

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

May 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 : £74.34p from 8,369 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £508.98p from 30 registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the latest 195. The crew and boats should be at the Lion Salt Works this weekend, hopefully the trip there was uneventful. No-one has told me of any problems. They then travel further north and west to Liverpool for the re-launch of the Daniel Adamson in the Albert Dock (photos please).

There was an urgent appeal for crew for the return trip to the museum because someone had to drop out. I hope they have managed to fill the vacancy. I would have liked to do the trip myself but have too much on at the moment.

If you are on any of the crews this year, please don't forget 195 and the trip reports. It makes my life easier if I haven't got to chase members for items. I was hoping that someone might have let me know about the training weekend a couple of weeks ago, but so far nothing heard.

Chairman's AGM Report

2016 was a strange year, we welcomed John Beckerson and Irene de Boo as our interfaces to the Museum, not that that was strange, but *Kildare* was away between October 2014 and October 2015, with Ian Kemp at Dadford's. This took a little longer than expected, but we now have a butty with repaired stern plates, a new wooden back cabin and a complete paint job, forecabin as well.

Whilst there we took the opportunity to black the hull, clean & red oxide inside of the hold and started laying a new floor, which will be more durable.

After she returned to the museum we have completed the floor, upgraded the electrics, both 240v & 12v. We now have USB charging connections for all those mobile phones and a new cooker. We have a new water arrangement with the fore and aft tanks separated and a water filter installed in the kitchen, which means no more water carriers needed for drinking water. A huge thanks to you all for the working party attendees, especially Dave Stott, for almost living at the Museum, Steve Kirk for his carpentry skills, at times when he wasn't feeling 100%, Jim Garratt for electrics, Brian Empsall for fitting out the bathroom, Bob Crompton for sorting out the plumbing and Tony Tibbins for his cups of tea. A lot of the work just being completed in time for us leaving for Liverpool next week.

Without the boats we managed to man the sales stand at Crick, thanks to Jim for carrying it there and those supporting the three days.

We did manage one trip, *President* was taken to Braunston, with the help of Richard Prince's boat as our sleeping quarters. Only problem we found with this boat was the very inflexible hosepipe, so as a thank you we bought Richard a new flexible hose.

With no accommodation, except for the boater's gathering we were unable to support steam at museum but hopefully we can change that this year. It's important that we are here in steam as much as we can be.

I mentioned Liverpool earlier, this is part of a full boating programme for 2016, we have been invited to the Daniel Adamson re-launch in the Albert Dock, so a journey on the Leeds & Liverpool for the first time. On the way we will stop off at Lion Salt Works in Northwich for a steam day. After getting back to the Museum we are planning to visit Crick, and then attending Braunston on the way back to the Museum. The final journey of the year will be an out and back

to Audlem, they've been trying to get us there for years. This then leaves a number of skills weekend in the Museum during August.

As soon as our boating programme is finished, it's *President's* time for some TLC. It's 10 year time, so the boiler will be re-tubed and then the boats will be taken to John Barnard's for painting, from there we'll set off for London and Little Venice in April 2017.

We had a few changes of roles at our AGM last October and Janet, Neil and Chris are now bedding into their new roles. Let's make sure we help them as much as we can. There are still vacancies in this year's crewing programme. So finally a final thank you to all of our working party attendees, it's been a very busy late summer and winter. Next year will be different or have I heard that before.

More AGM News

21 members attended the AGM, with 22 apologies. Our membership statistics are 57 individual, 33 family, 1 corporate and 7 honorary.

Adverts had been placed in Waterways World and The IWA Waterways magazines for new members, but there wasn't one response.

In Irene de Boo's report for the BCLM, she said that the museum were very pleased to have *Kildare* back, and that the work done had received the Historic Narrow Boat Club's Hemelryk award.

The only change you may have noticed in the new list of committee members on page 2, is that Steve Kirk has resigned for health reasons and the fact that he is moving to South Wales.

Trip/Event Reports

As mentioned earlier, please remember this section of 195 if you take part in any of the events or trips, with photos if possible.

Fundraising

A total of £7.63p raised during April, £5.77p from easyfundraising, and £1.86p from easysearch. It would be nice to increase the number of supporters from the current 30, this figure hasn't changed in seven months.

Membership Matters

Welcome to our third new member for 2016:-

612 - Marian Cowling, Ashford.

Website News

The good news is that our website is now back up and running, you can only buy new membership or renew your membership at the moment, buying shirts etc. still has to wait a while longer.

I would like to remind members of the request made previously for someone to take control of the content of the website. There is a lot of information that was on our original site that has never made it to the current one. If you are in a position to be able to help with this, please contact Nick, our chairman.

Media mentions

In the May edition of Tillergraph, the free monthly magazine from the publishers of Canal Boat, there is a photo of *President & Kildare* tied up on the moorings in March, when we did our 'Below the Sea' tour.

Museum News

The BCLM won two awards recently in the 'What's On Reader's Awards', they won the title of both 'Best Midlands Visitor Attraction' as well as 'Best Visitor Attraction – Wolverhampton and Black Country'.

Diary Dates

Short notice - BCLM, May 1st/2nd - Tug boat gathering, one of the largest tug boat gatherings in the country. Tug boats from near and far will make an appearance at the Museum as they manoeuvre their way along the canal arm. Visitors can chat to tug boat owners and join in with 'Hands on Heritage' canal crafts. The Newcomen Steam Engine will also be in action.

Sorry about the shortness of this edition but I've been a bit pushed for time this month.

Neil