

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

November 2017

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

(Registered Charity No: 504481)

Committee 2017/8

President - David Powell email: david.powel@ntlworld.com tel: 01799 523855
1 Reddings Close, Saffron Walden, CB11 4AZ

Chairman - Nick Haynes email: nickhaynes195@hotmail.co.uk tel: 01527 517475
42 Tredington Close, Redditch, B98 7UR

Treasurer - Simon Nuttall email: simon@stationhouse.me tel: 01249 720978
Station House, Meadow Lane, Little Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5JJ

Secretary - Janet Ramsay email: fopsecretary195@gmail.com tel: 01772 827012
34 Beech Terrace, Preston, PR1 8DQ

Chief Engineer - David Stott email: dw.stott@ntlworld.com tel: 01782 259363
13 Longfields Road, Hartshill, Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QN

Membership Secretary - Nick Haynes, details above

Crewing Secretary - Chris Walker email: walker385a@gmail.com
tel: 0114 230 5751 mob: 07711 9460113 85a Fulwood Road, Sheffield, S10 3GA

Acting Editor – Janet Ramsay, details above

Work Party Organiser - Richard Prince email: c.pike252@btinternet.com
tel: 01763 271252

Archivist - Richard Thomas email: thrifthouse@ntlworld.com tel: 01992 466180
42 Admirals Walk, Hoddesdon, EN11 8AG

Sales Stand - position vacant

Committee - Jim Garratt email: jimgarratt@hotmail.co.uk tel: 07415 698473
53 Harborough Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicester, LE8 0RB
- Will Derbyshire email: wilderby@hotmail.com tel: 07740 018933
32 Lockyer Road, Plymouth, PL3 4RL

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

Find us on Facebook at President, Steam Narrowboat

Help raise funds for Friends of President

By searching the internet using <http://fop.easyssearch.org.uk/>
Current total : £93.42 from 10,294 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £661.86 from 33 registered supporters

All items for inclusion in the newsletter to be sent to the editor, contact details above.

Editorial

I appear to have managed to make only one huge mistake with last month's 195 – I inadvertently sent it to anyone who had ever been a member of FOP! I didn't realise that I had to filter the membership list. However, as the saying goes there are 'no mistakes only opportunities' so hopefully previous members will have enjoyed finding out about the current activities of FOP and who knows it may reignite their interest.

As you will read, there are two really good pieces of news this month. The first is that the boiler has been collected and has gone to be re-tubed and secondly, Friends of President has been short listed for the Marsh Volunteer Award.

Now the clocks have gone back and the dark winter evenings are upon us it is good to look back at something which happened earlier in the year, the Crick Boat show which was held during the last Bank Holiday weekend in May. Having said that, you will see from Tony Tibbin's report that the weather on the Bank Holiday Monday was more like that in November! Sadly, President and Kildare weren't at the show which made it harder to generate interest.

As always, items for the next newsletter are needed and should be sent to me by 21 November for the December edition. Also, please consider whether you could be the editor of 195 and if this is something you could do, let me know.

Boiler Update – Nick Haynes

President's boiler is finally on the move!

Thanks to many donations and lots of support, President's scotch marine boiler has now been collected and has gone for the necessary work to be carried out including re-tubing.

Thank you to everyone who has supported President this far!

We still have a long way to go and there is lots of work to be completed before President can return to steam.



About to be lifted on to the lorry.



On the move at last!

Boat Maintenance and Boiler update - David Stott

On the 4th October the boiler was collected and delivered to Steam Hire Ltd in Brierley Hill. I visited the company on Tuesday 17th October to discuss progress. The smoke box has been removed revealing the front tube plate. The smoke box is in a poor state. It was fabricated in 1990 for the then new boiler. It is subject to the very extremes of corrosion - extreme heat followed by periods of cold when metal sweats producing a mix of acidic moisture which quickly eats into the metal. Over the years it has been patched up. Now it will need a major refurbishment.

The next move will be for the boiler surveyor to inspect, he will then advise the company as to the order of work. This will most likely involve a chemical wash of the interior followed by an examination of the welds in the boiler shell and the fire tube. Assuming all is well the old tubes will be removed and replaced. I also delivered all the valves for overhaul.

Meanwhile back at the museum work progresses with the boats.

President: The top of the bottom boards i.e. the floor in President, has been inspected and treated for fungi etc. Remedial repairs of the keelson in the boiler area are required. The hold side plates have been painted and the boiler area has been given 2 coats of grey. The engine room is waiting for its second coat of cream.

The smoke box extension which connects the boiler to the underside of the cabin top has been shot blasted which has revealed some corrosion in the corners and this will be cleaned and welded. The roof plate which is the lower part of the hinge which supports the funnel is badly corroded and will need replacing. All the pipework has to be stripped, de-rusted and painted and then insulated.

Kildare: a lot of work is needed. The electrics and water heating in the fore cabin are to be re-jigged. The age old problem of leaking gunwale bolts will be sorted. Each bolt will be removed, the hole in the gunwale deepened and the bolt sealed on a bed of lead based putty. The hole in the gunwale will then be sealed. When the leaks have been sealed the floor plates and sides will be painted with Owatrol.

I will be calling for work parties over the next few weeks, please come along and help all will be very welcome.

The Inland Water Ways Association National Awards

Our congratulations go to Malcom Braine who was awarded Honorary Life Membership at the Association's Annual General Meeting in September. Honorary Life Membership of the Association is awarded to members who have supported the charity for sixty consecutive years or more. Further details can be found at <https://www.waterways.org.uk/news/view?id=325&x%5B0%5D=news/list>.

As you will all be aware, Malcolm rescued President and made the decision to restore the boat to its original condition as a steamer.

Thanks to Penny Clover for highlighting Malcolm's achievement.

Marsh Volunteer Award

Friends of President have been short-listed for the Marsh Volunteer Award. This Award is presented to an individual volunteer and a group of volunteers, who have made significant contributions to the conservation or operation of historic vessels in the UK. The prize for the group award is £1000 and can be spent as the winners choose. This year, there is a new award with a prize of £500 which is for an individual or group who have made a significant contribution to an historic vessel through engaging the public. The awards are supported by the Marsh Christian Trust. You can find out more about the awards at:

<http://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/pages/marsh-volunteer-award.html>

This is the invitation we received to the Award Ceremony and Irene de Boo, Senior Curator will be representing the Black Country Living Museum and Nick Haynes will be representing FOP at this event. There will be an update in next month's 195 and who know, we may have won!

NATIONAL HISTORIC SHIPS UK

*Invitation to the Award Giving of the
National Photographic, Marsh Volunteer & Flagship of the Year Awards 2017
at Corporation of Trinity House, Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DH
on Wednesday 1st November 2017-12.30pm
in the presence of*

HRH The Princess Royal

RSVP to info@nationalhistoricships.org.uk or 020 8312 8558 by 6 October 2017. Dress: Day Dress/Lounge Suit.

(Please bring this invitation card as well as two forms of identification, one of which must be photographic).

Crick Boat Show 2017 (27th - 29th May) Tony Tibbins

I set out from where I now live near Fakenham in Norfolk to arrive at Crick during early Friday afternoon and to locate my accommodation for the next four nights which was to be on Richard Prince's narrowboat 'Louise'. Jim Garratt had informed me that he would be at the show to set up the stand at six o'clock but when I went to wait for him he was already there and already had the stand up and was about to lay out the bits and pieces.

The next stand to us was 'Kinver Canopies' who very conveniently intended to offer a free drink to anybody who would let them give them a quote. Well of course Jim had already sussed this out and we soon had a glass of very nice ale in our hands to aid us in our work.

After, Jim went off home hoping he would make it okay as his motor was playing up, I went back to the boat to cook myself a meal and get an early night.

Saturday morning arrived and I was up at 5.30am as I needed to drive to Alvecote to pick up some President books and leaflets from Kildare, we found we only had 4 books in the items boxes. I arrived back at Crick about 8.00am, had breakfast and waited for the opening. Janet Ramsay arrived soon afterwards and Jim arrived on his motorbike, he did have trouble with his motor, he had to abandon it on the road side on the way home.

The day itself was quite nice and sunny but was almost blowing a gale, we thought a couple of times we were going to lose the stand to the wind, but 'Kinver Canopies' came to our rescue with some additional weights to hold the thing down. As the boats were not at the show I'm afraid that the public interest in us was very poor. Several people did enquire where the boats were and what was happening to them but the takings for the day only amounted to about £200

Sunday turned out to be very hot with just a slight breeze, a really gorgeous day but again with little interest in the stand. That day we took only about £100.

On Monday the weather was a complete contrast to Sunday; even visitor numbers were significantly down on what would have been expected on a bank holiday. It rained all day. Dave Stott and his wife Angie arrived about 11.30am to give us a hand. Dave and Jim also wanted to go round the show to find suitable batteries as the ones on Kildare needed replacing. Again the takings were disappointing, we only took just over £60 and I only managed to sell only about 5 books over the three days, but we did manage to sell a few prints of the boats.

If the boats had been at the show I have no doubt the takings would have been much higher and it was disappointing that we were not able to generate more interest and raise more money. We managed to give away about half a dozen membership forms but no one signed up there and then. Many thanks must go to Jim, Janet, Dave and Angie for their part in looking after the stand and to Jim's boss for letting him to use one of his vehicles to transport the stand away. I have to say 'many thanks' to Richard for allowing me to stay on 'Louise' for my four nights at Crick.



As we don't have a photograph of us holding on to the stand as it was nearly blow away this year, I thought I would use this one showing Tony and myself at Crick on a sunny day in 2013.

Sales Stand

Our Sales Stand is an important part of the work of FOP. It is used to inform the public about the boats and our work as well as raising money to maintain the boats. As you will see from the Committee List, we currently do not have anyone responsible for the Sales Stand.

Jim Garratt has been doing a sterling job and has taken the stand to both the Crick Boat Show and the Braunston Historic Boat Gathering this year and also last year. As well as taking the stand, Jim has also helped to staff the stand. So a big 'thank you' Jim for giving up the time to do this.

FOP needs someone to be responsible for the Sales Stand, so please give careful thought as to whether you could either be responsible for the Stand or help to staff it at one of the events FOP attends. The request for crew which Chris Walker, the Crewing Secretary, circulates includes staffing the Stand as well as crewing the boats.

Janet

In the Media

Thanks to Neil for the following:

'In the October edition of NABO News, there is a photo of President and Kildare captioned "Narrow Boats President and Kildare enjoying several licence discounts". It's in an article about boaters' views on licence discounts.'

Nick informs me that both boats are now considered to be museum exhibits and as such do not pay a licence fee at all so there is no discount to be enjoyed!

Britain Afloat

The BBC Series about boats which is described as 'Mary-Ann Ochota discovers a history of the British people told through six of its best-loved boats' includes a programme about narrowboats which features President. Irene de Boo is shown sitting in front of President and explains how the steamers operated. There is also a model of the boat. If you missed the programme which was shown in late September, you can still watch it on BBC IPlayer for another few days at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b096n2nz>