

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

December 2014

'Friends of President' is a support group working for the Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ

(Registered Charity No: 504481)

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

Help raise funds for Friends of President

By searching the internet using <http://fop.easysearch.org.uk/>
Current total : £55.60p from 6,301 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £402.00p from 28 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the December issue of 195. If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter and you used to get it by email, then it's because your address that we have has stopped working. If you have changed your email address then please let Malcolm know your new one, then you can go back to receiving monthly 195s by email and FoP can save some money.

President News

Nick Haynes and Tony Tibbins went to the museum last Tuesday and moved *President* to its normal mooring and put the heaters on in the boiler and back cabin, to cut down on condensation.

President will be going to Dadford's for a repaint, and also to Stourbridge to be dry docked, not sure of the dates for either of these items yet.

Kildare News

The back cabin has been stripped out and materials are being sourced. She is still in the water and no date has been set yet for its removal.

Trip Report - Crick to BCLM, 10 – 15 August 2014

The crew for this trip were: Vic Fagence (Captain); David Stott (Driver – Chief Engineer); Will Derbyshire (Driver). Crew: Brian Empsall; Pat Empsall; Chris Walker; Alan Ward.

Sunday 10 August

Friday night induction – painless – most of the time. The day ended with an educational evening consisting of the crew exchanging anecdotes.

Monday 11 August

Crick to Braunston Marina. I only made five mistakes. None of which were life threatening, which was a great comfort to the crew. *President* and *Kildare* grounded in the pound between lock 2 and 3. The pound was low on water and the weather laughed at us by presenting occasional rain. Bacon and egg butties were eaten eagerly at Braunston Marina at 4 pm.

An evening training session was successfully completed at the Boat House public house.

Tuesday 12 August

Braunston to the Cape of Good Hope at Warwick. After breakfast *President* and *Kildare* set off for the Cape. Today under Vic Fagence's supervision, I steered *Kildare*. Briefly we moored at (Royal) Leamington (Spa), to get provisions from Sainsburys, or was it Tesco? Ah! It was Morrisons. So today can be summed up as, had breakfast, steered *Kildare*, drove the captain to distraction. A good day so far.

The crew had a good meal at the Cape of Good Hope lubricated with, for the most part, two pints of good real ale. The Cape is well worth another visit. I had one game of darts (301) with a local gentleman, concluding with me losing on a double finish.

Wednesday 13 August

Chris Walker volunteered to be breakfast monitor this morning. The crew had a good hearty breakfast which continued the pattern from previous mornings.

Set off at 8:15 am after taking fifteen minutes getting *President* moving. *President* had bottomed on mud. A good run up the Hatton flight, watering just after the Hatton locks café.

Shrewley tunnel, as we passed through, still had its sprinkler system in full operation. Passing along the Grand Union canal through Kingswood junction, on our right, loomed the finger post. Recently re-painted by Nick Nicholson, and reinstated back in its original position, by Canal Trust volunteers.

Thursday 14 August

Today we worked the boats from Catherine de Barnes to Cambrian Wharf, Birmingham. Heavy rain as we entered Farmers Bridge flight of locks. But fortunately the rain stopped just after we put our waterproof jackets on. I learnt a little more about operating locks – don't open upper and lower gates at the same time. Otherwise the canal becomes a tidal river.

All the crew are willing to give me advice and assistance, as and when necessary. It has been a steep learning curve so far, and is likely to be on any future outings with *President*. A group of people working together as a team is an enjoyable experience. It seems to be a sad reflection on society that team work is less abundant.

There is a thought that the bowl of *on the move*, bacon, egg, plum tomatoes and beans eaten with the aid of a spoon, kindly provided by Dave Stott, should be called the *Stott Pot*.

Friday 15 August

This morning *President* and *Kildare* set out at a quarter past eight, after an intellectually stimulating breakfast. I was left stranded in my little cess pit of pond life like intelligence. Bliss.

We experienced a good journey from Cambrian Wharf to the Black Country Living Museum. I had a stint bow hauling *Kildare* with Chris Walker instructing me. Good sound advice was given, like pull the rope, not push.

President and *Kildare* arrived at the Black Country Museum midday. After operating the lift bridge into its raised position, at the entrance to the museum. *President* and *Kildare* entered abreast to their home mooring.

The crew had a spot of lunch, then cleaning of the boats. After which we changed our clothes, and then packed our kit, then journeyed to our respective homes, dressed in our civvies.

I had been a good week, a memorable week and a better understanding of the narrow boat working practices of a circa 1920's narrow boat crew. Until the next lock flight, bye.

Captain's Notes

1. The captain passed all the crew out as competent in eating (achieved) and drinking (excelled).
2. Following a conference amongst the crew, Dave Stott has been elected to the peerage and in future will be known as Lord Stott of Hanley.

Information - 64.5 miles approx.. 92 locks, 3 Tunnels, 336 cups of tea, 70 cups of coffee, 1 large transparent circular adhesive first aid plaster.

Alan Ward

Fundraising

Totals now stands at £402 from easyfundraising, and £55.60p from easy search, making a total of £457.60p. There was a very small increase in the number of searches this month, and still only 28 people using easyfundraising.

Member News

A good three page article on reversing narrowboats from our member Steve Vaughan (Willow Wren Training) in the latest edition of Canal Boat. As long as it isn't windy, *President* will reverse well.

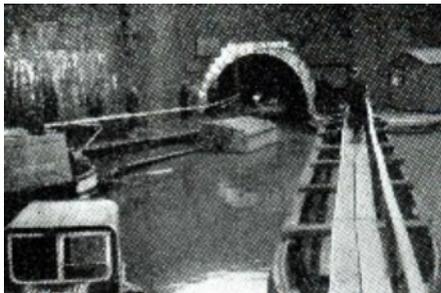
Penny Clover has let me know of a scheme that she is involved in, Abingdon Hydro. This is a scheme that will generate up to 100kW of electrical power by constructing two Archimedes screws at Abingdon weir next year. If you want to know more about this, visit their website at www.abingdonhydro.org.uk

Media mentions

Winding Point - Autumn 2014. This is the newsletter of the Leighton Buzzard Canal Society, and one of its members is recommending the Black Country Living Museum after they paid a visit in September. *President & Kildare* get a mention in the report.

Cuttings - Autumn 2014. The journal of the Shropshire Union Canal Society, in a report about the IWA Campaign Festival there is a photo showing the boats, and it says that *President & Kildare* were creating lots of interest.

Historic Narrow Boat Club Newsletter 2014/3 has a five page article about the restoration of *President* written by C.P. Weaver. This was taken with permission from the FoP website. Accompanying the article was a photo (shown below with permission) from the HNBC Weaver Collection, along with a request for more information on what had happened.



In the 2014/4 copy of the Newsletter there was a cutting from the April 1961 edition of *Waterways* that had been sent in response. On 24th January, at the Northern end of Harecastle Tunnel, they saw the last stages of a tricky rescue operation. A maintenance craft had sunk in the tunnel and *President* had been sent in to rescue the casualty.

Another response said that the sunken boat resembled the tunnel's battery boat.

Museum News (from the museum's newsletter)

During the museum's closed days in November there have been visiting film crews from the BBC for 'WPC56' and ITV for a new drama 'Arthur & George'.

WPC56 visited the museum to film the third series within the canalside village. This daytime police drama, set in the 1950s, is based on a true story about WPC Gina Dawson, who became the first female officer in a West Midlands police force. Series 3 is due to air on BBC1 in February 2015.

Arthur and George is a new three-part drama starring Martin Clunes as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes. When not writing about Holmes, Doyle investigated the sentencing of a vicar's son and Birmingham solicitor, George Edalji who was wrongly

convicted for horrific animal slayings. Based on a true story, the new drama portrays Doyle's role as he turned real-life detective to help George clear his name. During filming days, BCLM buildings were transformed to become the sleepy Staffordshire hamlet of Great Wyrley, near Walsall and to recreate the story of the once-notorious Great Wyrley Outrages, which took place in 1903.



This picture was sent to me by Keith Rogers. *Kildare's* rudder was unshipped by something below the water level on the way back from the Pageant. If this has ever happened on one of your trips, you will know what weight is involved in trying to put it back in place.

A short distance ahead of us was this handy road bridge, so we made use of it, and continued on our way.

Finally

Sorry about the lack of competition but I didn't have time to sort it out.

Neil