

# Friends of PRESIDENT



# 195

# April 2016

'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 : £72.48p from 8,101 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>  
Current total : £503.21p from 30 registered supporters

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

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the latest edition. Don't bother trying to find any April Fool items, there aren't any, I didn't start thinking about it early enough.

My apologies for any confusion over the website and being able to pay via PayPal. After saying that the facility was available again in the last newsletter, the website was taken down for a major upgrade.

There was also confusion over the date of the AGM, once again after the newsletter went out it was decided to revert to April 16th again. I hope a lot of members are intending to attend and see all the work that has been done to *Kildare*, both at Ian Kemp's yard and at the museum by FoP members. The list of jobs is coming down but if you can spare a day on 2nd April, I'm sure Dave Stott will be pleased to see you. Let him know if you can make it.

## **Kildare News** (words by Dave Stott and pictures by Nick Haynes)

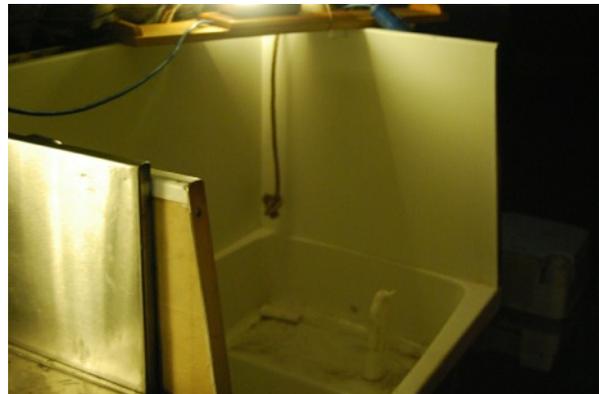
Work party Mar 1st - Dave Stott, Bob Crompton and Brian Empsall in attendance. A very productive day. the bathroom sink unit is now in position, The upstands have been modified and it now sits neatly under the cross plank. A plinth for the water tank has been made. The shower unit is now in position complete with new upstands which have been sealed and secured. The area for the loo is much improved verging on the luxurious!!! A big thank you to Brian who masterminded today's work.

Mar 4th - Bob Crompton and I fitted the water pump for the galley, new tap for the sink – all plumbing for the galley is complete. A box cover for the pump and the connection to 12 volt will complete the job.

Mar 5th - Tony Tibbins, Alan Ward, Steve Kirk, Jim Garratt, Chris Walker, & Bob Crompton. Work on the floor fitting the lift catches, plumbing in the bathroom area, electrics –forecabin, general cleaning etc, crew storage unit painted.

Mar 17th - Today Bob and I completed all the plumbing, tested both systems for possible leaks, all the pumps are working.

The fridge was tested and after cleaning the burner it lit up. It just needs a good clean and provided the heat exchanger is working we can get another couple of years out of it. The battery box and control panel was painted.





*(New filter and tap in the galley for drinking water)*



*(New cooker and T-stud just in front of the hatch, all we need now are running blocks)*

### **Award Winner**

Taken from the HNBC entry in the Heritage Update section of the Spring 2016 edition of NarrowBoat.

At the Historic Narrow Boat Club's AGM at Lapworth on 5th March the winner of the Hemelryk Award for the most improved metal/composite boat went to *Kildare*, a Braithwaite & Kirk joshier butty built for Fellows, Morton & Clayton in 1913. The boat suffered bomb damage during World War II and was repaired with a steel bottom, which it has retained ever since. During the 1950s *Kildare* carried for Willow Wren before being bought by the Warwickshire Fly Boat Co

and operated as a camping boat with the motor *Plover*. The boat was acquired by the Black Country Living Museum in 1991 to pair with its steamer *President*.



*(From left to right - Ian Kemp, Phil Prettyman (HNBC), Irene de Boo (BCLM) and Nick Haynes)*

In 2015 the butty underwent major work, carried out by Ian Kemp at Dadfords Wharf in Wordsley. This included the reinforcement and replacement of the side plates at the stern end using traditional riveting techniques, the removal and replacement of the old steel cabin with a wooden one built to FMC specifications, and repainting and signwriting.

The club was impressed with the quality and authenticity of the work, as well as the involvement of the volunteer group Friends of President, which replaced the shutts in the hold and treated the interior of the boat.

### **Fundraising**

Easyfundraising and easysearch only added 69p during the last month, bringing the total raised so far to £575.69p.

### **Membership Matters**

Welcome to our second new member for this year - 611 Paul McLeod, Brentwood. Both new members for this year were introduced by David Powell, and both of them have their names down on the crewing list. Hope you both enjoy the experience.

### **Museum News**

The Museum are just £5,000 off the £99,000 goal to restore the Anchor Forge steam hammer, which was last operated in 1991. The steam hammer is considered to be one of the greatest inventions of the Industrial Revolution and when restored, it will be the only working one of its kind in the Black Country.

Over £90,000 has been raised for the project which is hoped to be completed by Autumn 2016. So far, funding has been received from a number of generous bodies and individuals including Arts Council England, PRISM (Preservation for Industrial and Scientific Material) Fund, the Idlewild Trust and the Saintbury Trust, but funds are still needed.

Canal Study Day Fri 29th April - From Lime Kilns to Living Museum: Lord Ward's Canal Arm - Past, Present & Future.

The day includes a Dudley Canal Tunnel boat trip, a walking tour of Castlefields boat dock and lime kilns. Talks on an overview of the history of the arm, the establishment of the Dudley Canal Trust and its important mission to restore, conserve and secure the future for the tunnel and canal, the early challenges of building construction at the Black Country Living Museum with a focus on the restoration of the canal arm and the reconstruction of an authentic boat dock, an overview of work as a costumed demonstrator, and the practical and ethical challenges of collections care and management in a living history museum, focussing on the Museum's boat collection and the conflict and resolution in balancing issues of preservation and access.

### **Updates from previous 195s**

Anagrams - only one person has sent me a completed list this time, all the way from New Zealand. So for all those that might still be interested, here's the list:-

more hens brand advancements - Thames and Severn, Mon and Brec  
no mandatory tangent men then - Montgomery, Neath and Tennant  
gnat undertaken hand ban move - Bude, Grantham, Kennet and Avon  
brass pigs lend internet work - Ripon, Regents, Wilts and Berks  
walled woman sails nasal line - Swansea, Old Main Line, Walsall  
nonstop adventurers tap font - Stratford Upon Avon, Pensnett  
lad undid idiotic chairwomen - du Midi, Droitwich, Caledonian  
lamplight antenna moan gallon - Llangollen, Nottingham, Panama  
metalworker elevates day flap - Wardle, Tame Valley, Peak Forest  
forwarding debts casts wafer - Bridgewater, Staffs and Worcs

Call the Midwife TV programme - Dave Powell responded to this saying that the boats were all from Malcolm Burge's Midland Fleet and were filmed last year at Marsworth Top Lock and Bulbourne.

We have been unable to help the Chesterfield Canal Society with their request for information about the old photo of President. There haven't been any responses.

Well that's it for another month, hope to see a lot of you at the AGM on the 16th.

Neil