



# WENDOVER ARM NEWS

*Newsletter of the Wendover Arm Trust*



*Issue 2016/2  
Summer 2016*

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## In this issue

Editorial	page 4
Registered Office change	4
Chairman's column	5
AGM first notice	6-7
Letters	8
IWA Chiltern Branch Weekend	8
Grand Draw	9
Membership Update	10
Club 100	11
Restoration Update	12-13
Restoration Open Day	14-15
Events Update	17
Ten Green Bottles	18
News from our Neighbours	18
Fund-raising	19
WAT Shopfront	20
Stuart Bell Memorial Seat	20
Gamel Bridge	21
From the Archives	22
Footpath Discovered	23
My Early Boating Years	24

## ADVERTISERS

Barton Petroleum	28
Cowroast Marine Engineering	19
Digital Systems	28
Green Park Activity Centre	7
Heygates	16
Market Auto Centre	20
Orchid Estates	2
The Anglers Retreat	28
Tring Brewery	27
Tring Signs	5
Wyvern Shipping	28
Your Café in the Park	26

**Copy deadline for the autumn  
Newsletter 15 August 2016**

## From the Editor

The good news, as Chris reports on page 5 is that we've got the 'first pass' on our HLF bid. As Chris says, we've got to allocate £0.3m to the HLF grant (assuming we get the full amount) and we still need to complete work ourselves up to Bridge 4 so fund-raising efforts cannot slacken.

Our attempt at a minor fund-raiser, but more of a bonding exercise, the BBQ on May 14 had to be cancelled owing to lack of interest; this saddened Council as we do want to engage with our members much more.

Great though that the first Open Day of the year was a huge success both in

terms of public interest in our work and in the funds that it raised, the second Open Day of the year is on September 4 and a flyer for it is included. If you haven't been before then do come, if you've been before then come again, enjoy an afternoon out and see what progress we've made, we always seem to get good weather for the event, or is that rather tempting fate?

The mystery of 'who took the photo that was on the cover of the Spring issue' was solved when Martin Wood contacted me. Belatedly I acknowledge his IP for the photo – and I've got several more of his that may grace future issues of the Newsletter.

### Registered Office

Those of you who read every word of the Newsletter or are 'small print' fanatics will note that our Registered Office's address has changed.

John Rowe, our Company Secretary who has used his address since John Brooman passed away intends to relinquish that post at the AGM this year and his address will no longer be suitable as the Trust's official address. We approached IWA for the OK to use their Head Office's address and it has agreed so, along with sixteen other organisations, Island House in Chesham has been our Registered Office since 1 May.

A Registered Office is a legal requirement but it's not the address to which all correspondence should be sent, this

remains directly to the Council member concerned whose contact details are on p3 (send an email or use the general telephone number to find out the address if you need to send things by snail-mail.)

If you do need to send a letter *via* our Registered Office ensure that is addressed to:

Wendover Arm Trust  
f.a.o. *insert name*  
Island House  
Moor Road  
Chesham  
Bucks  
HP5 1WA

Please don't expect an instant reply even if you use 1st class snail mail as it may be a little while before someone from the Trust can call and collect.

Cover picture: The Wendover Cheerleaders grace our stand at Wendover Celebrates on 1 May

## Chairman's column

I am delighted to be able to report that we have now received first-round approval of our Heritage Lottery Bid. This is a major milestone in a long process and I would like to thank our partners Canal & River Trust and all of our members and volunteers for the hard work and support which has brought us to this stage.

To summarise, we applied for £1.9m to help complete stage 2 of the restoration enabling full navigation for just over three miles to the A41 crossing at Saxonway Bridge with enhancement of the tow path throughout to the benefit of walkers, cyclists, fishermen and canoeists.

We have been granted this first stage approval for £1.6m. subject to passing stage 2. The remaining £0.3m. is 'match funding' which we have to find ourselves.

The next stage involves producing more detailed specifications for various preparatory studies and on submission and approval of these HLF will release development funding of up to £76,500 to CRT and ourselves to cover the costs of producing work plans, engaging consultants where needed and obtaining quotations prior to placing contracts.



Only when all of this is done and accepted will HLF give 'permission to start' and work can then commence . . . 'Phew!'

As mentioned above we now urgently need to raise more money ourselves to cover the £0.3m. match funding and need an experienced fund-raiser to help in this area – if you can help in any way, or know anyone who might, do please do get in touch. Little acorns soon become big oaks – any and all offers of help will be hugely appreciated and help us to reach our goal.

You can reach me by email or leave a message on the Trust's mobile – details below.

Thank you all.

Chris

[chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:chairman@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

☎ 07547 181857

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## FIRST NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Wendover Arm Trust will be held in the Coach House at Green Park, Aston Clinton On Wednesday 19th October 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

By Order of the Council      1st June 2016

Full details, agenda and supporting documents will be in the autumn issue of the Newsletter

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The formal notice of the calling of the 2016 AGM is given above.

After the success of the catering arrangements at the past two years' AGM we intend once more to have a sit-down meal after the AGM, followed by a talk from an invited speaker.

#### EVENING'S TIMETABLE

7.00pm	Welcome and sherry reception
7.30pm	AGM
8.30pm	Dinner
9.30pm	Club 100 draw and raffle
9.45pm	After-dinner speaker – Vicky Martin, South East Regional Manager, C&RT
10.30pm	Finish

#### DINNER

£10.00 per head, menu to be advised

Green Park is not licensed so you are welcome to BYO drinks (and glasses.) Soft Drinks, tea or coffee will be provided.

As we go to press for this Newsletter we do not have details of the menu, this will be part of the detailed AGM information in the autumn Newsletter

The Newsletter will have a loose-leaf booking form that will need to be returned to the Trust at latest a week before the AGM. Dinner, your menu choice must be booked in advance. We regret there are no meal tickets available on the night as Green Park needs to know the quantities in advance.

All paid-up or Honorary Members of the Trust can, and indeed are welcome to attend the AGM regardless of whether they join the others for dinner.

### OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

The Trust appreciates that some of our members do not live close to the Arm, and may want overnight accommodation in order to be able to be at the AGM.

**GREEN PARK** itself has basic accommodation in rooms bunk beds and shared bathroom facilities at a cost of £15 per person for room only.

To book a room, please call Nicole directly on 03303030101 stating your with WAT.

**THE BELL** in Aston Clinton has rooms. For details visit

<http://www.thebellastonclinton.co.uk/accommodation/> or call 01296 632777.

**TRING PREMIER INN** on Tring Hill just off the A41 also has rooms. For details visit

<http://www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/TRICRO/tring> or call 0871 527 9104

Both the Bell and the Premier inn are less than a mile from Green Park.

Why not take the opportunity of an overnight stay to explore the Arm and, in particular go and see the progress we are making on the restoration.



**Green Park Activity Centre**  
Aston Clinton, Bucks

We offer a fun, challenging and safe environment for families and children to enjoy a wide range of exciting indoor and outdoor activities. From Archery and Mountain Biking to the heady heights of Climbing and Zip Wire.

Booking now for Family Days, School Holiday Activity Days and Birthday Parties all with a sense of adventure!

[www.alfvillages.org.uk](http://www.alfvillages.org.uk)  
0330 303 0101

The advertisement features a background image of a child wearing a helmet and looking upwards. The text is overlaid on a dark grey background.

## Letters to the Editor

*From 'Member no.2'*

It was good to see one of my old photos on the cover of the Spring 2016 magazine.

I remember it well and it was taken in the late 1970s when I was chairman of the now defunct Grand Union Canal Society. We used to put on an annual Wendover Arm Event based in the field opposite Heygates Mill.

These events were very basic and DIY but did get some publicity for the cause. We had some games, bbqs and public trips courtesy of Rod Saunders of Grebe.

Later we formed the Wendover Arm Group comprising GUCS, IWA, and local representatives of which I was

also chairman.

We built on the success of our publicity and after a while the Wendover Arm Trust was formed. Sir Kenneth Cork was President and member no. 1. I became the first chairman and was honoured to receive membership no.2 which I proudly renew each year.

Alas pressures of family and work meant that I had to move away from active committee service, but I have watched the progress of the Trust closely and I am delighted with what has been achieved over the years.

Not bad for a bunch of nutters in the 70s with vision!

Martin Wood.

## Chiltern Branch IWA Autumn Weekend Away

This year Chiltern Branch is taking its traditional Weekend Away a week later than usual and will be visiting the Midlands from 30 September to 2 October

The Weekend will include a two-hour trip into the Dudley No 1 tunnel, a visit to the Black Country Museum, a full day on the Ashby Canal to view restoration progress and a full day on the Severn Valley Railway; railway buffs should note that Tornado and Flying Scotsman are due to work the SVR during the previous week and may (with luck) still be shedded there awaiting their return to base.

The cost for the weekend is £220 per person half-board sharing a double room and includes coach travel, all trips but excluding lunch on Friday and Sunday.

IWA Chiltern welcomes WAT members to swell the numbers and join in the fun. Interested? Then contact Colin Bird 01932 248178.

### Members Small ads

#### **25 YEARS OF WATERWAYS WORLD**

#### **Wonderful historical record**

From 1979 to 2014, all complete except one issue from 1985/1996/1997/2000/2005/2011; two from 1987/2004/2007 and no 2008. All in good condition. Donation to WAT only required. Could deliver to Wendover.

Nigel Williams, 01844 353927.

# GRAND DRAW 2016

The Trust is very grateful to Morgans for sponsoring this year's ticket printing. Morgans is the company that supports WAT by provision of the mechanical plant used in the restoration work.

A couple of books of tickets are included with this issue and, please, once again let us say that we do appreciate that some people, for one reason or another, just do not buy lottery tickets but, it is easier to stuff a couple of books into each Newsletter rather than operate an exception system. If you are one of these people please don't send the tickets back. But, if you'd like to send us a donation instead in lieu of buying tickets – particularly if it's GiftAided then we'd be overjoyed.

Buy the tickets and persuade your family, neighbours, friends, colleagues to buy some too. Should you need more (and we hope you do) then just get in touch with the promoter – address below.

If you buy tickets please keep the counterfoils (the purchaser's receipt) and send the ticket **stubs** back with cheques to be made payable to *Wendover Arm Trust* and please put your address on the back of the cheque, any problems we can then resolve with you. Please don't send cash through the post. There is no need to return unsold tickets

These are the first four prizes



- 1st Prize: Week on a Canal Boat**  
sponsored by Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd
- 2nd Prize: A Day Boat Hire**  
sponsored by Lee Valley Boat Centre
- 3rd Prize: Virgin Experience Day - The Shard**
- 4th Prize: £100 Cash**

The full prize list will be posted on the website soon.  
See [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

The DRAW will take place on Restoration Open Day, **Sunday 4 September, 2016**  
at Drayton Beauchamp church

Draw promoter:  
Michael Wright, 54, Meadowcroft, St. Albans. Herts. AL1 1UF ☎ 01727 860137

**Tickets sponsored by MORGANS PLANT HIRE - 01844 237874 - HELPING RESTORATION**

# Membership Update

## New Members

The 'Events' season is now well underway and we are beginning to recruit more members so the Trust wishes to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the Spring Newsletter:

**Ms Gloria Langridge**

from Slapton

**Ms Lorainne Tweedy**

from Wendover

**Mr Ian & Mrs Helen Mc Laughlin**

from Croxley Green

**Mr Roger & Mrs Maureen Evans**

from Prestwood

**Ms Alison Delany**

from Wendover

**Mr Tom Beech**

from Aylesbury

**Mr Mick Foster**

from Wingrave

**Taverners Boat Club**

corporate membership

We welcome them all and wish them many happy years of membership of the Trust.

## Rejoiners

We welcome back into membership:

**Denis Cater**

one of our Restoration volunteers

**John & Gillian Tabor**

**Aston Clinton Parish Council**

as a corporate member

## Upgrades

**Graham Gurney** (joined 1989)

has become a Life Member

## Goodbye

**David Gambling**

of Hemel Hempstead after five years

We now have a total of 691 members of whom 673 are personal members

## Obituary

**Mrs Ann Rowe**, a member of long-standing, wife of John, our Secretary, passed away recently. Our condolences go to John and his family on their sad loss.

## GiftAid

Katherine still has a number of members who have not yet submitted a new GiftAid form. It's possible that some are members who don't pay enough tax to qualify but we suspect that some of them do and we'd like to hear from you. If you need a new form, simply download it from our website or contact Katherine for a paper copy. Forms can be returned to Katherine in the post or by email.

GiftAid doesn't become any easier! One of the measures of the Budget this year was the introduction of tax-free personal savings interest and dividend allowances from 6 April 2016. These changes may have an effect on the income of Charities where the donor is someone of low income who was a taxpayer but now finds otherwise. We'll give you more

definitive guidance in the autumn Newsletter.

## Golden Giving

The Trust has been working with Tring based Golden Giving for a few years now, but it is a good opportunity to inform members of our relationship with Golden Giving and how they help us to reach more supporters through the internet. This is how Golden Giving describe themselves:

*Golden Giving is a secure, integrated and seamless online platform for charities to process individual and regular donations, promote events, sell tickets, raffle tickets and memberships, discover and connect with supporters and more, for free, forever.*

There are the mainstream online providers such as Virgin Money Giving, Just Giving and Local Giving. All charge charities fees to use their services, which Council felt were not justified given our small online presence and low turnover.

The only fees that are taken from transaction monies are the bank processing fees that are levied for processing the card transaction. For debit cards it is 18p per transaction and credit cards is 1.45% of the total value spent.

Wendover Arm Trust uses the membership database function and GiftAid log. This means that your personal details as entered on your membership form are entered into the secure database. Golden Giving submits our Gift Aid claim to HMRC on our behalf and HMRC pays the monies owed directly to WAT. There are no fees for this service.

## Club 100

The 75th Club 100 lottery draw was made on Wednesday at our the meeting of Council. There were 191 subscribers in the draw, a few less than the record number for the autumn draw

The winners were:

<b>1st</b>	<b>Mrs Gill Wharton</b>	<b>£232.80</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Mr James Griffin</b>	<b>£97.00</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Mrs Mary Miller</b>	<b>£38.80</b>

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you for being a part of our fund-raising lottery.

If YOU would like to be in with a chance of winning the next jackpot in July, join today. Each lucky number is £15 per year which covers four quarterly draws throughout the year. The Club 100 is exclusive to Wendover Arm Trust members.

Can YOU help us to have 200 subscribers for our 76th draw in July?

On receiving his prize James Griffin wrote:

*Hi Katherine,*

*One signs up to these things but never expect to actually win anything. Thank you very much for the cheque. Hope the bid to complete stage two is successful.*

*Best wishes  
James*

# RESTORATION NEWS

from Roger Leishman's restoration group's newsletters and other sources

## Southern Canals Group Spring Conference

On Sunday 24 April WAT hosted this conference at the Café in the Park at Aston Clinton. It was attended by around thirty visitors from Canal Trusts and Societies over the South of England, as well as by Les Etheridge, the IWA National Chairman. Roger Leishman welcomed the visitors over coffee and biscuits and then the conference moved to Little Tring to view Phase I of our restoration. Ray Orth, assisted by Clive Johnson, then took the main party on a tour of Phase II including a visit to Whitehouses and the re-watered section up to Bridge 4A. One or two older visitors who preferred not to have a long walk were taken by car to Drayton Beauchamp Bridge where they were able to walk to the County Boundary and back to view the completed works. The party then returned to the Café for lunch when we were joined by Richard Parry, the CRT Chief Executive. After lunch Ray Orth gave a short presentation on the history of the Wendover Arm and he and Roger then fielded questions. The conference then continued with further talks and discussions and tea and biscuits before departing.

## March and April 2016

At the March working party the bench seat in memory of Stuart Bell (*picture on p 20*) was installed but the weather precluded any pipe capping so work concentrated on bulk excavation.

By the April working party the weather was looking up and we were able to complete the pipe capping up to about 8 metres from the Whitehouses manhole as well as continue with bulk excavation.

## May and June 2016

Pipe capping and bulk excavation started beyond Whitehouses and seven loads of concrete were poured during the May working week.

A gap has been left in front of the wharf wall at Whitehouses (see photo on facing page) Because of the shallow brickwork in front of it, which is also the foundation under it, a special design for the lining will be needed. CRT has accepted our plan for the bed and offside bank but has suggested a false weir wall to prevent craft grounding in the shallow area in front of the wharf wall. Additionally CRT proposes wire mesh in the apertures to stop debris from entering the settlement tank and we await CRT's proposals.

CRT has given us the written agreement for use of the new form of Bentomat with a special back lining to give extra protection from chalky ground. We ordered a full load of 18 rolls and these were delivered during June working party.

KESCRG were with us for the weekend of the May working party and made good progress with the final clearance of the site, in particular filling up the underground chambers recently discovered at the rear of the site.

*(Continued on page 17)*

Whitehouses wharf wall, with the pipeline manhole cover in the foreground with the new sluice behind it. To the left in front of the arches is the brickwork shelf that needs protecting



photo: Ed

June 2016 restoration pictures

Preparing the formwork for the next pour



photo: Ed

A view back to Whitehouses from Bridge 4 – and even in summertime it's still a bit muddy!



photo: Ed



Smile, you're on camera!



I think it needs adjusting... just a smidgin

photo: Ed



Wot? ... about this much?

photo: Ed

# RESTORATION OPEN DAY 5 JUNE



Just time for a nice cup of tea before going on the walk

After all the grotty weather we'd been having the during the preceding week what a change for the Sunday (we suspect that the Rector had had words with 'The Boss'), glorious, warm sunny weather that brought out the crowds. Over 100 took the guided tours to the 'workface' and many more did it on their own. The refreshment stall sold out of cakes (again) and, looking at the spread in the picture below, it's no wonder, don't they look yummy? Margaret reports that we made £600 on the teas and cakes and £100 on sales of preserves and thanks everyone who donated the food sold



Who could resist buying a Grand Draw ticket from a lady with such an infectious smile? £126 sold during the afternoon

Katherine, resplendent in her hi-viz jacket, straw hat and bovver boots waits on Bridge 4a for the next party of visitors

Boyd Williams had produced a video about the restoration and it was shown in the church. A great success and in case you missed it, we'll show it again at the September Open Day



Three new members signed-up, £300 in personal donations, £277 contributions on the gate, £146 in sales of goods and £11 on the nail game all helped to make it the best Restoration Open Day ever

Chairman Chris does his thing with the lollipop and welcomes our visitors to the event



Council had been concerned before the day about the distance from Drayton Beauchamp church to the restoration site and wondered whether many would want to walk that far. Not only did most do the walk but quite a number went on to view the restored Whitehouses site and some even went on to Little Tring and then back across the field to the bridges. We needn't have been concerned at all!

The restored section being put to good use with paddlers in an inflatable kayak



Those of us who've been involved with the Trust for some time often think that the restoration proceeds painfully slowly but that doesn't seem to be the view of visitors who are somewhat awestruck by the progress we've made. Indeed, Mo Evans, one of our newest members remarked on seeing the works that she'd like to pick up her shovel and dig. Have a word with Ray, Mo, he'll be glad to have you join our increasing band of 'lady navigators'

David was consigned to the sump with his chair, picnic and a book, thinking he'd have plenty of time to read. Not a bit of it! He was kept busy all afternoon chatting with the visiting hordes. One group had fifty people in it! Here's John setting off with that group



More visitors enjoy a nice cuppa



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St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp



## RESTORATION OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 4 September 2016 12.30 to 4pm

- Guided tours of the canal restoration site
  - See our volunteers at work
- See the re-watered sections with canoes in operation
- Sideshows                      Teas and cakes for sale
- Bring a picnic and enjoy the afternoon
  - GRAND DRAW winners chosen

**Free admission, donations welcome**

Car parking at St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp, HP22 5LS

*(Restoration Update, continued from page 12)*

Pipe capping and bulk excavation continued during the June and we are now within 100m of Bridge 4.

## Phase II vegetation maintenance

An appeal for help with vegetation maintenance has resulted so far in only three firm volunteers. We do not want to use our restoration volunteers on this work as it would impede progress; if anyone can help or knows someone who could help please get in touch with Roger Leishman.

## Wall protection for the Winding Hole at Little Tring

CRT is to install oak timber protection along the wall around the Phase 1 winding hole. We hope this will prevent further damage to the wall by boats that are less than careful when turning. As some of you who have seen from the damage already caused this is long overdue. By the time you read this Newsletter the work should have been completed.

## Work Party Dates

Subject to the vagaries of the British weather the next three months' working parties are:

**Friday 1—Thursday 7 July**

**Friday 5—Thursday 11 August**

**Friday 2—Thursday 8 September**

The work is pipe-capping and rough profiling the banks behind the capping works. The September Work Party includes Restoration Open Day.

Contact Ray Orth:

✉ [restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:restoration2@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) if you want to volunteer.

# HELP WANTED

## EVENTS 2016

If you can help in any way at any of the events below, even just for an hour or two your help would be much appreciated. Our ability to be at these events depends on volunteers, you do not need to be an expert on the canal and its restoration, just enthusiastic.

The dates and events are:

**23 July Linslade Canal Festival**

**11 Sept Halton Village Fête**

**11 Sept Two Arms and Two Legs Challenge**

plus our second 2016 **Restoration Open Day** at Drayton Beauchamp on **4 September**

In addition CRT is organising a Two Arms and Two Legs Challenge, a half-marathon, plus a 10k run, plus a family fun run from Aylesbury to Marsworth thence to Wendover for the half-marathoners. We've been asked if we can man water stations at Marsworth and at Drayton Beauchamp and we'd like to oblige but it's the same day as the Halton Fête and without a goodly supply of helpers we are not going to manage both events. For more detail see:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/events/2016-09>.

Can you (will you?) help. Contact Jenny on [events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](mailto:events@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk) or leave a message on 07547 181857



Well, almost. There's twenty-two and a few are green or brown but what are those differences between friends?

Ken Graves had obviously 'liberated' them from the tip during the construction of phase I and his widow, Jill, has given them to the Trust for any donations to funds. The tallest bottle in the centre of the picture is a codd bottle—the sort that had a marble closure. This bottle still has the marble in the neck, unusual as little boys used to smash the bottles to get at the marbles, and is quite a collectible item. The bottle third from the left still has its cork stopper in place and the Marmite jar on the left has had some sort of torrid experience and would make a statement piece.

Anyone who wants to make a donation for them please email the Editor or phone the Trust's general number. The highest 'bid' by 1 August will be the winner. Please note that although we are prepared to post the bottles at your expense, the package will weigh around 4kg, thus not cheap.

*Ed*

## News from our Neighbours

### **Buckingham Canal Society**

The Cosgrove Canal Festival and Craft Fair this year is on the weekend of 16-17 July at Cosgrove Lock, for further information see:

[events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk](mailto:events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk)

The major project for the next few months will be to restore Bridge Number 1 on the Old Stratford Cut near Cosgrove. CRT have given the society the go ahead to work on the bridge, the first task will be to build a new crossing for the farmer so that the existing "bridge" can be closed

### **Bedford and Milton Keynes Trust**

The Trust launched a new strategy at its Annual Partnership Conference and AGM on 26 May which seeks to emphasise the economic, environmental and social benefits of the Waterway Park. as a key part of infrastructure required to facilitate growth in the Oxford / Milton Keynes / Cambridge corridor. The potential benefits are summarised in a new brochure which the Trust intends to make widely available to promote the project.

## PUBLICITY AND FUND-RAISING

### Easyfundraising

We have now reached £855 with 47 supporters.

The picture on the right tells you how to do it. It's easy-peasy and there are thousands of suppliers who will make modest donations to charitable causes.

We need to increase the number of supporters. Why not purchase on-line through Easyfundraising and painlessly add to WAT's coffers?



### Fund-raising returns

**Wendover Celebrates** on 1 May raised £130 including sales of Grand Draw tickets

**Aldbury Fête** on 2 May raised £96 plus £140 sales of Grand Draw tickets

**Rickmansworth Canal Festival** (we thank IWA Chiltern for accommodating WAT on their stand) raised £218, including sales of Draw tickets.

With the latest donation of £141 in April **Rose Bennett's bric-a-brac stall** at Dunstable and District Boat club has now raised a total of £2608 for WAT.

**Restoration Open Day** on 5 June raised £616 in donations, £146 in sales and £704 in refreshments, Grand Draw ticket sales were additional to this. Including the Grand Draw ticket sales the day raised over £1600.

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Bob Wheal ☎01525 381614  
✉sales@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk



## THE STUART BELL MEMORIAL SEAT

Bill Bell (standing) with some of his family on the newly installed Stuart Bell Seat near Bridge 4 on June 3 2016

It emerged during the visit that Stuart Bell was not only a great canal enthusiast but also a local dentist – one of our volunteers remembers going to him and still has fillings to prove it!

The memorial plaque is yet to be added



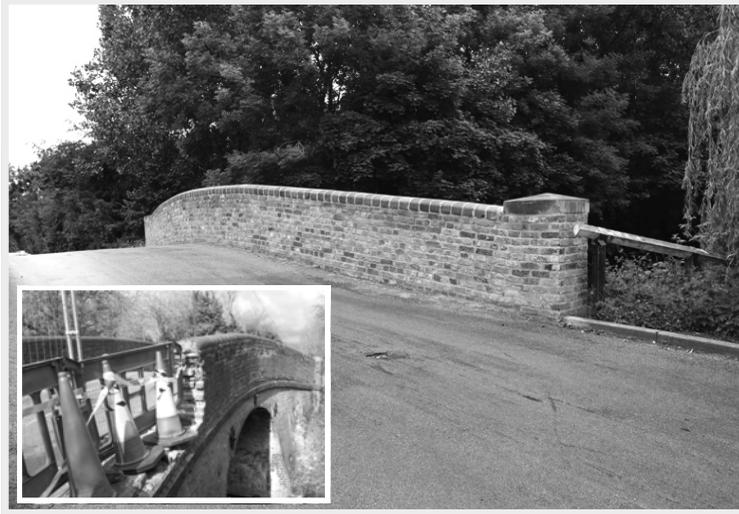
## Gamel Bridge

A vehicle crashed into the Bulboun-side parapet of Gamel Bridge (at New Mill) on 1 April and pushed a great chunk of it into the canal below. The road over the bridge was closed for about a month to allow CRT's contractors to rebuild the parapet completely. As you can see, it now looks very smart. In all cases like

this CRT attempts to recover the costs from the vehicle owner's insurance rather than stand the cost themselves.

The inset picture is of the damage and you can see it better through the link:

<http://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/news/please-slow-down-to-protect-our-bridges-1-7328435>



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## From the Archives

### FUNDING THE FUTURE

*As the Trust passes the first hurdle in its attempts to get Lottery funding to complete Stage II we look back at the previous attempt and our proposal to the Millennium Commission.*

*Snippets from **Mike Chesher's** first report his attempts to put together a package to finance restoration (Wendover Arm News No 19, Spring 1995):*

'As I wield my mattock at a small root in the canal bed just west of Whitehouses last November, it occurs to me that at the rate I am going it will take 10,000,000 years to restore the Arm. An exaggeration maybe but it will take at least a millennium.

This thought comes leaping back into my mind a month later when, in the course of the day job, I bump into one of the Millennium Commissioners on the very day the fund is launched.

"You want money?" asks the Commissioner

"Yes please", I gulp

"Well come round and get a proposal form" is the reply.

### The Millennium Fund

The brochure I return clutching that lunch time makes interesting reading. To be eligible for funding, a project needs to meet two criteria. It must have public support, and make a lasting contribution to the community it is designed to serve. Only in exceptional circumstances will projects receive more than 50% of the capital cost. I convince myself we are in with a chance but there remains the small

problem of where the other half of the money might come from.

### Finding the money

My first thought is the European Union, so I ring the Commission. Yes, a canal restoration might qualify but when I explain where Wendover is I am politely told that structural and regional funding does not apply to South-East England. Nevertheless, a blue book with yellow stars arrives by the next post but unless we can convince the Commission that Wendover is a fishing port, it looks like a Euro 'non'.

Give up two more lunch hours visiting government offices around Westminster – become an instant expert on everything from City Challenge to Village Hall Legislation Grants. Discover there's over half a page on canals in the Derelict Land Grant booklet so decide to give it a whirl.

### Back to the Millennium

Get out Millennium proposal form. The first page is easy with questions like name and location of project but I take off my WAT baseball cap to whoever devised page 2.

"Estimated total capital cost?" . . . Well, er . . . Vaguely remember hearing about the Atkins report and some murmur of £1.4 million to reach the A41. Add a bit for inflation and double it. Decide £3.9 million looks a lot less than £4 million and move to question 2.

"Amount sought from Millennium Commission?" A trick question this. It weeds out not only those who haven't read the bit about them only funding 50% but also those who cannot divide

by two. Write in £1.95 million and move to “Sources of funding balance”. Pencil in the money already applied for from the Environmental Action Fund, money from our own fund-raising, money from BW and the local authorities then put the rest down as Derelict Land Grant. The next question about “Revenue funding” is too difficult, so decide to approach “The Committee”.

### The Committee

Set out for Dunstable and District Boat Club

## Footpath Discovered

**A campaign to reinstate an ancient footpath near Tring uncovered another ‘bonus’ route lain forgotten for more than 200 years.**

John Savage, Tring Local History Society’s membership secretary, was the driving force behind the bid to officially reinstate Tring town footpath 87, which runs along the edge of a field next to the Icknield Way, before ending up on the Wendover Arm canal. The route had been used continuously for many years by walkers, ramblers and dog-walkers but never officially recorded as a footpath, so when the landowner erected a barbed-wire fence in 2012, keen walker Mr Savage set about making it official – but what he wasn’t prepared for was uncovering an unknown path running from New Mill to Tring, which dated back to 1799 – now Tring town footpath 88.

Mr Savage, said, ‘If people have walked a given route for 20 years or more, you can claim it as a public footpath.

We put together a claim, with the help of Tring Town Council, and we had fifteen

on a dank dark evening. Turn into entrance and find myself in a very muddy field Eventually manage to turn the car and, covered in mud, arrive at club entrance a bit further up the road. Am now half an hour late but the committee seem friendly enough. In fact, I seem to have met them somewhere before, maybe it’s *deja vu*. They don’t say much but seem impressed and promptly invite me to join them. I protest that I’m a trouble-maker but in vain. That’ll teach me to make better use of my lunch breaks.’

*To be continued in the Autumn Newsletter*

people come forward who had been using the path for twenty years or more, and thirty who had been using it for less.’

As part of the investigation into the ancient route, Herts County Council discovered the unknown path which cut right across footpath 87. It had been created under the Tring Inclosures Act 1797.

Mr Savage said: ‘The unknown path has never appeared on any maps since 1804 and no one in living memory knew about it. It’s a bonus! What we think happened is that when the Wendover Arm was finished in 1797, people began walking along the canal and footpath 88 fell into disuse. You would not think something so historic would have a direct implication and relevance today, but people are using footpath 88 already.’

Nick Hollinghurst, county councillor for Tring, said: ‘This is an excellent example of community action and the success is in great measure down to the hard work, skills and determination of John Savage.’

## My early boating years, part 1 – the Great Ouse

by Nigel Williams, Publicity Director

My interest in boating seems to have resulted from my parents, although my Uncle was a Commander in the Royal Navy on minesweeper duties.

In the late 1950's father had discovered, whilst travelling on business, a rather dilapidated boatyard on the River Ouse at Tempsford in Bedfordshire, named Kelpie Marine. Stan Kelpie was a former Policeman with the Bedfordshire Police Force and, upon retirement, had started a boatyard between the two bridges forming the northern and southern carriageways of the A1. One story about Stan Kelpie, following retirement, which I heard from various sources, was somewhat amusing. Apparently each summer a local carnival was held at Bedford on the River Ouse with a floating orchestra supported on a framework of timber and oil drums. The night before the event Stan and a couple of reprobates drilled holes in the oil drums just above the waterline and filled them with hard soap. The following day the structure was towed out midstream and with the orchestra in full swing the platform began sinking and the members had to swim for their lives!

Father used to hire a dinghy with outboard for the day which, if my memory serves me correctly, would seat about six. Another family would join us and

we would head north towards Eaton Socon lock and stop for a picnic at a suitable spot.

Subsequently, having passed my driving test and acquired a new Mini, which cost £497 in 1963 (having washed cars and worked at Sainsbury's during the holidays to save up the purchase price



*Kelpie Marine*

together with a little help from my parents) my horizons were widened and I re-visited Stan Kelpie to enquire whether he had any larger boats for weekend hire. He had two clinker-built craft with inboard petrol engines, one named *Apache* with a central wheelhouse and the other *Colette*. These craft were pretty basic, with no sink or running water, and 'Baby Blake' toilets which we re-named 'Baby Shake' which seemed to accurately summarise the operation. Water was carried in numerous jerry-cans. Lighting was by



*Collette*

the cruise was fully booked within days – word having spread throughout friends. ‘A Boozy cruise on the Ouse’ seemed to be the idea for a number of participants! We departed from Harpenden at 9am and by the time all food, drink, sleeping gear and other equipment had been loaded on the boat it was around 10.30am; I still have a list of participants. For the first night we found a small backwater near St Ives where we could moor up and make a camp fire and serve the evening

Calor Gas. There was a simple two burner gas cooker. I negotiated a hire rate of £4 per day, plus petrol, and made enquires about capacity. Both craft were nominally four berths but by sleeping two on the floor, one in the front cabin and another in the rear, six persons could be accommodated on *Apache*. Stan didn't seem to mind how many people occupied either craft so numbers were further increased by using one or more tents.



*Apache*

The first outing in 1965 was only a day trip with *Apache* and two dinghies with twenty-five passengers and my diary recalls we returned to the Boatyard at 10.45pm.

The second outing was a weekend trip;

meal consisting largely of Vesta Paella packets washed down with prolific quantities of beer. We then continued the short distance into St Ives and visited the market. The cost per head was £1.17. 6d (£1.87) to include hire of boat, fuel, food and a reasonable quantity of alcohol!

... to be continued



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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 to educate the public in the history, use and associated wildlife, of canals and inland waterways generally and the Wendover Arm in particular.

**General telephone number:** 07547 181857 **Website:** [www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](http://www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk)

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### **Advertising Enquiries:**

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Or speak to the Newsletter Editor on 01494 863176

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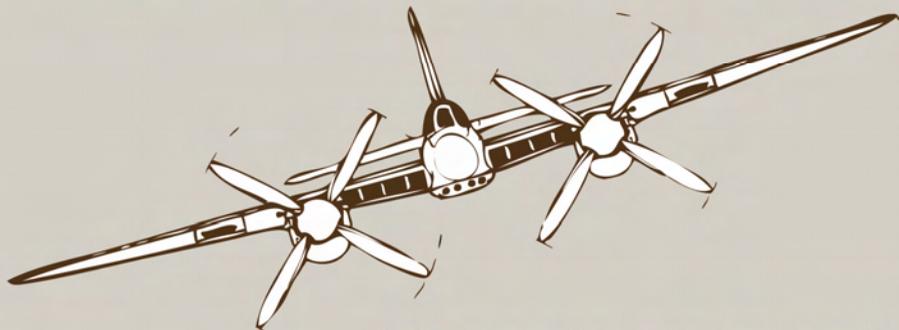
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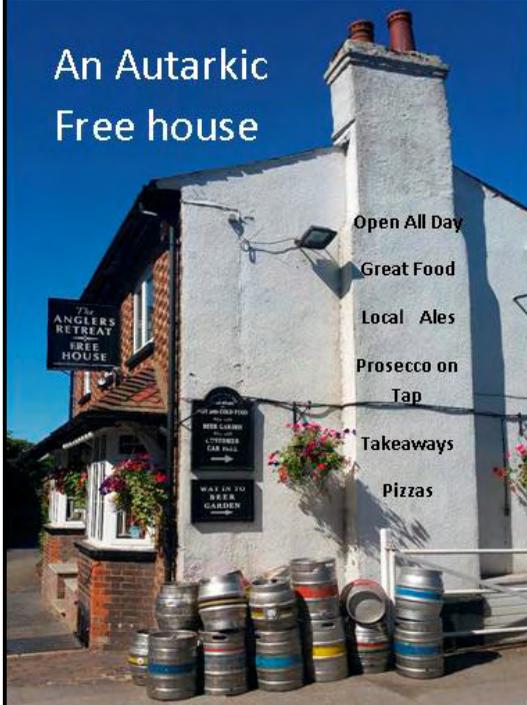


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