



## THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 92

August 2012



Margaret Leishman

### RON PITTAWAY

**31<sup>st</sup> December 1927 – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

We were all saddened by the death of Ron on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Although terminally ill he was hoping for a year or two still with us but he suddenly took a turn for the worse the previous weekend.

Ron was one of the staunchest supporters of the restoration, an Honorary Member of the Trust, WAT Restoration Committee member and my most valued right hand man for purchasing materials and developing ideas like the bending frame that has bent hundreds of sheets of reinforcement over the years as well as being the donor of our trusty VW Transporter that lasted us twelve years.

His purchasing achievements included procuring the second hand steel shuttering for the wall sections of the reinforced concrete walls that have now completed 102 pours and are cleaned and oiled in store ready for the next wall pours. He always went direct to the manufacturer to get the best price for items like reinforcement, concrete blocks and even to a firm in India to get coir rolls around 50% cheaper than buying in the UK.

Our thoughts are with Enid and the family and the Trust was well represented at Ron's funeral on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012 at Amersham Crematorium and the wake at the Hit & Miss pub, Penn Street, afterwards.

### July Working Party

The worst weather conditions we have met over our years of restoration continued unrelenting. By dint of spending much time pumping about half of the bed lining up to the Stage 2 mooring wall was completed when the aim had been to complete it all by the end of the working party.

### Kent & East Sussex Canal Recovery Group (KESCRG) July Summer Camp at Whitehouses

We welcomed KESCRG in July for a week of reconstruction work on the wharf wall and settling tank at Whitehouses.



Ray Orth

### **KESCRG AT WHITEHOUSES**

As you can see, the weather was not at its best but the wharf wall was completed apart from replacing the coping stones when the brickwork has cured to full strength. Work was well advanced on the settling tank and it is hoped that KESCRG will continue the good work next year. We were very impressed by the organisation and workmanship at the camp. Many thanks KESCRG.



Ray Orth

### KESCRG RESTORING THE SETTLING TANK AT WHITEHOUSES – BRICKLAYING TUITION!



Ray Orth

### THE OUTLETS FROM THE SETTLING TANK

#### August Working Party

This started off by pumping out water and then lining the bed that was completed up to 10 metres before the Stage 2 mooring wall, work we had hoped to complete in July. The weather did change for the better and the offside bank opposite the mooring wall was profiled and lined with Bentomat and the concrete blocks laid with coir rolls above. We certainly would not have completed this work if it was not for the superb assistance of recruits from RAF Halton, led by their NCOs Richie Pellew and Allie Ross, on the last two days of the working party. Many thanks RAF Halton.



Roger Leishman

### WAT VOLUNTEERS AND THE RAF LAYING THE HOLLOW CONCRETE BLOCKS AT THE FOOT OF THE OFFSIDE BANK

During the week lengths of Bentomat were cut and on the last two days the RAF, as well as loading blocks at Little Tring for the lining, cut a further supply of Bentomat such that we now have enough cut to complete Stage 2.



Roger Leishman

### THE RAF ROLL UP CUT BENTOMAT

Ray Orth and I took a stocktake of Bentomat cut and in stock to ensure that we had enough Bentomat to complete the re-watering to Bridge 4A next year. We found that there was enough left to continue about 120 metres further into Stage 3 after the next re-watering. We also have one roll of Bentofix (solid Bentonite rather than granules) donated to us by the A41 by-pass contractors, Balfour Beatty, as a reserve although it is much heavier to handle.

## September Working Party

Given that the weather has changed for the better the aim is to complete the bank lining to the end of the Stage 2 mooring wall and make a start on bed lining this length.

## October Working Party

Complete the bank and bed lining for the length of the mooring wall and continue with bank and bed lining towards Bridge 4A. There are 125 metres to go from the mooring wall to the end of Stage 2, then a further 110 metres to the bund at Bridge 4A...

## A great donation



Roger Leishman

### **OUR NEW RESTORATION BANNER**

At the Festival last year Bob Everett was noticing the various Trust banners and wondered why we did not

have one promoting restoration. As a result he funded a banner for display at working parties and Ray Orth made a frame to hang it on. As you can see in the picture it is displayed during working parties on the top of the offside bank for towpath walkers to look across and read and digest.

## General Notes.

All volunteers receive and sign for the Trust's Restoration Handbook that includes full Health and Safety requirements for the restoration works. The handbook is the property of the Trust; if you leave the working parties for any reason, please return your Handbook to either Ray Orth or myself. Many thanks Bob.

Hard hats for use at all times and high visibility jackets to be worn on sites with mobile plant in use are kept in the store at Tringford and must be drawn/returned there. One first aid kit is kept in the store, one in the Transit tipper and two are available for up to two working sites. Each qualified first-aider will have a kit with him/her when on site.

Also available in the store at Tringford are ear defenders and goggles that must be worn when using strimmers, angle grinders, concrete breakers and the like. CRT will supply hard hats, gloves and footwear with reinforced toecaps on request. We normally work from 9am to 5pm (or dark if earlier!).

There are breaks for morning tea/coffee, packed lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. We take our own food and drink.

### **WALK AN ARM'S LENGTH** **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012**

Margaret Leishman is organising cakes for refreshments at Halton Bridge (Jill Pearce's garden) and will be grateful for anyone who can help her by contributing cakes.  
Offers to her on 01442 874536 please.

Katherine Deaney is still looking for volunteers to help with registration at Wendover and Bulborne  
Offers to her on 01442 246523 please

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### AT DUNSTABLE AND DISTRICT BOAT CLUB

**THERE IS AN ERROR IN THE RECENT ISSUE OF THE WENDOVER ARM NEWS**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE IS TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER**

**THE MEETING WILL START AT 7.30pm AS STATED**

Bob Wheal is seeking one or two volunteers who know Dunstable & District Boat Club to man the car park and direct visitors unfamiliar with the club to the narrow path by the mooring berths leading to the clubhouse. There will be a security person manning the entrance gate.

Offers to Bob Wheal On 01525 381614 please

### **DATES FOR WORKING PARTIES**

So you can plan your diary ahead, the following are the dates of future working parties for 2012/13:

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
<b>2012</b>		
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> August to Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Stage 2 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Stage 2 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November to Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Stage 2/3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Stage 2/3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
<b>2013</b>		
Friday 4th January to Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February to Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March to Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Stage 3 lining	Bed and bank lining.

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