

# Wendover Arm News

*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2012/1  
Spring 2012*

*Price £1 where sold  
Free to members*

## **BARTON PETROLEUM SPONSORS WENDOVER ARM TRUST**

Barton Petroleum celebrates their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.

To celebrate this event each depot has been given the opportunity to sponsor a charity of their choice for 2012. It is with great pleasure that we are able to report that the Watford depot, from whom we obtain the fuel for our plant and equipment has chosen the Wendover Arm Trust as their main designated charity for 2012.

The details of the sponsorship are as follows:

- Fuel, i.e. Gas Oil, for plant and equipment to be supplied free of charge for all work and events till the end of 2012.
- They will also sponsor one of our new information boards which are to be erected along the Arm.

The Wendover Arm Trust is grateful to Barton Petroleum for this very generous sponsorship and for their support over many years.

Ray Orth



The dry section of the Grand Union canal on Marsworth flight approaching the Tring Summit

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## In This Issue

With the whole area officially in drought British Waterways (BW) are having to adopt some serious initiatives to conserve water. The Grand Union has been closed at the Tring Summit since January with stop planks having been inserted at Cowroast. Our cover picture shows the dry locks on the Marsworth flight whilst the article on our neighbouring Aylesbury Arm mentions the restrictions there - we need rain and lots of it. Our gratitude to Barton Petroleum is expressed by Ray Orth on the page opposite, we have membership news from Katherine who is now putting her seemingly boundless energy into organising this year's Walk an Arms Length in a most professional manner. Grand Draw tickets are included with this edition of Wendover Arm News and a spin-off from the Walk and Arm's Length initiative is that we have a new vehicle for donating to the Wendover Arm Trust as described on page 7/8. We have news of the festival coming up in early June and an appeal for the tombola table. There's an early warning of the AGM followed by the wildlife watch section. The adventures of Murphy and Archie continue in episode two of a Tale of two Tails whilst Jenny tells how she raised a significant amount for the restoration by having fun.

Finally we come to what it's all about - the restoration and how it's going.

### **I have been inspired!**

Katherine's work on the Walk an Arms Length project has inspired me. The ambitious target that the group has set themselves of £25,000 at first glance seemed ridiculously optimistic but then on closer examination it is very achievable. It takes 500 people to get sponsorship of £50 and the job is done. Well how realistic is that? I know from my younger days when I was a long distance runner that it was easier to run a marathon than it was to raise £50. However the world has changed. Sponsorship, these days, is largely an on-line activity. You ask people to sponsor you over the internet and they respond (or possibly not) over the internet. When I look at my on-line contacts there are about 300 people. I intend to walk the arm's length and if I can't raise £50 out of that lot it's a poor show!

Now we send out over 500 copies of this newsletter every quarter. That means probably about 1000 people read it. If even half of the readership did the same thing we could be in clover! Suddenly that amazing target of £25 000 seems eminently achievable.

## Membership News

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Trust:

**David & Susan Hughes** - Aylesbury

**Jim & Mary Stenhouse** - Luton

**James Bowler** - Hemel Hempstead

**Kevin & Linda Day** - Pangbourne

**Brian Day** - Houghton Regis

**Barton Petroleum** joins us as corporate members in 2012, their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Trust has 683 members spread across 452 households. This is down slightly on the previous 3 months. Now Spring is on the horizon, we hope to welcome more new members to the Trust.

### Gift Aid

From October 2011 to March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, we will be able to claim just over £850 back from the tax man! This equates to 20p for every £1 donated by members who are signed up to the gift aid scheme. To check if you registered, simply check your membership number. If the letter "G" appears, then you are already signed up. If you want to sign up, contact Katherine.

### Standing Order Payment

Over a third of Trust members now pay their subscriptions by standing order. This method is the quickest and easiest way to pay for Trust membership, as the money is trans-

ferred directly from your bank account to ours. No need to write a cheque and post it, your membership will never lapse as the payment is made automatically every year. Time and money is saved as renewal reminders are not needed. Your money is still acknowledged either by email or letter.

If you would like to set up a standing order either online or using a mandate form, contact Katherine.

### Club 100

The Winter club 100 lottery draw was made at the January Council Meeting. The winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> 118, **Mr Edward Evans**, Edgware  
£163.20

2<sup>nd</sup> 105, **Mr Robert Everett**, Harpenden  
£68.00

3<sup>rd</sup> 073, **Mr Peter King**, Little Chalfont  
£27.20

Congratulations to all our winners. To be in with a chance of winning the next cash prizes, sign up today! Each lucky number is £15 per year, for entry into four consecutive quarterly draws. Contact Katherine for further details. The next draw will be in April.

### Katherine Deaney

01442 246523

membership@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

# 2012 Walk an Arm's Length Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

## Put the date in your diary – NOW!

Following Katherine's appeal in the previous edition of Wendover Arm News, a dozen or so members have risen to the challenge to organise the sponsored walk on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Plans are progressing well; we have official permission from BW to hold the event, a logo, poster design and website under construction.

Over the next few months, we will be attending local events to promote the walk, encouraging people to sign up as well as giving information about the Trust and selling Grand Draw tickets.

We would like to invite Trust members to spare a couple of hours of their time to help staff our stand. No experience is needed, all materials will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm, a friendly face and make a difference. The events we are hoping to attend, subject to volunteers being available are:

19 & 20th May - Rickmansworth Festival

3, 4 & 5th June - Boxmoor Festival

4th June - Wendover Carnival

17th June - Marsworth Steam Rally

30th June - Tring Carnival

28th July - Linslade Canal Festival

25 & 26th Aug - Music Festival at Grand Junction Arms, Bulbourne



Please contact Bob or Katherine if you can help out. Every little helps, so come on volunteer today and have a good day out, whilst supporting the Trust.

## The Trust has grand designs on the horizon.....

Trust member **Hilary Hardy** has come up trumps after she saw our appeal in the previous newsletter for a graphic designer to volunteer their services.

**Dean Such** from Such Designs has joined the Walk an Arm's Length team and all credit to him for the amazing logo and poster designs he has produced. Thank you Dean for coming forward and for working so hard.

Another Trust member, **Robert Breakwell**, has recruited **Mervyn Ramsey**, from Mervyn Ramsey Design to produce the website for Walk an Arm's Length. Again, thank you for getting involved.

# Knock Knock !

'Hi, parcel for you'. 'That looks heavy'. 'Yes it is - I loaded it in the van myself'. 'Sign here please. Thanks, bye!'

Ten thousand of anything is going to weigh a bit. Ten thousand Grand Draw Tickets also weigh a bit, but in small lots they're easier to handle.

Ten tickets hardly weigh anything at all, but when you add up the income they bring in for the Trust, it becomes worthwhile.

In previous years we've sold over 2,500 tickets. With most of the prizes donated that means a healthy contribution to Trust Restoration funds, and there are 10 lucky winners benefitting as well!

Please feel free to take part and buy one, some, or all 10 of the enclosed Grand Draw Tickets at £1 each. Sell them to your partners, sons, daughters, grannies, whoever! All the proceeds go towards our restoration, and the Draw will take place on the day of the 'Walk an Arm's Length' event on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bulbourne.

A couple of our members regularly take more than 10 tickets and sell them for the Trust to members of the public they come into contact with – through their work or privately. Could you do the same (to members of your Club, your Team, your Group, your Village)? With 10,000 tickets available, we are not going to run out in a hurry so just let me know if you need more.

Please don't be upset if a Grand Draw is 'not your thing'. It's not possible for us to keep a note of those who don't want to receive tickets with the Newsletter.

All we need back are the stubs (name and contact number written on the back) together with the money. It would be helpful to receive any unused tickets as well.

In advance, thank you for supporting the Draw, and Good Luck!

Bob Wheal  
WAT Funding  
funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

# New Way to Donate

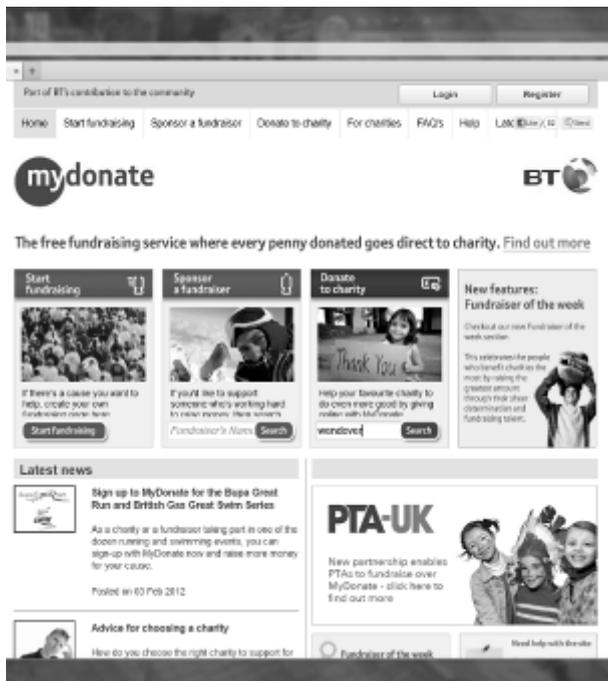
You can now give money to the Trust online without writing a cheque, or spending money and time posting a letter.

To handle donations we have selected the online fundraising service from BT, as BT is a well-known and trusted service provider. All of your donation is passed on to the Trust. The only fee is the Debit or Credit Card fee.

Of course, you will need a computer with internet connection and a credit or debit card.

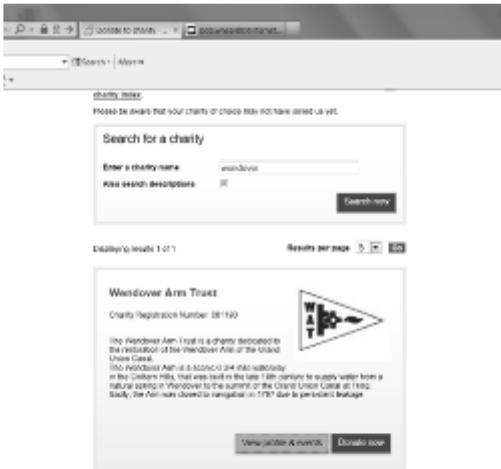
Here's how you do it:

Go to [www.BTmydonate.com](http://www.BTmydonate.com) The 'www' is important or you may end up at another website!



What you will see is a page similar to this (this one is displayed using Firefox):

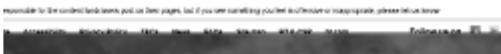
You can see a blue 'Donate to Charity' box. In the search box type 'wendover', and click on 'search'.



At the moment the Wendover Arm Trust is the only charity to be listed, but in any case, when you have found the details for WAT you are ready to donate.

You don't have to be registered to make a donation, so if you are not then click on the 'Donate Now' button in the Card Owner Details section

Follow the three secure steps in the payment process to make your donation



Tick the box on screen if you don't want WAT to know who you are, and to remain anonymous.



It's just like buying something online. You will be asked to select how much to give (minimum £2), whether Gift Aid applies, and your payment card details. You may also be asked to verify the payment.

BTMyDonate processes your payment and gives you a summary of your donation, and a payment reference for your records. A peek into your email inbox will also find a 'thank you' and confirmation from the system to show all has gone through properly.

That's it!

Give it a go and thanks for your donation!  
Bob Wheel, Funding Director

p.s. If you would like a personal copy of this guide, email me and I will send you one.  
funding@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

## Festival 2012 News - June 3-5

The good news is we are able to have another Canal Festival this year.

**Boxmoor Trust** has allowed us to use their fields at Two Waters Road and London Road, **Hemel Hempstead**. This time we will be using an extra field for the Festival, providing us with an increased area for the event. We will be able to have a larger festival arena, giving us the opportunity to have more activities in the arena, and also give our Birds of Prey a much improved flying demonstration area.

We have changed our usual Festival dates **from the end of May to the beginning of June**; to fit in with the moved Bank Holiday weekend and the extra day for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

The weekend is going to be extremely busy for many people, and we believe some of our members have their local village/town street parties to take part in, so we are looking for as much support as possible.

Our bookings are coming together very well, we have booked all the necessary facilities to allow the event to run; we also have bookings coming in for trade, craft, charity, and entertainments.

Boat bookings are also coming in, and to us this is a most important factor, as our boaters and their crews are the backbone of our staff, supporting the work of the Wendover Arm Trust Festival committee, these friends and supporters man the gates and run the Bar. I must take a moment to thank all our hard working supporters.

The committee and I are looking forward to a wonderful Festival this year, with the excitement of the Queen's Jubilee we hope to be able to attract many visitors; and raise more funds for the restoration.

Our event is part of the Dacorum Cultural Olympiad. Please go to [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) where you will be able to see a film of some of the activities from the 2011 Festival

If you can help with the setting up, people will be on site from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> of May. The contact for this is Graeme Lockhart 07801 280426.

Hope to see you at Boxmoor 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2012

## Festival 2012 Tombola Stall

**WANTED** - Donations are needed for this very popular stall. Jo Leeson is collecting and running the stall.

Contact – Jo Leeson 01234 750898

Use up your oddments!

Some of the Festival Committee are knitting, crocheting, crafting small items to sell on the WAT Tombola stand this year.

If you feel you could help with donations of items, they will be gratefully received.

Contact – Denise Laxton 07703475297

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## AGM - Early Warning

It's a bit soon, maybe, but there's nothing like being prepared. The Trust has secured the use of an alternative venue for the AGM this year.

It will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Dunstable and District Boat Club (usually known as DDBC). DDBC is not in Dunstable, it's at Pitstone to the South of Cheddington, close to the Canal bridge at Grebe Canal

Cruises. Proper address is: Cooks Wharf, Pitsone, LU7 9AD

Parking is ample and secure. Note the new day – Tuesday instead of the usual Wednesday.

Full details on how to get there will be in the next Wendover Arm News, but you can put it in your diary now.

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## Wildlife Watch

It's been a mild start to spring again and the birds are actively finding mates, making nests and generally doing all their birdie things, although as I look out of the window it is snowing! Don't put your plants out yet.

We can shortly expect leaves on the trees and spring blossoms in the hedgerows.

Have you heard the first cuckoo of spring yet? Male cuckoos defending territories can be heard calling in the hope of attracting females. A good place to hear them is at Weston Turville Reservoir adjacent to the **Wendover Arm**

## Maintenance on the Aylesbury Arm and Beyond

British Waterways' winter programme of maintenance on the neighbouring Aylesbury Arm nearly went off with a bang when they discovered seven unexploded World War II bombs near Marsworth. It is known that the Arm was used to carry munitions during the war so it is assumed that these bombs were lost rather than dropped there. They were removed from the canal and made safe in a local field before works could be resumed.

Extensive maintenance has been carried out over the length of the Arm which has been closed due to water shortages since January. At the time of writing it was closed to all except essential traffic and then by booked passage only.

Closer to the town it was necessary to dredge the bottom pound including the basin area. The usual bicycles and shopping trolleys were removed (why do people always chuck them in?) This work inevitably disturbs the bottom and causes the water to become saturated with solids thus reducing its oxygen content and making it a hazardous place for the fish. To mitigate an aerator was employed but there were still a number of dead fish in evidence although they were quickly removed by BW operatives.



*An aerator in action on the Aylesbury Arm*

**Towpath maintenance** by BW involving the trimming of trees has been carried out in several locations including our own **Wendover Arm**. It has not met with universal approval, there have been widely publicised objections to the way the pruning has been carried out in some areas.



*BW Operatives lopping and topping on the Wendover Arm*

## A Tale of Two Tails Part 2

*In which our heroes set sail for Ellsmere and head off for a pub lunch only to be involved in high drama with a wolf lookalike. Murphy the Border Collie takes up the story...*

Well the second day of our adventure dawned bright and clear and pretty soon Jon was out on deck pulling up the floor and poking about before starting the noisy thing again. Anyway it didn't take him that long until he got down to the serious business of taking us for a walk – well the strange sniffs! Nothing like at home we could hardly smell any people it was all country folk, rabbits, deer, badgers, foxes – I could have spent all day with Archie just smelling them out but Jon was in a hurry to get going as usual so we had to go back to the boat.

Mummy had a nice looking breakfast set out with loads of fresh fruit, cereal, toast and a big pot of tea. We knew that if we sat quietly all we had to do was wait and we'd get our bits, mum's good like that!

Pretty soon we set off down the canal again heading for Ellsmere after an uneventful morning's cruise we arrived there at lunch time. We headed up the branch and turned the boat in the winding hole at the end. Jon said it was good to have mooring rings to tie up to. There was a lot of building

going on and a big new Tesco was right next to the canal – great for boaters running low on dog food.

As it was lunch time we all set out in search of a dog-friendly pub to get a bite to eat. Jon likes his ale and we like to go to pubs because we get loads of fuss made of us and we usually end up with some pork scratchings to eat under the table. We found a good pub in the middle of the town and settled down at a table with drinks. Ale for Jon, wine for Mummy and a bowl of water for me and Archie. Pretty soon along came the pork scratchings – things were looking up and then a man came to talk to Mummy and Jon. He said he was a dog fan and was busy scratching behind my ears (how did he know I like that?) when he said that he had his dogs in his car and would go and get them. Well you can imagine how I felt about that! I had just about figured out that this was a place worth defending and this bloke wanted to bring in the competition! Ha, I thought we'll see about this little lot.

After a short time the man came back in with a huge skinny drink of water that he called a Northern Inuit – I didn't like the look of it so when it came over to sniff us I nipped it on the nose. The big softie just jumped back and stood next to the man. I had done my



job of showing who is boss so I went and sat next to mummy. Pretty soon the people stopped laughing and some came up and stroked the newcomer.

When everything had calmed down and the man had taken his big thin dog back to the car we all left and went back to the boat.

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## Do You Have a Special Event Coming Up?

Why not use this as a fund raising idea for the Wendover Arm restoration? John and Jenny Brice invited relatives, friends and neighbours to a hog roast in their garden in September, to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They raised £812 towards the restoration, and as most of this was gift aided, this gives the Trust

approximately £1000 towards their restoration funds.

Jenny said that “personally, she was more into outdoor restoration work, than dusting expensive ornaments”. Also if details are given on the original invite it gives your party goers an easy solution to the problem of a gift.



# Restoration News

## January Working Party

To avoid damaging the ground conditions in Stages 2/3 west of Bridge 4A that have been left ready for profiling in better weather, work concentrated on bank clearance in the Whitehouses area including removing the bulge in the bank opposite the former outlets from the old pumping station.

It had been thought that the bulge had been constructed to protect the towpath bank from the discharge of water from the pumping station outlets. This was discounted as the bulge was found to contain rubble that was obviously from building demolition at Whitehouses, something that happened over 100 years after the pumping station closed in 1836.

During the clearance at Whitehouses two discoveries were made.

Firstly a Grand Junction Canal Company boundary marker post in front of the boundary fence that runs behind the back of the Whitehouses site.

Secondly, it was known that a well existed near the former pumping station. During the same clearance operations the well was located.

## February Working Party

On Friday and Saturday work commenced on clearing a path

through the wood between Whitehouses and Bridge 4 to create both an access route to future water control functions at Whitehouses once the canal is re-watered and to act as a nature trail through the woods. The opportunity was also taken to level off the ground behind the mooring wall at Bridge 4. Tony Bardwell improved security at our diesel store where yet another attempt had been made to break in. He fitted a steel plate over the hinged lid.

On the Saturday we were joined by Essex WRG who made progress on removing new growth on the banks between Little Tring and Bridge 4.

Sunday was a different story! 4"-6" snow had fallen and Essex WRG wisely decided to head for home rather than risk deteriorating road conditions for their journey back to Essex. Ray Orth and a few hardy volunteers who had managed to get to Little Tring completed stump pulling from the path through the woods at Whitehouses.

Work was abandoned on the Monday and Tuesday and all mechanical plant put off hire. Work re-commenced on Wednesday and Thursday when a variety of jobs were tackled leaving the coast clear to start re-lining in March weather permitting.



*Grand Junction Canal Company boundary marker post found in front of the boundary fence at the back of Whitehouses*



*View down the well at Whitehouses*



*Despite all their hard work at Whitehouses the team did have time for a lunch break!*

*Go with the flow...*

# WALK AN ARMS LENGTH!

Sponsored Canal Walk



Wendover to Tring

**Sunday 2nd  
September 2012**

Register NOW!

*Please help us raise funds to enable our volunteers to continue restoring the beautiful Wendover Arm canal.  
To find out more visit our website:*

[www.wendoverarmwalk.org.uk](http://www.wendoverarmwalk.org.uk)

or call: 07547 181857



## Wendover Arm Trust

Registered charity number: 801190