to say!

The **grand draw** turned up a real surprise; one winner winning two prizes? What are the odds, see the report inside the newsletter.

We are all looking forward to the **festival** in its new temporary site at Boxmoor. Although the site is a bit smaller than the usual one it should be a great party with a lively catchment area. Keep the Whitsun weekend free in your diary and pray for good weather—lets hope we all have a great time and raise a bundle of cash.

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Acting Chairman's Report to AGM of WAT 2010

Good evening to everyone, Trust members and friends and welcome to our 21st Annual General Meeting. I will be as brief as possible. I am not only covering general events for the last twelve months but also covering restoration – my primary activity for the Trust.

Looking back over the year it started with the November meeting of the Trust Council at which the officers of the Council are elected for the coming year. Bob Wheal had already intimated that he would not be continuing as Chairman and was keen to take on the fund raising activity; hence he was elected Fund Raising Director. He has been very active in preparing strategy papers with his new Funding Committee and also had great success in raising the profile of the Trust at various events, including the IWA National Rally, as well as raising funds through the Grand Draw, BlockAid etc. Thank you Bob for all your years of hard work as Chairman.

This left us without a Chairman so it fell to my lot as Vice-Chairman to fill the gap temporarily, hence my reporting to you tonight. In January a member of the Trust expressed interest in taking over as Chairman and attended sev-

eral meetings of the Council as an observer but, regrettably, in September he had to withdraw his offer due to personal circumstances. This still leaves us without a Chairman. **I am not willing to act as Chairman much longer as, at my age, 18 months off my 80th birthday, I find two jobs too much** and my main interest and skills are Restoration Director; even so I am having to take it more easily at working parties. I can only appeal to the Trust Membership at large to find a volunteer to take over the post of Chairman. The Council could also benefit from Directors who have no particular responsibility – are there any volunteers in the room tonight? Otherwise please give me a ring.

Bob Wheal, in addition to his other duties, had been keeping the Trust Newsletter going but we were very grateful to Jon Kelly who offered to edit the newsletter and he was duly elected Newsletter Editor. I think that you will all agree that he is doing a first class job. Thank you Jon.

John Rowe continued as Company Secretary, John Brooman as Treasurer, Nigel Williams as Publicity Director, Katherine Deaney as Membership Secretary, Rob Drury as Web Master and Marga-

ret Leishman as Minutes Secretary. Ray Orth, who does a sterling job as my right hand man on restoration was elected as Assistant Restoration Director (Health & Safety). Graeme Lockhart continues as Chairman of the Festival Committee. Jeff Whyatt has agreed to be the BW nominated Director of the Trust and Jenny Price, who has been covering Peter Winter's absence as the IWA nominated Director of the Trust, will both be proposed as Directors of the Trust at this meeting. Thank you all for your time and effort.

Mention of Festival leads to the first time, after 20 years of Festivals, thanks to the refusal of Land Planning to let us use their land at New Mill, that there was no festival in 2010, our 21st if it had been held. Graeme, however, has not been sitting on his backside and I will leave it to him to bring you up to date with Festival 2011. What has been heartening is the increase in income from donations and other activities. Our Funding Director, Bob Wheal, will be bringing you up-to-date on this in the next issue of the Trust Newsletter.

Turning to restoration, Phase II has been proceeding well over the last twelve months, Despite

no work in January and February due to weather conditions, Stage 1 has been completed at a direct (excluding overheads) cost of about £130,000 and was re-watered in June and looks really good. Stage 2 is progressing well and the decision to tackle one task at a time to avoid confliction of plant etc. is paying dividends. Since June we have virtually completed all the bulk excavation, including that for another mooring wall, and have only another 68 metres of pipe capping left to do out of 350 metres. However, it has been agreed that the next re-watering should be to the narrows at footbridge 4A, a further 100 metres into Stage 3 and we are now working to this end. Logically the following re-watering will be to footbridge 4 where there are stop plank grooves already cast into the walls. Our restoration team have had their self-supervisory status under BW renewed for another year.

We were all very sad to hear of the death of several members during the year, especially by the sudden death in July of one of our longest serving restoration volunteers, Ken Graves. At several funerals donations have been made to the Trust

Cont/

and, again, Bob Wheal will bring you up-to-date in the next Trust Newsletter.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to all who work so hard towards the restoration of the Wendover Arm, it is difficult to mention everyone by name. I would also like to thank those who have helped to make this

evening a success, in particular Katherine Deaney who designed and produced the booking form and dinner tickets, my wife Margaret who arranged for the catering and has helped me enormously throughout, Val and Bert Matraves for running the raffle, Dennis Cater for the PA and not least our caterer Julie Gabriel and her staff for the meal tonight.

Wildlife Watch

At the November working party I was walking back to the restoration site from the Drayton Beauchamp Bridge when I noticed several of my favourite common birds in the hedge, the green finch.

As with robins and blackbirds seen in the autumn these may actually be foreign visitors hoping for a milder winter.

Did you know the collective noun for finch is "charm"? Yes a charm of finches — feel free to use it at your next pub quiz!



Club 100 Draw Winners — Autumn 2010

Number in draw 146

First Prize £175.20	No 14	Mrs Mary Miller
Second Prize £73.00	No 25	Mrs Judi Precious
Third Prize £29.20	No 123	Mr Ian Charteris
Total Prizes £277.40		

If you are not yet a member of the club 100 lottery, it is not too late to join in, Contact Katherine for details, each lucky number costs £15 per year.

Katherine Deaney 01442 246 523 membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Grand Prize Draw

The chance of winning two consecutive prizes in the Grand Draw is almost 10,000 to 1.*

Unlikely, then. But it happened for Valerie Clark of Northchurch.

The drum of ticket stubs was turned several times, and the stubs 'stirred' between each selection, but nevertheless the same name came out for 4th and 5th prizes.

For the record, the complete prize list was:

1 st Prize	Wyvern Holiday	1833	June Curtiss,	Berkhamsted
2 nd Prize	Virgin Balloon	4960	Peter Hutchinson	Watford
3 rd Prize	Dayboat Hire	5474	Mrs K Johnson	Hemel Hempstead
4 th Prize	£100 Voucher	1785	Valerie Clark	Northchurch
5 th Prize	Necklace Set	1782	Valerie Clark	Northchurch
6 th Prize	Ladies Handbag	5139	Joseph Connor	Cheadle
7 th Prize	Towel Bale	9607	Jane Smith	Aylesbury
8 th Prize	Picnic Set	3993	Mrs Holloway	Chalfont St Peter

The total of £2,761 income is a record (just) despite not having a Festival to sell tickets at. This is put down to the extended period of ticket sales (up to August), and also to the individuals and organisations selling tickets on our behalf.

We only had to pay for one prize, and that was at a charity rate, so after postage and license costs the net profit from the Grand Draw was almost £2,500.

** Assume you buy 10 tickets. We sold 2761 tickets this year – so the chance of getting first prize is 276 to 1 (2761 divided by 10).*

The chance of winning just the fourth prize is therefore 2758/10 to 1 (three tickets have already been picked, by then, ie almost 276 to 1 (2758 divided by 10)).

The chance of winning both fourth and fifth prizes starting with 10 tickets is, 84,548 to 1. That's $(2758/10) \times (2757/9) = 84,548$

For just 2 purchased tickets, the odds rise to 3,801,903 to 1 !

If you get a different result, do let us know – it's been a long time since those mathematics lessons in school!

Thanks to all who donated prizes, who helped sell tickets, or who bought tickets themselves.

Funding — Who Gives?

WAT gets its funds in various ways. Usually (but not this year) the biggest income is from our Festival — anything from break even to a net £50,000. A big chunk has come from BW by way of an annual grant which is in lieu of having to rebuild its under-the-canal pipeline which is 100 years old. A third and important income comes from Grants and Donation. We also get a refund from HMRC for donations which are gift-aided. Our two main income sources have suffered lately, or are likely to diminish.

Our Festival in 2010 is conspicuous by its absence (thanks to the intransigence of property speculators) and the Trust has lost the opportunity to earn up to £50,000. The good news is that next year the Festival will be reinstated.

The BW grant is an annual tranche from a specified total, and after 2011 the money (in total £200,000) will all have been paid over to WAT.

Donations in 2010 have increased. For the first 9 months of the year, we have received:

More than £2,000 from 12 individual donors, much of it gift aided. If we included bridge plaques, the figure rises to nearly £2,800.

Nearly £3,500 from funeral collections, including Ken Graves, G Powell, J Garner, and Mary Lilford.

The scale of donations has

prompted a rethink of our Bridge Plaque scheme. Any donor in 2011 giving in excess of £50 or £100 will be offered a Bridge Plaque to mark their support for the restoration. This offer will also apply to bereaved families where funeral collections are donated to the Trust.

Local (and not so local) branches of the Inland Waterways Association have maintained their generosity, donating a total of £3,375 from Herts, North and East London, London, Milton Keynes and Chiltern branches.

Two personally driven actions are worthy of mention.

Rose Bennett is a member of Dunstable and District Boat Club. She had the idea of running a 'bric-a-brac' table at the club. So far her action has raised in excess of £600, and the table remains a feature of DDBC life!

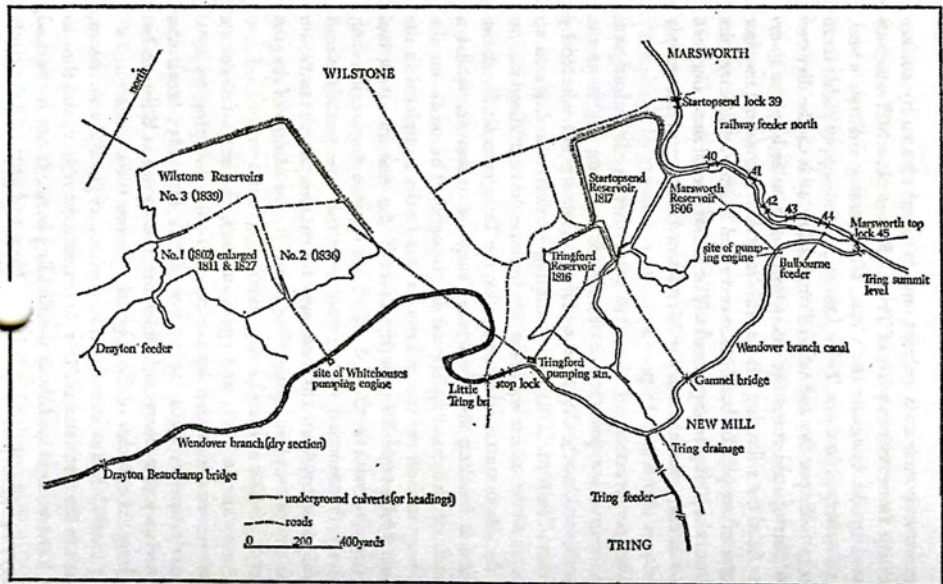
Barry Mellor is a member living in London. He organised a walk along the Arm, with proceeds going to WAT. The result was a collection of donations totalling almost £1,000. The good news is that Barry is organising another walk ...

All these donation (except Barry Mellor's) stem from just January to September this year.

However, the year is not over yet ...

Bob Wheal

Whitehouses in a Nutshell



Tring Reservoirs

So much has been written over so long about the struggle to supply water to the Tring Summit that it is difficult to add anything new. That is not the point of this piece; what I am attempting to do here is be very brief on a fascinating subject that has a lot of depth. Perhaps we will visit it in more detail in later editions of **Wendover Arm News**? I will attempt to answer two questions only here;

1. Why did we need a pump at Whitehouses?
2. Why don't we need one now ?

Why did we need it?

Once the Grand Junction canal was opened over Tring summit it was realised that in summer water supplies were barely adequate. This was spotlighted during the drought in the early 1800s. To ease the problem, construction of a new reservoir was started on low-laying ground near Wilstone to the north of the Wendover feeder. It was fed by two small springs, the Ashwell Head and the Barwell Head, and by a stream from Drayton Beauchamp, the Drayton feeder. Arrangements were made to run surplus water off the summit to the new reser-

voir by means of paddles at Drayton, which connected with the Drayton feeder. To pump water from Wilstone into the summit a well was sunk beside the Wendover branch at Whitehouses and an underground tunnel, or heading, was built to the reservoir. A pump of 30 locks per day capacity was installed at Whitehouses with a steam engine to drive it. Considerable difficulties were encountered, which delayed progress, particularly in the heading where large quantities of water were tapped and it was not until June 1803 that the task was completed.

Why don't we need it now?

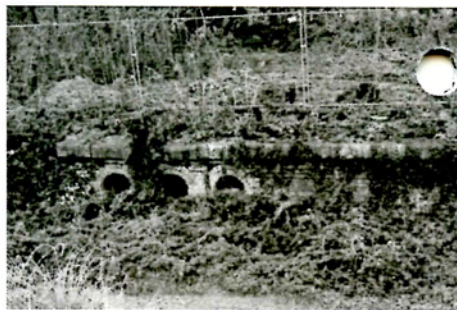
After the construction of the Tringford, Marsworth and Startopsend reservoirs between 1814 and 1817 a new pump was sited at a spot chosen by Thomas Telford at Tringford and was destined to survive all the others. It became the centralised station for the whole system of reservoirs on the Tring summit. A heading was built from the station to Tringford reservoir, whilst a branch of this heading served Startopsend. A new Boulton and Watt steam engine was installed at the station in August 1818.

Meanwhile Wilstone reservoir was enlarged and Wilstone No2 was built later to be followed by Wil-

stone No3.

At the end of 1835 the engine at Whitehouses was worn out and ready to be scrapped. John Holland proposed that a new heading be built from Wilstone to the Tringford pumping station. His suggestion was taken up and a half mile heading started in early 1836, due to the size of the task it was not completed until October 1837. Pumping at Tringford from Wilstone was started on 21 November 1837. The entire pumping operations were finally centralised at one point making the pump at Whitehouses redundant.

With acknowledgements to...
McGarey, DG *The History of Tringford Pumping Station*, 1946
Faulkner, AH *The Grand Junction Canal* 1972



Culverts at Whitehouses 2010

The Festival is Back with a Bang in the Spring!

It's Back, it's Moved it's Reinvigorated, it's all the Fun of the Fair. Come and join us for a good old traditional day out.

Boats, Crafts, Music and Entertainment for Young and Old at the New (temporary) Site at Boxmoor.

A full Programme of Events Opening at 12:00 on Saturday May 28th, 10:00 on Sunday 29th and Monday 30th

Sponsored Walks on the Wendover Arm

Barry Mellor is a London-based walker and boat owner. He has organised sponsored walks over a number of years, raising money for a variety of charities. With his 'kayaking hat' on, he launched at Cowroast on the Grand Union Canal, and paddled towards Bulbourne, with the intention of having lunch at the Grand Junction Arms. Sadly, the pub was closed, so our intrepid paddler paddled on, and came to the junction of the Grand Union with the Wendover Arm (which he had never heard of).



This raised Barry's interest, so a few weeks later he took the train to Wendover, went to the tourist Office in the town, and was given some information about the history and the course of the Wendover Arm. He also went on to the Wendover Arm Trust's website, and realised both that restoring the Wendover Arm was a very worthwhile project, and that the Trust was actively engaged in raising money.

With the aid of the Ordnance Survey 'Explorer' map 181 and the GEOprojects map of the Grand Union Canal (map 3), he saw it would be possible to do a linear walk from Wendover to Bulbourne, and then continue down the Grand Union to Tring station, where there are reasonably frequent trains to London Euston, and also one train an hour to Clapham Junction via Shepherd's Bush & Kensington Olympia.

Further research revealed that the Grand Junction Arms was in the process of acquiring a new manager (Mick – 01442 891400), and that he would be more than happy to do BBQed 'bangers & mash' for a group of walkers.

He then got in touch with his walking friends, a mix of old university contacts and Londoners whom he has met over more recent years. He received a good response, enough to justify doing the walk twice: Thursday 7 October 2010 (14 walkers) and Saturday 13 November 2010 (17 walkers). They assembled at Marylebone in time to catch the 0927, which got into Wendover at 1015. The weather was kind on both days, they saw plenty of sun, and much enjoyed those special Chilterns autumn colours. All found it most interesting to follow the course of the canal. Initially it appeared to be a viable water-

way, though obviously badly silted up over 100 years of disuse. However, it was when they reached Drayton Beauchamp that they realised just what was involved in the restoration work. To help them better understand the sophistication of the project, they were guided by Roger Leishman, whom they met up with at the Saxon Bridge. This was by arrangement, Barry having phoned him on the mobile when they reached the Rothschild bridge. On the first walk, the Trust's volunteers were working on the restoration, sprightly old gentlemen in hard hats and yellow jackets, charging round the bed of the canal in their dumper trucks. Seeing all this purposeful activity helped to put the walkers in a positive frame of mind when it came to handing out the Gift Aid forms!

Such was the interest in the work that they arrived at the pub behind schedule, but this didn't matter and they were served efficiently by Mick and his team. After lunch, they walked down the Grand Union over the delightful 'Tring summit', and got to Tring station in time for connections back to London.

Donations are still being counted but so far a significant amount of money has been raised for the Trust

Restoration News

Pipe Capping



Pipe capping continues at a good pace and is now within sight of bridge 4 where the next bund is to be sited. It is often asked why we are laying such a substantial layer of concrete over an old pipe that is only going to be under the canal bed anyway? The reason is that the pipe is earthenware and is 100 years old, it has many cracks and holes and is generally delicate; therefore it is quite likely that if it were left uncapped and the canal was filled with water it would collapse in places with resulting damage to the newly laid bed.

Mooring Bays

The blinding (base layer of concrete) has now been cast for the second mooring bay whilst work has started again on the bay at bridge 4A so as not to interfere with the progress of the pipe capping. Pictures overleaf.



Blinding cast at second mooring bay



Shuttering ready for concrete pour at bridge 4 — bring on the warmer weather!



The view from the top of bridge 4A looking back towards Drayton Beauchamp. Pipe capping work can be seen in the distance; December 2010, even the mud was frozen!

Wendover Arm Trust Council

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Vice-President & Trust Historian	Barry Martin	0163544472	BMartinTurner@aol.com

Festival Committee

Graeme Lockhart (Chair), Graham and Rosemary Bennett, John Brooman, Lesley Deverill, Max Deverill, Andy Januszewski, Keith Jones, Denise Laxton, Dave and Jo Leeson, Bob Wheal, Dot Zasadzka

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