

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

March 2016

'Friends of President' is a support group working for the Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ

(Registered Charity No: 504481)

Committee 2015/6

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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 : £72.07p from 8,020 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £502.93p from 30 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of 195, the bad news for some of you is that it will be the last one you receive because you haven't paid your membership fee. I haven't seen February's bank statement yet to see if there are any late standing order payments, but there are a few on the latest crewing list that haven't paid yet. If you know this applies to you, then send me a cheque or visit the website and pay by PayPal which is available again. No payment - no trip.

How many of you have checked out the members' area on our website recently? To login you need your username, which is the email address you used when you joined, and your password. If you don't remember your password, there is a link to click on and you can get a new one.

At the recent committee meeting it was decided that we need a volunteer who is familiar with WordPress websites to look after the content of our site, keeping it up to date. The technical side of things is done by our webmaster, Steve Barnes, but it would be useful to have someone to deal with the content. There is a lot of content that was on our original site run by Malcolm Nixon that could be uploaded. If this appeals to you, contact Nick Haynes.

Penny Clover has sent me the information that in a trailer for the last episode of 'Call the Midwife' there was a brief glimpse of what could be the boats at the Black Country Living Museum and the story revolves round a 'bargee' [sic]. It isn't a programme that I watch so can't verify it. If you didn't see it, you would have to look at one of the catchup services to see if she's right.

There is a request later for information about a photo of *President* in her early days, where, when and possibly who, from the Chesterfield Canal Society. Let me know if you can answer any of the above.

There was talk at the last committee meeting about holding the AGM in April (it is also mentioned on the latest crewing list), but the rooms aren't available for the preferred dates, so the date is now likely to be in July, more when I know for sure.

Kildare News

Work party - 6th Feb in attendance - Jim Garrett, Tony Tibbins, Brian Empsall and Dave Stott.

The focus was on the floor. drilling and tapping the metal upstands, then screwing down the boards.

Work party - 13th Feb in attendance - Jim Garrett, Steve Kirk, Tony Tibbins, Alan Ward, and Chris Walker.

The floor was completed, now ready for the fit out.

The number of man hours since the start of the project on the 28 February 2015 stands at 1002, and counting!!!!

The next work party is this Saturday, 5th. Please let Dave Stott know if you are planning to attend. I'm sure he will be pleased to see you.

Crewing

The second issue of the crewing list has been issued and the trips are filling up. Unsurprisingly the new destinations of Liverpool and Audlem are fully booked.

There are still vacancies for Crick and Braunston, and the skills weekends at the Museum in August. We should be supporting the Museum for these weekends, for one reason or another we haven't managed to crew the boats at the Museum for the last two years.

In the survey carried out by Malcolm Dunlop last year one of the comments made was that we keep going back to the same places, it is a good job that the volunteers on the steam railways don't think like this.

The latest crewing situation can be found on our website in the members' area. Repeating what I wrote earlier, to login you need your username, which is the email address you used when you joined, and your password. If you don't remember your password, there is a link to click on and you can get a new one.

Fundraising

£4.92p has been added to the easyfundraising total this month. The easy search amount hasn't been updated since January, so I can't give an update on that one. The total raised so far now stands at £575

Membership Matters

As I said earlier, there are still people that haven't paid their membership fees yet. After I check the bank statement I will be emailing those that I have an address for as a final reminder.

Request for information



The above photo appeared in the spring edition of the Chesterfield Canal Society's magazine The Cuckoo, with a request for information on where and when. I don't recognise any of the

people standing on the boat so the photo may pre-date the formation of the Friends of President, but there are members that were around then that may be able to help. If you can, please let me know and I will pass the information on.



I also received three more photos from the society which show the boats at the Burton National, the one on the left shows the Canal Society's boat *Python* moored in front of our pair.

The other two below are just general views of the boats.



Museum News

The success of the Peaky Blinders TV series continues, parts of the series are filmed at the Museum. There is going to be a Peaky Blinders Night at the Museum on Sept 10th, and it has sold out already.

Diary Dates

The Museum has the only full sized working replica of Newcomen's steam engine of 1712, and it will be in steam on the following dates:-

March 26-28 Apr 30-May 2, May 14, May 28-30, Jul 9-10
Aug 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-29, Sep 3-4, 24-25 Oct 22-23, 28-29, 31

Middlewich - Friday 18th March - *President* travels from Etruria to London 2012. It is at The Big Lock pub in Webbs Lane, Middlewich, CW10 9DN at 7.30pm. Trent & Mersey Canal Society, 01606-835606. This isn't being done by any of our members.

That's all for this month. **Neil**