

Friends of PRESIDENT

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Kildare Centenary
Prize Draw

00195

1st Prize - £2,000 ABC Boat Hire
Holiday Voucher



2nd Prize - Weekend Break on a 4 berth boat from
Calcutt Boats taken outside school holidays

The draw will take place at the Black Country Living Museum on November 5th 2013. The prizes are non-transferable and there are no cash alternatives. No ticket can be sold to any person under the age of 16, or residents of Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands or outside of the UK. Full terms and conditions can be found on the Friends of President website at www.nb-president.org.uk

This draw has been registered with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, No. 2066

Promoter - Neil Ratcliffe, Briar Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6JU

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May 2013

Committee 2012/3

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All items for inclusion in the newsletter to be sent to the editor, contact details above.

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this newsletter do not reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the committee, Friends of President or the Black Country Living Museum unless specifically stated.

Help raise funds for Friends of President

By searching the internet using <http://fop.easyssearch.org.uk/>

Current total : £16.82p from 3,332 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>

Current total : £179.60p from 21 registered supporters

Website : <http://nb-president.org.uk/>

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Sorry it's a few days late but going boating for the last six days of the month does have its disadvantages. As you will have seen from the front page, the prize draw tickets are now available. The official launch took place on the dock at the museum after the AGM. For those that weren't in attendance, the first prize is a £2000 voucher donated by ABC Boat Hire that can be used for any holiday or holidays taken from any of their 14 bases during 2014.

It could pay for a large boat in the peak time of August, or be used for 2 or maybe 3 holidays on smaller boats out of the main season, the choice would be yours, subject to the boats being available when you book. Even if you have your own boat or a share in one, you could still have holidays on the Mon & Brec and/or the Forth and Clyde canals which are inaccessible to your boat.

I'm sure you would all agree, this is a wonderful prize and one which we should all be very thankful for. This is the reason why we want our sales stand to attend more events than normal this year, to make every effort we can in raising as much money as possible to go towards the extensive work that is planned for the stern end of Kildare.

The response to the request for volunteers last month was very disappointing. I can understand why nobody volunteered for the record attempt on Blisworth, I haven't heard of anyone who thought this was genuine but everyone I have spoken to didn't spot the anagram clue in the name of the rope - toil half rope. The list of events was genuine and we need members to man the stand, as you will see later the list has been amended a bit.

Kildare News



In the Spring 2013 edition of *Narrow Boat* magazine, Willow Wren Canal Transport Services featured in the Famous Fleets series. In that article there were another couple of photos of Snipe (ex Kildare). I have had permission to reproduce both of them in this newsletter.

The photo on the left (thanks to Hugh McKnight for the permission) shows Snipe in the company of Lindsay delivering coal to the Potteries in the summer of 1966.



The second photo is of Snipe taken while she was waiting to unload at Seddons with coal from Sideway Colliery at Stoke, again working with Lindsay, many thanks to Gordon Briggs for permission to reproduce this one.

There were three responses to the history of Kildare that appeared in the last 195.

The first is from Richard Thomas who changed the side on which the patch is located following the bombing. He now says it is on the starboard side.

The second is from Nick Haynes who says “Prior to Kildare going up to Preston Brook I had to pump out Kildare a number of time whilst it was left at Tardebigge for a week after the IWA 50th Meeting Celebration. At the time we thought it might have just been water coming in through the top as it had rained a lot.”

The third one is from Cyril Dean, “Some years ago I used to run a sales stand for The Narrowboat Trust. I was at a rally at the boat club at Warwick and two ladies were looking at the FMC book that was on the stand. They looked at a picture and commented “It was a good job we had gone to the pictures that night”. Yes it was the one of Kildare sunk. This may explain why the ladies stood on the boats are dressed as they are. At the time, I had no interest in Kildare, so didn't take any further action but have since regretted it.

Work Party - Sat Apr 6th

Those attending today in the sunshine were Nick Haynes, Dave Stott, Neil Ratcliffe, Pat & Brian Empsall, Steve Kirk, Rod Fox, Colin Wilks, Will Derbyshire and Tony Tibbins.



After the usual brew to start things off, we had a bit of shuffling of the boats, President was moved over to the other side and Kildare left bankside. Work on Kildare consisted of removing the front two top cloths, loosening the exposed side cloth and girder strings, removal of the upper section of the bathroom bulkhead and then remove the mast. With all this out of the way, the mast cross plank could be

removed and a new one fitted. Then put every thing back together again. Whilst all this was going on she was also cleaned inside.

On the other bank there was the more dirty work going on, President had the back end of the combustion chamber opened up and cleaned out. Seven (I think) trays of ash and other bits were removed from here. The tubes were swept, and the smoke box cleaned. The right hand gauge glass was removed to fit new packing. The reversing lever, which had been removed on a previous visit was refitted with a modified hand control. As with Kildare, everything was put together again, with no bits left over.

President then rejoined Kildare but left on the outside so that Kildare was bankside ready for the launch of the Centenary Prize Draw after the AGM on the 20th. The main downside to this work party was the discovery that the museum had reduced the staff discount on the fish and chips, from 50% down to 25%, they were still excellent though.

Work Party - 20th April

Nick Haynes, Neil Ratcliffe, Tony Tibbins, Rod Fox, and Pat & Brian Empsall all enjoyed the sunshine again for this work party, even though the first job was to load three tons of coal ready for the first trip of the year to an 'On The Water' event at the ABC Boat Hire base at Alvechurch. This had been a hastily arranged trip as a way of saying thank you for the prize draw donation.



Nick and Dave Stott have also made other visits to the museum in between these two work parties sorting out the boiler inspections and steam test, blacking one side of Kildare and various other things.

The feed pump has been repaired by the museum's steam group and was going to be returned later that day. Nick and myself left early to attend the committee meeting that was taking place before the AGM, leaving the rest to continue with the long list that Nick had made out.

Committee Report - 20th April

Attended by Dave Powell, Nick Haynes, Carole Atkinson, Neil Ratcliffe, Steve Kirk, Malcolm Dunlop and Chris Walker.

Membership - Malcolm reported that there were still 11 outstanding renewals for this year (*Ed - if you are one of these, please send your payment otherwise you will soon stop receiving these newsletters*). There have been no new members joining since the last meeting. Chris is working on a mail shot to hire bases, boatyards and marinas publicising President and FoP, sending them some leaflets that they will hopefully display, which may help in our quest for new members.

Maintenance - President's boiler has been inspected and had the necessary steam test and has been passed as fit to travel for another year. Various parts of the paintwork are in the process

of being touched up. Work is still proceeding on the tender that will go out for the work on Kildare's stern end. The BCLM board fitted to the cratch is being modified so that it fits better.

Boating programme - crews are available for the moving of the boats to the various events this year, but there are still a lot of vacancies for the shows at Crick and Braunston, and the majority of the weekends when the boats are at the museum during the summer. One of these weekends is a World War II themed event which the museum would like Kildare to take part in as she was one of the casualties.

Sales program - we have a list of preferred venues for the stand but desperately need a lot more volunteers. Steve showed us the mugs that have been produced for sale to commemorate Kildare's centenary.

The IWA have asked FoP if we can do a half hour's presentation on each of the three days of the National at Watford in July. Speakers should be available for this.

AGM report - 20th April

23 members attended and 31 members apologised for not being able to attend.

Dave Powell gave a review of the organising and taking part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant last year, with a breakdown of the costs etc. This was followed by our Chairman, Nick, giving his report on the year, which included the work that was needed on the boats prior to the Pageant trip, the three launch events in Stoke, Stone and Fradley. In recognition of all the effort in getting the boats ready and all the behind the scenes form filling and meetings, Dave Powell, Dave Stott and himself have been nominated by the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace later this year, they are still waiting to hear if they have been accepted (*Ed - they have*).

Next was the Olympic Torch event, then our new website which has a new members' area with the latest crewing position and all the old copies of 195 and Steaming Up. He then spoke about the fundraising activities planned for this year, including the horse boating between Braunston and Stoke Bruerne in association with Sue Day and the Horse Boating Society.

He then thanked Andrew Lovett and all the museum staff for a year that had seen us all working closer and closer together and the hope that this would continue. Finally he spoke about the Marsh Volunteer Award for Historic Vessel Conservation. This is an annual award run by National Historic Ships UK to reward people for their dedication towards the vessels that are listed in their collection.



Dave Powell and Dave Stott's names were put forward by the committee and museum (without their knowledge) for this award in recognition of the many years that they had been involved with the boats.

Unfortunately they didn't win the £1000 first prize but did receive a certificate each for being Highly Commended. Dave Powell is pictured receiving his certificate, Dave Stott received his later as he was unable to attend the AGM.

Malcolm Dunlop reported that we currently have 197 members, 10 memberships lapsed during the year and 3 resigned. We are picking up new members now that you can join online.

Andrew Lovett then gave the Museum Report. He started by saying that we were the best and most effective volunteer working group. He thanked us all for the work involved in the Pageant and the Olympic Torch events. He covered topics such as the museum receiving Designated status, the restoration of the Newcomen Engine, the public consultation on the future which can be made via their website, the successful raising of funds for the restoration of Birchills, and the effect on museums of the change in the curriculum for Key Stage 2 children.

This was followed by the election of officers and committee for the coming year.

The Olympic Torch - 30th June 2012

Crew - David Powell, David Stott, Nick Haynes, Malcolm Dunlop.

The Olympic flame was to pass through the museum on the afternoon of the 30th June 2012. Friends of President were asked by the museum to carry the torch bearer from the portal of the Dudley tunnel to the dockside in the museum. Only a small crew was needed as the journey consisted of reversing to the tunnel portal, picking up the torch bearer and bringing him into the museum with much fanfare and whistling from President.

I'd, unfortunately, had to pull out of most of the boating activities outside of the museum this year as I'd been taken ill on board Kildare in April. Our illustrious Chief Engineer got up steam during the day and we moored on the anchor shed side of the dock for most of the day, talking to visitors. At the appropriate time the bridge was lifted and we let go. My job was to act as bow thruster for the reversing. Fortunately there was very little wind and my job was easy.

We moored outside the tunnel and were introduced to the gentleman who was to be the torch bearer. He very kindly allowed each of us to be photographed holding the torch before it was "*kissed*". An honour guard from the Sea Cadets lined the walkway over the portal. The torch arrived about half an hour after we'd moored, complete with its security detail. Our torch was kissed and burst into flame for onward passage. The torch bearer and Nick Haynes stood on the back end of President, with David Stott in the 'ole and David Powell steering. Two of the security detail boarded and were stowed in the hold. I took up my position on the bow and let go the bow line.

The approach to the museum was lined by many spectators and the whistle was well used on our short trip. On the dockside there were many cameras and crew from far and wide. The torch bearer and security detail left the boat and continued through the village to catch a tram to the top. Meanwhile our trip was over and all that was left was to put President to bed.

Malcolm Dunlop

Sales Stand & Fundraising

Another £4.59p was raised by members shopping and searching online during April. Still only 21 people registered though. Details on page 2 if you want to increase this number.

Volunteers are still needed for the sales stand. We have trimmed the list to 10 events, with two of those being handled by the crew of the boats, namely Stoke Bruerne and Tipton. The other 8 events all need more people, they are Crick, Pelsall, Braunston, Foxton, IWA Watford, Lea Valley, Shackerstone and Huddlesford.

The latest position should be up on our website in a few days, so please check the events and dates, and volunteer if you can.

Membership Matters

Two new members to welcome to our group this month:-

Andy Hughes & Tony Palmer

Prize Draw Background

As it was Kildare's centenary we wanted an idea that would raise as much money as possible, and thought that bringing back the raffle would be the best way if we could come up with a major prize. Our idea was to write to every hire base on the rivers, canals and Norfolk Broads, and every hotel boat business and ask them for a £25 donation per base to go towards the main prize. We hoped that around 80 would agree so that we would have a £2000 prize to be spent on a hire or hotel boat holiday or both.

Every base that entered would then be included in the list of places where this prize could be used, and this list publicised wherever we sold the tickets. 148 letters were sent out with a reply paid envelope included for the response. I then sat back and waited for the postman to struggle with the number of replies. I was to be very disappointed, only 12 replies were received, with 10 being supportive which included 2 hotel boats and 1 base on the Broads.

The extremely good news was that, only a couple of days after sending out the letters, I received a phone call from ABC Boat Hire offering the whole £2000. So the first prize became a holiday or holidays from any of ABC's 14 bases. Calcutt Boats also offered more than requested, either a £50 donation or a weekend break on a 4 berth boat out of the school holiday period, so the holiday option became the second prize.

Not listed on the ticket are a couple of nice A3 size photographs by Malcolm Ranieri who contributed the article and photos for last year's Coventry steam event, making a third and fourth prize.

Museum News

A volunteer working on the FMC motor Peacock has managed to get the Bolinder engine running, apparently the first time in eight years that it has run. There is a video of this on YouTube here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnLenXzaLsA>



It may not be a good idea to run it at the moment though, as we were getting the boats ready to leave to go to Alvechurch we spotted a coot's nest built on top of the propeller in between the waterline and bottom of the counter.

Media mentions

The press release by the museum for the horse boating to Stoke Bruerne has been picked up by the National Historic Ships website and the Northampton Chronicle & Echo.

In the last ever edition of Canals Rivers + Boats magazine, the May issue, there is an article by Tim Coghlan, looking forward to the historic boat rally in June. President & Kildare feature in the article, along with a photo of the opening ceremony in 2011, and a photo of George Hopkins looking out of the engine room doors.

Towpath Talk have an article on their website about our prize draw, but not in the latest printed edition, <http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk/news/-holiday-draw-fundraiser-for-kildare-repair>

Andrew Denny from Waterways World told us at Alvechurch that the prize draw news item had been pulled from the next issue and replaced by the planned Lapal Canal rally.

Diary Dates

4th - 6th May - Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice in London. Our member Keith Ward is there with his steam narrowboat Hasty, pay him a visit and you may get tea and biscuit. He also has a small stock of our leaflets and prize draw tickets if you want to help out for a while.

12th May - Open day at Bradley Workshops, if you want to see where and how lock gates are made. Bradley Workshops, Bradley Lane, Bilston, WV14 8DW. Open 10am - 4pm.

18th - 19th May - Rickmansworth Canal Festival.

25th - 27th May - Crick Boat Show. President & Kildare will have the company of another pair, Nutfield and Raymond. Our sales stand will be in the Kingfisher Marquee this year, stand 105.

Finally

All members who receive the newsletter by email should be receiving a couple of books of prize draw tickets in the post somewhen in the near future.

All members who receive the printed edition every 3 months will get their tickets with the newsletter posted in June.

If you manage to sell all the tickets and would like a further supply, either meet up with us on our travels or contact me and I will send you some more. If you are selling them to friends and family etc., please be aware of the terms and conditions that can be found on our website.

In the next issue should be the last trip report from 2012, the Park Head trip. Please remember the newsletter if you are involved with any event this year, I will need a lot of information if the monthly issues are to be continued.

Neil