

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

September 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 : £68.71p from 7,641 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £457.02p from 29 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of 195. First an apology from last month, I forgot to credit Chris Walker as the author of the trip report, sorry Chris.

This edition is more of a Dave Stott special, with the majority of the information coming from him, much appreciated Dave. It was ready to go on the evening of the 31st August, then I got another email from Dave with the latest news and notice of another work party. Then I got an email from Nick with more photos, so that is the reason it's late.

At the recent committee meeting, Saturday October 3rd was decided on for the AGM.

President News from Dave Stott.

Over the years there has been much discussion regarding coal – being the life blood of *President*, all crew members have a close relationship with the stuff, either shovelling it into the boiler or loading/moving the blessed stuff. Another very important aspect is smoke, again you cannot escape from it if the wind is so minded. For the last few years we have used Welsh steam coal from the reopened mine at Ffos Y fan. It is ideal for our boiler because of its high calorific value – lots of heat, around 6% ash, (the harder the coal the less ash produced and the greater the chance of burning out the grate, hence anthracite which has very little ash, 1%, will melt the fire bars – yes we have been there and done that), low volatile content – which means less smoke. But, it is soft, therefore every time we move/throw/hurl the bags around the lumps turn to dust, so there is some waste plus the fine dust settles in the tubes if it is not burnt.

Last year we decided to try an alternative, which is Polish/Russian sourced coal. It burns well but has an odd ash content - it burns to a fine powder as light as talcum, so it protects the grate but blows everywhere. The smoke however is horrible, acrid, smelly and thick. so we have side-loaded what's left to the BCLM and replaced it with Welsh steam coal.

This year the BCLM have appointed a boiler surveyor to oversee all pressure vessels etc. I have lost count how many surveyors I have worked with, all I know is that Mr John Glaze is the most thorough inspector yet. On his first inspection of the boiler he failed the top manhole lid (which is/was exactly as it was manufactured 26 years ago) due to excessive clearance. I took it to a local engineering company here in Stoke where it was built up and ground back to give the correct clearance – it was passed by John.

The next problem was the fusible plug – this has always been a problem. When I came to fit a new one the threads had become badly scaled. John agreed to rectify the problem. To do this we had to remove the furnace front, here I say a big thank you to Will Derbyshire who gave me so much help with this work – since I had a new knee I find kneeling very difficult. so it was Will and latterly Bob Crompton who joined us who did all this heavy work. Once the boiler front was removed the fire bars came out and the bridge support. The fire tube was cleaned and a nice bit of old carpet laid for John who had to work on his back to clean the threads. The new plug was fitted, boiler filled with water and much relief, no leaks.

The next job was to rebuild the bridge – this is a heavy steel structure that sits across the fire tube to support the fire bars, there is then two courses of fire brick cemented together on the top of the bridge to stop the fire falling of the grate. The fire bars are then fitted, and the boiler front replaced (again thanks to Will). I then steamed the boiler for the first time to prove all was well before arranging with John to witness the formal steam test. It was rather pleasing when he stood in front of boiler, which was just on the red line - 150psi, and commented “you wouldn't think it was in steam as it is so silent”.

So as you all know *President* made it to Braunston accompanied by NB Louise – (thank you Richard.) to head up the parade and to receive the very generous gift from Tim Coghlan.

Kildare News from Dave Stott.

Work at Dadfords wharf continues. The current situation is that all woodwork is complete and serious painting is about to begin.

When the floor was lifted to enable the new bulkhead of the cabin to be installed, serious damp/wet was discovered and rust/corrosion of the sides of the boat up to where the footings join the main plates.

A decision was made to remove and replace the floor. After seeking advice it was decided to use a special ply that has a hard waterproof surface that is easy to sweep and wash (it is identical to the materiel used as covers on top of the water tanks).

This task has been undertaken by Jim Garrett and Steve Kirk, and when it is finished will be superb – we are very fortunate to have these two highly talented friends who have been so generous with there time.

The bathroom area has been stripped and the footings have been derusted, painted and tanked in bitumen. The same treatment has been given to the fore-cabin. Last Saturday 8th August the work party lifted all the ballast, cleaned the bottom plate, gave it a coat of Waxoyl and replaced the ballast on bearers of cedar wood.

The outstanding work is to clean/paint where required all the galley fittings and the bathroom. When all the paintwork is complete *Kildare* will be returned to the water and all the kit loaded, and then *Kildare* will be towed back to the BCLM where we will do the refit.

One more change we decided on is to remove the plastic balancing pipe which connected the water tanks together. This ran down the starboard side of the boat at floor level, trapping dust dirt etc etc – not nice. So the water tank at the back of the boat will be retained as before, but will have an independent water pump to supply the galley sink the delivery pipe will cross the kelson under the cross plank.

The other two tanks will be connected together but the pipe from the tank under the storage unit will be some 9” above the floor in the bathroom area, therefore will not trap muck. A filler pipe will be incorporated, to be accessed on the forecabin bulkhead.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all friends who supported the work parties – still a lot to be done but least it is in the main clean work.

David

Work Parties (emails from Dave Stott)

Hi All,

First, thank you to all who have assisted with the last three work parties. serious progress has been made.

1st August, we de-rusted and painted the footings in the bathroom area and the fore cabin – which was very bad – thanks Nick for doing that. (I hate having to admit it but some of these

tasks are becoming a challenge to to us oldies - bending and kneeling is difficult –so thank you to all for assisting and understanding).

Steve and Jim are making headway into the demanding task of fitting the new floor – the added difficulty for all is the fact that *Kildare* is on the bank – so all kit/boards/tools and bodies have to negotiate two ladders to get into the hold.

On the 8th August we lifted the ballast, cleaned the bottom plate and waxoyled it, then replaced the ballast on cedar bearers.

The fore-cabin was tanked below the floor with bitumen.

Work on the new back cabin is now reaching the paint stage and should be complete by the end of August.

It is the intention to return *Kildare* to the BCLM as soon as the back cabin is finished and the external paint work/signing of the back cabin and forecabin. The re-fit of the galley and bathroom will be done at the BCLM.

I will give you all an update as the work progresses, regards and thanks to all. **David**

Hi gang.

Last Saturday, Tony Tibbins, Alan Ward, Brian Empsall and myself cleaned all the kitchen and bathroom units, planned future work, completed the sealing of the gunwales and drank tea. A very productive day. Thank you gang for your help and company.

There will a work party on the 29th August at Dadfords.

The work will focus on the new floor which will be directed by Steve and Jim. To date Tony Tibbins and Alan Ward have agreed to attend I shall also be there. As the main work will be assisting with the lifting of the boards on and off *Kildare*, I think we will have sufficient manpower- unless you fancy a day out!!!! I intend filling the boiler and give *President* some TLC.

kind regards to all. **Dave**

Hi gang

First an update. Last Saturday Tony, Alan, and I assisted Steve to fit two more boards- slow but steady progress.

Next Saturday, 5th September, work on the floor will continue, plus the beds and frames need painting. Tony and Alan have once again agreed to help, I could do with another two friends to assist with the painting and any lifting. If you can help please let me know.

Kildare is now looking good. the sign writing is well advanced.

As of now there is no date fixed for the refloat or the return to the BCLM – the return tow has been arranged.

Again my sincere thanks to all who have helped with this huge task.

Kind regards. **Dave**

Latest photos from Nick Haynes



Fundraising

£12.26p added to our funds this month, thanks in part to Viking giving over 6% on stationery orders. £9.86p of this came from easyfundraising, and the remaining £2.40p from easysearch.

Membership Matters

Catching up on new members, we would like to mention the following new ones:-

596 - Alison Peaden 597 - Andrew Faulkner 598 - Graham Taylor
599 - Stephen Reed 600 - Barrie & Adam Davey 601 - John Onions

Diary Dates

Boaters Gathering at the Black Country Living Museum on the Sat/Sun 26th/27th September.

Caption Competition



(Photo - Fabian Hiscock)

I thought (hoped) we would get more entries for this photo, it's not too late yet, they can still be published next month.

The three entries that did arrive are:-

Alan Claridge - "And don't you tie a granny knot again!"

Richard Bostock - "And there's no point trying to tell me how to coil a rope!"

Tim Coghlan - "Don't tell me you're thinner than me!"

Well, that's it for another month. All being well I hope to be reporting that Kildare is back at the Museum in time for the AGM.

Neil