

Wendover Canal News

Restoration Biodiversity Well-being





BRADLEY & JONES

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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If you have an article, or an issue you want to share, send it to newsletter@wendovercanal.org.uk for possible inclusion in a future edition.

Deadline for the next issue is 1st November 2024



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Chairman's Column—Summer 2024

On June 28th, our Patron Robbie Cumming cut the tape to formally open our towpath improvement between Wendover and Halton. The day went very well, thanks largely to the hard work of Peter Elwin assisted by Mikk Bradley, and you can read the report of Richard Peel (our PR advisor for the event) elsewhere. Our work party had also just completed the building of a new wall, railings and signage at the beginning of the canal at Wharf Road, Wendover – a



much-admired improvement over the previous fencing and shrubbery, as you can see from the before and after photos. Passers-by can now see that there is a canal there!

Our volunteers have also recently upgraded the final 260m of towpath to Bridge 4, building on their previous work starting at the entrance from Little Tring Road. We were very grateful to receive a Defra grant from

Chilterns National Landscapes, a generous anonymous gift and a donation of 20 tonnes of Type 1 from Dacorum Borough Council.

Before



I hope you all enjoyed the new series of Robbie's Canal Boat Diaries as much as I did. It was shown in the first fortnight of June on weekday evenings, but will no doubt be repeated as well as being available on catch-up.

After



However I'm afraid our canal re-lining still remains suspended, which is frustrating for us all. Ros Daniels, CRT's Director of London & SE, formally wrote to us on 2nd

August, highlighting a number of specific actions taken by our volunteers before and since these problems began. I am very sorry to tell you that as a result, our Site Manager Mikk Bradley has resigned from this position, though we very much hope that he will continue to help us in a more advisory capacity. His predecessor Tony Bardwell has also been helping us in this way.


So we met Ros and her Head of Operations Charlotte Wood, in Leighton Buzzard on 13th August. This was to discuss the wider relationship between our organisations, and was our first face to face discussion since our recent problems began in May 2023. Historically there has never been any

formal contract between us, which we both want to correct, so that our respective responsibilities can be clearly laid out. CRT will be drafting “Heads of Terms” for a suitable agreement. We regard this as a very positive development, as we do Ros’s strong support at this meeting for our restoration work in general. We can move towards a re-start of work when the Heads of Terms have been signed off with CRT and any accompanying changes are in place.

In the last newsletter I said that the water level in our restored section had reached its highest ever level. How quickly things can change! By late July, the Wendover Canal between Wendover and Tring is once more choked with reeds. Mikk Bradley has found that the water level at Wharf Road, Wendover is slightly above Tring summit level, and water is once more having to be released away from the canal system past Weston Turville reservoir. Yet at Whitehouses the level is 1.1 metres below Tring summit level, a fall of 1.2 metres (four feet) in only about four miles. CRT’s Contract Manager Roger Maidment plans to employ The Rothen Group to use a long reach digger and Truxor boat to clear the reeds in the autumn, which will improve the situation significantly. The need continues however for a sustainable solution to this annual reed growth.

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Clive Johnson, Chairman

Council members 2024

Chairman	Chairman & Talks: Clive Johnson	chairman@wendovercanal.org.uk
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Partnerships	Partnerships Director & Deputy Chairman: Peter Elwin	partnerships@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Volunteers, Webmaster and Facebook: Ken Palfrey	volunteer@wendovercanal.org.uk and webmaster@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Publicity: Nigel Williams	publicity@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Council Member: Bob Wheal	bob.wheal@wendovercanal.org.uk

Finance	Finance Lead, Honorary Secretary and Deputy Chairman: Mike Beckley	honsec@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Treasurer: Paul Armstrong	treasurer@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Purchasing Manager: Peter Lockett	purchasing@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Membership: Peter Bird	membership@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Archivist: Chris Sargeant	archivist@wendovercanal.org.uk

Restoration	Site Manager: Mikk Bradley	site.manager@wendovercanal.org.uk
	Project Manager: Steve Chapman	steve.chapman@wendovercanal.org.uk

IWA Nominee, Council Minutes Secretary: Jenny Brice	jenny.brice@wendovercanal.org.uk
Newsletter Editor: Carol Williams/ Janine Jones	newsletter@wendovercanal.org.uk

Notice is hereby given that the thirty fifth Annual General Meeting of the
Wendover Arm Trust will be held on:

Saturday 19th October 2024 at 2.30pm

At Dunstable & District Boat Club – Cooks Wharf – Pitstone – LU7 9AD.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 34th AGM held on 21st Oct 2023 – to be agreed as a true record.
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Group Heads Reports
6. Honorary Treasurers Report
7. To receive and if thought fit, approve the report of the council of management
8. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the Trust for the year ended on 31st March 2024 and the report of the Independent Examiner thereon
9. To Reappoint Johnsons Chartered Accountants as the Independent Examiner
10. To elect members to the Council (see note below).
11. Any Other Business

Michael Beckley, MA, FCCA
Hon Secretary.

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Note. Under article 39, Nominations for election to Council may be received by the Secretary up to seven clear days before the date of the meeting.

Nominations must be in writing and signed by the person nominated, confirming their willingness to be elected. Only persons qualified to vote at the meeting may make nominations or stand for election.

Please note that members qualified to vote but unable to attend in person may appoint a proxy, in accordance with the Articles of Association and under s.324 of the Companies Act 2006. Proxy notice forms may be obtained from the Hon Secretary.

A list of Council Members standing for re-election and other members standing for election will be given prior to the meeting.

Please email honsec@wendovercanal.org.uk no later than October 10th to obtain a nomination form which should be returned by October 11th.

Finance Review

For all the known reasons, the level of activity for the year to 31st March 2024 as recorded by the financial accounts was at a very low level. The Trust income for the year was just £36k, and of that £11k was income from investments, which increased as a result of higher interest rates. Subscriptions were down by 20% and donations by 35% compared with the previous year – this is an area which requires attention in the current year. Expenditure on raising funds decreased to £14k, as the previous year included exceptional costs related to the formation of Wendover Canal Restoration Ltd (WCRL). Expenditure on restoration was less than £5k, however this does not include expenditure via WCRL, of which more later. As a result the accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £17k, and, funds available increased from £422k to nearly £440k.

As noted these figures exclude activity via WCRL, which is now accounted for separately as requested by the accountants. WCRL had income for the year of £28k, mainly from grants from EKFB for signage and Chiltern Conservation Board for towpath work, while restoration costs were incurred of £34k, leaving a small loss of £6k. These costs included £13k for the Southern Testing report that was commissioned at the request of CRT. Net VAT recovered using WCRL amounted to £7.5k. Note that Debtors of £75k in WCT mainly consists of an

intercompany loan to WCRL of £71k, which is partly offset by cash held in WCRL of £29k and retained earnings of £25k.

Total funds available to WCT at the end of the year, including cash at bank and investments, stand at £422k. On the face of it therefore WCT appears to be in a strong financial position, and indeed it will have sufficient funds for the current financial year (which will also probably have a relatively low spend) and going forward at least until 31st March 2026. But the total cost of canal restoration over the next three years will be in the region of £800k, and the project therefore cannot be completed without seeking further funds, e.g. from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**Mike Beckley, Deputy Chairman,
Honorary Secretary &
Paul Armstrong, Treasurer**

Note – draft figures, unaudited



Table 1 - The Wendover Canal Trust.
Statement of Financial activities for the ended 31 March 2024.
31-Mar-24

	Total Funds 31-Mar-24 £	Total Funds 31-Mar-23 £
Income from		
Subscriptions and Donations	19,209	25,038
Grants	-	135,000
Other trading activities	5,608	3,800
Investments	11,268	3,869
Total Income	36,086	167,707
Expenditure on		
Raising funds (incl management)	14,018	22,586
Charitable activities (restoration)	4,820	78,495
Total Expenditure	18,837	101,081
Net Income (Expenditure)	17,248	66,626
Transfers between funds		-
Net movement of funds	17,248	66,626
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	422,393	355,767
Total funds carried forward	439,641	422,393

	31-Mar-24 £	31-Mar-24 £	31st March 2023 £	31st March 2023 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		2,242		3,785
Investment in subsidiary				
Investment in subsidiary		1		1
Loan to subsidiary				
Current Assets				
Stock	200		200	
Debtors	75,320		54,644	
Cash at bank	13,142		27,774	
Investments	351,322		336,948	
Cash in hand	66		66	
	440,051		419,632	
Liabilities				
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year	(3,044)		(1,025)	
Provision for Donations to CRT	0		0	
Net Current Assets		437,007		418,607
Net Assets		439,250		422,393
The funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds - General		439,250		422,393
- Designated		0		0
Total unrestricted funds		439,250		422,393
Restricted funds		0		0
Total charity funds		439,250		422,393

Table 2 - The Wendover Arm Trust.
(Company No. 02353392, Charity No. 801190)
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024.
31-Mar-24

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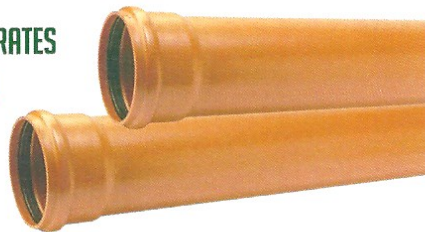
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Club 100 Lottery

The winning numbers were selected from 178 paid-up subscribers tickets. The Wendover Canal Trust Club 100 Lottery draw was made on 29th July 2024, at the WCT Group Heads Meeting by Peter Bird (Membership Secretary) and witnessed by Group Heads.

The Lucky winners are...



Richard Lloyd-Hart £207.60



Peter Lockett £86.50

Elias Storm £34.60

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all members who take part in the Club 100 lottery. **The next draw will be in October 2024.**

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning next time, joining Club 100 couldn't be easier. We encourage you to join or manage your Club 100 membership through our online system which is available on our website.

£15 per year buys a lucky number which is entered into 4 quarterly draws throughout the year. The total prize fund is slightly over half the subscriptions, so the more members, the bigger the prizes! The remaining income goes directly to canal restoration funds.

Easyfundraising is a free way of raising money to swell our funds simply by shopping online. **For further details available here:**



<https://wendovercanal.org.uk/support-us/easyfundraising/>

Today in 2024 we have 75 supporters and have raised more than any other cause in the same category. Total raised so far is £3,653.76.

Thank you for your support. To sign up download the app, or:

Step 1. Go to

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TV Personality Robbie Cumming formally opens towpath

A host of walkers, cyclists, canoeists and schoolchildren joined in the celebration at the official opening of the Wendover to Halton towpath upgrade, with Robbie Cumming, TV presenter and our patron, cutting the ribbon.



The event on Friday 28th June, held at Walnut Tree Meadow, Wendover, attracted large crowds, with 220 pupils from John Colet School walking in groups down the towpath to



Halton. While they were walking more than 30 primary schoolchildren from Wendover Church of England Junior School took part in a nature trail.

The Cracklewick Morris dancers put on two performances and there was a call to attention fanfare sounded by Kathy Gifford. She also played a fanfare after Robbie Cumming, presenter of TV's 'Canal Boat Diaries' cut the ribbon to formally open the towpath.

Pupils from Wendover Church of England Junior School enjoyed a Teddy Bear's picnic - thanks to EKFB. The company also produced a nature trail worksheet and gave out 'passports' for children to complete on the day, reflecting their experiences.

There were talks on geology and the environment by experts from EKFB for pupils from John Colet School who were also given a quiz by their geography teacher.

In his speech Clive Johnson, Chairman of the WCT thanked Robbie and Dr Elaine King from Chilterns National Landscape, whose organisation played a major role in securing funding.



He also thanked Ros Daniels of the Canal & River Trust, Councillor Steve Broadbent of Buckinghamshire Council and Peter Elwin, WCT Partnerships Director, who led the funding and the organisation of the event.

“Funded by five organisations, the towpath upgrading took six months to complete, cost £750,000 and runs for 1.7

miles” said Clive. “It is part of both the Wendover Canal Trust’s and Canal & River Trust’s wider ambition to see the entire seven-mile Wendover to Grand Union canal towpath upgraded.”. The work carried out by Rothen Group and Kier plc has hugely improved the former muddy towpath. For the first time we have made it accessible to the entire community all year round.”



The towpath funders were HS2 Chilterns National Landscapes Review Group, Wendover Parish Council, Lionel Abel-Smith Trust, Wendover Community Board and Halton Parish Council.



EKFB, FCC Environment, Rothen Group, Wendover Parish Council and Fairhive Homes between them sponsored the new railings at Wharf Road, the signage along the towpath and the event itself which was organised by John Colet School, Wendover News, EKFB, Wendover & Halton Parish Councils and Wendover Canal Trust.

Trumpet player Kathy Gifford with Clive Johnson

Richard Peel, Advisor to WCT for the event

Transform your garden with sustainable Wendover Canal Group creations

Are you passionate about supporting local initiatives and adding a touch of eco-friendly charm to your garden? Look no further! The dedicated volunteer from our Canal Group, John Reynolds has been hard at work, crafting delightful and sustainable garden items that both you and your feathered friends will adore.



1. Bird Boxes: Our handcrafted bird boxes are more than just cozy homes for our avian neighbours—they're a testament to resourcefulness. Made from the reclaimed plastic Bencores and wood and designed with love, these boxes provide safe nesting spots for birds like robins, blue tits, and sparrows. Hang them from a tree branch or fix them to a wall, and watch as your garden becomes a hub of chirping activity.

2. Bug Houses: Calling all insect enthusiasts! Our bug houses are like five-star hotels for beneficial bugs. Constructed from salvaged materials, they offer cozy nooks and crannies for ladybugs, solitary bees, and lacewings. These tiny garden heroes play a vital role in pollination and pest control. Place a bug house near your flower beds or vegetable patch, and let the mini wildlife check-in.



3. Bird Feeders: Feeding the birds has never been more stylish! Our bird feeders combine functionality with aesthetics. Crafted from leftover plastic cores and timber, they feature clever designs that keep the seeds dry and accessible. Hang them from a branch or attach them to your balcony railing. As the seasons change, you'll be treated to a colourful parade of feathered visitors.

4. Planters: Want to add a splash of greenery to your patio or Narrow Boat roof? Our planters are the answer. These upcycled beauties come in various shapes and sizes, perfect for herbs, flowers, or succulents. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a newbie with a green thumb, our planters will make your space bloom.



How to Get Your Hands on These Treasures



Order through our website for local delivery or join the AGM on the 19th October at DDBC where all items will be on display. Not only will you find these sustainable garden items, but you'll also meet the passionate volunteer who has put his heart and soul into each creation. Plus, your purchase directly supports canal restoration efforts - talk about a win-win!

So, whether you're a nature lover, a garden enthusiast, or simply someone who appreciates handmade craftsmanship, explore our collection. Your garden will thank you, and so will the birds and bugs!



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Brass Plaques from historic Wendover and IWA canal festivals

Attention, history enthusiasts and waterway wanderers! 🚢 If you've ever felt the gentle pull of nostalgia while strolling along the canal banks, here's an opportunity you won't want to miss. 🗓️

What's the Buzz?

🔔 Brass plaques—those little gleaming storytellers—are up for grabs! These aren't just any plaques; they're like time capsules etched with memories of past canal festivals. Imagine the laughter, the boat parades, and the camaraderie—all captured in a few square inches of brass.

Why Brass?

🕒 Brass endures. It's the unsung hero of materials—resilient, weathered, and quietly elegant. Just like the canals themselves, it ages gracefully, carrying tales of bygone days.

Which Festivals?

🦋 We're talking about the Wendover and Inland Waterways festivals—the heartbeats of our community. Those sunny afternoons when families gathered, musicians strummed, and the air smelled of adventure. Each plaque represents a moment frozen in time—a celebration of our shared love for these winding watercourses.

How to Secure Your Piece of History:

📄 Order on the **Wendover Canal website** - wendovercanal.org.uk
Each plaque is a steal at just £5. Bargain alert! Plus, your purchase isn't just about brass—it's a donation toward the restoration project. You're practically funding the revival



Jenny Brice, IWA Nominee, Minutes Secretary



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Wendover Canal Trust, the operating name of Wendover Arm Trust,
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Its **AIMS** are: To promote the restoration and maintenance of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, (including all waterways, buildings, and related structures), to good and navigable order and to promote the fullest use of the waterway by water-borne traffic (subject to the regulations of The Canal and River Trust) and for local amenity, recreational and water related activities for the benefit of the public.

To restore, preserve, maintain and educate the public in the history, use and wildlife, of canals and inland waterways generally and the Wendover Arm in particular.

General telephone number: 07547 181 857

Website: www.wendovercanal.org.uk

Facebook: Wendover Arm Trust **X:** @wendoverarm

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Contact the Publicity Director, please find the contact details on page 6.

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