

Wendover Canal News

Restoration Biodiversity Well-being



WENDOVER
CANAL TRUST

2025 Summer
Issue 3



BRADLEY & JONES

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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 9th November 2025

Chairman's Column - July 2025



Our preparations with CRT to re-start work have continued. But despite every effort by ourselves, all discussions with CRT have continued to be much

slower than we would like or expect. It seems that we are not alone in finding CRT slow to respond to restoration initiatives.

The Waterways Recovery Group subsidiary of the Inland Waterways

Association publish a bi-monthly magazine “Navvies” describing progress. In the latest issue, their chairman Mike Palmer describes how slow response from a different region of CRT has caused the cancellation of a planned week-long canal camp.

Last time I described that we would finalise detailed proposals for the limited amount of remediation which we have to do. A company named Southern Testing who have helped us before, completed a “Remediation Strategy” which we sent to CRT for review. CRT have asked for some changes which are in hand.

I also said that we needed to complete our contractual negotiations with CRT. The more detailed document which we were expecting turned out to be something called a Licence Agreement, which CRT finally sent on Friday 9th May. But despite being a relatively short document, we had three high level issues with it, which were more operational than legal – in several ways it just didn’t seem suitable for our situation, for example it assumed that we would be subcontracting all work rather than doing it ourselves.

On Monday 12th May I asked for a face-to-face or Teams meeting to discuss our issues, and I sent CRT our three high level points a week later. But the rest of May and June passed without even a date in the diary. Finally on the last day of June, CRT told us that they will be sending an updated document before putting a date in the diary. It arrived and looks much better, but we still need to discuss some final points with them, which we

will be doing on Tuesday 22nd July.

The water which flows down the Wendover Canal remains around half the supply to the Tring summit of the main line of the Grand Union Canal. Our restoration will make this more resilient by reducing leakage from the current underground pipes. The hot dry early summer has shown how important is this supply. Last winter, CRT were unable to fully refill Wilstone reservoir because of the need for its strengthening. Boating restrictions have started.

On Monday June 16th, the 16 narrow locks of the Aylesbury Canal were closed to save water. For a few days at the start of July, key locks either side of Tring summit such as Marsworth and Cowroast were limited to a supervised 4 hours per day, with a warning that there might be closures at no notice, though this has just been lifted because they say that they have found a better way of pumping water.

CRT have just started driving two thousand eleven-metre-long steel piles to strengthen the embankments of Wilstone reservoir. The piling is expected to take 5 months. Walkers have been diverted from the footpath along the top of the bank, into the nearby field. The Wilstone reservoir car park will be closed from September for around four months. The road next to this car park will be closed for approximately the month of September. Meads farm shop and café will remain accessible, they have helped us so please use them if you can.

Quite separately from our discussions with CRT, a different part of CRT has published draft national proposals for what they have called a Restoration Delivery Plan. I have represented us on an IWA Zoom to discuss this. A key proposal is that volunteer canal restorers such as ourselves should pay CRT forty pounds per hour to cover the costs of CRT forming a national team to work with us. Some of the WCT trustees would consider this if it is applied to us, and so would some other canal restoration groups. But personally, as someone who has been involved with various canal restorations for over 50 years, I think this is just wrong in principle. Hopefully our Licence Agreement will avoid the need for us to be further affected by this

consultation.

Please think about whether you or your partner could help us as Membership Secretary. Also please note that the AGM is a fortnight earlier than usual due to some date clashes.

Clive Johnson, Chairman

Obituary

On July 2nd, Graeme Lockhart sadly passed away.

Graeme was an exuberant and enthusiastic long-term supporter of the Trust. His practical bent was put to good use when he took over the role of Site Manager for the Wendover Canal Festival. Despite its name, the Wendover Canal Festival was held annually alongside the canal at New Mill, Tring. Many thousands of visitors came to see and enjoy the mixture of Trade Stalls, Sideshows, Events, and of course the long lines of moored canal boats visiting for the event. Graeme's larger than life personality was well suited to the many and varied demands of Site Management, and it was therefore no surprise that the Festival grew in size and local esteem over the years. One memorable occasion was when Graeme and his twin brother Ian brought a nearly finished narrowboat to the Festival, and completed it in public on dry land alongside the Arm during the Festival, before handing it over shortly afterwards. The festivals sadly ended when we lost the use of the festival field after it changed hands."

Bob Wheal

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Council members 2025

Chairman

Chairman & Talks: Clive Johnson

chairman@wendovercanal.org.uk

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

Council Member: Colin Metcalfe

colin.metcalfe@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: Colin Heal
Note: not a council member

colin.heal@wendovercanal.org.uk

Project Manager:
Steve Chapman

steve.chapman@wendovercanal.org.uk

IWA Nominee, Council Minutes Secretary:
Jenny Brice

jenny.brice@wendovercanal.org.uk

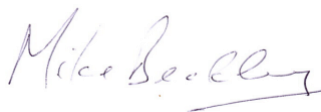
Newsletter Editor: Carol Williams/ Janine Jones

newsletter@wendovercanal.org.uk

Notice is hereby given that the thirty sixth Annual General Meeting of the
Wendover Arm Trust will be held on:
Saturday 4th October 2025 at 2.30PM.
At Dunstable & District Boat Club – Cooks Wharf – Pitstone – LU7 9AD.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 35th AGM held on 19th Oct 2024 – to be agreed as a true record.
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report
5. Health & Safety Report
6. Group Heads Reports.
7. Honorary Treasurers Report.
8. To receive and if thought fit, approve the report of the council of management.
9. 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 2025 and the report of the Independent Examiner thereon.
10. To Reappoint Johnsons Chartered Accountants as the Independent Examiner.
11. To elect members to the Council (see note below).
 - a. The following Directors retire by rotation, and offer themselves for re-election: Robert Wheal, Christopher Sargeant, Kenneth Palfrey
 - b. The following Director was appointed by Council as of 18 December 2024 and seeks confirmation of appointment at this AGM: Colin Metcalfe
12. Any Other Business

Michael Beckley, MA, FCCA
Hon Secretary.
By order of the Council
Registered Office.
16b First Floor, Chiltern Court
Asheridge Road Industrial Estate
Chesham HP5 2PX



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 final 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 September 18th to obtain a nomination form which should be returned by September 25th.

Finance Review 2025

The provisional accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 show total income for the Trust of £54,657, 50% up on the previous year, and expenditure of just £18,658. Therefore there is a surplus of £36,000 for the year, and the updated cash position from Paul Armstrong shows available funding of £439,430 as at 31 March. Consolidated income, including the subsidiary company Wendover Canal Restoration Ltd, was £69,500 and group surplus £47,400.

However there were one time receipts during 24/25 of £14,837 for grants (via WCRL) and £7,700 in a legacy, plus fundraising event income of £5,000, so forecast income for 2025/6 is considerably reduced at £39,000.

Total charitable funds as shown on the balance sheet increased by 8% to £475,000.

As expected, there has been very little expenditure since 31st March. A provisional allowance has been made for restoration costs of £60,000 in the current year, giving a total expenditure of £80,000, and a net expenditure of £40,000 for the Trust at the end of the year. Therefore the forecast level of cash and funds is likely to remain at about £400,000 in March 2026. It is now clear that there are sufficient funds available to take the Trust through the following year to 31st March 2027, 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. Therefore it will be necessary to start discussions with CRT and others concerning funding beyond 2027 later this year.

Mike Beckley / Paul Armstrong

Note – draft figures, unaudited

The Wendover Canal Trust

Statement of Financial
Activities for the year ended
31 March 2025
31-Mar-2025



	Total Funds 31-Mar-25 £	Total Funds 31-Mar-24 £
Income from		
Subscriptions and Donations	30,702	19,210
Grants	-	-
Other trading activities	9,807	5,609
Investments	14,148	11,265
Total income	54,657	36,084
Expenditure on		
Raising funds (incl management)	17,416	14,018
Charitable activities (restoration)	1,152	4,820
Total Expenditure	18,568	18,838
Net income (Expenditure)	36,089	17,246
Transfers between funds		-
Net movement of funds	36,089	17,246
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	439,639	422,393
Total funds carried forward	475,728	439,639

	31-Mar-25 £	31-Mar-25 £	31st March 2024 £	31st March 2024 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		699		2,242
Investment in subsidiary				
Investment in subsidiary		25,000		1
Loan to subsidiary				
Current Assets				
Stock	200		200	
Debtors	26,691		75,320	
Cash at bank	17,314		14,693	
Investments	406,393		349,771	
Cash in hand	66		66	
	450,664		440,050	
Liabilities				
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year	(1,025)		(3,044)	
Provision for Donations to CRT	0		0	
Net Current Assets		449,639		437,006
Net Assets		475,338		439,249
The funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds - General		475,338		439,249
- Designated		0		0
Total unrestricted funds		475,338		439,249
Restricted funds		0		0
Total charity funds		475,338		439,249

The Wendover Canal Trust

(Company No 02353392,
Charity No 801190)
Balance Sheet as at 31st
March 2025
31-Mar-2025

Mike Beckley, Finance
Lead, Honorary Secretary
and Deputy Chairman

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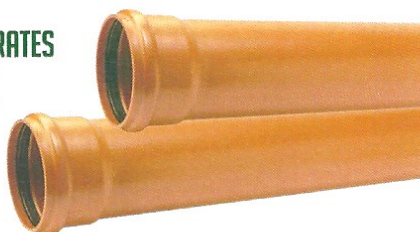
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More work at the Pocket Park



Before

On a hot and sticky Wednesday 25th June, we had another work-party day under the wing of CRT's volunteer programme, to cut back the growth of grass and other greenery at the pocket park.

For this operation we were able to use our own tools so the previous week we got all our grasscutters examined and serviced by Stevens Garden Machinery at Halton.

Unfortunately, there were some beyond economic repair but we ended up with 8 serviceable machines.

Following a toolbox talk at our base, five volunteers including AI from CRT went to the pocket park and spent a few hours cutting back vegetation. For now at least you can get to all the benches in the Park !

We also cleared the route through the wooded area to the viewing platform at Whitehouses and the bench there.

We left some large areas to continue to be a haven for wildlife and flowers.

Thank you to Kindell Motor Services of Aston Clinton, for the donation of the trolley wheels.

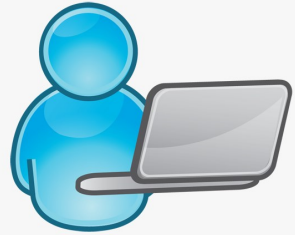


Work in progress

Steve Chapman,
Site Managers Group

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Thank you very much if you would consider this.

Clive Johnson, Chairman.

Volunteer Opportunity: Membership Secretary

We are still looking for a volunteer to be our Membership Secretary. We are very grateful to Peter Bird, who after five years in the role, has asked to step down at our AGM in October. This is a vital role which we must fill!

Please could you consider whether you or your partner could help us? It takes about four or five hours a week. We use an online system named WhiteFuse to make the process as easy as possible. (But if any of you have experience of a different membership system, we would gladly consider it.)

If you have any questions, please contact Peter at membership@wendovercanal.org.uk, who can also share a more detailed description of what he has been doing for us. Peter will of course help the new volunteer into the role.





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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.

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