

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

February 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

President - David Powell email: david.powel@ntlworld.com tel: 01799 523855
1 Reddings Close, Saffron Walden, CB11 4AZ

Chairman - Nick Haynes email: nickhaynes195@hotmail.co.uk tel: 01527 517475
42 Tredington Close, Redditch, B98 7UR

Treasurer - Simon Nuttall email: simon@stationhouse.me tel: 01249 720978
Station House, Meadow Lane, Little Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5JJ

Secretary - position vacant

Chief Engineer - David Stott email: dw.stott@ntlworld.com tel: 01782 259363
13 Longfields Road, Hartshill, Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QN

Membership/Crewing Secretary - Malcolm Dunlop tel: 01606 781793
2 Solvay Road, Northwich, CW8 4DR email: malcolm.dunlop@dsl.pipex.com

Editor - Neil Ratcliffe email: neilratcliffe@hotmail.co.uk tel: 07549 149166
Briar Cottage, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6JU

Work Party Organiser - Richard Prince tel: 01763 271252
email: c.pike252@btinternet.com

Archivist - Richard Thomas email: thrifthouse@ntlworld.com tel: 01992466180
42 Admirals Walk, Hoddesdon, EN11 8AG

Sales Stand - position vacant

Committee - Chris Walker email: walker385a@gmail.com tel: 0114 230 5757
385a Fulwood Road, Sheffield, S10 3GA

Steve Kirk tel: 07855 041089

Jim Garratt email: jimgarratt@hotmail.co.uk tel: 07415 698473
51 Springfield Crescent, Kibworth, Leicester, LE8 0LJ

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 : £57.48p from 6,536 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £417.97p from 29 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the February edition of 195. You should all have received the crewing schedule from Malcolm by now, it looks to be a fairly busy year assuming the boats are ready to go to London for Canalway Cavalcade.

Only two entries have been received so far for the wordsearch competition from last month's magazine. I'm going to let it run for a while yet so there is still plenty of time to get your entries in before I publish the list names and declare a winner.

Chairman's Column

We're into the new year now and planning is well under way for this year's activities.

By now you should all have received both your membership renewal and request for your availability for crewing this year. Our schedule this year includes a visit down to London to attend Little Venice and Rickmansworth, we might have to re-schedule depending on when the *Kildare* work is complete.

This brings me on to an update on *Kildare*. The back cabin has been removed and she was removed from the water on Friday 23rd January. A bit behind schedule but hopefully regular updates will give us some idea of when the work will be complete. To be ready for a mid-April departure it needs to be finished by the end of March. Although we will be able to do some work at Dadfords.



(Both photos by Nick Haynes)



Ian Kemp has had a quick visual inspection of the stern plates and thinks it will need the bottom 18 inches replaced as we did in 2005 for the main part of the hull. I'm sure we'll be scheduling some working parties to black the hull and do some other bits and pieces inside the hold during February/March.

Along with the Crewing Programme you should also have received a questionnaire about crewing. As it states, last year we fell short of being able to fill all the in steam days that we had hoped. Please take the time to complete this survey so we can decide what needs to be done to take full advantage of our annual boating opportunities.

By now we are normally announcing the date of our AGM, but this year, due to the potential early start to our boating programme, it will be delayed until the summer, probably one of the weekends when we are due to be in steam at the Museum. We'll make sure you get plenty of notice.

Fundraising

Nearly £7 raised with easysearch and easyfundraising during January, and we've gained a new supporter, making 29 now. Using easysearch as your search engine raised £1.33p, and shopping from companies that support easyfundraising raised £5.64p.

Media mentions

Towpath Talk - Feb 2015 issue. In the What's On section, they are reporting that the plans for the 13th Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally & Canal Festival are well under way. They say that *President* and *Kildare* will be the star of the rally, with *Kildare* having a major makeover this winter.

Richard Parry, CEO of the Canal & River Trust will be donning working boatmen's clothing and performing the traditional opening by steering *President* with *Kildare* in tow, into the marina. CRT chairman Tony Hales will be steering *Kildare*.

Crick Boat Show adverts and fliers once again have a photo of members Tony Tibbins and Janet Ramsay. There is also a photo with *President* in the background when she was having a painting done during the show.

Other News - from the SS Robin Trust website (www.ssrobin.org/)



I've included news of other steam ships undergoing restoration in the past - here's another one.

The SS Robin, built in 1890 at Thames Ironworks shipyard on the River Lea. She's the world's oldest complete steamship and the last of her type in the world.

You can get a glimpse of her at London's Royal Victoria Dock, opposite the ExCel centre, where she is undergoing final restoration work before she takes her place at the western end of the dock.

More information on the project can be found here:-

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

That's all for this month - Neil