Wendover Arm Trust Newsletter – (sort of) December 2012

We are not trying to save money so hard that we have given up printing a proper newsletter however we are in the awkward period 'between editors', so rather than doing nothing we decided a summary news sheet (this one) would be better than none. Please excuse the style, content, or presentation if any of these offend you: we will be having a properly produced newsletter before long.



At least we can report some good news. At our most recent Council Meeting we elected a new Chairman - Paul Leech. Paul has extensive knowledge of the waterways, waterways issues, and waterways people, and is already well known to many people due to his time spent working on the Bedford Milton Keynes Link project, and with IWA Chelmsford Branch, and giving widespread talks on Waterways topics. Paul is 'almost retired' as a Civil Engineer specialising in railway track design and maintenance with over 50 years experience. He describes himself as an occasional, inaccurate (but enthusiastic) Barbershop singer, and is a member of his local Methodist Church in Southend. Paul tells us that recent ill health has hampered his activities for the Trust since joining the Festival committee as Secretary, but he is now back in full and enthusiastic circulation.









Paul will be serving as Chairman of WAT for an initial trial period (to see if he and we are well suited and to allow him to pick up on any issues). and we all look forward to working with him.

Our Restoration Director Roger Leishman will be relieved that he can give up the role of acting Chairman, and concentrate on his first priority - restoration. The work has been progressing steadily, although recently the weather has been very poor and unpredictable, meaning lost time and unwanted costs due to hired equipment being unusable. Nevertheless, the work schedule continues and remains at or under budget.



On the subject of Restoration, take a look at Ray Orth's BTMyDonate page at https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/restoration Ray is supporting the ongoing restoration 'event' and would be over the moon if you were to sponsor him via his page. Either type in the link, or search for 'Ray Orth' under 'sponsor a fundraiser' on the MyDonate Home Page.



Materials and plant hire are paid for from Trust funds, and these received a healthy boost from the proceeds of Walk an Arm's Length in September. Katherine Deaney is to be congratulated in orchestrating a successful event, which drew widespread praise from those who took part or

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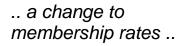
supported it. At the planning stage we deliberately set a very aggressive marketing target for the number of walkers and the monies to be raised. In the event we raised very much more than we feared and much more



than we hoped, even if actually less than we originally planned. The Walk resulted in a profit of just over £13,500 after costs, with nearly 400 registered walkers taking part, and many calls for the event to be repeated in 2013.

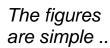
Katherine has not only been busy with the Walk - our Membership administration has been making

its usual demand on her time. Part of the Membership Admin role is to review and update our membership rates and at the recent AGM a change was agreed. Effective immediately (i.e. for any renewals from now on) Single Membership is £10 and Family Membership is £15. We also agreed to have a '5 years





for 4' offer, and to introduce Life Memberships. Contact membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk or phone 07547 181857 for more details. However you pay, it will save untold heartache and time if you either set up a standing order for the new rates, or update your existing one.



While your cheque book is handy, give Club 100 a thought. The figures are simple. Each £15 number is entered 4 times per year to win a cash prize. Half the money subscribed goes in prizes, and the three prizes each



time range from £20 to £120 for every 100 subscriptions. You can have as many subscriptions as you like at £15 each.



Might a Club 100 subscription make an unusual and worthwhile gift for a fellow Trust Member this Christmas?

Not sure if it's worth it? Just ask these recent winners of the Autumn Club 100 Draw:

Mr J Norton Won £154.80 Mr N Binks Won £64.50 Mrs O Shaw Won £25.80

See the enclosed information to take part in Club 100 yourself – the next Draw is in January, and as has been mentioned elsewhere 'you have to be in it to win it'!

We published the wrong day in the last newsletter (sorry!) and we even changed the venue, but still

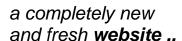
but still you found us ... you found us and turned up for the **AGM** on October 23rd. Our new venue (Dunstable & District Boat Club) proved ideal for the 60+ members attending. Thanks are due to DDBC, and our stalwart volunteers behind the bar and in the kitchen. If you weren't there, you missed a good evening.

There is much work taking place 'in the background'. Firstly, our set of **literature** is somewhat dated and incomplete and we are working on producing a new comprehensive set of leaflets and information. By its patters, this cort of work compret and should not be

information. By its nature, this sort of work cannot and should not be rushed, so progress seems painfully slow. Hopefully the end result will justify the wait. Incidentally, one of our leaflets/booklets is planned to be about the **Wildlife** (i.e. flora, and fauna) of the Arm. If you have the experience and know-how to help with this, or know of someone or a body who has, we would love to hear from you.

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When our **Website** Director Robert Drury moved house out of the area it was clear that although he was willing to support us 'at a distance' we would need to have a more local support. Robert continued to look after our website (thanks for that, Robert), which in fact is a variation on a 'blog' rather than being a full website with the sort of features you would expect. Recently we decided to



look for a more suitable solution and work is now underway on a completely new and fresh **website** for the Trust. The site is being professionally prepared by a local designer (who also produced the 'Walk' website), and after the initial period of debugging etc we anticipate a shiny new site and a noteworthy presence on the

web. This is expected to 'go live' in the first quarter of next year, so we will be kept busy uploading photos and text and getting used to using it. Watch this space!

Our **Festival** died, but refuses to lie down! Based on various reasons including weather conditions at the time, the decision was taken not to hold a festival in 2012 or 2013 which means a loss of income and publicity for the Trust. However, the Inland Waterways Association are organising the next National Waterways Festival in Watford (Cassiobury Park) for the end of July 2013. A main aim of

this Festival is to celebrate and support the Wendover Arm Trust and our work in restoring the canal. We are in discussions to see whether we can build on this event for the future to establish a WAT Festival mark 2. Again, watch this space, but in any case put July 19th to 21st in your diary to visit us at Watford (and maybe even lend a hand?).

to celebrate and support the Trust ...

What else is there to add? Well, thank you for your support through the year, thank you for your continued support next year, and of course have a:

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

You can contact the Trust with your Questions, Praise (would be good), Complaint (hopefully not) or Comment by emailing council@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk, or by phoning on 07547 181857.

















