The Quarterly Magazine of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
Summer 2016
The aim of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
To protect, conserve and improve the route of the Wilts & Berks and North Wilts Canals, and branches, for the benefit of the community and environment, with the ultimate goal of restoring a continuous navigable waterway linking the Kennet & Avon canal near Melksham, the River Thames near Abingdon, and the Thames & Severn canal near Cricklade.

The objectives of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
Convince local authorities, government departments and local organisations of the benefits and feasibility of the proposed restoration.
Convince landowners, local commerce and the general public of the merits of the restoration.
Secure the route of the waterway and adequate water supplies.
Establish the Trust as a key member of a partnership with local authorities and other bodies that will facilitate restoration of the canal.
Implement an agreed programme for full restoration of the canal.

Membership of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is open to all.
The annual membership rate is £10, with discounts available for families and under 18s. Company and Society membership is also available.

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent those of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. The Editors reserve the right to shorten, change or not to publish any material received.

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The Trust membership details are recorded in compliance with provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998

President The Hon Sir William McAlpine Bt FRSE
Vice President and Founder Neil Rumbol
Vice President Dr David Fletcher CBE
Vice President Roger Crapper
Vice President John Laverick MBE
Office Telephone Number 0845 226 8567
Internet Address www.wbct.org.uk
Email info@wbct.org.uk
Postal Address Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, SN15 4HD
In the spring issue of Dragonfly, I remarked that I was expecting the first few months of the operation of the newly formed Executive to be exciting as the Directors appointed their key staff and started to introduce their work plans within their teams.

And so it has proved to be.

We have hit the ground running with a series of significant events and initiatives, and credit must go to the Executive Directors, their teams and Trust members who have all pulled together to make this happen.

The New Eastern Villages consultation via Swindon Borough Council planning process tested our membership and communication processes, and these teams delivered a first class response via our membership; so much so that the SBC systems were at times finding it difficult to cope with the volume of responses. A similar successful exercise was carried out for the Wiltshire Council Melksham Link consultation.

An opportunity arose to purchase land at Queensfield and the “Destination Lacock” Appeal was launched with, so far, over £30,000 raised.

Wiltshire Council announced that they were transferring all their land along the canal line to the Trust and this exciting news has given new emphasis to work in the western section and should also influence the LAs in the central and eastern sections.

We received £7,000 in funding from Waitrose for the landing stage at Wichelstowe next to the Waitrose store, with some great publicity and subsequent interest from press and public.

CRT and Help 4 Heroes announced the “Heroes Return” project funded by the Post Code Lottery, which will benefit the Pewsham Top Lock restoration. We will receive £99,000 of funding and will be able to work with H4H veterans in spring 2017, passing on our restoration skills in a partnership preparing them for their transition to civilian work.

Mid-June saw a very successful BBQ and Exhibition Event at the Peterborough Arms. Present were many of the original funders of the purchase of the PA, as well as nearly the entire wonderful group of Trust and community volunteers who have worked so hard to progress the refurbishment of the Community Rooms. We hope to see the contractor phase of this work completed in the very near future, so that this community facility and Trust asset can come to life.

We were also tremendously proud to receive the news that HRH The Duchess of Cornwall has graciously agreed to extend her patronage of the Trust for a further five years.

And after much hard work by a dedicated team of volunteers, the new web site is very nearly ready for launch with a date pencilled in at the end of July.

I described the new organisation as “robust and fit for purpose” and so it is, from the evidence above. I look forward with great interest and anticipation to even more progress over the next three months with many improvements to processes in Project and Maintenance Management coming on stream, together with improvements in financial reporting and an integrated media and marketing strategy allied with major membership and fundraising drives.

Exciting times for the Trust.

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Sheila Wade tells us she has a target of total 3000 members by AGM 2016, and total 10,000 members by AGM 2019. All help much appreciated!
Summer magazine time: welcome to our latest edition. Some major steps forward are reported throughout the magazine.

Dragonfly moves with the times: following the letter from our membership team a large number of members have asked for the electronic version. This is great news because we can save around £1.00 per copy in production/postage costs.

Thank you to those members for making their membership fee go further. If you can persuade a friend or family member to join us we will have even more money and a greater opportunity to influence important decisions about our future. If each of us recruited one new member we could double our number in a very short space of time.

Arrangements are already in place for the “mapping” seminar in July so we eagerly await their results.

Once more, if there is something you would like to see included in future editions or you have any comments that would help improve your magazine, please get in touch.

John and Margaret

Volunteering? Please record your hours!

It is vital the Trust captures all your hard work so we can demonstrate to a wider audience just how much is going on. Send your hours to juanita.poulton@wbct.org.uk who will be happy to hear from you and will send you a form for completion if you don't have one. Thank you,

Juanita Poulton

Contents

Report from CEO Jonathan Till 3
Volunteering? Please record your hours! 4
Fundraising for the Wilts & Berks Kath Hatton 5
Chairman’s Report Roderick Bluh 5
Special Announcement 6
WBCT Prize Draw 2016 6
Raising funds for Pewsham Lock Cottage: a live project. 6
Membership Matters 7
Flying the Flag for the Trust Doug Small 9
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Notice Of Annual General Meeting 10
MCC Quiz Under New Management Malcolm Hitchinson 10
Annual General Meeting 17th October 2015 12
Good News For Members 15
Book Review Chris Naish 16
Swans, Eggs And Cygnets At Chaddington Road Richard and Judy Gosnell 17
Canalside Vetches Judy Gosnell 18
Doreen Darby 19
The Trust's Retail Outlet in Swindon 23
Canal Partnership Countryside Officer’s Report Ken Oliver 24
Our Garden Party Experience Paul Lenaerts 25
Minutes of the EGM of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust 26
Nb Dragonfly Team 29
Back to the future 30
Around The Branches 31
Branch Meeting & Contact Details 36
200 Club 39
Chairman’s Report
Roderick Bluh

The year is already half way through and so much has been achieved thus far in 2016. It may not be immediately obvious to all, but it all adds up to solid progress.

The new Executive is working hard and as a team. Policies are being written and updated for all sorts of activities from bricks to be used, to establishing a fit-for-purpose canal maintenance regime. The land team are busy communicating with land owners and actively negotiating to purchase new stretches of canal line. The new Website is nearly at its launch. Communication activity is firing on all cylinders slowly but surely raising the profile of the Trust and its ambitions. Fundraising never stops, lottery bids are written and won and new areas of funding are explored. The masterplanning of the canal continues apace. Engagement with the local Councils is building by the day. A huge effort is underway working to open the Peterborough Arms community centre.

Day in day and day out, our volunteers are working away with commitment and enthusiasm to make the vision a reality.

The above list is by no means complete but it does give an insight to the huge amount of time and energy being given by so many. It has been pleasing to see new people coming forward to offer their services. But it is with sadness that we have to record that our long term supporter and champion of WBCT, Chris Coyle, felt he could no longer offer his commitment to our work, for personal reasons, and has now left us. We thank him wholeheartedly for all his work and expertise over the past many years.

Despite all the good work being delivered, the road ahead looks no less steep and the enormity of the undertaking becomes ever more apparent with time passing by so fast. However, whilst success can never be taken for granted, I am convinced that with the activity and commitment being displayed, we will continue to see substantial progress in the future.

Well done to everyone!

Fundraising for the Wilts & Berks
Kath Hatton

We have some great news to tell you about funding. The Wilts & Berks is to be part of a project initiated by Canal & River Trust (CRT) in partnership with Help for Heroes (H4H) - the inspiring charity that helps ex-service men and women rebuild their lives.

The project is called ‘Heritage Heroes’ and following a successful bid to the People’s Postcode Lottery’s Dream Fund, four different canal restorations across the country will be receiving funding, along with assistance from H4H personnel. The project that I put forward for the Wilts & Berks is Top Lock at Pewsham as this already had planning permission and volunteers ready to start the rebuild. We will be receiving just under £100,000 from Dream Fund and so along with the Area Board funding of £20,000 (that I reported in the last magazine) we will be able to completely rebuild the lock and footbridge. The Heritage Heroes will be joining our volunteers next Spring to carry out a variety of tasks and work towards a City & Guilds qualification. Work on Top Lock has already started. If you get a chance to visit the site, the volunteers will be pleased to see you and explain what is happening.

Other news is that a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for approximately £850,000 has been submitted for the rest of the Pewsham site, including the remaining two locks, dry dock, carpenters’ workshop (to be restored as an outdoor classroom), saw pit and lime kiln. Val Melville and her small team worked very hard to get the bid ready for the June 1st deadline. Fingers crossed please for good news in September!

The Destination Lacock appeal is going very well. Thank you so much for all the support so far. We are just over two thirds of the way to our target, including gift aid. The appeal is still open and we welcome all donations. Every pound counts!

Waitrose has presented the Trust with a cheque for £7,000 towards the cost of building the landing stage at Wichelstowe. We are very grateful to them for this support. It is a win-win situation for the store and for the Trust as the popularity of the boat trips has increased significantly since we moved Dragonfly to that site.

There will be Trust draw tickets for sale this year and I believe Malcolm Hitchinson writes elsewhere in this magazine about the arrangements.
WBCT Prize Draw 2016

Raising funds for Pewsham Lock Cottage: a live project.

This year’s prize draw has a number of differences.
First difference: the draw is to raise money for a live and current project.
Second difference: this year’s Draw is being run by MCC, under Kath’s watchful eye.
Third difference: there are a different range of prizes.

Funds from this year’s Draw will support the building of the Lock Cottage at Pewsham. The Pewsham Top Lock Project covers the rebuilding of the lock and the lock cottage. By the time you read this it is anticipated that the funds will be in place (and reported elsewhere in this edition) for the lock rebuild and that work will have started.

This project is being run and delivered by volunteers.

Most of the previous Draws have been for projects yet to start or to support future land acquisitions etc. but, as I said, this project is under way now.

Additional support for the Project will come from the MCC Events activities. It has been agreed that any funds not required for maintenance purposes will be put towards this Project and of course Kath will be working to obtain funding from third party organisations. The total rebuild cost for the cottage is c £140K.

Due to the structural changes to the Trust’s setup and demands on Kath’s time in her new role, she has not been able to progress the draw this year. She kindly offered the opportunity for MCC to run the Draw, on the condition it focused on the Top Lock Project. The MCC team were happy to accept the offer and are grateful for Kath’s help, support and guidance in setting up this year’s Draw.

We have also changed the prize structure from just cash prizes to a mixture of cash and physical prizes. Our star prize is a HP ProBook 650 G1 Lap top. Currently on e-bay at £650.

So now it is over to you. Please help us raise £5,000 for this volunteer-led project.

In this edition of Dragonfly, you will receive 3 books of Draw tickets. The MCC team would be very grateful if you could sell these tickets and return the monies and counterfoils to Steve Roberts the MCC treasurer, whose address is on the counterfoil.

If you receive Dragonfly electronically and would like to support this initiative, or you would like more tickets to sell or if Branches want some to sell at their local events, please email me with your address and I will post them to you.

The Draw will take place on the 5 December at the MCC Christmas Dinner.

On behalf of all the volunteers involved in this project, thank you in advance for your support.

Malcolm Hitchinson
malcolm.hitchinson@wbct.org.uk

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Special Announcement

Chris Coyle, Finance & Administration Director and Company Secretary, has offered his resignation from his positions within the Trust with immediate effect, for personal reasons. The Trust has accepted Chris's resignation.

Chris has been part of the Trust for many years and has been an integral part of the management and the strategy of our organisation, contributing in a significant way to our many achievements and we thank him for his work over the years.

We all wish him well in the future.

Roderick Bluh, Chair will take over the Company Secretary responsibilities, and Jonathan Till, CEO similarly will take over the Finance & Administration responsibilities, with immediate effect.

Roderick Bluh, Chair
Jonathan Till, CEO

A definitive article to thank Chris for all the work he has undertaken over the years for the Trust will be printed in the next Dragonfly. Contributions are welcome from our readership. Please submit to the editors in the usual ways.
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Dear Editors,

For any branch that has had to plough up their towpath while restoring a bit of canal to the extent that it will need reseeding, there is a new seed mixture available that sounds very suitable. It was primarily produced for farmers’ seed margins, and not only includes hard-wearing grass species like Timothy fescues, but many UK native wild flowers, and is said to provide an ideal nesting area for ground nesting birds and a superb habitat for pollinators. If a towpath adjoins farmland, it is accepted for those on Countryside Stewardship schemes. It can be sown in spring through to late summer. The producer is Limagrain, at http://www.lgseeds.co.uk/products/amenity-grasses/awf-7-hedgerows/.

Di Smurthwaite

Hidden Gem?

One fine morning in May we went to look at the restoration at Latton Basin at the junction of the Thames & Severn and North Wilts/Wilts & Berks canals. This project seldom gets mentioned in Dragonfly, but there is considerable work going on largely under the supervision of Doug Small and Ray Aldridge and their teams.

Parking on the old road through Latton, take the turning onto the bridleway past Waterpark Storage and cross the A419 by a hump-backed bridge.

First site reached is the Weymoor Bridge, under reconstruction by Cotswold Canal trust volunteers and a challenging task it must be. Further on are the excellent WBCT signboards explaining the complex waterway system formed by rivers and streams and canals which met at this point on the map. Some parts of these routes have already been excavated, others remain to be developed. Going on past the lock house on the eastern side we stopped at the former entrance to the North Wilts Canal where an amazing transformation is taking place. The old retaining wall containing huge tree roots, creepers etc. has been cleared and rebuilt. Now there is a small pond below the wall next to the footpath, which is currently being greatly improved for walkers.

Beyond the lock house can be seen a restored wall around the former lock basin, though there is no public access to this basin.
Finally we went up onto the path along the former North Wilts canal, now a beautiful grassy dip with flowering hawthorns everywhere, along with spring flowers all competing for attention. A distant rumble reminded us of traffic on the A419 but the predominant sound was of birds singing madly in the sunshine. We walked on past Cricklade's 'fritillary field' as far as the junction with the River Thames, about 1 1/2 miles and back again and wish to congratulate everyone involved in making this restoration project so attractive. Do see it for yourselves if you can.

Helen Thomas

Email:- editor@wbct.org.uk
Write to:- Dragonfly Editor, Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, SN15 4HD.

The Trust encourages debate and contributions from members on any matter relating to the Trust, and believes the letters page provides a forum for this. However the Editors reserve the right to shorten, change or not to publish any letters received.

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**Flying the Flag for the Trust**

**Doug Small**

Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May was the date and Staveley Town Basin on the Chesterfield Canal was the venue, and there we were with the Trust Marquee and display. This was the first of our trips out for the year: the Trail Boat Festival, this year organised jointly by the Inland Waterways Association and the Chesterfield Canal Trust, to highlight the restoration of the western end of the canal which is isolated from the rest by the M1.

The interior of our Marquee has a new look this year. John has designed, built and printed what I think is referred to as a 'shell'. A continuous backdrop around three sides, incorporating removable information panels featuring each area of our canal.

John Minns and I had arrived earlier in the week in time to witness the naming of their new trip boat, the John Varley II, and to watch the final preparations being made before the opening on Saturday. Not least being the removal of the large bund above the lock and a new bund created down below in order that their various trip boats could include a lock passage in the voyages. This certainly paid off as the boats were in constant use all weekend.

It might be worth mentioning that the new boat was partly financed by Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner who allocated £131,684 between five organisations as part of his NICE (Neighbourhoods Investing Criminal Earnings) Fund, which was launched last year to provide financial support to community capital projects which will leave a lasting legacy for their communities. The Canal Trust received £20,850.

As always with these events there were plenty of things to see and do. There was a good turnout of trade stalls, voluntary organisations, food outlets and, of course, a beer tent. The large Basin is ideal for canoeists who demonstrated their skills, and many youngsters got their first taste of the sport under expert tuition. There were also amusements for the younger children and a host of old cars for the more elderly to linger over.

The usual variety of trail boats were moored just down the cut which provided a further attraction. They also had the illuminated boat sail-by (after dark of course) and a boat handling competition.

Why were we there? A question we often get asked when away from our own area. We have an easy way to answer this query. As part of the new backdrop in the marquee John has printed out the large map of the whole of the canal and river system. We can now point to a spot near Bristol and then to Tewitfield on the Lancaster Canal and explain that you can travel from one to the other continuously by boat; and that we are all linked together, not working in isolation. Every time a newly restored section of waterway is opened all other restorations benefit. This is why we 'Fly the Flag', to show our support for other societies and especially the IWA, and to keep us well in the public eye.

We had a lot of interest shown and a surprisingly large number of people were familiar with our project. I would like to thank Barry Tunniclife, Bob Airey, and Dave and Jean Warren, our members who also travelled up to support us on the stand over the whole long weekend.

A full list of the events that we will be attending with the Trust Display can be found at http://www.wbct.org.uk/events/
MCC Quiz Under New Management
Malcolm Hitchinson

MCC’s annual Quiz Night took place on Saturday 19 March. The evening started with a vote of thanks to Diana Hunter who had been involved with organising the quiz for twelve years, and leading the team for the last few years. MCC Branch are immensely grateful to Diana for all the hard work she has put in establishing this as a very successful event.

When Diana announced that she planned to step down as quiz organiser, we realised just what a major gap we had to fill. Fortunately, Paul Tucker was on hand to do just that and what a good job he made of it. So a big thank you to Paul and all who helped him make this thirteenth Quiz Night such a success.

There were 22 teams competing for the top spot. It was a keenly contested evening and after ten challenging and entertaining rounds (who knew that John Travolta played Edna Turnblad in Hairspray?), the eventual winners were the Allsorts team with a very creditable 73 points. Well done to them.

Regular attenders of the Quiz Night will know, that in addition to the race to the top, there is also an Inter Branch Quiz to establish who are the Brains of the Canal. Three teams contested the trophy: Foxham & Lyneham (Dauntsey Without), The Boat Team (Dragonfly) and MCC (Hermitage).

Foxham & Lyneham, who won the trophy last year, retained the very smart wooden gavel and stand turned by MCC volunteer Keith Vickery – congratulations to them. It was a close contest: MCC pushed F&L hard, but had to settle for second place with the Boat Team third.

We would love to persuade a few more Branch teams to enter. There must be a Branch out there that can knock Foxham and Lyneham off the top spot and claim the title of Brains of the Canal! Branch Chairs, please keep an eye out for next year’s invitation.

More importantly it was a really enjoyable evening and the real bonus was that it attracted a lot of people who were not Trust members. So thank you to everyone who took part on the night, and I hope the brain cells have fully recovered.

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the twentyeighth Annual General Meeting of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (company number 2267719) will take place at:
Sheldon School, Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham, Wilts, SN14 6HJ, (Grid Ref Explorer 156 ST 910746) on Saturday, 15th October 2016 at 2.00 pm.

AGENDA
ORDINARY BUSINESS
1. To receive any apologies for absence.
2. To approve the Minutes of the twenty seventh AGM held on 17th October 2015 and to consider any matters arising.
3. To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 5th March 2016 and to consider any matters arising.
5. To approve the Trust’s accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016.
6. To elect Members to the Board of Trustees:
   a. In accordance with Articles 41 and 42 of the Articles of Association David Cook, Colin Fletcher, and Peter Kinsman retire from the Board in rotation. All offer themselves for re-election.
b. As at the date of this notice there were no members co-opted since the last AGM to be re-elected in accordance with Article 36 of the Articles of Association.

c. To elect a Trustee to represent the Membership. Nominations are invited using a form for nomination obtainable from the Company Secretary.

d. In accordance with Article 44 any other nominations to the Board of Trustees should be notified to the Company Secretary at the Trust’s offices at Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, SN15 4HD in writing to arrive no later than Friday 9th September 2016, in order to enable the Trust to inform members of nominations. Nominations should be signed by at least five Proposers and by the person nominated, all of whom must be full members of the Trust. A pen picture of the nominee and his/her interests and ideas towards the furtherance of the Trust's aims should be included, and this will be made available at the meeting for the benefit of Members during voting. [Note: to facilitate running of the meeting a form for the nomination of directors is obtainable from the Company Secretary.]

7. To approve the reappointment of Messrs Morris Owen as accountants of the Trust at a remuneration to be determined by the Board.

SPECIAL BUSINESS
8. There is no Special Business proposed.
9. Any Other Business.

By order of the Board

Roderick Bluh
Chairman and Company Secretary.
Sunday 10th July 2016

NOTES:
1. As a member of the Trust you are invited to attend the AGM. A member entitled to be present and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote on his or her behalf in the event of a poll being demanded on a resolution or a ballot being held for the elections to the Board. A proxy MUST be a member of the Trust. An instrument of proxy may be obtained from the Company Secretary, to whom it must be returned not later than forty-eight hours before the start of the meeting.

2. A Member may propose a resolution at the meeting. Such a resolution will be Special Business, requiring a majority of 75% of the votes cast at the meeting. To assist in the orderly conduct of the meeting it would be helpful if members (or their duly appointed proxy) wishing to propose a resolution would indicate their intention to do so by informing the Company Secretary either in advance of the meeting or at the venue on the day of the meeting.

3. After the formal business of the AGM there will be an Open Forum Session at which members may put questions from the floor to the Directors on any matter relating to the canal or the Trust’s activities.

Dragonfly is available as a PDF via email. Please contact membership@wbct.org.uk
Welcome by the Mayor of Royal Wootton Bassett

The Chairman welcomed the Mayor of RWB, Cllr Ian Ferries, and the Mayoress to the meeting and invited him to address the Trust. The Mayor noted that the town had just had its Annual Civic Service, at which the theme had been ‘Community Involvement’. He also noted that in a previous speech he had said that communities are defined by their open spaces, and how they use them; he felt that the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust was a fine example of both. He expressed amazement at the amount of work that has been done by the Trust, highlighting the nearby site at Wichelstowe, next to Waitrose as one example. He finished by wishing the Trust every success for the future.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM, which began at 2.09 pm.

Adjournment

In view of the amount of news and information that the Trust wished to present to members, it was proposed to adjourn the meeting – carried by show of hands. The meeting adjourned at 2.10 pm.

During the adjournment presentations were given as follows:

- The Reorganisation of the Trust, and the Future  Roderick Bluh
- A Chief Executive’s View  Jonathan Till
- The Proposals for Restructure  Chris Coyle
- A Revised Restoration Strategy  Ken Oliver
- Progress on Masterplanning  Jock Mackenzie

The presentations were well received by the members present. Following the presentations, a number of questions were asked. These questions, and the replies, are included in the Notes on the Open
Forum, which followed the AGM:

**Resumption**

Following the presentations there was a brief pause, and the meeting resumed at 3.31 pm.

**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from The Hon Sir William McAlpine, President of the Trust, Dr David Fletcher, CBE, Vice-President of the Trust, Dave Cook, Roger Crapper, George Eycott, Melanie Eycott, Max Crofts, John E S Webb, Gwynneth Buss, Meg and Geoff Elwell, Brian Roberts, Brian Wright, Sue Paine, Keith Lambert, Alan Clyde, and Cyan Ellis.

**Approval of the Minutes of the 26th AGM and consideration of matters arising**

The draft Minutes of the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting held on 18th October 2014 had been published in Dragonfly and circulated to branches for members to review. A member had asked for one correction, in that Apologies for Absence had been received from Melanie Eycott, not Parker, as in the Minutes. Subject to this correction a resolution to approve them was proposed by Derek Flexer, seconded by John Minns, and carried on a show of hands. There were no matters arising.

**Directors’ Report**

The Directors’ Report for the year ended 31st March 2015 had been made available for members to review both on the website and before the meeting.

A resolution to approve the Directors’ Report was proposed by Dave Maloney, seconded by Chris Barry, and carried on a show of hands.

**Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015**

The Trust’s report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 had been made available for review by members before the meeting.

There were a number of questions on the Accounts.

A member asked for confirmation that the amount of £40,662 transferred from Restricted Funds to Designated Funds had in fact been used for the Restricted purpose. The Treasurer explained that the funds were for the purpose of the purchase of the Peterborough Arms; once the purchase was completed the asset was transferred into the Restricted Funds column, where all of the Trust’s assets are held.

A member noted that the amount spent on studies had increased considerably, and asked what was the purpose of these studies. The Treasurer replied that the studies included Ecology, Soil Sampling, and Engineering consultancy amongst others, which were a necessary part of projects. The member asked if the amount would go down in the current year; The Vice-Chairman replied that she hoped the amount would go up as more projects were started, but noted that such studies have to be funded, and are not easy to fund.

A question was asked about whether the accounts had been circulated to members in good time. The Treasurer, Peter Kinsman, explained that it was desirable to prepare one set of accounts for presentation to both the Charity Commission and Companies House, instead of different versions. This, together with the need to finalise the Directors’ Report so that the accountants could review all of the documents together, made for a tighter timetable than might seem obvious. He had drawn up a timetable to allow for completion by the end of August, but delays in a number of steps, and by the Examiners of the accounts, had resulted in the delayed completion of the signing off and circulation.

A resolution to approve the Report and Annual Accounts was proposed by Colin Fletcher, seconded by
Arthur Loveridge, and carried on a show of hands.

Reappointment of Morris Owen
A resolution to reappoint Morris Owen as Independent Examiner of the Accounts was proposed by Chris Coyle, seconded by Peter Kinsman and carried without dissent.

Election of Members to the Council of Management
The Chairman reminded the meeting that:

a. In accordance with articles 41 and 42 of the Articles of Association, Ray ALDRIDGE, Chris COYLE, Brian STOVOLD and Jenny STRATTON retired from Council in rotation. All offered themselves for re-election.

b. In accordance with Article 36 of the Articles of Association Roderick BLUH offered himself for re-election having been co-opted by Council since the last AGM.

The candidates identified themselves to the meeting; there were no questions to the candidates.

SPECIAL BUSINESS
The meeting considered the amendments to the Articles of Association set out below: Chris Coyle (CC) introduced each, explaining the purpose.

Motion 1. To amend the current Memorandum and Articles of Association throughout to refer to the ‘Board of Trustees’ instead of ‘Council of Management’.

CC explained that this was to reflect the proposed reorganisation. There were no questions on this motion.

Motion 2. To amend Clause 3 of the Articles of Association to remove the need for Council approval of new members

CC explained that the membership was now so large that Directors could not have personal knowledge of all applicants. The Trust has the power to expel a member.

A member asked if a list could be drawn up of those thought to be unsuitable; the Chairman felt that this could be dangerous, but agreed to consider it.

Motion 3. To amend clauses 30 and 31 by insertion of ‘Administrative’ before ‘Office’

CC explained that currently all official notices etc should be sent to our registered office, which could cause delay. Permitting documents to be sent to our administrative offices would avoid this. There were no questions on this motion.

Motion 4. To amend clause 33 to reduce the maximum number of Trustees from the current thirty to fifteen

CC explained that given the proposed re-organisation, with a smaller Board of Trustees and a separate Executive, there was no longer a need for such a large maximum.

A member asked the current number – CC replied it is 13 elected, plus one appointed.

A member asked how a good candidate could become a trustee. CC replied that as at present, he/she could be co-opted or nominated for election.

Motion 5. To amend clause 34 to allow the Association to invite representatives of Canal and River Trust and the Wiltshire Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership to nominate representatives as Trustees

DRAFT
CC explained that the Trust wished to strengthen the relationship with these bodies, and gain from their experience. There were no questions on this motion.

**Motion 6.** To amend clause 55 to allow non-Trustees to participate in sub-committees set up by the Board of Trustees

CC explained that this would allow members who are not Trustees to participate in Board sub-committees, such as the new Executive, which is not currently allowed. There were no questions on this motion.

**Motion 7.** To amend clause 67 to confirm the current position, that the members of the Trust do not require an audit to be carried out.

CC explained that the Trust is required by its Articles to have an audit carried out, although we in fact claim exemption on grounds of size, as permitted by the Companies Acts. This amendment clarifies the position. CC noted that the turnover threshold for small and medium companies is about £6.5m but that the threshold for registered charities is much lower at £750,000. It is therefore possible that the Trust will have to have an audit within the foreseeable future. In any event funders or the Trustees might feel that an audit is appropriate.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4.00 to allow the ballots to be held.

Secret ballots were conducted in which members were asked to vote ‘for’ or ‘against’ (or abstain) in respect of the election of each candidate, and for the motions listed above. As there were fewer candidates than seats available on the Council of Management, members were advised that they were free to vote for as many candidates as they wished.

The meeting was adjourned while the ballots were counted. Eddie Thomas, Derek Flexer and Colin Fletcher acted as scrutineers. During the adjournment an Open Forum of questions from members was held.

On completion of the count the Meeting reconvened at 4.50 pm and the Company Secretary announced that all the candidates had received considerably more votes ‘for’ than ‘against’ and they had all therefore been elected. He also announced that all the motions had been carried by considerable majorities.

**Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The Company Secretary thanked Wootton Basset Branch for hosting the meeting, and the Administration team for their work.

The meeting was formally closed at 4.53 pm.

Chris Coyle
Company Secretary

Signed as a true record.

Name

Date
Book Review
Chris Naish

Reg Wilkinson's *A Waterway to Wantage*, then and now
by Doug Small

Doug's latest book comprises a fascinating mélange of reports, both official and from newspapers, photographs, surveys, reminiscences and writings from a myriad of sources relating to the Wilts & Berks Canal from its beginnings to the present day, ranging from a newspaper article from 1817 extolling the advantages of the canal to Wantage via an official report by Berkshire County Council in 1908 upon the canal which, by then, had fallen into disuse, to his own report of the opening of the sackhouse on Wantage wharf as a museum in 2014.

Most importantly, however, it includes an updated version of Reg Wilkinson's booklet, *A Waterway to Wantage*, a history of the canal around Wantage. Reg had been a friend of Jack Dalby, author of *The Wilts and Berks Canal*, first published in 1971, for which he had provided a map and several photographs. Doug had originally intended merely to publish an updated version of *A Waterway to Wantage* but realized that a lot more information could be gleaned from a variety of sources about the canal which had never been gathered together and published as a single book. Since Reg Wilkinson had been his inspiration, he therefore set about collecting additional information from him which also forms part of this book. From then, the book simply took on a life of its own.

Particularly interesting is the last part of the book which catalogues the achievements of the East Vale branch over the years, complete with then-and-now photographs. Because the towpath is a public right of way for six miles either side of Wantage, the branch has always assumed responsibility for maintaining it and keeping it clear of any obstructions for the benefit of the local populace. In fact, Doug mentions that one of the branch's first restoration projects was the reconstruction of the tailbridge over Grove Common Lock which carries a public footpath from Grove to Charlton village, near Wantage. Other major projects include the reconstruction of Childrey wharf and the transformation of the sackhouse on Wantage wharf, restored by developers, into a small museum for the canal and the Wantage tramway. He also mentions that the branch has now turned its attention towards the rebuilding of the Childrey bridleway bridge between West Challow and Childrey, for which planning permission will soon be applied. The East Vale branch is grateful to Doug for highlighting its achievements and for ensuring that they become more widely known.

Although, at first glance, *A Waterway to Wantage - Then and Now* may appear to be a disparate collection of information about the canal and the Wantage Tramway which shared a terminus with the canal on Wantage wharf, it reveals the canal from a multitude of aspects over two centuries and gives the reader an insight into how it was viewed by officiandom and ordinary people alike during that period. Doug has done an excellent job of bringing together many nuggets of information about the canal which the average amateur enthusiast would not even have been aware of.

Order the book on-line from the website http://www.wantage-waterway.co.uk
Also on sale at the sackhouse on Wantage wharf and at the Vale and Downland Museum, Church Street, Wantage.

Canalside walkers have been enjoying the two nesting swans at Chaddington Lane, near Chaddington Spillweir (see map accompanying Judy Gosnell’s article on trees in the last Dragonfly).

They built a nest during April, and on 8th April we saw Mum swan leap off the nest to chase a Canada Goose which was pursued for 100 metres in a low-level chase resulting in the goose deciding to scarper and fly away altogether. Huzzie swan meanwhile just ignored the proceedings with his head poked down dredging weeds etc (could be a WRG candidate?) While she was absent we could see 4 eggs on the vacated nest and and also were amused to see some ducks climb onto the swan nest and inspect the eggs.

Another day, the swan harassed the duck with her fleet of ducklings, ending up chasing the flock into the spillweir top pond. By 13th April the swan nest had 8 eggs. Everyone was in anticipation, because some years’ swan nesting had produced infertile eggs, or none at all, on this canal section.

Patience was rewarded when on 22 May we saw all 8 eggs had hatched eight fluffy cygnets. At first they were all living inside her feathers but a head would poke out like a periscope. Within a day they were taken for flotilla practice along the canal water, and sunbathing practice on the towpath. Judy researched the incubation period as being “up to 42 days”. The Chaddington ones were 44 days for first four and 39 days for the remainder. They managed to all hatch on the same day it seems.
Walk along the towpath of the Wilts and Berks canal at Royal Wootton Bassett during spring and summer, and in the grassy parts, where the sun reaches, have a look for vetch. The plant belongs to the pea family and is easily identified by its pairs of leaves, tendrils, which twine around neighbouring plants and its purplish blue-coloured flowers. There are five species that grow in the wild and three of these grow along parts of the towpath in profusion. These plants are common vetch, bush vetch and tufted vetch. They are colourful and each of their flowers is quite different.

The most common and widespread of the species is bush vetch. This sprawling plant is also found by the side of roads and hedgerows. By the towpath it probably doesn’t really reach up to a metre in height but will wind itself around anything growing in close proximity. The flowers are a pale rather washed-out purple that we call a “muddy” colour! In early spring it flowers profusely and can be seen through the summer. There are usually six flowers on the stem.

Common vetch is also a flower of spring. The petals are a lovely purple and pink and very much a flower of the pea family. The flowers shine out from a mass of green vegetation. Despite the name common vetch is not that common but around the local fields and hedgerows of the Royal Wootton Bassett part of the canal it grows well: maybe it likes the clay soil. This plant has one or two flowers on each stem.

Our third vetch is the tufted vetch with its gorgeous blueish-purple flowers in tufts growing on a tangled bush-like mass. There is not as much of this by the towpath but it is there and can be seen in later summer. Great masses of the plant grow in neighbouring fields. Interestingly the flowers grow on one side of the stem only.

Have a look amongst the meadowsweet, valerian, cow parsley, great willowherb and rushes by the towpath for these purple-flowered plants. All the seed pods of the vetches are shaped like pods of peas, about 2cm in length and full of little seeds. When the seeds are ready the pods change colour from green to brown or black and will burst to let the seeds fall out. The pods of common vetch have an ingenious way of dispersing their seeds: when ripe the pod cracks into a spiral as it opens, flinging the seeds out over a greater distance, thus emptying their seeds, in our case, along the towpath. In late summer you can see the empty twisted pods on the plants. Collect some ripe seed pods and spread the contents around.

There is also meadow vetchling growing by the canal which is yellow and like a vetch but is not a member of the vetch family. Insects adore vetches for feeding and living amongst. Beetles, caterpillars, bees and butterflies can be seen around these plants on a warm sunny day. Bumblebees like common vetch and butterflies prefer tufted vetch.
Doreen Darby

We are sad to announce the passing of our former Partnership Chairman (2003 until 2005)
Annual General Meeting 15th October 2016

MCC Branch is hosting this year’s AGM of the Wiltshire & Berks Canal Trust at Sheldon School, Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6HJ. Everyone is welcome to hear about all the exciting developments concerning the restoration of the Wiltshire & Berks Canal through Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire.

10.00am Visits and Displays, 2.00pm AGM

Wilt & Berks Canal Trust

Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Wiltshire & Berks Canal Trust

PCC Branch is hosting this year’s AGM of the Wiltshire & Berks Canal Trust at Sheldon School, Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6HJ. Everyone is welcome to hear about all the exciting developments concerning the restoration of the Wiltshire & Berks Canal through Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire.

10.00am Visits and Displays, 2.00pm AGM

Wilt & Berks Canal Trust

Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Wiltshire & Berks Canal Trust
Car parking is available at the school.

**Programme**

10:00am  Arrivals and refreshments. Slideshow displays will be presented during the morning.
10:30am  Minibus available to the local canal site.
12:30pm  Lunch. *Diners with pre-ordered meals are recommended to take an early minibus.*
2:00pm   **AGM commences at the Main Hall, followed by the Open Forum.**
4:00pm   Close.

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**Complete Section A Contact Details:**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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**Section B Meal Selections:**

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<th>Meal Selection</th>
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<td>Cottage Pie</td>
<td>£8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Curry &amp; Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macaroni Cheese</td>
<td>£8.00</td>
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**Total Meals**

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I enclose a cheque for £........ to *Wilts & Berks Canal Trust*. Please complete and detach form as shown, and send form and cheque to: Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre. Dauntsey Lock. Chippenham SN15 4HD.

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**Wilts & Berks Canal Trust:** A Non-Profit-Distributing Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales No. 2267719
Registered Address: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, HP5 1WA.
Registered Charity No: 299595
Telephone: 0845 226 8567
E-mail: info@wbct.org.uk
Web Site: www.wbct.org.uk
A good example of regeneration as referenced in “Partenership” article Page 24 final paragraph - photograph by Ken Oliver

Tufted Vetch - see article page 18 Photo by Judy Gosnell
Did nobody read the request under the fine photo of the shop printed in the Spring magazine? Nobody replied last time!

We are eager to have a few more volunteers to help us keep the centre open for the current three days each week, especially during the holiday season. Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays are when most people are in Swindon so we open from 10am to 3pm on those days. If you could offer to be in the shop with someone else on any of those days then please contact Darrell Donaldson (postmaster@gedonaldson.plus.com), Derek Flexer (07753 980 297) or Helen Thomas (01793 534 404) as soon as possible.

**Magazine Archive-gaps**

We are trying to make a complete set of magazines for shop use for our visitors. Missing are issues 62 (autumn/winter 1996), 71 (winter 1998), 72 (Spring 1999), 74 (autumn 1999) 75 (winter 1999). Please contact Helen Thomas (01793 534404) if you can supply any of these back numbers. Thank you.

Helen Thomas

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**Land Fund**

The activity in acquiring the track of the Wilts & Berks Canal is continuing to grow and so the need for funds is increasing.

It is vital that we secure the track, as we cannot make serious progress at any point until we have control of the land.

The Land Fund is still open for donations and if you would like to contribute, please send a cheque to *Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, SN15 4HD*. If you were able to donate a few pounds on a regular basis, that would be even better.

Just contact the office on **0845 2268567** or by email **info@wbct.org.uk** or speak to Kath on **01380 831231** or **kath.hatton@wbct.org.uk** and we will help you to set up a Standing Order.
Partnership News
The Partnership met on 16th June and will meet again in September. Discussion items included a review of the plans for the North Wilts Canal and the Chippenham Branch.

Transfer of land from Wiltshire Council
I have been working for some time with the property services team at Wiltshire Council to present a proposal to transfer the canal owned by the Authority to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. The matter was considered recently by councillors and senior officers at the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee and the proposals were approved. Over the next few months detailed consideration will be given to each of the sections of canal in the Melksham, Reybridge and Royal Wootton Bassett areas and they will then be transferred on an area-by-area basis. Leader of the Council, Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, said “Wiltshire Council is a long standing partner in this restoration and we are pleased to be able to assist the volunteers to progress work on the Wilts & Berks Canal. Wiltshire continues to benefit from the great tourism attraction of the Kennet & Avon canal which was similarly restored with the passion and enthusiasm of volunteers - it is a wonderful success story and is a great benefit to the community”.

Melksham Link
The revised plans are now being considered by the consultees and when this process has been completed the application will be considered by Wiltshire Council’s planning committee. Details can be accessed on the Wiltshire Council web site http://bit.ly/1y4sn3Y. Although online comments are closed, the case officer will consider further submissions. You can add your support by emailing developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk or writing to Planning Department Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN quoting reference number W/12/01080/FUL.

Pewsham Locks
Two exciting developments mean that the prospect of a full restoration of this important site is starting to look more promising. For more than a year I have been working with the WBCT team to partner Canal & River Trust in a bid to the People’s Postcode Lottery Dream Fund. Some extremely hard work by all parties came up with a scheme that involved Help for Heroes and a number of restoration projects, including Top Lock at Pewsham. The bid was successful and the Heritage Heroes programme will fund approx £100k of the project costs and will give opportunities next spring for Help For Heroes volunteers to work on the restoration to learn heritage skills in a practical environment. The remaining part of the Pewsham Locks site has been the focus of an application to Heritage Lottery Fund, which has just been submitted. We have to wait now to see how the scheme is assessed.

Water Adds Value
Finally, I have had the opportunity this summer to take our narrowboat ‘cross country’ from the Kennet & Avon Canal to the Lee & Stort Navigations. The aim is a cruise in the early part of July when the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park waterways (Bow Back Rivers) are officially re-opened. It’s been nearly 15 years since I have travelled on some parts of the route and there can be little doubt what value the waterside setting brings to any number of regeneration projects. All the more reason for getting on with the Wilts & Berks!

Tel:01249 706494
Email: ken.oliver@wiltshire.gov.uk
Partnership Website: http://www.wiltsandberkscanal.org.uk

@wiltsberkscanal (Twitter)

www.facebook.com/wiltsberkscanal (Facebook)
Our Garden Party Experience
Paul Lenaerts

Kath rang, as she does from time to time usually about raising or spending money on Melksham Link, but this time it was different.

“Have you ever been to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party?”

“No?” I answered cautiously, suspecting another volunteering ‘opportunity’.

“Has Val ever been to one?”

“No?” - not sure where this is going.

“Would you both like to go to one on 10th of May?”

Quick check with Val and the diary – “OK – tell us more”.

“Well, the Trust get a couple of invites every other year and we thought you might like to go”.

And that was it! A few weeks later the very official envelope arrived, Val was dusting off her small collection of hats, and suddenly ‘canaling’ became a more acceptable occupation!

It was decided that we should make the most of it and spend a few days sightseeing in London. Accommodation and train tickets were booked, as well as tickets for “Showboat”.

Then I discovered that Mike and Maggie Lee also had invites, courtesy of Mike’s award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year’s Honours List.

So we set off on the 9th, booked into our accommodation, took a river trip to Greenwich and “Cutty Sark” and the weather was good to us.

The day dawned overcast and drizzling so brollies were deployed and we set off. Then Mike called to say that he had picked up a bug and they couldn’t make it.

Undeterred, we joined the queue at the Hyde Park entrance and were soon wandering around the gardens in reasonable weather, together with around 8,000 other guests all dressed up for the occasion.

Afternoon tea was served with military bands playing and all was very refined.

“God Save The Queen” announced the arrival of the Royals and the drizzle returned. At last, the Queen came into view heading for the Royal Tea Tent, followed by the Duke of Edinburgh. We found out later that she had just had that conversation about the ‘rude’ Chinese delegation magically amplified for the microphones by her umbrella!

We met some very nice people from all walks of life and thoroughly enjoyed our ‘once in a lifetime’ experience.

So, many thanks to all who made our trip possible. I feel there must be many other members who deserved the opportunity more than me but I wasn’t going to argue and if I had turned it down, I really would have been in the mire!

Sorry about the lack of professional photos but cameras weren’t allowed, and with the only official photographers concentrating on the video of the proceedings, we mere mortals were reduced to spotting like-minded couples and sneaking mutual snaps on unfamiliar mobile phones!

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A message from our administration team please.

Can we say thank you to the unknown lady who donated a selection of interesting canal maps on the 6th July at the Peterborough Arms, but who left without leaving her name.

Good News For Members

15% Discount from Cotswold Outdoors. Just take this magazine into any of their stores or online quoting AF-WBCT-M8 and your membership number. Note this only applies to full priced items.

Keith Price
Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (company no. 2267719) held at Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton, Wiltshire, SN4 9LW, on Saturday 5th March 2016 at 2.00pm

Present:

Roderick Bluh Chairman
Chris Coyle Co Secretary
Peter Kinsman Treasurer
Colin Fletcher Trustee
Derek Flexer Trustee
Kath Hatton Trustee
Dave Maloney Trustee
Brian Stovold Trustee
Jenny Stratton Trustee
Edward Thomas Trustee
Jonathan Till Chief Executive Officer

As Executive Directors Nominate
Chris Coyle
Derek Flexer
Kath Hatton
Andrew Matters
Sheila Wade

Also present were 68 ordinary voting members of the Trust (as recorded on the attendance list).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2.12pm and welcomed everyone. He stated that this was an opportunity to bring to a conclusion the work on the reorganisation of the Trust, setting the overall structure in place. He noted that a very large amount of work had gone in to reaching this point, and thanked all who had contributed.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sir William McAlpine (President); David Fletcher (Vice President); Roger Holmes; Neil Rumbol; George and Melanie Eycott; Val Melville; Margaret Lord; J C Ballantyne.

2. Chairman’s Remarks

The Chairman summarised progress in a number of areas by stating that the Studley Grange project had been a major preoccupation for him since joining. It was a challenging project in many ways. Work had been suspended by the contractor until the Spring, because of ground conditions. Work will then resume to complete the project.

He reported that the Trust would very shortly be meeting with the leaders and their teams of Swindon Borough Council, and the Vale of White Horse District Council, and a good deal of preparation had already been done for these.

Letters had been sent to many landowners to the east of Swindon (approximately 130 in total), informing them of the Trust’s plans. A number of replies had been received, a large number of which were positive.

At the Peterborough Arms a start has been made on preparing the ground floor for opening as Community Rooms, with a target opening date of the Summer.
Development of a new look to the website is in progress.
The Executive team has been formed, and will be presented to you shortly.
The Board of Trustees is in the process of being reconstituted, with greater emphasis on its strategic and governance roles, and the first meeting of the interim Board will be next week.
The Chairman summarised his feeling as being that many important building blocks have been put in place, ready to move the Trust forward.

**The Executive Committee**
The CEO, Jonathan Till, said that the meeting would shortly have the opportunity to hear from the Executive Directors who had been appointed. Having made these high level appointments, we are now working on the next level down.
The CEO said that he personally had been heavily involved since joining on two projects – Studley Grange, where he had received very considerable help from David Stirling and Eddie Thomas – and the Peterborough Arms, where we now have the aim of opening for Trust and Community use. As part of this the Administrative office will move to the Peterborough Arms shortly.
The CEO then introduced the Executive Directors – Andrew Matters, Chris Coyle, Derek Flexer, Kath Hatton and Sheila Wade, who each gave a short introduction to themselves, and their plans in their new role.

The Chairman summarised this part of the meeting by saying that each Executive will need support groups to help them, as their workload will be enormous. He also emphasised the importance of communications, as the Trust needs to persuade people that the Trust can deliver on an idea that many people support, but have concerns about deliverability.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

3. To approve amendments to the Articles of Association

**Motion 1** - To approve the change to Item 44 of Memorandum and Articles of Association.
The Chairman asked the Company Secretary to read out the proposed change, and he summarised the purpose of the amendment as being to clarify the process by which members could nominate Trustees.
There were no questions, and the motion was proposed by Chris Coyle and seconded by Keith Price. On a show of hands the motion was passed by the members present, with none against.

**Motion 2** - To approve the change to Item 66 of Memorandum and Articles of Association.
The Company Secretary summarised the purpose of this as being to remove the formal need to send every member a copy of the Annual Accounts by post; this had never been done on grounds of cost. The amendment would allow their distribution by much cheaper means.
A member asked for confirmation that any member could still ask for a paper copy of the accounts; the Company Secretary confirmed this.
The motion was proposed by Chris Coyle and seconded by Frank Keohane. On a show of hands the motion was passed by the members present, with none against.

**Motion 3** - To approve the change to Item 70 of Memorandum and Articles of Association.
The Company Secretary summarised the purpose of this as being to allow a member to elect to receive notices other than by post. Having to use mail to deliver notices is expensive, and using modern methods such as email would be cheaper for the Trust.
There were no questions, and the motion was proposed by Chris Coyle and seconded by Brian Stovold. On a show of hands the motion was passed by the members present, with none against.

**Motion 4** - To approve the change to Item 74 of Memorandum and Articles of Association.
The Company Secretary summarised the purpose of this as being to allow the Trust to use other means than First Class Royal Mail post to distribute notices and other documents. Again, this would result in considerable savings for the Trust.
There were no questions, and the motion was proposed by Chris Coyle and seconded by Chris Barry. On a show of hands the motion was passed by the members present, with none against.
4. Any Other Business
Susan Cooper introduced herself as a member of the IWA Restoration Committee. She had been asked to put forward a number of questions on behalf of Roger Holmes.

1. I have seen a website for Trimac Ltd (trimacwaterways.com) who claim they are working with the Trust. What exactly is the relationship of this organisation with the Trust? If anybody from this organisation attends meetings of the Trust do they declare a conflict of interest?
The Chairman responded that Roger Holmes was on the Board of Trustees when the question of a possible conflict of interest was raised. The Company Secretary had prepared a paper summarising the position, and the Board had discussed the issue and concluded there was no conflict.

Jock MacKenzie informed the meeting that Trimac Waterways had been formed by Peter Triggs, a developer in Swindon. Trimac had offered, and been engaged by the Trust, to carry out the facilitation of the land assembly part of the Melksham Link project.

JM stated that no-one in the Trust has any financial interest in Trimac.

2. Have the organisations who have been asked to nominate Trustees responded, and what was their reaction?
The Chairman replied that now that re-organisation is complete with this EGM we will be working over the next few months to bring in new non-exec members and appointed representatives.

3. Should WBCT members be more represented on the Board of Trustees as at present it is undemocratic at two only?
The Chairman replied that this issue was discussed at some length as part of the reorganisation. For the first time there will be a directly-elected member representative Trustee. In addition there will be a Trustee representing the branch chairs, and therefore the membership. The remaining branch chairs will be present at and contributing to meetings of the Executive, and hence will have a channel for communication to and from their branch members.

He added that the Board of Trustees has to be kept to a reasonable number, and their role will be focused on governance, strategy and scrutiny of the Executive. For this reason it was felt appropriate to strengthen the Board of Trustees by bringing in new people with wide experience.

4. Trustees are responsible in law for expenditure etc, but the Treasurer is not a Trustee; will they receive reports but not be able to question or ask for explanations?
The Chairman replied that the Board of Trustees will receive regular reports on Finance and other matters, and will certainly be able to ask questions about them. The Board will be approving the strategy and policy, and will be monitoring its implementation by the Executive, including expenditure.

Luke Walker introduced himself and asked about the process for appointing and re-electing Trustees. The Company Secretary replied that, as at present, all Trustees apart from nominated representatives will be co-opted to the Board, and re-elected at the next AGM by the membership.

The Chairman then formally closed the meeting at 3.50pm.

Signed as true record

.........................
Date:.............
**Keith Parsons.**

The *Dragonfly* Boat Team were very sorry to hear of the death of Trust Member Keith Parsons. Keith was one of those members who always stayed in the background, just getting on with the job at hand, as well as all the hard work he did on actual canal restoration work he was always ready to help out with crewing *Dragonfly*. He would frequently step in at short notice and get us out of trouble. Keith loved the Wilts & Berks Canal and I know he really enjoyed his trips on *Dragonfly* especially when he crewed on the Santa Special Trips.

Most weekends he would be seen walking the Kingshill Section with his family and I am sure all the boat crews will miss his friendly waves and comments.

Our thoughts go out to his family.

Robert Yeowell.
*Dragonfly* Trip Boat Team.

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**Q: When is a weed a weed?**

**A: When it is in the wrong place**

Many of the plants along our canals could easily be classed as weeds by people not in the know.

Pretty and popular plants such as poppies, foxgloves, ox-eye daisies and campion are generally admired and given the benefit of the doubt: but even nettles, cow parsley, docks and groundsel are all important sources of food and habitat to many insects and animals which make their homes along our canals.

So when you see a “tatty” bit of canal bank or towpath and think: “those dirty boot brigade people have not been keeping up with the maintenance”, just think again. Think of all those butterflies and bees, all those newts and frogs, willow warblers and pied wagtails, ducks and swans, kestrals and herons, water voles and badgers: all those species which need the varied habitat a wildflower rich bank and towpath can provide.

So, is that bit of nettle in the wrong place?

If the answer is “No, it’s not getting in my way”, then they are wildflowers and need to be “let be” as HRH The Prince of Wales says of his “weeds” in Highgrove... and who are we to argue?
Back to the future

First boat on this part of the Wilts & Berks Canal for over 100 years! Full update next time.
I would like to open this report by saying thank you to all members involved in the vast amount of activities that have gone on since the last edition of Dragonfly.

There has been a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes with our Heritage Lottery bid for the Pewsham Locks site. Val Melville has led a team of MCC branch members, members of the Executive and our Wiltshire County Council Canal Officer Ken Oliver, to the successful submission of round two of this application. We hope to hear positive news in September 2016.

Special thanks to Ulrika Jonsson Swinburne who guided us through intricacies of this document, which when submitted was over nearly 12,000 words long with a further 40,000 words in the appendices.

We had exciting news about funding for our Top Lock project. Not only were we donated £20,000 by Chippenham Area Board, but because the Top Lock project was in place with all its ducks in a row, sharp-eyed Kath Hatton (our WBCT Fundraising Director) spotted an opportunity. We have been given sufficient funding to complete this project from Canal & River Trust in partnership with the People’s Postcode Lottery’s Dream Fund and we get to work with a group from Help for Heroes, probably in the Spring of 2017. We are obviously pleased at having raised the funds for this project and of course at the opportunity of working with Help for Heroes. Now we have the cash in place, work has started in earnest on the Top Lock with teams working during the week with Ray and Basil and at our Sunday work parties. We still need more competent bricklayers to help with this project, so if you fit the bill please contact me for more details. Let’s hope for reasonable weather in the coming months.

By the time you read this, Michael Hill will have officially ‘launched’ Boswell. This is our work boat that was funded by the Hills Group. A small team have been working studiously to get her ready for the water, including chopping her in half to create a tug and butty (barge without an engine) as there is nowhere on the current stretch at Pewsham to turn a full length narrow boat. She will be used as a materials carrier and to help keep the weeds and bulrushes down on this section.

The events team have been busy with successful events such as our Quiz and Horse Racing Nights, Chippenham Folk Festival and our Heritage Walk which saw members of the public and WBCT walking what is left of the Chippenham Branch line to Pewsham Locks, where we held a family fun day. Check out www.melkshamwaterway.org.uk for details of our raft race and boat trips at the Melksham Food & Drinks Festival on 3/4th September, the music night on 15th October and the branch Beer Festival on 12th November.

Malcolm Hitchinson recently stood down as Chair of the Events Committee and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for the years of dedication which saw his team raise thousands of pounds towards the restoration on the Wilts & Berks along the MCC line and donations to the Melksham Link project.

Many of you will know that an opportunity arose to buy land on the canal line at Queenfield Farm on the northern outskirts of Melksham. At the time
We seem to have been busy at all our sites over the last three months. We completed our annual scrub clearance at Dunnington Aqueduct after several weeks work so there is room for everything to grow like crazy ready for us to cut it down again next year. The structure itself is in need of some attention and we are planning for a survey to be carried out in the next few weeks to assess its condition and what repairs may be needed.

We were able to continue our scrub clearance at Templars Firs for a while until the nesting season caught up with us, and have been clearing the offside of the canal where scrub and trees were encroaching into the water. We removed small trees very near the water but left clumps of trees further back so they had space to grow. In places it looked a bit bleak by the time we had finished but it is already greening over and looking good. We also made an early start on weed clearance in the canal to try to reduce the annual weed invasion. This seems to have been of benefit as so far the weed is much reduced but we will still need to run the weed cutter every couple of weeks. Also helping is that the water is not clear thus stopping the light getting to the bottom. We thought this was due to

Dave Maloney
all the rainfall but the fishing club have suggested it is due to the number of fish stirring up the silt in the bottom.

At the far end of the watered section we have been inundated by tall reeds creating a floating mass encroaching across the canal. We now have a reed cutter which attaches to a strimmer with an extended shaft. Using this from the boat we can slice up the ‘weed island’ and float it to the towpath side where it can be hauled out and disposed of, though the hauling out bit takes a huge effort and we must have pulled out tons of weed.

We had a couple of days of heavy rain recently but we worked through it until lunchtime when we retreated to our cars for a break. We sat there watching the water level in the canal rise by about eight inches in half an hour. The water was soon overtopping the towpath by several inches and flowing into the fields. The adjacent railway line is higher than the canal and that too was flooded, stopping the trains for several hours. We seem to be receiving an excess of water in short periods of time since the new housing development north of the canal started.

At Chaddington we have also been clearing the canal of weed and the grass cutting work has started in earnest. We have a small ‘paddock’ next to the canal where we dumped the canal dredgings. Last year this was six feet high in thistles but it has been mowed a number of times, the first time took several weeks. Amazingly it is now all grass and buttercups and takes half a day to mow. We might have to buy a sheep! Last year we fenced off the area around the canal where we were hoping ownership would be transferred from Wiltshire Council to the Trust. We have just had the good news that Wiltshire Council have agreed in principle that this should happen, subject to legal requirements.

The other good news at Chaddington is that our pair of swans which nested in a ridiculous spot near the road have hatched out eight eggs into fluffy bundles which are creating a huge amount of interest. At Studley Grange we spent a few hours digging out a ditch which was blocking up, preventing a field draining into the canal. We are hoping the contractors will be returning shortly to complete the dredging and the towpath. We have started to drain the section of canal to the east of Bincknoll Lane ready for them to start work.

We hold our work parties every Wednesday at one or more of our sites. Stuart Owens and John Philips have now joined Richard and myself as Work Party Organisers. This will enable us to have the work parties working at different sites and gives help in organising our activities. New volunteers are welcome, there is plenty to do and we always need more help. Come along and see what we are up to on a Wednesday.

John Bower

__________________________
Keith Parsons – Obituary

It was with great sadness we learned that Keith had passed away recently, a short while after falling near his home. Keith had been a work party member at Royal Wootton Bassett for thirteen years and was with us as usual the week before his fall. He had worked as a carpenter for many years and there is evidence all around our sites of things he has constructed and fixed for us. His most important job was probably the planning and construction of the complicated shuttering for the building of the spill weir. He was also a keen strimmer and scrub basher which he did with enthusiasm. Even now, when there is something to be made or fixed the immediate thought is ‘a job for Keith’, but alas . . .

Keith will also be remembered for his great sense of humour and awful jokes and his persistent cheerfulness.

RIP Keith from your fellow volunteers.

__________________________
SWINDON

Chairman:
Rod Hacker, 11 Whittington Road, Swindon, SN5 7DF  Tel: 07840 072817
Secretary:
John Farrow  Tel: 01793 490672
With the summer season upon us we have planned at least some of the events to which we will take the display kit this year. We have already done two events and have benefited from two new volunteers to help. When the sun shines it is a pleasant day out. We are still expecting to cover as many events as last year and we will be found at two of the Swindon 175 activities which celebrate the arrival of the railway.

The pace is certainly hotting up when it comes to responding to other developments which will affect the canal route and developing our plans. The recent response from members to the consultation on design and infrastructure for the New Eastern Villages was excellent. 330 of 369 responses referenced or related to the canal restoration which probably gave the planners a touch of indigestion but they cannot have missed the point. The executive, the branch and our masterplanning colleagues are also actively pursuing opportunities on other lengths of the canal in Swindon.

At Wichelstowe the chances are improving of being able to make a serious start on planning and constructing the link between East Wichel and Westleaze in the near future as the new joint venture development team for the whole area starts to establish itself. We still have not found the leaks in the East Wichel length but we may be in a position to start the repairs to the failed edging near the lakes this year. Otherwise our work parties continue to focus on the usual small maintenance tasks. Some of these have been made easier by the purchase of a robust wheeled strimmer with our share of the 200 Club proceeds.

The construction of the landing stage at Waitrose seems a long time ago but we had a reminder at the end of May. In a small ceremony on the Dragonfly the store manager handed over to our chairman Rod Bluh a cheque for £7,000 as a contribution towards the cost. The relationship is working well for both sides and it is good to see that passenger demand for trips is holding up and was not just a brief spurt when the start point was moved to Waitrose.

Our branch AGM was a small-scale but successful affair. Very few takers for the boat trips run by Keith and Sue and even fewer for the guided walk along East Wichel length but we did re-appoint the branch officers and enjoyed a challenging quiz run by John Farrow. The highlight was the presentation made by Rod Bluh to Maureen and Keith Walker who continue to support the branch after over 30 years of leadership and active involvement.

Rod Hacker

WEST VALE

Chairman:
Graham Banks, 12 Craven Common, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7RN

Secretary:
Brenda Forward, ‘Llamedos’, Longcot Rd, Shrivenham SN6 8HF

The Canalside Park in Shrivenham looks marvelous; it’s amazing just how all the efforts to make this an attractive feature for everyone to use and enjoy have turned out. And turn out they do, people that is, (and dogs!) dozens every day come to walk in the park and along the paths and towpaths. Spring wild flowers planted by us have flourished and spread and those trees planted as saplings just 18 years ago are now mature and flowering their heads off. Isn’t nature wonderful, got to keep your eye on her though or else she gets a bit too enthusiastic and gives us some problems, serious some times!

That serious scar in the park left a few weeks ago when the electricity board grubbed out scrub beneath their electric lines has all but disappeared; in fact old Mother Nature has gone a bit mad, we’ve got it under control with a bit of un-encouragement and with a packet or three of native wild flower seeds!

With the wet weather the grass just grows and grows, just trying to outgrow the weeds I reckon, and as usual it nearly caught us out again this spring: the towpaths almost blocked with weeds, nettles and thistles five feet high, canal’s full though and it sure looks good!

All through the winter we have been kept busy with hedgerow maintenance: yes, they grow out over the towpaths like mad as well. Umpteen work parties have kept them a bit under control with mechanical help from hedge trimmers, etc (we have...
a couple of petrol ones but they are heavy and smelly!) So we were delighted when we received the news from the 200 Club that our application for a grant to buy a new generator to power our much lighter, quieter and no-fumes electric trimmers etc was successful. Thanks to all who support the 200 Club, it will make maintenance much easier. I will take some photos of the equipment in use!

Talking of maintenance, most of our tools/equipment take such a bashing it requires continual attention so along with things like broken gates and fences our fixers are kept very busy – any budding volunteers/mechanics out there? We have jobs for pen pushers too – yes, they also serve as well!

So it is with great personal sadness that I have to report that one of our indispensable pen pushers Allan Williams, WV Branch treasurer has died. (I reproduce his obituary from branch minutes below.)

Pity we haven’t got more canal here as well, now that would be good! So why haven’t we? Well we have the old cut/line virtually intact for a mile or so each way from the park, it’s a bit sludged/weeded up but water flows into it. So why haven’t we got a canal here? What’s the problem? Volunteers?, Money?, Politics?, Landowner reticence?, bureaucracy? You guess!

A bit of each actually, but which is the biggest!
boating activity the canal silts up again; however, we know that walkers, the environment and the local economy all benefit. So we must be ever vigilant watching out for planning applications that affect the canal line and fight for the continuation of the protection of the historic route of the canal.

After that, a pause for breath and moving onto other business. With me representing the Branch Chairs on the Board of Trustees, my deputy John Minns is representing the branch at the Executive meetings and reporting back to our regular branch meetings.

We are entering our very busy time of village fetes. Already under our belt is the Old Berks Country Show at Faringdon where we attended for the third time. A very busy show and our marquee gained much attention. Some good chats with locals and nice comments. That was quickly followed by our attendance at the Steam fair at Fawley Hill courtesy of Lord and Lady McAlpine. This was slightly less lucky with the weather but we had a good flow of visitors to the tent and some new members. (Welcome – it was good to see you) (My lasting memory however is of the train ride up and down the very steep gradient through the estate behind (and then pushed by) a steam engine . . . and of the challenger tank pulling the traction engine across the field. My thanks to the team who attended over the weekend, especially Mike Matthews.

I followed this up with a short (!) talk to Wantage Probus. They were saved the longer (death by PowerPoint. please let me out it’s been three hours) talk by dint of the fact that I had to go back to work fairly swiftly thereafter. Several Canal Trust members were also there but no bribes were required to stop them heckling!

July and August are looking rather busy. Next up is the Childrey Fete which is always good fun, a new event at Grove on 20 August and then the White Horse Show over the Sunday/Monday of the August Bank Hols.

Other news locally: Luke Walker has been taking the project of the Childrey Bridleway bridge under his wing and liaising with various authorities and persons to get this back on track. More on that in more detail next time. He has attended various of our committee meetings to discuss the project which is not easy when living a fair distance away, so we are grateful for his work here.

Negotiations for the lease over the chunk of the canal between East and West Challow are making progress and I hope to report more fully on that next time. Suffice to say that when it is wrapped up we are going to have lots of work to do . . . starting with the ecology reports and drainage studies. The restoration of the canal there is not going to be an overnight affair. It will take much planning to ensure the ecology is protected and that we end up with a stretch of canal we can all be proud of.

Back to planning for the Summer Festival walks

Brian Stovold

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Branch Meeting & Contact Details

The Melksham Caile and Chippenham branch meet at Melksham Skills Centre, Melksham, at 20:00hrs on the first Tuesday of each month.

MELKSHAM CALNE & CHIPPENHAM WORK PARTY INFORMATION:
Organiser: Ray Canter: raycanter@btinternet.com, Tel 01249 659111, Mob 07717 536883

Work Parties: Second & last Sunday each month
Details of the work parties are circulated by e-mail. Any member wishing to be included in this circulation please contact Ray
The Swindon Branch meets on the 1st Tuesday of every second month at 19:30hrs.  

**FOXHAM/LYNEHAM WORK PARTY INFORMATION**  
Organiser: Gordon Williams  
Tel. 07949 257897  
*Work Parties:* Every Sunday at about 09:30-10:00hrs.  
Ring Gordon to find out where we are working.

The Wootton Bassett Branch meets at 20:00hrs on the first Monday of each month.  
Please contact the secretary for details of meeting venue.

**WOOTTON BASSETT WORK PARTY INFORMATION:**

Organisers:  
John Bower, 20 Glebe Road, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 7DU  
Tel 01793 636297  
Richard Hawkins  
Tel 01793 814959

*Work Parties:*  
There are midweek and some weekend work parties. Please phone for details.  
Work involves some maintenance of the existing canal area.

The Swindon Branch meets on the 1st Tuesday of every second month at 19:30hrs.  
Check website for details.

**SWINDON WORK PARTY INFORMATION:**

Organisers:  
Ray Aldridge  
Tel: 07502 046708  
Oliver Gardiner  
Tel: 07785 775993

*Work Parties:*  
Regular work parties are on a Sunday. Check web site for details.

Branch web-site: [www.wbct.org.uk/branches/swindon](http://www.wbct.org.uk/branches/swindon)

The West Vale branch meet at The Prince of Wales, High Street, Shrivenham at 20:00hrs on the second Wednesday of each month.

**WEST VALE WORK PARTY INFORMATION:**

Organisers:  
Chris Forward, 'Llamedos', Longcot Road, Shrivenham, SN6 8HF  
Tel 01793 782776  
Branch web-site: [www.wbct.org.uk/branches/west-vale](http://www.wbct.org.uk/branches/west-vale)

**EAST VALE WORK PARTY INFORMATION:**

Organiser:  
Bob Airey  
Tel 01235 769469

*Work Parties:*  
Second and fourth Saturday of the month with changes at public holiday times.  
The East Vale work sites are: Childrey New Road; West Challow; Elm Farm section; and Grove Locks.  Contact WPO for details.
# Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and Officers

## Board of Trustees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Roderick Bluh</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>07831 340 387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Colin Fletcher</td>
<td>Lower Foxhangers Farm, Rowde SN10 1SS</td>
<td>01380 828 254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Interim Board of Trustees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Kinsman</td>
<td>Nant-y-Broch, Purton Stoke, Swindon SN5 4JG</td>
<td>01793 771 548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Thomas</td>
<td>14 Sandringham Road, Swindon SN3 1HP</td>
<td>01793 534 404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr David Cook</td>
<td>11 Highfields Road, Earley, Reading RG6 5RZ</td>
<td>01189 863 284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Stratton</td>
<td>35 Sheridan Drive, Wootton Bassett, SN4 8JJ</td>
<td>01793 850 310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Maloney</td>
<td>18 Bolts Croft, Chippenham SN15 3GQ</td>
<td>07809 374 754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Stovold</td>
<td>1 Roman Way, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9YF</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Stirling</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
</tr>
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## Executive Committee

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Jonathan Till</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>07444 432 441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co. Secretary, Finance</td>
<td>Roderick Bluh</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>07831 340 387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal &amp; Administration</td>
<td>Jonathan Till</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>01380 831 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;S, Volunteers, Property, Commercial &amp; Operations Director</td>
<td>Derek Flexer</td>
<td>07753 980 297</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Sponsorship Director</td>
<td>Kath Hatton</td>
<td>4 Charlton Hill, Edington, Westbury, BA13 4PL</td>
<td>01380 831 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects Director</td>
<td>Andrew Matters</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR &amp; Communication and IT Director</td>
<td>Sheila Wade</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>07976 281 586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Officers

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chair East Vale</td>
<td>Brian Stovold</td>
<td>1 Roman Way, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9YF</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chair West Vale</td>
<td>Graham Banks</td>
<td>12 Craven Common, Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7RN</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chair Swindon</td>
<td>Rod Hacker</td>
<td>11 Whittington Road, Swindon, SN5 7DF</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chair WB</td>
<td>Jenny Stratton</td>
<td>35 Sheridan Drive, Wootton Bassett, SN4 8JJ</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chair F&amp;L</td>
<td>Ian Gilbert</td>
<td>15 The Banks, Lyneham, SN15 4NS</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chair MCC</td>
<td>Dave Maloney</td>
<td>18 Bolts Croft, Chippenham SN15 3GQ</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Officer Abingdon</td>
<td>Martin Buckland</td>
<td>4 West Avenue, Abingdon OX14 1QP</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Doug Small</td>
<td>8 Raymond Rd, Maidenhead SL6 6DF</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events Co-ordinator</td>
<td>John Minns</td>
<td>19 Compton Drive Abingdon OX14 2DF</td>
<td>01235 763 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip Boats, Operations</td>
<td>Robert Yeowell</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Membership Executive</td>
<td>Contact via Trust Office</td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTRUST Liaison Officer</td>
<td>Ian Skerry</td>
<td>16 Chapel Hill, Watchfield, Swindon SN6 8TA</td>
<td>01793 784 197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Aid Officer</td>
<td>David Chalmers</td>
<td>40 Greenleaze, Knowle Park, Bristol, BS4 2TL</td>
<td>01179 720 423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRG rep</td>
<td>George Eycott</td>
<td>Knowle House,1 Ham Road, Wanborough, SN4 0DF</td>
<td>07771 775 745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Partnership - Wiltshire Council Countryside Officer:

Ken Oliver, Wiltshire Council, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 1ER
Email Ken.oliver@wiltshire.gov.uk | 01249 706 494 |

## Emails

Anyone on this page or in the branch details may be contacted using an e-mail address in the form: firstname.lastname@wbct.org.uk (firstname and lastname as printed in the listings).

## Trust Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre, Dauntsey Lock, Chippenham, SN15 4HD</td>
<td>Justine Hanley</td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Justine Hanley</td>
<td></td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Assistant</td>
<td>Ann O’Donoghue</td>
<td></td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT/TechOps</td>
<td>Martin Stubbs</td>
<td></td>
<td>08452 268 567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize winners for April are:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Ticket No. 015 D. Cox Wokingham</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Ticket No. 201 S. Panahinejad Uckfield</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Ticket No. 278 M. Smith York</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Ticket No. 11 C. Gibbins Wantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Ticket No. 66 J. Matters Corsham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Ticket No. 295 D. Flexer Chippenham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**June**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Ticket No. 142 S. Rosser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Ticket No. 188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Ticket No. 274 A. Lees Smith Chippenham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£3,082 was transferred to the Trust for the successful branch bids to buy the following:

- **MCC branch** £800 for chainsaw, trailer, water bowser and hand tools
- **Foxham & Lyneham** £460 for a stihl petrol engine, and slasher handles
- **Wootton Bassett** £800 towards a work boat
- **Swindon** £425 for a wheeled strimmer
- **Westvale** £282 for a generator and type 1 sub-base material and shingle

We hope you boys and girls are enjoying your new toys etc. and they are making life easier on your restoration projects.

To all ticket holders, best of luck with the remainder of the draws.

**Jeff and Lynda**
The next edition of *Dragonfly* will be published in October 2016
Please send articles and reports for inclusion by 1st September 2016

*Dragonfly* Available as a PDF via email. Please contact membership@wbct.org.uk

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