



# Wendover Arm News

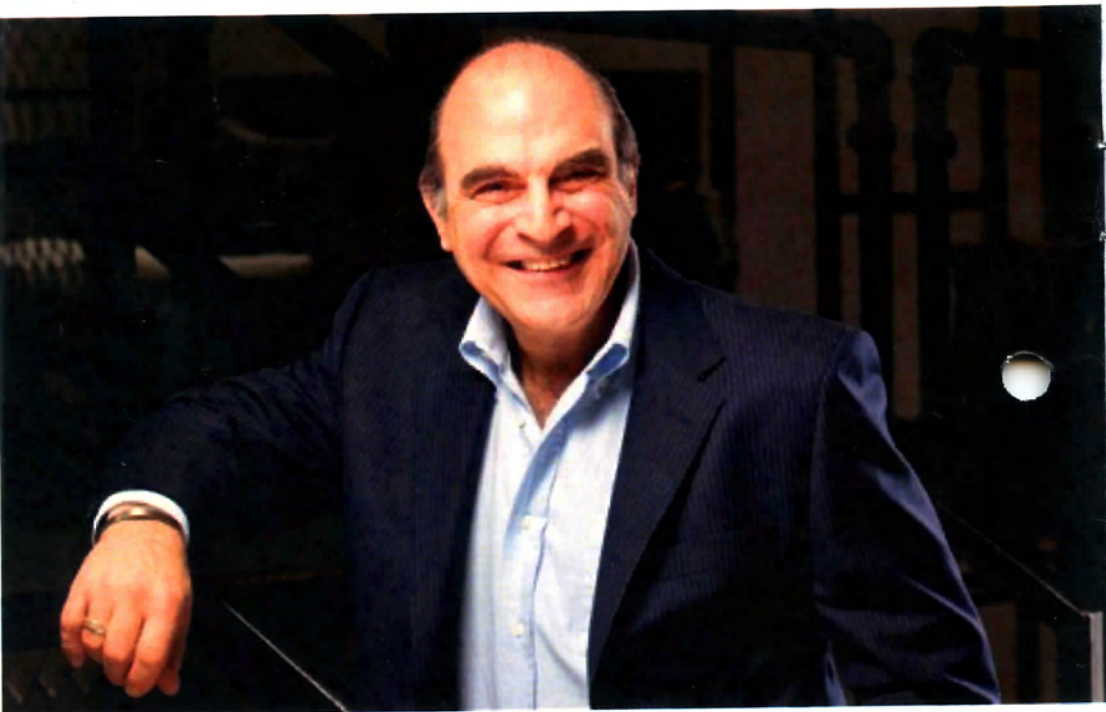
*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2011/1  
Spring 2011*

*Price £1 where sold  
Free to members*

## A Good Year for our Patron



David Suchet, recently awarded a CBE for services to drama, won the best actor award for his portrayal of Joe Keller in Howard Davies' West End production of *All My Sons* at the Critics Circle Theatre Awards this year.

Speaking to *The Stage*, David said: "This year, I celebrate 42 years as an actor so some of these critics, very senior critics, Michael Billington for example, have been reviewing me all my life and I am one of those people who does read reviews. To win an award from these critics – the very word – is a wonderful honour"

As well as being the patron of the WAT Suchet is vice-president of the

Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Trust, whose most challenging achievement to date has been securing funding (both via an appeal and from influencing government decisions) concerning the building of the new M6 Toll motorway where it cuts the lines of the Lichfield Canal and the Hatherton Canal, both of which the Trust wishes to be reopened. He has also been officially voted in as chairman of the River Thames Alliance in November 2005. At the July 2006 Annual General Meeting of the River Thames Alliance, he agreed to continue being chairman for another year.

Kindly brought to the notice of the Wendover Arm News by member Peggy Batchelor-Clegg

## In This Issue

It seems the worst of the cold weather is behind us making restoration a little easier as reflected by the smiles on the faces of the guys in our cover picture this month. And that was after a hard day's work in March.

In this issue we look at a few of the achievements of our patron Covid Suchet, we mention the upgraded web site, give a little more information about our main fund raising event — the **Boxmoor Canal Festival** to be held at the site on the outskirts of Hemel Hempstead, we have another little wildlife watch this time mention the exploits of toads, the 100 club is going from strength to strength with people winning quite significant sums, we look at the tasks remaining to complete and

see how they are ranked in terms of priorities, and look at the restoration progress over the winter.

We have received letters from several members giving interesting facts and valuable content for this, your newsletter. Whilst we love getting letters they have, by default, been sent to our general mailing address on the back cover of this publication. We would like to make a new address available for letters to the editor...

The Editor,  
Wendover Arm News  
25, Florey Gardens  
High Street  
Aylesbury  
Bucks  
HP20 1RW

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## Updated Website Well Worth a Visit

### Wendover Arm Trust

*Restoring canal history in the Chilterns*




[Home](#) [About the canal](#) [Things to do](#) [Restoration](#) [Get involved](#) [Membership](#) [All about us](#) [Contact us](#)

#### Restoration Working Party news

Posted on February 26, 2011 by Wendover Arm Trust

Due to the wet and icy conditions, our hired equipment got a rest and we focused our attentions on a major clear up our storage areas, as well as a bit of bank clearing in January.

February brought improved weather, and



Search the site

#### Our Partners

- British Waterways

#### WAT Forms

- BlockAid Sponsorship Form
- Bridge Plaque Sponsorship Form
- WAT Donation Form
- WAT Fundraising Tips
- WAT Membership Form

Our webmaster, Robert, has been hard at work on the Trust website recently. It is well worth a visit and contains all the recent news from the Wendover Arm including the progress of the restoration, all the latest on the upcoming festival, appeals for photos and recipes for the proposed cook book, 100 club results and much more.

There are many plans in the pipeline which will no doubt appear as time, funding and expertise march on.

A nifty feature is the ability to register and receive notification of new posts so you can keep up to date with all the latest news.

## Home Made Cakes Please

Margaret Leishman is running a home made cake stand at the **Boxmoor Canal Festival** and would like to appeal for contributions from members please.

If you feel you can help please contact Margaret on 01442 874536

# Boxmoor Canal Festival



## When is it?

Saturday/Sunday/Monday 28/29/30 May. Open from 12 noon Saturday, 10 a.m other days.

## Where is it?

BOXMOOR CANAL FESTIVAL, organised by Wendover Arm Trust Canalside on Grand Union, Hemel Hempstead. Access from A4251 London Road.

## What's there?

Decorated canal boats, boat trips, fairground, traction engines, animals, craft fair, bar, teas, free children's' attractions.  
**FREE PARKING.**

## How much?

Admission: £6 Adult, £3 Child, £4 Concession, £15 Family

## Volunteer Needed

The Trust has subscribed to an online grants information service, arranged through the Inland Waterways Association.

We now have access to information on about 5,000 funding schemes available in the UK, including grants European Union Grants, UK Statutory sources (eg Government), The Lottery, and a great many Grant Mak-

ing Trusts/Foundations.

Of course it takes time to filter through these to see if there are suitable grants for us. In fact, we need someone to volunteer to help with this.

No experience is necessary, and the work can be done at home (on the PC).

## Waitrose Backs Local Charities — you Can Help!

Did you know that your local Waitrose branch donates £1,000 to charity every month? Three charities are chosen by customers to receive a share of the monthly donation — which is dependent on how many green to-

kens customers place in the voting boxes. So next time you're in Waitrose, why not fill in a 'Community Matters' nomination form at the customer service desk and nominate **The Wendover Arm Trust?**

## Wildlife Watch

During March, when there's a warm night, toads will emerge from their winter hibernation hide outs and make their way back to their ponds to mate. On a good night you may see hundreds heading towards their chosen stretch of water. They always head back for the same place which may be up to a mile from where they have chosen to hiber-

nate. They cross many barriers such as railway lines and roads with the inevitable casualties. All this in the name of love!



## Club 100 Draw Winners — Winter 2010

WAT membership entitles you to join the Club 100 lottery scheme. A £15 annual subscription buys you a "lucky number" which is entered into four quarterly draws throughout the year.

The prize fund is dependent on the number of subscribers, the more the merrier! Approximately half of the subscriptions go into the prize fund and the remainder goes towards the restoration of the canal. Since the scheme began, over £9,500 has been raised for restoration and another £9,500 paid out in prizes.

This month we had 147 lucky numbers in the draw, giving the following **CASH PRIZES!!!**

1st — Mrs Eileen Wright, Milton Keynes £176.40

2nd — Mrs Margaret Leishman, Berkhamsted £73.50

3rd — Mrs Carol Prosser, Wiltshire £29.40



The next draw will be made in April, so there is plenty of time to join up. The first and third prize winners above only joined a year ago and have already recouped their subscription and more besides! You could be the next winner.....

To join club 100, firstly you must be a member of the Wendover Arm Trust (new members always welcome, download the form on the website). Simply contact Katherine at membership for an entry form. (Mailto: [membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk))

Payment can be by cheque or standing order.

## Letter from Ken Walsh



Long term members will remember Ken Walsh as a very active member of the Trust. Well, it was a great pleasure to receive a letter from him recently where he recalls much activity from the early days. The letter is very detailed and too long for publication in full however the above picture deserves an explanation.

Ken's grandson was christened in the Methodist chapel in the picturesque village of Bainbridge, North

Yorkshire where Ken has family ties. He was introduced to the late Dr Christopher Cole and his wife. The Cole's house was set back from the village green at the end of a path and used to be the village mill. Ken was invited to inspect the gable end of the house and asked if he recognised the windows —apparently they had been acquired surplus to requirement from the **Tringford pumping station!**

## Renewal Notice by E-Mail?

In the current economic climate we all have to watch our spending, the Trust is no exception in that we are keeping a check on the amount it costs to run the organisation, in particular administration of our membership. Although the actual work administering the membership system is free as Katherine spends many an hour typing letters and updating the database, by far the biggest cost is postage.

For example, each renewal request letter that is sent out, costs around 40p (paper, envelope, ink and 2nd class stamp). 40p per membership household doesn't sound that much, after all a membership costs £8 for single or £12 for family. Over 1 year, this adds up to a massive £136.40 (we currently have 341 annual paying memberships who currently pay by cheque). Assuming each member responds and is sent an acknowledgement letter and membership card, this costs another £136.40. There is a cheaper and more efficient way to communicate with our members, EMAIL!!

We currently have a total of 463 membership households, so Katherine sends hundreds of letters over a year. The vast majority of the cost involved is for the postage stamps, which don't for-

get is money that you have given to the Trust so it can restore the canal, not pay hundreds of pounds a year to the Royal Mail for stamps. Royal Mail are increasing their prices again in April, so our costs will increase yet further. Would you like more of your subscriptions and donations to go directly to the restoration of the canal? If the answer is yes and you have internet access, why not send your email address to Katherine at [membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) and start receiving all communication by email instead of snail mail!

### No Computer? No Problem

If you do not have a computer or are not an email buff, DON'T WORRY, you can still do your bit by signing up to standing order payments, or why not enclose a self addressed envelope for your acknowledgement letter and membership card?

Paying by standing order makes it easy for you the member and the Trust as the payment automatically comes to our bank account. This way you continue to support your favourite canal society without having to get the cheque book out and remember to post it to Katherine. We currently have 108



members paying by standing order, but this figure could easily rise. To pay your subscriptions by standing order couldn't be easier. If you have internet banking, please set up an annual payment into our Yorkshire Bank Account, sort code 05-04-61 and account

code 67957123. Please use your membership number as the payment reference. If you are setting up a standing order for the first time, part of your membership number will change, the A (for annual payment) will become a B for bankers order.

## Power of the Web

Recent on-line petition to protect our canals by not selling off property owned by British waterways **Attracted – 22,310** signatures.

### Government response

On 14 October 2010 the Government announced that British Waterways would be abolished as a public corporation and that we would create a new charity, similar to a national trust for the waterways. Details of the public consultation on the proposed model, including scope and governance, will be announced within the coming few weeks. The new waterways charity is expected to be set up in 2012, subject to Parliamentary consent and time.

A civil society model for British Waterways reflects the Government's commitment to Big Society, as well as its confidence in British Waterways to work with others to build a sustainable future for the waterways under a charitable model. A charitable company will give users and com-

munities more responsibility for governance of the waterways. It also has the potential to enable the new body to access new income streams and greater public support at a time when there is considerable pressure on other sources of income. Charitable status would also facilitate a step change in volunteering, enhanced local partnership working and a range of cost efficiencies.

The Government will give the new charity the best start it can afford, **with the transfer of the property portfolio** and a long term contract. As a first step, the Government has provided a new long term commitment to a grant allocation at the 2014/15 level (£39m) to 2022/23 inclusive (covering the next two Spending Review periods) that will enable the development of a funding plan which gives confidence to the incoming Trustees of the new charity. The amount and length of the contract will be subject to negotiation with the Trustees, who will be appointed this April.

## Grand Draw 2011

Once again you will find two books of Grand Draw Tickets (10 tickets) in with this newsletter.

The Draw will take place at the end of July, giving us a good few weeks to sell many tickets and hopefully do even better than last year's £2,761 income.

*As always, if you have objections to being asked to take part in a Grand Draw, then please accept our apologies. We don't have the means to record those who do not wish to receive tickets, and then to make sure we do not include tickets with the newsletter.*

One new thing, however: if you're not able (or willing) to buy or sell Grand Draw tickets, maybe you would consider making a donation instead. Please see the cover stapled to the ticket books.

You can also simply add a donation to your ticket sales, and if possible gift aid it.

We are very grateful to our sponsors: all of our prizes are donated or sponsored, meaning that our income only has minimal costs.

**1<sup>st</sup> 1 Week Canal Boat Holiday** *donated by Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd*

**2<sup>nd</sup> 1 Day Canal Boat Hire** *donated by Grebe Canal Cruises Ltd*

**3<sup>rd</sup> £100 Cash** *donated by the Martin Family*

**4<sup>th</sup> £100 Voucher** *donated by Elegance Fashion & Footwear Boutique*

**5<sup>th</sup> Gents Rotary Watch** *donated by Anon*

**6<sup>th</sup> Necklace & Bracelet** *donated by Johanna Wheal*

**7<sup>th</sup> £25 Gift Voucher** *donated by Tring Garden Centre*

**8<sup>th</sup> Handbag & £10 Gift Voucher** *donated by Jules Fashion Accessories*

**9<sup>th</sup> 'Royalty to Commoners' Book** *donated by the Boxmoor Trust*

We are still looking for a 10<sup>th</sup> prize; can you help?

Last year some Trust members sold a lot more than the tickets sent with this newsletter. Could you do that? Extra books of tickets are available – just put a note in with your returned stubs, call Bob on 07860286155, or email me at [funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk). Whether it's one or one hundred when you sell a ticket **please make sure the buyer's name and contact phone number is put on the stub** (you can write on the back).

*Whatever you do, thank you for your support – and good luck with the draw.*

## Restoration Priorities

At a recent Restoration Committee meeting priorities and estimated funding were considered for the remaining tasks to complete the goal of building a navigable canal to Wendover.

### Completing Phase II

This was agreed to be top priority.

Roger Leishman estimated, as things stand at present, the overall cost of this Phase would be in the order of £1m using volunteer labour. Taking into account spend to date plus cash in the bank and allowing for contingencies/inflation, approximately £400k will need to be raised between now and re-opening, hopefully in 2018. The average annual spend will be in the order of £100k p.a.

This would re-water the whole canal but it would be at "Wendover level" from Little Tring upwards.

### Phase III Bank Strengthening

To open Phase II to navigation at Tring summit level it is essential that any work needed to raise/repair banks between Saxonway Bridge and Wendover is completed.

Roger said that, at the meeting with British Waterways (BW) engineers the previous week, he had been asked if there was any way BW could help to ensure gravity feed from Wendover as soon as Phase II is completed. Roger suggested that this work could be undertaken by BW concurrently with the Trust's Phase II restoration and will write to BW accordingly. He also commented that he had suggested to BW using stop planks at Drayton Beauchamp Bridge to raise the water level to Tring summit level so as to determine the extent of the bank strengthening required as per the Trust's OPERATION FLOOD-WATCH.

It was also noted that there was interest in using the towpath as a cycleway and this would lead to raise towpath levels.

### Wendover Basin

This covers clearance of the basin, including a mature tree in the bed and provision of moorings. It ranks low in priority, as it will not be needed until the Arm is open to navigation.

Continued/



### Raising old A41 Bridge to give full air draught

At present the air draught above Tring summit level is 1.83 metres (5'11½") at the crown of the arch. Given that most pleasure craft have a curved roof and are kept to the centre of the channel this is better than some of the low bridges elsewhere on the system. However, if BW insists on the standard air draft of 3 metres, the arch of the bridge will require to be raised. The options are a) a brick arch bridge, b) a flat deck bridge or c) a metal lined arch as at present all founded on the existing abutments. It may well be possible to make this the lowest priority allowing restricted navigation until the funds can be raised?

### Halton Bridge

This requires rebuilding either a) as a lift bridge, b) as a swing bridge or c) as a typical canal bridge. Roger Leishman wrote to the Chairman of Bucks County Council in June 2003 (who had expressed interest when visiting the 2003 Festival) outlining the various options but had no response to his letter despite a follow up phone call. The letter also referred to the options for the old A41 Bridge above.

A consultation was also held with the local residents on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2005 and their views are on record.

It was anticipated that this project would cost in the order of £750,000.

### Phase III Dredging

This will be required from the by pass winding hole right back to Wendover. It was agreed that there was no point in progressing this work until the various obstructions to navigation have been overcome. Bridges require to be raised to permit the passage of dredging craft.

### Improving the narrows at Green Park

This consists of raising the present 7' 4" channel to above water level, a straightforward wall construction founded on the side shelves outside the main channel. This channel also emphasises the fact that the Arm, certainly above Little Tring was for 7ft craft only. Roger Leishman said that he had the old cross sections of the Arm and no way could craft wider than 7ft pass each other. The channel is 100 metres long; the work could easily be carried out by vol-

unteer labour and must ideally be completed before the water level is raised to Tring summit level.

### Buckland Wharf Access Bridge

Although not required to be raised for completion of Phase II, Roger Leishman said that there were good reasons for the Trust to give s priority on completion of Phase II. The intention, in agreement with the lessee and BW is to provide a new bridge alongside the present bridge (access has to be maintained to the adjacent properties) with a 7ft span close to the towpath bank.

Roger said that a budget figure of £100-200k should be adequate.

### Environmental Impact Survey

Although the 1996 submission to the Millennium Lottery Fund included an environmental impact survey, this will require updating. It was agreed that this is pointless

until Phase III is about to start, as any update today would require updating on completion of Phase II.

In conclusion the following priorities were agreed for the Funding Committee to action:

Priority 1 Completing Phase II

Priority 2 Phase III Bank Strengthening

Priority 3 Improving the narrows at Green Park

Priority 4 Buckland Wharf Access Bridge

All other items must be kept under review bearing in mind the lead time required for raising the necessary funding, surveying and outline design, planning consent, final design, letting of contracts and construction.

## Restoration News



Excellent progress has been made during the February and March working parties. The weather was on our side for the March working party it was clear, sunny and cool for the most part.

Pipe capping is coming on apace and is nearing the next goal of reaching the manhole adjacent to bridge 4A that is marked by the traffic cone shown in the pictures opposite. The pipeline is in the centre of the canal at this stage which means that no plant can get down to work on stage 2 until the pipe capping operation is clear of the bridge.

Whilst that work is continuing work has resumed on the mooring wall on the off side of the canal adjacent to bridge 4. Three sections of wall and the last base section were poured during the March working party.

Scrub, stumps and young trees have now been cleared from the banks leaving stage 2 ready for bank profiling and lining.





# Wendover Arm Trust Council

Chairman

Vacant

Vice Chairman  
& Restoration Director

**Roger Leishman**

01442 874536

restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Hon Sec

**John Rowe**

01442 862619

johnm.rowe@virgin.net

Treasurer

**John Brooman**

01296 623542

treasurer@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Assistant Restoration  
Director (Health & Safety)

**Ray Orth**

01494 786868

ray.orth@btinternet.com

Fundraising Director

**Bob Wheal**

01525 381614

funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Publicity

**Nigel Williams**

01844 353927

publicity@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

**Jon Kelly**

07974855712

newsletter@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Membership/Gift Aid

**Katherine Deaney**

01442 246523

membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Festival Chairman

**Graeme Lockhart**

01525 374761

festival@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Minutes Secretary

**Margaret Leishman**

01442 874536

IWA Nominee

**Jenny Brice**

01494 873298

jenny@johnbrice.co.uk

Trust Website

**Robert Drury**

01296 631121

webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Co-opted member

**John Reynolds**

scubajr@tiscali.co.uk

## Non-Council Officers

Trust Sales

**Jill Pearce**

01296 624472

sales@wendoverarmtrust

Vice-President & Trust Historian

**Barry Martin**

0163544472

BMartinTurner@aol.com

## Festival Committee

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

Contact: festival@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

## Funding Committee

Bob Wheal (Chairman), John Brooman, James Clifton, Robert Drury, Roger Leishman, Ray Orth, John Rowe, Philip Wareham

Contact: funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

## Restoration Committee

Roger Leishman (Chairman), John Brooman, Eddy Evans, Jon Kelly, Margaret Leishman, Ray Orth, Ron Pittaway, Bob Wheal,

Contact: via Roger Leishman (see above) or restoration@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

## General Contact Info

Website: [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

Mail: c/o Fox Meadow, Water End Road, Potten End, Berkhamsted HP4 2SH