

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

May 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 : £61.00p from 7,010 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £435.01p from 29 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the latest issue. I'll start this edition with an urgent appeal for volunteers for the sales stand at Crick over the Bank Holiday at the end of the month. We have a volunteer that can transport the stand to and from the event, but no-one to actually be on the stand over the weekend, I am not available this year.

We need at least two people per day otherwise we will have to cancel our attendance, and risk losing a part or all of the cost of the pitch. It is the dearest event we attend but it is also the one where we raise the most money.

Obviously with the boats not there, there isn't any accommodation so it will have to be travel on a daily basis. All offers of help to Nick (nickhaynes195@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as possible please, he will make the decision on cancelling.

Work Party

I've not received any reports on the state of the boats during this last month, but there is a work party planned for *Kildare* on Saturday 9th May at Dadford's. This was originally planned for tomorrow (2nd) but rescheduled due to lack of numbers going to attend. Please let Dave know if you can attend this one (dw.stott@ntlworld.com).

From a recent email the work planned is as follows:-

Clean out the gap between the chine and the gunwale and re-seal.

Derust from the bottom plate up to the waterline and paint with epoxy primer.

Wire brush water line to gunwale and paint with bitumen.

And then after Lunch !!!!!!!!!!!

Yes there is a lot but it is important. The fore cabin has now been painted some 9 coats!!! and the new back cabin will also be similarly painted – so the bit in between needs to look as good.

Fundraising

We are nearly up to £500 raised through easyfundraising and easysearch. £16.20 was raised during the last month, easyfundraising £13.72, easysearch £2.48. Many thanks to all for those figures.

Media mentions

Whoever runs the PR for Willow Wren Training, run by our member Steve Vaughan, is doing a good job. They now have a four page article in Waterways World.

Both Waterways World and Canal Boat are reporting Steam Experience Days at WWT, using *Adamant*, which will also be the steam boat in attendance at Crick.

Museum News

The recently restored *Birchills* has won the Historic Narrow Boat Club's Keay Award for the most improved wooden boat. The work was carried out by A.P. Boatbuilders at Alvecote.

Erewash & Nottingham Canals

I live in Nottingham so I'm pretty close to the Trent and Mersey and the Trent but a couple of the lesser known canals around here are worth a visit. The Erewash Canal isn't widely used apart from around Trent Lock, but I know of it from my parent's moorings at Langley Mill. Because it wasn't widely used we used to have problems with weed many years ago but just recently there has been a clean-up operation by local volunteers and it's looking much better for it in parts. There is still an industrial feel to much of it but there is always countryside not too far away. It has an unused feel so it's good if you want a break from the crowds. I'd recommend it if you wanted to get off the beaten track. It's popular with dog walkers and cyclists. For industrial heritage the Grade 2 listed Bennerley railway viaduct near Awsworth can be seen from the Erewash but unfortunately it's now a dead end for trains.



(The charmingly named "The Grunt", helping with the clean-up operation recently)

The other canal close to me is the Nottingham Canal. However, although much of it is still in water it's unnavigable for almost all of its length. This doesn't stop the walkers, cyclists and fishermen enjoying it. It's very peaceful for most of its length except if you are walking at weekends in which case you may put up with some of the cyclists racing past! (I'm a cyclist myself so walk and cycle the canals but can't help thinking that the few people use it like a race track should have a little more consideration for others). In some parts where it is in water it still looks like a viable route for boating but you soon realise when you hit several roads blocking the path, that it's never going to be possible to fully restore it to its former glory. As you get closer to the city much of the canal near the city has been filled in and built over. The Torvill and Dean housing estate now sits on part of the old route! It's a shame really as it passes through some lovely countryside but all that remains are the ghosts and echoes of the past.



(The Nottingham Canal. Still looking like a canal in parts after all these years but now a leisure facility)



Though not accessible by boat it's a short walking distance from the Erewash to the Nottingham so a visit to the latter is easily done if you find yourself on the Erewash and fancied a stroll. (There's a detailed walk route in the March edition of Waterways World).

(What's left of The Nottingham Canal near Cossall)

All photos and words by-

Andrew Faulkner

That's all for this month

Neil

