

Nutfield on **the Wendover Arm**



On Sunday 19th February our motor boat *Nutfield* carried a small party of Wendover Arm Trust members on the three-mile round trip from Bulbourne Junction to the present limit of navigation and back.

While *Raymond* has been getting a new cabin in the dry dock at Marsworth Top Lock, *Nutfield* has become a familiar sight tied alongside the wharf at Bulbourne. Although the work on *Raymond* is now finished the boats are stuck there until the stoppage at Stoke Bruerne ends in mid-March. But as things have turned out, it has offered the chance for an unexpected adventure.

Nutfield needs occasional runs during the winter so the boats being at Bulbourne presented a golden opportunity to give the engine a workout on the Wendover Arm – something we would never normally have time for as we hurry past on our annual journeys to and from the Rickmansworth Festival.

With the help of FoR members Roger and Diana Golder who are also members of the Wendover Arm Trust a number of WAT members were invited to come along, an offer they were delighted to accept as a working boat in full trim is not an everyday sight on their stretch of canal.



It is likely that in the 80 years *Nutfield* has plied the Grand Union there has never been an occasion for the boat to use the Wendover Arm. So this was something of a voyage of discovery. And the first thing *Nutfield* discovered on entering the arm soon after 9 o'clock on Sunday morning was that the bottom is a little too near the top – a situation not helped by the level on the Tring Summit being well below maximum. But apart from ploughing a deep furrow, *Nutfield* made steady progress with FoR Boat Manager Nick Scarcliffe at the tiller and the trip passed off without mishap.



Nick Scarcliffe (steering)
and Roger Golder



Passing Heygate's flour
mill on the return journey

Back at Bulbourne WAT Chairman Chris Sargeant awarded *Nutfield* the Wendover Arm Trust's plaque for successfully navigating the arm and thanked The Friends of Raymond for giving them the opportunity to take part in it. "It was a brilliant chance to experience a trip in an original working boat with an expert skipper on a challenging, winding stretch of canal," he said.



Members of the Wendover Arm
Trust and The Friends of Raymond
after the trip with Nick Scarcliffe
holding the Wendover Arm plaque

The trip was a great success for The Friends of Raymond too as it was not only a chance to boldly go where *Nutfield* has never gone before but it also allowed us to make new friends in the Wendover Arm Trust and forge a relationship with a like-minded organisation that we hope can be maintained to the benefit of us both in the future.