

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

April 2015

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

(Registered Charity No: 504481)

Committee 2014/5

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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.easyssearch.org.uk/>
Current total : £58.52p from 6,747 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £421.29p from 29 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition. I'm taking another short break in my camper, so this newsletter is being written on the Tewkesbury Abbey Caravan Club site. Can't quite see the Abbey from my pitch because of the trees, but I can hear the bells every hour. They didn't wake me up during the night though. Had a short walk along the banks of the Avon and Severn this morning before the threatened rain (it hasn't arrived yet).

Not good news as far as *Kildare* and boating are concerned. Delays in the work now mean that the trip to Crick has had to be cancelled. Malcolm sent me a revised crewing list for inclusion in 195 before this decision was made, so please ignore the Crick trip on this version. We will still need volunteers to man the sales stand, so please volunteer if you can.

I haven't received any update on the work this month, so am unable to let you know what progress has been made.

Work Parties

Received this email from Dave Stott

“Change of plan!! As a result of an on site meeting today (27th) we are going to blitz the floor of *Kildare* – which is in a bit of a state.

So Saturday 11th April is an important work party. We need hands to clear all the gear out of *Kildare* to enable the floor to be lifted in preparation for the new one. We will then clean the bilge and the ballast. The work party will be at Dadfords wharf 10am.

Please let me know if you can make it.”

Dave's email can be found in the committee list on page 2, he can also let you know where Dadfords is. Also let Dave know if you want your email address added to his list that he sends out notifications to. Work parties are organised at too short of notice for them to be included in 195, and if you do attend - **send me a report please**.

Event Reports

Towards the end of last year we were asked if we had a speaker who could give a talk to the Taunton Model Engineer Society. Simon (our treasurer) agreed to do it as he lived the closest to Taunton. After the meeting I received the following email from the society.

Dear Sir

On Tuesday 3rd March Taunton Model Engineer Society was pleased to welcome Simon Nuttall to our evening meeting.

As a thriving club with a broad interest in all things mechanical, we were well entertained by Simon who gave an excellent presentation of slides, video clips and narrative all about NB President.

Some 35 members attended and thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of engineering which has not previously featured in the range of talks the club enjoys.

Although Somerset has just the Bridgwater to Taunton canal (and remains of others) several members have some experience of narrow boating and possibly this talk will have stimulated interest in others.

So, our thanks to Simon for going to a lot of trouble to prepare and deliver this talk – much appreciated.

Kind regards

Bill Edmondson

Fundraising

Just over £2 raised during March using easysearch (£0.58p) and easyfundraising (£1.61p).

Over the Bank Holiday weekend in August there is the Northampton Festival of Water. As part of our fundraising towards the cost of *Kildare*'s repairs and new cabin it would be nice if we could have a presence with our sales stand. What we need are volunteers to take it to Northampton, erect it, run it for the weekend and take it away again. Please let any member of the committee know if you are available for any or all of the these tasks.

Media mentions

In the latest email sent out by Waterways World about the historic boats that are attending the Crick Boat Show, *President & Kildare* are listed along with *Aldgate, Nutfield & Raymond*.

Canal Boating Times (April 2015) - in this freebie newspaper from Waterways World there is a two page spread on Historic Boats On Show at Crick. The first page shows *President & Kildare* breasted up and leaving one of the locks on the Grand Union. The second page has photos and a write up on each of the boats listed in the above email. Another photo further inside the paper shows Tony Tibbins and one other at the stern of *Kildare*.

Museum News

I've been told that *Birchills* is back at the museum following the restoration.

Auction of President Horn

The auction held by the Historic Narrow Boat Club was open to members and their guests, and I said last month that I thought FoP were members, but it turned out that we weren't. It was a private membership of one of our members. This was rectified by FoP joining the HNBC, so we were now allowed to attend and bid for the horn.

Nick and myself travelled to Weston in Staffordshire, and arrived about half an hour or so before the start of the auction at 1pm. The horn was lot 198 (not 195 !) of 201. We sat there until about ten to five, listening to the lots going from £1 up to £420. The dearer lots were mainly old painted water cans and handbowls.

The auctioneer started lot 198 by saying that there was a high reserve price on this lot, and he would start the bidding at £280. This was well above the figure that the BCLM was prepared to go to for an item with no provenance. So we had sat there for nearly four hours and then didn't bid.

Nick did speak to the owners of the horn after the auction and was going to see if he could get any more information on the provenance.

Wordsearch

My apologies to any of you that tried to find all the names after I listed them last month, and couldn't find *Antelope*, somehow the 'p' had become an 'r', despite all the checking that I had done.

Other News

Len Crane

Well known Black Country Engineman Len Crane died on the 11 January 2015. Len was well known to Friends of President particularly in the 90's and was a good friend to the boat.. His engines were often to be seen at the museum and for many years he organised the steam weekends at the Black Country living museum. His funeral was held at the museum on the 6 February 2015 and was well attended with a number of Traction Engines and Crane Engines present.



Lens engine, sat outside the Bratch Pumping Station.

Len was best known for his Fowler Crane Engine Number 17212 which was often to be seen around the Black Country, I have fond memories of arranging for a Photo shoot to take place on the way back from the Bonded Warehouse weekend, the actual picture is in Neil's book. I arranged that we would meet and take a photograph on the bridge a few locks up and Len was only too happy to oblige. He had on his engine I believe a siren from a world war two aircraft carrier which could be heard from many miles around, and in particular I remember returning home from the old Birmingham Science Museum Raleigh's one Sunday afternoon when both President and he had set off reasonably similar times and his Siren could be echoing off the sides of the buildings as we headed up Farmers Bridge.

Len was also known for his work at the Bratch Pumping Engine where he spent six years restoring the triple expansion engine and was even visited by Fred Dibnah for one of his one of his television programmes.

Len will be sadly missed and was a great part of the Black Country Steam scene.

Simon Nuttall

Steam Tug 'Brent'

Yet another organisation that is after your money, the Steam Tug Brent Trust.



Brent is the last surviving steam vessel of the Port of London's fleet. She is one of only three steam TID class tugs left in Britain, of the 182 built for the Admiralty as part of the War Effort.

Full details can be found here:-

<http://www.steamtugbrent.org/>

Well that's all for another month, and don't forget, if you've said you will write something for me then please do.

Neil



Provisional Crewing Programme 2015

Please complete and return to **Malcolm Dunlop 2, Solvay Rd, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4DR**
 Email: malcolm.dunlop@dsl.pipex.com Telephone No. **01606 781793**
 Mobile No: **07905247504**

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN THE SPACE BELOW NO NAME = NO CREW SPACE

Name	Telephone Number	Email	Mobile 📞

EVENT	FROM	TO	YES/ NO
Training weekend	9th May	10th May	
BCLM toCrick	17th May	22st May	
Crick show	23nd May	25th May	
Crick to BCLM via Trent and Mersey			
Crick to Sawley	26th May	30th May	
Sawley to BCLM	31st May	4th June	
BCLM to Coventry	14th June	19th June	
Coventry steam show	20th June	21st June	
Coventry to Braunston	22nd June	24th June	
Braunston show	27th June	28th June	
Braunston to BCLM	29th June	4th July	
BCLM Skills Weekend	1st August	2nd August	
BCLM Skills Weekend	8th August	9th August	
BCLM Skills Weekend	15th August	16th August	
BCLM Skills Weekend	22th August	23th August	
BCLM Skills Weekend (inc BH Monday)	29th August	31st August	



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EVENT	FROM	TO	YES/ NO
Possible			
BCLM to Huddlesford	Unlikely		
Huddlesford show	Unlikely		
Huddlesford to BCLM	Unlikely		
Tipton show	19 th September	20 th September	
Boaters Gathering (BCLM)	25 th September (evening)	27 th September	
Windmill End	No date as yet		

Please note some of the early parts of this program will be determined by when we get Kildare back as our crew boat. If she is late then we may have to try and make alternative crew boat arrangements.