

# Friends of PRESIDENT



# 195

# October 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.easysearch.org.uk/>  
Current total : £69.18p from 7,739 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>  
Current total : £459.65p from 29 registered supporters

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

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the latest newsletter. As far as I know *Kildare* still isn't back at the Museum yet. I think there is still hope that it will be there by Saturday for people to see the work that has been done, either before or after the AGM.

Talking of the AGM, I hope a lot of you are intending to attend, maybe to discuss Chris Walker's article later in the newsletter.

Also later, you will see and read about *Kildare*'s new range. It's going to need a lot of TLC if it is going to stay looking as good as now.

If these newsletters are going to keep going through the winter period I am going to need a lot of pictures and/or articles, so please send them in. If you don't get a newsletter one month, you will know the reason why.

## **President News**

If you want to have a look around *President*'s cabin and engine room without leaving the comfort of your own home, have a look at the following website, filmed by Harald Joergens.

<http://j.mp/nb-president>

On a computer with a mouse cursor, all the explanations to the bits and pieces in the engine room pop up when the cursor is moved over items of interest. There are quite a few sounds, some are quite loud (they are very loud inside the real engine room!).

## **Kildare News**

Email from Dave Stott - Next Saturday, 19th September, will be the last work party at Dadfords. I need as much help as possible please, WHY?? We have to load all the kit stored on the bank back into *Kildare*. As you can appreciate it is one of those tasks that require many hands. A team in the hold of *Kildare* to carefully stack/position all the kit and a team on the bank to fetch and carry.

Now an update. Last Saturday Andy, Steve, Jim, Tony, Brian and I fitted two more floor boards under Steve's supervision. We also gathered together all the cratch components and loaded them onto *Kildare*.

The programme of future activity is as follows:-

Saturday 19th September – Load all equipment etc onto *Kildare*

Monday 21st September or Tuesday 22nd September, *Kildare* will be craned back into the water.

*Kildare* will then be towed back to the BCLM before the boaters gathering on the 26/27th September. The tow is being arranged by Ian Kemp.

Saturday 3rd October – FOP AGM at the BCLM – please come along and support your committee and of course to admire *Kildare* in all its glory.

From the 10th October onwards there will be regular work parties as we complete the fitting out of *Kildare*, so please watch out for emails.

One “HOT” bit of news, as many of you will know the old range that was on *Kildare* has slowly disintegrated into a pile of rust and was beyond repair. A refurbished traditional range has been located and will be fitted by Ian Kemp – so we all need to give it plenty of TLC. (See article and photo later - ed).

My sincere thanks to all of you who have helped in Part 1 of the restoration. Part 2 starts on the 10th October. Dave.

Update from Nick Haynes, 24<sup>th</sup> September.

I've spoken to Marion today and *Kildare* is still bankside and not quite complete.

Interior painting of the back cabin being delayed waiting for paint to dry between coats.

So *Kildare* will not be at the Museum this weekend, hopefully by 3rd for the AGM.

### **Kildare's New Range** (photo - Nick Haynes)



*Kildare's* old range is no longer fit for use. With the help of Ian Kemp, the boat builder responsible for the repair and restoration of *Kildare*, a 'new' range was sourced. It was bought from Roger Hatchard, who used to be the lock keeper at Diglis.

Roger's wife was born on a narrow boat and it is on her parent's boat that the range was first fitted, in 1957. The boat was *Hazel*, one of the last wooden motor boats to be built (in 1957) for the Samuel Barlow Coal Carrying Company.

The range was not owned by the company, and when the Collins family moved on to another boat – *Belmont*, a steel boat in the Barlow fleet - they took the range and installed it in *Belmont*. *Belmont* was a butty boat paired with motor *Stanton*. After Samuel Barlow stopped trading (by that time known as Blue Line Canal Carrying Company), Mr and Mrs Collins remained on the *Belmont* and lived

on the boat moored at Braunston. They then moved to narrow boat *Raymond* (also a Barlow boat). However, this boat already had a range fitted and it was then that the range found a home

at the lock keepers house at Diglis. It has since received lots of TLC and has been well cared for and restored. The range is a beautiful asset to an equally beautiful *Kildare*.

**Irene de Boo (Industry & Transport Curator - BCLM)**

### **Something to Think About**

#### **THE WAY FORWARD FOR FoP**

##### **IS THE FUTURE LOOKING BLEAK FOR *PRESIDENT* AND *KILDARE*?**

It really is very pleasing when, as an individual, you get involved with something new and find that, not only do you acquire knowledge and learn new skills, but you make some new friends and best of all have some fun.

I joined FoP four or five years ago after seeing *President* several times around the waterways system thinking that it would be interesting to learn what other additional boating skills are involved with handling two steam powered narrow boats around the canals and through locks. Little did I know that I would get to know so many experienced and knowledgeable people who have dedicated such large amounts of their own time and efforts over the years into keeping *President* and *Kildare* safe and in good repair so that they can be taken out of the BCLM to rallies and events for others to see and enjoy.

It is over 30 years since FoP was formed during which time many thousands of pounds have been raised and spent on keeping the boats and steam plant in good order and they continue to be a major asset to the BCLM.

**However are there problems ahead??**

**Looking back to the crewing list in 2010 I see names of people that are still actively involved but there are many names that no longer appear!!!**

**The list of active Captains/Drivers is dwindling and the average age is increasing.**

It is my personal view that unless FoP works hard to find ways of attracting new members, especially ones who are keen to crew, then it will not be viable to take the boats out from the museum as many times in the future. This would be a really sad state of affairs, especially after so much time, effort and money have been spent on *Kildare* this year, and the significant efforts by long standing members over the years to make FoP what it is. What would happen to the boats if FoP could not fulfil its present role? They would remain in the dock at the BCLM and quickly fall into disrepair.

Could it be that there are current members who have previously crewed who could be persuaded to become more involved again in 2016? Are there members of FoP who are not able to crew but may be able to assist in some other way and perhaps start a recruitment campaign with the waterways press by submitting press releases and articles about the boats, with a strong bias to attracting new members?

The AGM is on Saturday 3rd October at the BCLM at 14:00 if you wish to air your views. Unfortunately I cannot attend this time but I would be happy to hear from any member who has other suggestions on how we can increase membership and crewing levels.

07711-946011 walker385a@gmail.com **Chris Walker**

## **Fundraising**

Not so many friends shopping and searching this last month, only £3.10p added to our funds, £2.63p from shopping and 47p from searching.

## **Media mentions**

Historic Narrow Boat Club Newsletter 2015/3 - in their report of the Braunston Rally it mentions *President* as attending, and that the Rally was formally opened by the Canal & River Trust CEO, Richard Parry, aboard the last surviving steam narrow boat *President. Kildare*'s normal position being taken by *Northolt*.. It is accompanied by a picture of Richard Parry and Nick Haynes.

## **Tony Tibbibs' Question** (about three canals meeting)

A late entry from Alan & Pauline Pease (they only get the printed version every three months), he nominates the North & South Stratford and the Grand Union Canals. I haven't passed this on to Tony yet, but I would imagine he would say that this doesn't qualify as the Stratford Canal was built as one canal, albeit in two sections.

## **Caption Competition**

Alan Ward - "Can you cease putting your arm round my light! Otherwise your deceased!"

Well that's all for this month, don't forget - if you want monthly newsletters I will need some articles.

Bye for now

Neil