

Wendover Arm News

Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust



*Issue 2011/3
Autumn 2011*

*Price £1 where sold
Free to members*



Front cover— Removing spoil for backfilling on Stage 2 Phase 2 September 2011

In This Issue

We report on progress with the restoration, we have the final tally for the festival, a reminder of the AGM, the membership round up, we look at one of the more pleasant uses for nature autumnal bounty (making wine for free, well almost), we look back to 1982 and how it was not for the faint hearted to cruise the Arm.

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Membership News

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of the Wendover Arm Trust

Brian & Hilary Hardy	Hemel Hempstead
Keith Jones & Dot Zasadzka	Hemel Hempstead
Paul & Lynn Kingham	Great Missenden
Richard Lewin & Sue Roberts	Aylesbury
Robert & Ruth Tate	Hemel Hempstead
Wim Dries	Pitstone
Michael Fowler	Ferndown, Dorset
David Gambling	Berkhamsted
Wayne Hambridge	Chesham
Mark Lusby	Haddenham
Brian Walters	Bovingdon
Nicholas Lockhart	Dover
Howard Jennings	Watford
Boyd & Carol Williams	Wendover
Tom Conniffe & Jan Kewley	Wendover
John Boswell	Watford
David & Virginia Young	Weston Turville
Peter & Gwen Scott	Berkhamsted
David & Margaret Coleman	Weston Turville

As of September 1st, the Trust now has over 700 members (single or family) spread across 468 households.

There continues to be a steady increase in members registering their email address, which has cut down significantly on the number of postage stamps. A few more members have converted to automatic standing order

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payments directly from their bank into ours. Again this cuts down on admin and postage.

In the summer draw of the club 100 lottery scheme, the prize winners were:-

1st - Mr Rod Squires, number 039, £165.60

2nd - Mr Chris Webber, number 131, £69.00 - this was kindly donated back to the Trust, thankyou Chris! We can also claim gift aid too!

3rd - Mr Rodney Evans, number 107, £27.60

The draw is exclusive to current Wendover Arm Trust members, each lucky number costs £15 per year, which entitles the holder entrance into four consecutive quarterly draws.

To join the Trust or club 100, contact Katherine
membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

The next club 100 draw will be made at the AGM. There are plenty of spare lucky numbers up for grabs for an annual subscription of £15 per number. Joining is easy and payment can be made by cheque or standing order, just contact Katherine. If all the renewals come through in time, there will be a record breaking 153 in the draw, leading to a possible 1st prize of £183.60. Just think what you could spend this money on, particularly in the run up to Christmas.

The next gift aid period closes on October 5th, so all donations and subscriptions (except club 100 lottery money) that qualify for gift aid can be claimed back from HMRC. As of 1st September, with just over a month to go, we are already up to £1426.75, so we should receive over £1500 back from HMRC, which is a welcome boost to Trust funds.

To check if you are signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme, simply check your membership number. If there is a letter "G" in it, then you are signed up and we can claim the tax back on your monies.

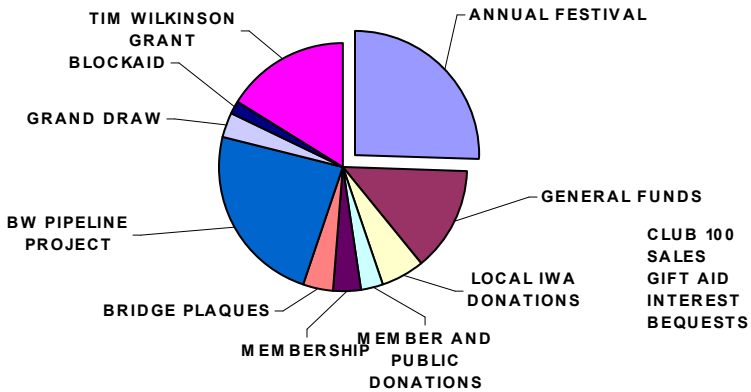
If you are not in the scheme and are eligible to join (UK tax payer paying more tax than your charitable donations) then contact Katherine. We can back date your claim to previous financial years.

Boxmoor Festival

The final meeting has been held to assess the success of the Boxmoor festival, the profit for the event was £10,949.01. This sum enables restoration to continue for some time to come. To illustrate the importance of the festival as

an income stream to the Trust please see the pie chart below that shows, proportionally, how various initiatives have brought money in over the years from 1997 to the present time.

TYPICAL FUNDING 1997 - 2010



How About a Nice Glass of Wine?

This time of year provides an abundance of fruit that can be gathered free almost anywhere including along the canal side hedgerows. One of the more pleasant use for it is the making of country wines. There's little better than sitting with friends sipping wine that you have made yourself. If you never tried it why not give it a go, it's cheap, good fun and the end result can be brilliant!

The Tea

All wines start as a tea, which is just like it sounds: your ingredients soaked in water for a length of time. In this case, the ingredients should be cut or mashed, as the more surface area that's exposed to the water the better. This is called the "must." Some winemakers juice their must and combine both the juice and must into the container. The water should be pure, clean drinking water, as any impurities will transfer to your wine.

The Yeast

Now we're not talking brewer's yeast or baking yeast or nutritional yeast; this is strictly wine

yeast. There are an inordinate number of types of wine yeast, including those that are better for white or red wines, or for dry or sweet wines, etc. I usually use champagne yeast as it's one of the most versatile and fastest-acting. Follow the directions on the packet for activating the yeast before using it – and for how much yeast to use.

Sugar

The yeast works by interacting with carbohydrates, sugar is a simple carbohydrate that the yeast works well with. You will normally need about 2 to 2.5 pounds per gallon

Additives

Additives are a hotly debated topic among wine makers, but not all wine additives are controversial. A Campden tablet in your tea, for example, is one of the easiest and most effective ways to keep wild yeasts and bacteria from taking up residence (and propagating) in your wine. Pectic enzyme can help keep wines made from high-pectin ingredients from turning cloudy.

There are many good books and articles on the internet and in libraries that can give you much more detail on equipment and

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techniques but below is a typical blackberry wine recipe that could be drunk at Christmas time – at a push - but would be better if you could leave it for a year.

- 4 lb blackberries
- 2-1/4 lb granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp pectic enzyme
- 1/2 tsp acid blend
- crushed Campden tablet
- 7 pts water
- wine yeast and nutrient

Pick fully ripe, best quality berries. Wash thoroughly and place in nylon jelly-bag. Mash and squeeze out all juice into primary fermentation vessel. Tie jelly-bag and place in primary fermentation vessel with all ingredients except

yeast. Stir well to dissolve sugar, cover well, and set aside for 24 hours. Add yeast, cover, and set aside 5 days, stirring daily. Strain juice from jelly-bag and siphon off sediments into secondary fermentation vessel of dark glass (or wrap clear glass with brown paper), filling only to the upper shoulder of the secondary, and fit airlock. Leftover must should be placed in a 750-ml wine bottle with airlock and used for topping up. Top up when all danger of foaming over is past. Place in cool (60-65 degrees F.) dark place for three weeks. Rack, allow another two months to finish, then rack again and bottle in dark glass. Allow a year to mature to a nice semi-sec.

Wildlife Watch



A busy family of swans has now taken up residence on the newly restored section close to Drayton Beauchamp at

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After the AGM and Ploughman's

Talk on the Foxtan Inclined Plane Past and present

By Mike Beech curator of the Plane museum

Notice is hereby given that the twenty second Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held at the Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire on Wednesday 26th. October 2011 commencing at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 20th October 2010.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Individual Trustees' Reports.
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report.
6. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the report of the Committee. (Council of Management).
7. To receive and, if thought fit, to approve the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust for the Year ended on 5th April 2011, and the Report of the Independent Examiner thereon.
8. Mr Lea is retiring and accordingly a resolution will be put to appoint Mr Robin David Goodridge BA ACA as the new Independent Examiner.
9. To elect Members to the Council. (See Note 1 below).

By Order of the Council

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1st July 2011

Note 1. Under Article 39, nominations for election to the 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 proposer and by the person nominated, confirming their willingness to be elected. Only members qualified to vote at the meeting may make nominations or stand for election.

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

Note 2. Any person being a member of the Trust is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf at the Annual General Meeting. Such a proxy need not be a member of the Trust. A letter nominating the proxy, signed by the member, must be received by the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

BYE-LAWS

In accordance with Article 64, notice is given that there have been no changes to the Trust's bye-laws in the period from the notice of the preceding Annual General Meeting to the date of the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

The Trust's existing bye-laws are as follows:

1. Classes of Membership.

There shall be four classes of membership as follows:

- a. Individual Membership.
- b. Family Membership (to include two adult members resident at the same address).
Family Members shall only receive a single copy of any Notice, or other communication, from the Trust.
- c. Honorary Membership (to be awarded by Council at its discretion).
- d. Corporate Membership.

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Corporate Members shall receive four copies of the Trust Newsletter and one copy of any other communication from the Trust.

2. Membership Subscriptions.

Individual:	£ 8 per annum.
Family:	£ 12 per annum.
Honorary:	None.
Corporate:	£ 20 per annum.

Subscriptions for the renewal of membership shall become due on the first day of the month following the month of being admitted as a member of the Trust, in the next and subsequent years.

3. Voting Rights at General Meetings.

Individual	One vote.
Family	Two votes (adults only).
Honorary	None.
Corporate	One vote.

Intrepid Boaters Cruise the Wendover Arm

It seems the Wendover Arm was not always so easy to cruise as it is these days. I was given an article from *Waterways World* dated December 1982 in which the author, Anne Greig, describes how she and her companions took a hire boat down the Arm not knowing if it was navigable or if they could turn the boat when and if they reached their destination. Her husband had heard that there was an interesting Victorian pumping station to look at and they set out enthusiastically to cover the mile and a quarter from Bulbourne junction to the Tringford pumping station.

Their first encounter was with the sewage plant that was either malfunctioning or the wind was being unkind to them as they describe smells I have never experienced all the times I have passed it! It was brought home to them how little the canal was used at the time by the colourful remarks of the off-duty flour mill workers when they spotted the “barge” and started discussing how many years it had been since they had seen one down there. They finally arrived at the pumping station to

find it was indeed a dead end at the stop lock - no winding hole - and go on to relate how they had to reverse their 46ft boat back to “a ditch” where they executed a “twenty-four point turn”.

According to the article as they approached Marsworth from the north they were in company with another boat that headed off down the Aylesbury Arm with all its locks and still finished up at the boat yard in Berkhamstead before them – and coming in from the South as they’d had time on their hands and gone a bit further down before coming back to meet the deadline.

It seems the Grand Union Canal Society used to encourage boaters to use the Arm as much as possible. They offered an unusual and attractive solid brass plaque in the style of a Grand Junction Canal Company milepost measuring 2 ¾” by 6” for “boaters reaching the Tring Pump”. Another initiative by the society was to organise the Wendover Week once a year when over forty boats would gather near the flour mill.

Programmes, Projects, Phases and Stages

There is often some confusion over the terminology used in running projects so we will try to make things a little clearer here.

Programmes

Programmes are usually a group of related projects and are controlled by a programme manager who would not normally manage any one of the projects within the programme. We regard the restoration of the arm as a project, not a programme because it is a standalone piece of work and is not made up of related projects

Projects

The well known project management methodology PRINCE2 defines project as:

“A management environment that is created for the purpose of delivering one or more business products according to a specified Business Case”

An alternative definition is given as:

“A temporary organisation that is needed to produce a unique and predefined outcome or result at a prespecified time using predetermined resources”

Projects are pieces of work with a definite end. When navigation is restored to Wendover our project will end. The maintenance of the canal after that is regarded as

“business as usual” and is not part of the project.

Phases

Large projects are often broken down into phases which could stand alone as projects in their own right. For example if the objective of the Wendover Arm Trust had been to build the Little Tring road bridge and provide a winding hole and moorings the project could have ended at the end of phase 1. That is not the case so we continued after the completion of phase 1 to start work on phase 2 which is currently under construction from Drayton Beauchamp to Little Tring.

Stages

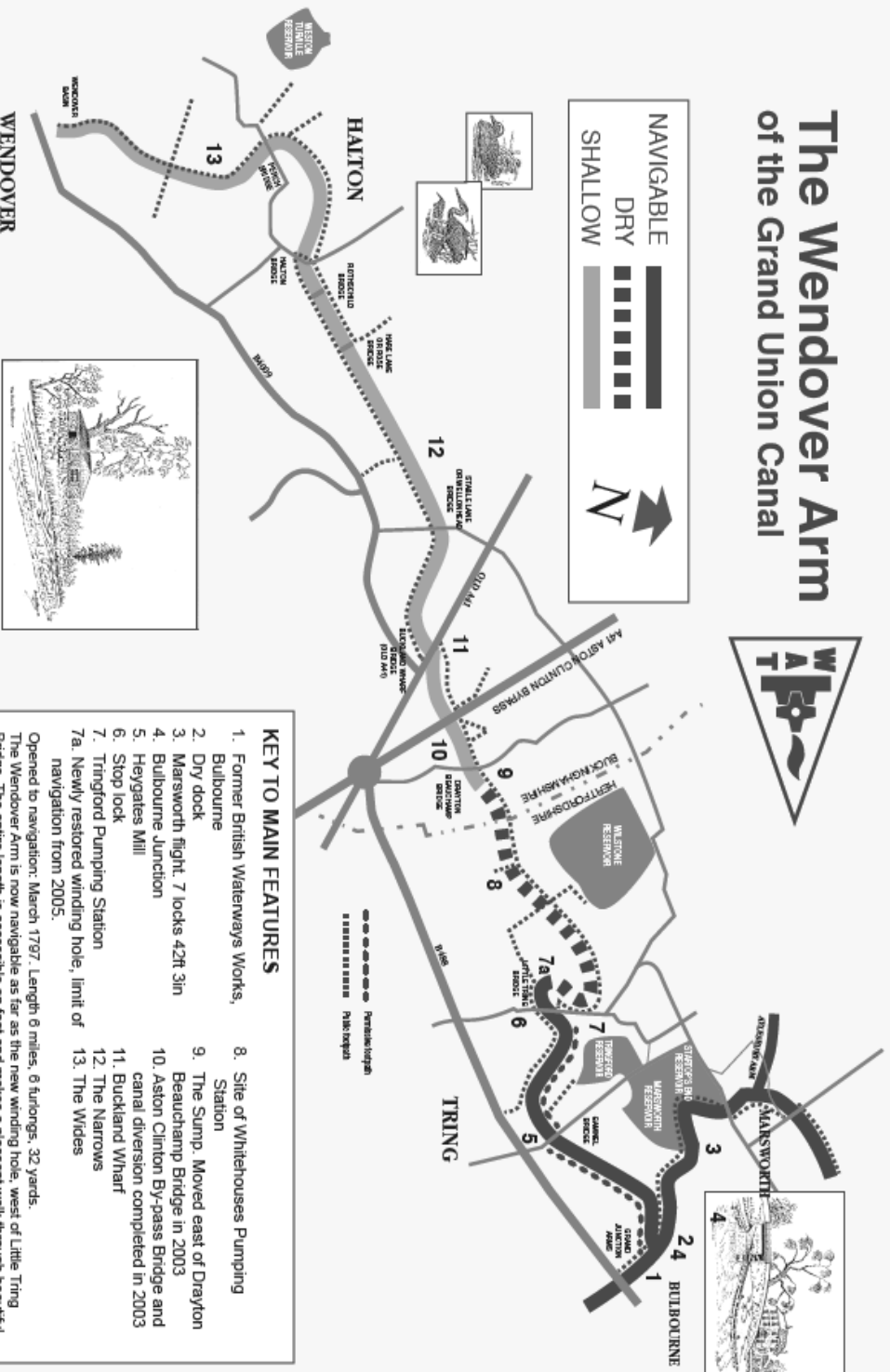
Phases of projects can be broken down into stages to make it more manageable and to provide milestones. Projects are all about resources be they money, people, plant, materials or whatever. They must all be managed and accounted for. It is much easier to estimate the cost and time it will take to complete a stage rather than a phase.

The first stage of phase 2 is now completed; there is water, at the Wendover level, as far as the bund that marks the end of the stage, stage 3 is currently under construction

The Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal



NAVIGABLE
DRY
SHALLOW



KEY TO MAIN FEATURES

- Former British Waterways Works, Bulbourne
- Dry dock
- Marston flight, 7 locks 42ft 3in
- Bulbourne Junction
- Heygates Mill
- Stop lock
- Tringford Pumping Station
- Newly restored winding hole, limit of navigation from 2005.
- Site of Whitehouses Pumping Station
- The Sump. Moved east of Drayton Beauchamp Bridge in 2003
- Aston Clinton By-pass Bridge and canal diversion completed in 2003
- Buckland Wharf
- The Narrows
- The Widens

Opened to navigation: March 1797. Length 6 miles, 6 furlongs, 32 yards.
The Wendover Arm is now navigable as far as the new winding hole, west of Little Tring Bridge. The entire length is accessible on foot and makes a pleasant walk through beautiful countryside.

Restoration News

July Working Party

Final profiling of both banks and the bed for almost 100 metres was completed ready for lining in August. The last base of the mooring wall was poured and the formwork removed, cleaned and stored.

August Working Party

On the Friday before the working party preparations were made in getting plant delivered and materials ready for a flying start with BITM over the first weekend. This proved very successful in that all the Bentomat lining was quickly laid thanks to the assistance of the BITM team. Not only was the Bentomat laid but a team at Little Tring who were keeping the works supplied with materials were able to cut further supplies of 20m lengths of Bentomat ready for bottom lining. Many thanks BITM.

Hollow concrete blocks were laid at the bottom of the Bentomat on the banks followed by solid concrete blocks with coir rolls along the top. This work was completed by the second Saturday morning

September Working Party

The September working party concentrated on backfilling the banks to cover the exposed Bentomat and prepare it for seeding as well as continuing work on the stage 2 mooring wall.

At times the weather was particularly foul with heavy cold rain making the going underfoot hazardous and dissolving morale at an alarming rate. Despite this good progress was made on a difficult job. Back filling is labour intensive and the spoil has to have the right moisture content, if it is too dry it tends to be sandy and cannot be kept in place on the 45° bank, if it is too wet it is slop and impossible to work with. The decision was made to dig the spoil from previously dumped stuff at the tip and transport it to the site—that way the correct consistency spoil could be selected. This worked very well until rain stopped play on Sunday.

In the meantime the pans were erected for the mooring wall, all set in place for concrete to be poured next month. Another good result.



At the end of the August working party banking and block laying had progressed some 100 metres as show above



The September working party managed to backfill a good deal of the banks despite the inclement weather



Work continued on the stage 2 mooring wall during the September working party

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		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

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