

## Acheman Challenge

### Chiltern Branch Support Head Office Staff on Acheman Challenge to Raise Money for WRG Excavator

On Saturday 5th April, four members of staff from IWA Head Office completed a 50 mile quadrathlon along the Grand Union Canal to raise money for a new excavator for IWA's Wa-



The team!

terway Recovery Group (WRG). Through sponsorships the team has, to date, successfully raised £12,969 for this cause.

Toby Gomm, Stephanie Pay, Jenny Black and Gemma Bolton completed the challenge in ten hours and forty-five minutes. The challenge consisted of:

22 miles cycling from Harefield to Marsworth.

Locking a boat through seven locks over a mile at Marsworth.

17.5 miles cycling from Marsworth to Tinkers Bridge, Milton Keynes.

6 miles running from Tinkers Bridge to Great Linford, Milton Keynes.

3.5 miles canoeing from Great Linford to Wolverton, Milton Keynes.

The route ran through a number of IWA branch areas including that of IWA Milton Keynes Branch, who provided a warm welcome and celebration cake at the end of the challenge, and IWA Chiltern Branch's patch.

A group of IWA Chiltern Branch volunteers met the Acheman Challenge team at Bulbourne, where participants and the support team welcomed a break and supplies of cake, scones, tea, coffee and juice provided by volunteers from Judy and Chris Clegg's narrow-boat *Balador*.

(Cont'd on page 5)

Chiltern Branch  
Newsletter  
May 2014

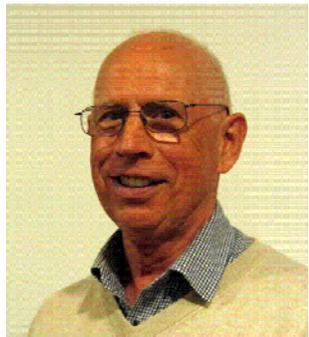


The Inland  
Waterways  
Association

# *Chairman's Ramblings*

---

As we prepare this issue of Grapevine the news has come in that Jeff Whyatt, CRT South East Region's Operations Manager, has been appointed as Managing Director of BWML and will now be responsible for delivering a significant revenue stream to CRT; congratulations Jeff, a well-deserved promotion. We must now hope that Jeff's replacement is able to build on the good work of the last few years in our region.



Over the next few months we will get to know the real level of damage caused by the floods to river banks, towpaths, embankments, bridges and other structures around our waterways. CRT will have their problems but funding is more secure than it has been for decades. However, EA managed navigations have been advised that funding will be severely reduced; 20%+ for the River Thames. We will need to be vigilant; after the floods earlier this year, the EA will be under very great pressure to further reduce the risk and impact of future flood conditions. We may well see EA diverting funds from the maintenance of navigation structures to projects where reduction of flood risk is the only objective.

On a brighter note, there should be plenty of water to keep navigation levels high, so we can look forward to good cruising conditions this season. Beryl and I will be travelling north on Peddler from Brinklow starting next month, between May and July we will be on the North Oxford, Trent and Mersey, Staffs and Worcester, Shroppie, River Severn, Droitwich, Worcester and Birmingham, the North and South Stratford and finally the Stratford Avon; so please keep an eye open for us and say hello!

The lead article in this edition is the Acheman Challenge and on page 6 you can read about the working party to paint GU lock 43; there is a common element?

4 youngsters from IWA HO were at the heart of both events; they should be congratulated for their effort, attitude and commitment! They have something in common with IWA Members; the same volunteers were involved in both activities; we need some time from more members! In this issue you will see an appeal for volunteers to help at various events. Chiltern branch is involved in a wide range of activities assuring that, regardless of fitness all skills can be used!

**Your time is our most valuable asset!**

*Dave Chapman*

# News

## Chiltern Branch

**Chiltern Branch is saddened to learn of the death of Mel Errington who was Acting Branch Chairman during 2009 and 2010.**

Committee/Volunteers: There are vacancies for the following roles; Newsletter Editor Web Editor, Publicity Officer Contact Dave Chapman; see back page.

New Members: we welcome

Mrs D Richards, Ms A Woodhams  
Mr S Gardner, Mr D Bishop  
Mr & Mrs R Danton-Rees, Mr K Hall  
Ms N Whicker, Mrs M Curtis  
Mr P Oakman & Miss L Skinner

London Region will contribute £3250 to the restoration of Carpenters Road Lock; Chiltern gave £250.

CRT should have dredged the Slough arm by the beginning of June

Recent Meetings: April committee Jeff Whyatt, CRT, joined us after our AGM in March and gave an update on CRT SE . Jeremy Batch gave another great talk in April; this time on the River Lee

## Wendover Arm Trust

We were very sad to hear that Paul Leech died last month.

## Coming soon to a Venue near You

May 16th - 19th , Ricky Festival  
August 16th - 17<sup>th</sup> , Lock Wind  
July—Wed 24th & Mon 28th Himalayan Balsam Pulls at Marsworth and Ricky  
How about joining us next time and help make a real difference. To find out more, just type IWA Chiltern Branch into your search engine or ring John Brice; see the

back page. Please look at the changes made to the Branch's Website .

## **CARP Needs You**

Some years ago the Canal and Riverside Partnership in Berkhamsted set 7 Information Plinths along the canal. Made of metal, the information is raised from the background to allow for Brass Rubbing. They are very smart. (See photo) A couple of times a year, they need a clean with some water, a bit of fairy and a soft brush. CARP has asked if there is a Branch Member living in the Berkhamsted area, who could take on this task. The Town Warden used to do it. One of the Information Boards is now looked after by the Rising Sun Group. Need to know more, contact Judy Clegg; see the back page .



**Carp information panel**

A new charity, Waterways Experiences has taken over operation of the community boats previously run by Reachout Plus, which went into liquidation in 2013. There will be an article about WE in the next issue of Grapevine, but they will be at the Rickmansworth Festival

***PLEASE Sign up for IWA Chiltern e-News***

The hardcopy version is normally available at our evening meetings.

# From the Region Chairman

---



With the boating season fast approaching we are looking forward to going boating and have already planned our summer trips. Of course these will depend on the weather, let's hope it is better than last year.

During the three years since I became your regional chairman we have seen great changes to the waterways scene. Then we were looking forward to the creation of C&RT from BW and IWA was working hard behind the scenes to try and get a better funding deal; the final deal is far better than we could have expected. We were already worrying about the number of boats without home moorings that were overstaying in the London area; a problem that, despite lots of hard work by the region committee, continues

to worsen. There are some signs of movement, for example the problems at Noel Road, Islington, have been less this winter and there have even been reports of an empty mooring!!! However, we are a long way from getting a resolution across the region. One symptom of how others are getting frustrated by the waterways movements inability to resolve this problem is boaters on a section of towpath at Leyton Marsh are being asked, by the riparian owners, to move on or take up a long-term mooring contract on the towpath with the local Marina.

When the government set up C&RT they did not include the EA waterways and the recent cuts to the funding of these navigations is of growing concern. Not only has it affected the standards of maintenance but licence fees are going up far faster than on the C&RT waterways. Whilst our Region is not directly affected we need to start thinking about how we can help the national campaign to demonstrate to the public the threat to all EA navigations, especially to the Anglian Waterways, by the existing arrangement. If you own a boat that you keep on an EA waterway perhaps, through your local club or other organisation, you could consider arranging a boat gathering to highlight what could be lost if things don't improve.

Some things don't change we still need to widen the membership of the association so that others recognise us as being a broad "church" representing not only the boating and heritage interests. We still need to broaden the age profile of the association as well. However we are getting out more on the C&RT canals and our volunteers are seen to be helping to look after the network. This should help us show we are a doing organisation that deserves support. If you haven't been out yet why not contact John Brice to find out what you can do to help.

Finally, if you could spend a few hours a week working for IWA why not consider putting your name forward for one of the vacancies that exist in your branch. We also need volunteers to help us run Cavalcade, the Rickmansworth Festival and the other events we attend during the year. *Follow me on Twitter paul @greenboater Paul Strudwick*

# Acheman Challenge (Cont'd)



Did someone fall in?

The challenge participants then worked the seven locks of the Marsworth flight on the Grand Union Canal with guidance from branch volunteers as Chris navigated through. This journey included travelling through Lock 43, which Chiltern Branch and Head Office staff had painted at a work party on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The work party day had started off with lovely weather allowing the fourteen volunteers and head office staff to progress quickly with their work, first preparing the lock gates and furniture before giving them a fresh coat of paint. Unfortunately, by mid-afternoon the rain had arrived and the task could not quite be completed. Kindly, Canal & River Trust Staff and the volunteer lock-keeper assured the team that the final coat of paint could be applied by the volunteer lock-keepers who were due to start back the following month. On completing the stretch through the locks, volunteers offered the Acheman Chal-

lenge team a final cup of tea with their lunch. The team set off once again just after 12.30pm. The team finally arrived at the end of the challenge in Wolverton at 6pm having completed the final section of cycling, a run and a stint in Canadian canoes with nothing more than a few aches and pains.



Both the participants and support team of the Acheman Challenge were grateful for the support provided by branch committees and volunteers along the way. Gemma Bolton, Website & Design Officer at Head Office and Acheman Challenge participant, said, *"The support along the route from our team, staff, IWA members and committees was amazing and really helped us along. Recent improvements to the tow-paths definitely made things easier and we were lucky that none of us had a flat tyre!"*

IWA Chiltern Branch comment;

*"It was a privilege to assist such a great bunch of youngsters in this challenge!"*

## GU Lock 43 painted!

## IWA at Ricky Festival

**Who:** Initiated by John Brice, members of the IWA Chiltern Branch were joined by staff from IWA Head Office (HO), including Toby, Stephanie, Gemma and Jenny, who also took part in the Acheman Challenge plus a volunteer lockkeeper from the Marsworth Flight. Miriam from CRT very ably organised us all and provided all the necessary equipment including tea and coffee.



**When:** Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Where:** Lock 43 on the Marsworth Flight

**What:** The top gates of the lock had been replaced over a year ago and were still unpainted so this was done and we also repainted the bottom gates. All the bollards and almost all the handrails were painted.

**Job Satisfaction:** Most definitely. I was amazed how much was achieved in less than 4 hours and the lock certainly looks very smart. It was a good and sociable way to meet the staff from HO and find out what they all do.

**Fame at Last!:** Thanks to Gemma Bolton of IWA Head Office, the entire process was recorded and now appears on YouTube. Do take a look. It only takes about a minute. Just type “youtube IWA Chiltern Branch” into your search engine.

Big changes are planned for IWA and Chiltern Branch at ‘The Rickmansworth Festival’ in May; the National Festival is no more! To try and increase awareness with little financial risk, IWA has decided to focus effort on local festivals with proven success; The Rickmansworth Festival is one of the best examples.

Previously, Chiltern Branch has had a small presence alongside the boaters, canal-side, Waterspace tent; this year IWA will recreate the ‘London Village’ display used at the 2013 National and alongside will have a sales stand featuring a wide range of books and other stock.

We will also create a presence throughout the festival with WoW (Wild over Waterways) activities for children; the activities will mainly be placed with stall-holders who want to attract families. We will use the well tried Passport system; children get stickers and when their passport is full they collect a ‘Goody-bag’.

Despite all the problems at the 2013 National, feedback from families with children who had completed a WoW passport was extremely positive, with many saying the children didn’t want to leave until they had completed all the activities; children can be harsh critics and great allies!

We are hoping that some of you will be able to help at some time over the Friday, Saturday or Sunday; there will be many different tasks and just 2 hours of your time will make a huge contribution.

Please contact John Brice on [John@johnbrice.co.uk](mailto:John@johnbrice.co.uk) or Dave Chapman on [david653chapman@btinternet.com](mailto:david653chapman@btinternet.com)

# The Bounty sponsors us as well as



Dave & Sue Wright at Mama Amelia's

## **Mama Amelia's orphanage in S'th Africa**

We have been at the Bounty now for 27 years, quite a record for publicans these days. Our son Damian has been the manager now for 3 years, to help with the workload. We are situated right on the Thames waterside opposite Bourne End Marina with beautiful views of the river from the patio and views to the rear of Winter Hill and Cockmarsh, National Trust land. A local farmer puts his cows in the back field from around Easter until the end of summer. We run a family pub that welcomes walkers and dogs. Access is only by foot from Cookham (1.5 miles), Marlow (2.3 miles), or over the footbridge from Bourne End. We have 360 feet of free overnight moorings for river users. Deliveries come by boat from Bourne End Marina, even barrels of beer and the dustmen come by barge! We open all day every day from 1st April to the 30th September. In the winter we open weekends only from noon until dusk.

In the summer we have various entertainments on such as Morris Dancers, the Mikron Theatre Barge, who perform a mu-

sical play on the river bank. We have our annual Beer & Jazz Festival weekend, on the last week end of July, where we raise a lot of money for our favourite charity, Mama Amelia's Orphanage in South Africa, which we have been supporting for nearly ten years now. We have helped Mama Amelia to build a number of classrooms for the younger children, and a playground with swings, slides and a couple of trampolines, which are in constant use. She now has around 200 children that she feeds, clothes and gives love to, and she needs all the help and money she can get. We have some customers who run the Maidenhead under 16s rugby club, and when they went out to Cape Town last year for a tour, they included a full day at Mama's where they helped paint the classrooms, build a new fence and gates around the site, and the boys had a great time giving the children rides on their backs. They all had a wonderful time and we were grateful for the help.

Our Dog & Pet Show in September has proved extremely popular with dog walkers. We even have a 'Doggie Specials Menu' so dogs can enjoy a meal with their owners. We hold 2 or 3 Christmas lunch parties, that often last all day and evening! It is a lot of work, cooking a five course lunch for 100 people a time but they are fun, breaking up the long winter months.

Now recovered from this year's floods, we are looking forward to a long hot summer and lots of thirsty customers.

*Dave and Sue have again sponsored our programme cards and back page!*

# *Inclined Planes*

---

## ***Judy Clegg provides some additional insight***

In January, Mike Beech, from the Foxton Canal Museum, gave an interesting presentation about the Old Grand Union, now known as the Leicester Section of the Grand Union Canal, and the Foxton Inclined Plane.

I was interested to learn that the locks at Watford and Foxton were built as narrow locks as required by the Grand Junction Canal Company. This was a condition for linking the Leicester Navigation to the Grand Junction Canal, now known as the Main Line of the Grand Union Canal, which was not considered suitable for the wide barges used on the Leicester Navigation!

We learnt that the Inclined Plane had a short working life closing in 1911. The Plane was presumably innovative at the time of its construction but why did it close when in the 1960s the Belgians and French were building inclined planes to bypass bottle necks during the upgrading



*The Arzwiller Plane*

of their canals?

In February 1969, the French opened an inclined plane similar to the Foxton one at St Louis-Arzviller near to Sarrebourg on the Canal de la Marne au Rhin. (See photos) This is a sideways or transverse inclined plane intended to have two caissons but instead of being counter balanced by the other caisson as was the case with Foxton, they were both to move up and down together being counterbalanced by weights. There has only ever been one caisson, presumably as traffic levels never justified it. Today, there is little commercial traffic though it is popular with pleasure boats as the scenery is spectacular. The plane was built to replace a flight (or referred to as “a ladder” in France) of 17 locks spread over 3.8 km and rising 44.55m to the summit level. The possibility of duplicating the locks was considered but dismissed as the valley was too narrow and presumably the time to negotiate the locks was also a consideration. It now takes about 20 minutes (though there may be waiting time) to make the ascent/ decent instead of 6 to 8 hours. At the other end of this summit, one lock rising 15.385m – not as scary as it sounds -was used to replace a flight of 6 locks.

In 1968, the Belgians opened a lengthways or longitudinal inclined plane at Ronquières on the Canal de Charleroi à Bruxelles. This has two independently operated caissons but at

# *Inclined Planes (Cont'd)*

the time of our visit only one was in operation, although the canal was busy with commercial craft and there was quite a queue with a long wait. This plane was built as part of a modernisation



*Descending the Ronquières Plane*

project upgrading it from 300 ton-barge capacity to 1350 ton and replacing 40km of canal containing 27 locks and a 1051 metre tunnel. The plane rises or descends 68 metres in 40 minutes (excluding waiting time).

In July 2013, there was an accident on the St Louis-Arzviller Inclined Plane. The caisson moved whilst the trip boat was entering/leaving the caisson. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries but the village some distance down the valley was flooded and the plane was out of action for at least the rest of the year. Whether this was a mechanical failure or human error is unclear.

We understood from Mike that the

Foxton Inclined Plane was mothballed then dismantled as the anticipated increase in traffic never materialised; substantial maintenance repairs on the 10 year old structure were needed and the costs of keeping the steam plant constantly ready were uneconomic. Nowadays, the modern inclined planes are ready at the flick of a switch.

There had been hopes that the inclined plane at Foxton would be fully restored at some future date but the costs together with the future maintenance are prohibitive. It would be necessary to replace the cables every 3 years. It is possible that the accident at St Louis-Arzviller has influenced this recommendation. Possibly at a future date, you may be able to take a trip on a virtual inclined plane but, at present, you must go to France or Belgium for the experience.



*View from the Ronquières Tower*

# *My Exciting Time at the Lockwind*

---

It was a while since my family went on holiday and I had been having a lovely time with my friend Carolyn who lives almost opposite. The weather had been hot and dry for what seemed like weeks; perhaps it was as the weathermen seemed to think, we were breaking records. Carolyn has taken me across the fields and through the woods to Wooburn Manor Park so I could swim in the River Wye. We have also been to Cookham and I had a lovely paddle and good fun in the Thames with some other dogs we met there. I really love being by the water, especially when the weather is hot as I can cool down by taking a dip.

Then one evening I saw Carolyn setting the alarm clock for a much earlier time than usual, so as I settled down to sleep, I wondered what was going to happen the next day. That morning I went out in the garden and had a good look around before going back inside to have my breakfast. Carolyn was busy and after tidying up, food and water were put into a cool box and then loaded into the car. Suddenly I noticed Carolyn had my car bed, some toys, a bowl and my harness, which made me ever so excited as I knew it meant we would be out for the day to somewhere with lots of water, maybe the canal, as this is the only time I normally wear my harness. When I got in the car it

was with great anticipation – Where were we going?

I tried to see which way we were going but turning left out of the drive could mean more or less anywhere, including Tesco! I soon fell asleep so I don't know how far we travelled but as soon as we stopped I woke up, looked out and immediately recognised that we were in the Tring Reservoirs' car park, I was so happy



*Chuckle in typical pose*

as I knew it must be the Lockwind Weekend, where I have had such fun in the past. I wanted to jump straight out of the car but I knew we would have to get organised.

Then John appeared and helped us to get our things out of the car, we walked out of the car park, up the steps by the café to the canal side. Some of my canal friends were there already so I said hello before exploring the lock gates which I love run-

# *My Exciting Time (Cont'd)*

---

ning across. I noticed all the collecting buckets were out so I guessed I'd go for a proper walk after we had put our things in the gazebo. I was right, Carolyn said she was going to take me walking along the towpath and Hilary said she would come too. So off we went talking to people on the towpath with them putting donations in our buckets. I got a bonus as I was given some nice strokes too.

When we came to the corner of the first reservoir I couldn't resist going in for a dip as it was very warm. So in I went and I was surprised there were no swans here this year unlike previously which was good as I could swim where I liked. Perhaps the swans had moved elsewhere. Hilary and Carolyn were very patient with me letting me swim for a while before I got out and gave myself a big shake. As it was so warm they didn't even mind me shaking the odd bit of water on them. We continued on our walk round the reservoir and talked to the fishermen. I must say I found the wriggling things in tubs that fishermen use to catch fish interesting to look at but I was very good and didn't touch them. So the day continued with nice people to say hello to, walks along the canal and dips into various places on the reservoirs and running across the lock gates.

All too soon it was time for my tea and to put everything away for the day. We then walked over to 'The Anglers' Retreat' where everyone enjoyed a tasty meal and had a convivial evening. When I arrived back at Carolyn's I was so tired after my lovely day out and slept soundly in the

expectation that I might be able to return in the morning for another fun filled day.

Another beautiful day dawned and when we arrived at the canal I had a really tasty surprise. My friend Liz had saved me a sausage from her breakfast at 'The Anglers' Retreat', saying that breakfast was really good but it was too big for her. I must say I really enjoyed my treat before we went for our first walk along the towpath. The morning and early afternoon went quickly and then at about 4 pm the sky darkened and I wondered what it was. Hilary and Carolyn had a good look upwards and saw it was a huge flock of quite large birds. Hilary thought they must be Aylesbury ducks. All too soon the day was over and it was time for us to bid goodbye to our canal friends and to say thank you to John who organised such a good weekend. I was really pleased I had helped to raise over £400 again.

I hope you will join us at Marsworth Bottom Lock for the Lockwind on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August to have fun and raise more funds for canal projects

## *Chuckle the Labrador*

It is with great sadness we report that our loyal friend Chuckle, who had become a really valuable and entertaining member of our fundraising team, was recently diagnosed with kidney failure and passed away on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will all miss him and his antics, particularly on the lock gates.

## *Trip to the Cutty Sark & Docklands*

---

There are still a few places left on Chiltern Branch's special one day coach trip into London to visit the Cutty Sark and Docklands. Following pick ups in High Wycombe, Amersham and Watford, the party will visit the outstanding Cutty Sark Exhibition in Greenwich.

Then there will be free time for lunch and the opportunity to explore some of the many other attractions Greenwich has to offer, most of which are free. For example there's the Maritime museum, the Old Naval College with its fabulous Painted Hall and the Royal Observatory to name just a few.

After lunch we will all meet up for a boat trip on the Thames Clipper to the O2 where we transfer to the Emirates Airline cable car. Our 10 minute flight will take us across the Thames at an altitude of

300ft affording fantastic views West into London and East to the Thames Barrier, before arriving at Royal Victoria Dock for the next part of the tour. Here you will visit the 'Crystal' to see the largest exhibition dedicated to urban sustainability. You will also be entertained to a luxury cream tea at a private apartment from which you can enjoy panoramic views over the River Thames, the River Lee, Canary Wharf and the Royal Victoria Dock.

This trip takes place on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** and places need to be booked in advance. The cost for this exceptional day out is just £49 per person. For full details of the schedule and reservations, please contact John Brice Tel: 07740 733214, email: [john.brice@waterways.org.uk](mailto:john.brice@waterways.org.uk) or visit the Chiltern Branch website.

## *The WAT Grand Draw*

---

The Grand Draw for 2014 is now under way. Two books of tickets (10) are enclosed with this edition of the magazine and you are asked to spread these around to your friends and families. The date of the draw is **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** at Drayton Beauchamp where there is an open day to see the progress of restoration. The winners will be advised that weekend where possible or very shortly afterwards.

The prizes are again a wide selection and we must thank all our sponsors for their very generous involvement. **Wyvern Shipping** have donated a week's 4/6 berth boating holiday, **Grebe Cruisers** have donated a day boat hire. There is a flight with **Virgin Balloon Flights**, a £100 cash prize presented by Mr and Mrs Barry Martin, with many other prizes. Many members can sell many more tickets than those sent with this magazine, so please ask for more tickets if you require them.

There is an urgency to sell as many tickets for the Draw again this year as there is no Festival to raise the necessary funds for continuing restoration.

Please ensure that all tickets have at least a *name and telephone number* on them or may be the winner will remain 'unknown' perhaps. All counterfoils and monies should be returned by **17<sup>th</sup> August 2013**, to the promoter with cheques payable to 'Wendover Arm Trust'. Promoter: Michael Wright, 54 Meadowcroft, St. Albans, AL1 1UF, or, Telephone 01727 860137.

# *Weekend Away 2014*

---

This year's three day coach excursion takes in the Foxton Locks and Inclined Plane, the Chesterfield Canal and the Great Central Railway.

## **Friday 26th September**

- 08.15 Depart High Wycombe
- 08.50 Depart Amersham
- 09.05 Depart Chesham
- 09.30 Depart Watford
- 11.00 Arrive at the top lock of the Foxton Flight where we will be met by Mike Beech, Mike works full time at the Inclined plane Museum and he will act as our guide to the Museum and the restored area of the Plane itself.
- 13.00 Pub Lunch at the Foxton Locks Inn.
- 14.00 Embark on the trip boat 'Vagabond' for a gentle two hour cruise along the Market Harborough Arm to the Town Basin.
- 16.00 Rejoin our coach for the onward journey to Chesterfield .
- 18.00 Arrive at the Chesterfield Hotel for dinner and overnight accommodation.

## **Saturday 27th September**

- 09.00 Assemble in the foyer where we will be met by a representative of the Chesterfield Canal Trust who will act as guide for our day's visit to the waterway. The itinerary is planned to show significant points along the canal and its restoration progress.

Dinner at the Hotel

## **Sunday 28th September**

- 09.00 Depart hotel for Leicester
- 11.30 Arrive at Leicester North Station on the Great Central Railway. We will have an 'All Day Rover' ticket for our visit to this restored section of the GCR.
- 11.45 Depart Leicester North.
- 12.15 Arrive at Loughborough Central. The station has been restored to its Edwardian appearance with a wood paneled booking hall and glass canopied island platform. It is the Railway's 'Grand Headquarters' and has a buffet, an emporium, a museum and a souvenir shop.
- 13.15 Depart aboard 'The South Yorkshireman' for a three course, roast beef Sunday lunch as we ride the train to Leicester and return.
- 14.45 Arrive back at Loughborough. Members can then, if they wish, board the 1515 train from Loughborough disembarking at either Rothley or Quorn and Woodhouse Stations to view the restored environment. Rothley is the oldest period station and has been immaculately renovated to the gas lit Edwardian era. It also boasts a garden railway. Quorn and Woodhouse station has been restored to reflect a 1940s Second World atmosphere.
- 17.00 Rejoin the coach to journey home.

# Weekend Away: Costs & Booking

The cost of this weekend excursion is **£225** per person, based on two people sharing a twin or double room. The single room supplement is £30.

A deposit of £50 per person is required to reserve your place.

The cost includes:

- All coach travel.
- Two nights accommodation on a half board (bed, breakfast and dinner) basis at the Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield.
- A two hour cruise on the trip boat Vag-abond on the Market Harborough Arm.
- A Day Rover ticket on the Great Central Railway.
- Sunday Lunch aboard the 'South Yorkshireman' train on the GCR
- Donation to the Foxton Inclined Plane.
- Donation to the Chesterfield Canal.
- Coach driver's gratuity.

The cost does not include:

- Travel insurance.
- Morning coffees and afternoon teas if taken.
- Pub Lunches
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Other items of a personal nature.

For full details and reservations, contact Colin Bird, Tel: 01932 248178, email: colin.bird@waterways.org.uk.

## **COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of Grapevine will be published in August. Please send news items, articles, photographs and advertisements to the Editor by 15th July.

## Chiltern Branch Meeting Venue

Chiltern Branch evening meetings are held at Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont, Bucks HP8 4UD.

**Directions:** Little Chalfont Village Hall is in Cokes Lane which runs south from a mini-roundabout junction with the main A404 road between Rickmansworth and Amersham. The hall is located by the Library and there is a Car Park. It is approximately 600m from Chalfont & Latimer railway/tube station.

Access to the hall is on the flat and so offers easy access. There are also toilet facilities for disabled members.



# Diary

**17th to 18th May**

## ***Rickmansworth Festival***

See page 6.

**Sunday 8th June**

## ***Wendover Arm Trust Open Day***

Drayton Beauchamp.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

## ***Day Trip to the Cutty Sark & Docklands***

See page 12.

**Thursday 24th July**

## ***Himalayan Balsam clearance***

Work party to clear this invasive plant.  
Contact John Brice.

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> August**

## ***Marsworth Lock Wind***

Our annual weekend fundraiser. See  
pages 10 & 11.

**Sunday 7th September**

## ***Wendover Arm Trust Open Day***

Drayton Beauchamp. This event will  
include the WAT Grand Draw.

**26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September**

## ***Chiltern Branch Weekend Away***

See pages 13 & 14.

## ***Evening Meetings***

The dates for the next season of  
meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 24th September

Wednesday 22nd October

Wednesday 26th November

Thursday 11th December

Wednesday 28st January 2015

Wednesday 25th February 2015

Wednesday 25th March 2015

Wednesday 22nd April 2015

Full details will be provided in the  
Programme Card (sponsored by the  
Bounty) which will be sent out to all  
Branch members with the next issue of  
Grapevine.

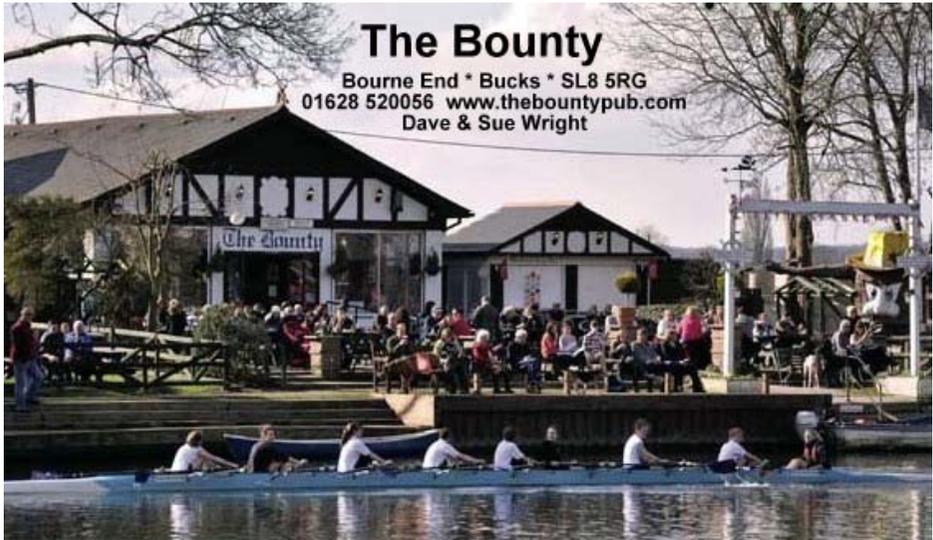
The IWA is a registered charity (No. 212342)  
whose work is supported by member's sub-  
scriptions. The IWA campaigns for develop-  
ment of Britain's waterways for use by all.

The IWA may not agree with the opinions  
expressed in this Newsletter but encourages  
publication as a matter of interest. Nothing  
printed may be construed as policy or an  
official announcement unless stated, otherwise  
the IWA accepts no liability for any matter in  
this Newsletter.

## ***Advertising Donation Rates***

	One Issue	Four Issues
Full Page	£50	£160
Half Page	£30	£100
Quarter Page	£20	£70
Back cover	50% extra	

*Members small ads £1 for 12 words. Extra  
words 10p. Send payment with the adver-  
tisement to the Editor.*



**Get Here: By Boat:** Just pull up outside! **By Foot:** On the towpath opposite Bourne End Marina.  
**By Car:** Park near Bourne End train station and cross over the railway bridge, then turn right along the towpath, The Bounty can be found about 300 metres away.

## *Your Committee*

---

<b>Chairman</b>	Dave Chapman	01628 850842 07808 782055	dave.chapman@waterways.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Norris	01438 238187 07977 374116	liz.norris@waterways.org.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Aylmer	01923 232515	ken.aylmer@waterways.org.uk
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	Colin Bird	01932 248178	colin.bird@waterways.org.uk
<b>Fundraising &amp; Waterway Events</b>	John Brice	01494 873298 07740 733241	john.brice@waterways.org.uk
<b>Planning Officer &amp; Membership Secretary</b>	Carolyn Leonard	01628 526512	carolyn.leonard@waterways.org.uk
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Judy Clegg	01442 875818	judy.clegg@waterways.org.uk
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Vacant</b>		
<b>Website Editor</b>	<b>Vacant</b>		
<b>IWA representative to WAT (non-committee post)</b>	Jenny Brice	01494 873298	jenny@johnbrice.co.uk