

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

July 2015

'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 : £65.35p from 7,312 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £442.85p from 29 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Not a lot from me this month, other than to welcome you to the latest edition, somewhat delayed by the recent heat and some continuing laptop problems which may need to purchase of a new one.

President News

Emails received from Dave Stott - 3rd June. The fusible plug was today sorted. Once the boiler has been rebuilt!!!! I will steam it next Mon /Tuesday. The steam test is planned for next Thursday 11 June.

And another on 6th June. A very big thank you for the hard graft today – a very successful day. We reinstated the boiler ready for steaming next week- thank you Will and Bob, two coats of blacking on the hull, red oxidised the gunwales. a special thank you to Bob and grandson Ethan, it was a real pleasure to see you Bob!!

8th June - I successfully steamed up for the first time today. I checked all systems, all appears to be well. Formal test on Thursday. The next work party will be on the 20th June. The work !! wait for it!!! you've guessed..... load 4 ton of coal. Then wash and brush up all the cabin work ready for the Braunston run.

13th June - Good news ! the boiler has been declared “fit and well”. The “ticket” will be valid until 31 October 2016. At that point we will be preparing to remove the boiler for the five year exam.

My sincere thanks to all who have assisted me preparing the boiler.

Kildare News

No reports or photos on progress to *Kildare* this month.

Trip/Event Reports (Braunston Show – June 2015)

Being a “must attend” for *President* at the FMC Boat Gathering at Braunston, special plans were needed as *Kildare* wasn't going to be ready as our crew boat. Thankfully Richard Prince volunteered his own boat, *Louise*, to be made available to us as support boat.

The logistics were sorted out and Tony Tibbins and Richard brought his boat from Crick to the BCLM in a couple of days to arrive at our starting point on Saturday.

BCLM to Braunston – 22nd June - 25th June.

Crew – Dave Stott – Driver/Captain, Will Derbyshire - Driver, Tony Tibbins, Alan Claridge, Nick Haynes (coal loader 22nd – crew 24th & 25th)

Crew assembled on the evening of 21st June looking forward to their first job of the journey on the Monday morning, which was loading the 4 tons of welsh steam coal needed for the journey.

Monday 22nd

Early rise on Monday and first job was to off-load about 1 ton of last year's very smoky Russian coal. As it was finished Nick Haynes arrived to help load the 4 tons of new coal, which had been left under cover at the Rolling Mill. But, after a bit of boat manoeuvring, the coal was duly loaded by 9 am and Nick left to go back home, to join the crew the following night.

With *Louise* following, the Museum was left at 12:15 and with an uneventful journey to Birmingham, arrived at 16:30.

Tuesday 23rd

Away at 8:10 with the crew of 4, helped down Farmers locks by Alan Ward, member and CRT volunteer lock keeper for Farmers. Pounds low up the Camp Hill flight and also the 10 mile pound to Catherine de Barnes but no major hold ups.

Arrived Catherine de Barnes at 18:00. Dinner in the Boat and joined by Nick Haynes at about 20:30, after dinner had been eaten, but not paid for, but more of that later.

Wednesday 24th

Dave Stott woke up at 3 am and thought to himself "I'm sure I never paid for the food last night". I can see the local headlines now "Geriatric narrow boat crew do a runner". Dave now plans to visit the pub on his way home and explain and pay the bill.

Away at 8:02 and looking forward to a very pleasant day. Knowle Locks navigated between 9:02 and 9:25. Arrived at Hatton and after a stop for lunch, a slow trip down, top lock at 13:10 out of bottom lock at 16:00. After the first couple of locks and with only 2 people lock wheeling it was decided to breast *President* and *Louise* for the rest of the flight.

Arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, for our normal friendly welcome, at 16:15.

Thursday 25th

Away 8:35. Good run down Cape Locks, through Leamington and started the climb back up at Radford Lock at 10:43, with Nick lock wheeling by foot, planning to walk all the way to Stockton. Stopped at Long Ichington for lunch and arrived at Stockton Bottom Lock at 14:40. Away at the top at 16:06 with Nick back on board.

Long stretch to Braunston with lots of moored boats. Moored in the Marina at 19:45. Luckily the Boathouse serves meals until 22:00 on a weekday.

Friday 26th

Day getting ready for the show. *President* cleaned in and out, sales gazebo put up and *Louise* moved into the Marina to her weekend mooring. We so missed *Kildare* being moored just behind *President*.

Saturday 27th – Braunston Show

Crew – Nick Haynes – Captain, David Powell - Driver, Will Derbyshire - Driver, Tony Tibbins, Chris Walker.

With a day out of steam, Will up at 6:00 to raise steam for 9:00 moved to the parade start point, where we would be coupled up with our butty for the parades. We were loaned *Northolt*, aka *Sunny Valley*, by Malcolm Burge of South Midlands Canal Carriers, and after providing (donating) some cross straps we were ready to go at 9:30.



(Butty Northolt with ex-steamer Marquis on its way to start the parade lap)

At 10:30 the official party joined us, with the presentation of a cheque, for £2,000, from Tim Coghlan of Braunston Marina, for attending the show. CRT Chief Exec Richard Parry steering *President* and Tony Hales CRT Chairman steering *Northolt*. Tim's guests found some space in the butty's hold and our usual musicians in *President's* hold. For Braunston, an uneventful parade so we decide to repeat the experience in the afternoon but without the dignitaries.



(Richard Parry & Nick Haynes ready to start the parade, with Will Derbyshire as driver)

To round off the day, as we had been asked earlier in the month if we could provide a vehicle i.e. *President*, as part of the filming for series 3 of Grand Canal Journeys, we prepared for another outing. We were joined by Timothy West and Prunella Scales to take *President* and film crew from Braunston Marina to Braunston Turn and back. Tim steering *President* with Nick and not a single contact made with anything but the water.

Plant closed down at 19:00 and off to the Boathouse for third night.

Sunday 28th

Later start this morning, with only one parade, *President* only, planned. Plus of course Tony Tibbins performing his normal sales patter in the sales gazebo.

Closedown by 6pm. For our fourth night in a row we'd booked a table at the Boathouse (Sunday Roast Day).

Our return journey to the Museum, starting Monday 29th will appear in next month's 195.

Nick Haynes

Fundraising

Just over £9 raised with easysearch and easyfundraising during June. £5.51p from purchases, and £3.58p from searches. At this rate it would take about 300 years to raise the money to pay for *Kildare's* repairs.

Museum News

We have received a request from Dr John Beckerson, senior curator at the Museum.

The collections department maintains a flood kit for responding to leaks and spills affecting historic objects. In this regard, old towels are hugely useful. Can you kindly make an appeal in the next Friends newsletter that if anyone has any worn-out towels, please pass them to any member of the collections team and we will gladly take them!

Finally

I have received this request from Tony Tibbins which members may be able to help with.

This question cropped up during the course of a conversation ?

Apart from Salford Junction underneath Spaghetti Motorway Junction in Birmingham, where the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, the Birmingham and Warwick Jct. Canal (Grand Union) and Tame Valley Canal all meet, does anyone know of any other Junction on the network that has three or more separately named CANALS that meet at the same place. (Do not count Junctions with Rivers).

All answers received will be passed on to Tony and included in a future 195.

That's all for this month.

Neil