

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

October 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 2017/18

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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: £92.05 from 10,091 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total: £654.95 from 33 registered supporters

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

Editorial

I have agreed to be the Acting Editor for 195 until a permanent replacement for Neil can be found. I am willing to do this up until the next AGM (April 2018) when hopefully, someone will have come forward to be the new editor.

As Neil has pointed out on many previous occasions, the content of 195 is totally reliant on the members of FOP. Sadly, it is the case that 195 cannot be published if the editor has not received any items from FOP members. So, if you would like the newsletter to continue, please ensure you send items to me and it would be helpful if I could receive them by the 21st of the preceding month to give me time to collate the next edition.

Neil has always published 195 on the first of the month and he is an 'eagle eyed' proof reader. Unfortunately, there may be times when because of family and work pressures, you do not receive 195 on the first of the month and I will confess that I am not the world's best proof reader (particularly if it is something I have written!). Red pens at the ready but there are no prizes for finding the mistakes! I should also point out that I have limited IT skills so there may also be times when the formatting is a bit higgledy-piggledy.

In this edition, Nick, FOP Chairman, has provided an update on the boiler and there will be a further update following the Committee Meeting in October.

I am looking forward to receiving items for the November edition of 195 and an offer from someone to be the Editor of 195.

Janet

Thank You

Neil has edited 195 for the last five years and I am sure that everyone is very grateful for the time and effort he has put into keeping members up to date and would like to thank Neil for all his work as editor.

Neil has also recently resigned from the FOP Committee and Nick, our Chairman, also wants to thank him for all his work on the Committee in addition to his work on 195. He hopes that Neil will enjoy many opportunities to travel in his campervan.

I was aware that in addition to his recent work as Editor of 195 and Committee member, Neil has been involved with FOP for some time and has contributed to the work of FOP in many different ways. I asked Neil to write a short piece for 195 about his involvement to date with FOP which he has done and you can read this below.

Janet

Involvement with FOP so far

I joined the Friends of President in 1986, not to be involved in the steam plant but to learn all about the difficulties of steering a deep draughted ex-working boat, especially when you aren't in direct control of the engine, and after doing it for a number of years, you never stop learning.

There was a ten year gap in my membership when we started the gift shop at the top of Hatton Locks, and I couldn't get any time away from it to go boating. There were big differences in the 'before and after shop' boating. The before was without a butty as crew accommodation. A separate crew boat was supplied by Brummagem Boats, the chairman of FoP at the time was Alan Green who ran the hire company based in Birmingham. Other times there were boats made available from private owners who were also members. In all cases the crew boat was manned by two other members, Alan & Pauline Pease, who did all the catering, shopping etc., they were also available with the boat to push or pull President whenever it became stuck.

I'm afraid I can't be very specific over dates and I haven't trawled back through old 195s to find out but a couple of memorable trips were one, bringing President back from Norbury without a crew boat and we slept in the hold, and two, the towing of the butty Northwich when it had to be taken to the museum at Gloucester, where it still is.

After handing the shop at Hatton back to British Waterways, my first trip was steering President, now accompanied by Kildare, round the parade lap at Braunston. Being offered the chance to be a Captain was also a privilege, but then you also had to plan trips as well as just taking part. Memorable trips from this period include getting from Hatton to Little Venice in six days, starting with only five crew and then four after Leighton Buzzard because of a serious illness. Taking part in the transportation of the statue of James Brindley, a fly-run and the Queen's Pageant.

Other roles that I have done include taking over the running of the sales stand after John Byham and Richard & Celia Thomas retired. This had to stop when I changed my vehicle and couldn't take the stand and stock to events. Being on the committee for a number of years, I was editor of 195 for nearly five years getting a monthly magazine out to try and keep members informed of goings on, and also membership secretary for a period covering two annual membership renewals.

The other thing I am proud to have done was to produce the book for President's centenary, in a relatively short time after the person who was going to do it withdrew. Information was pulled in from Richard Thomas's archive, crew log books and my own recollections. After a lot of proof reading by myself and Richard, I'm still finding errors, but it did make it in time for the celebrations.

Neil

Thank you, Neil. Perhaps, other members would also like to provide a short piece describing their involvement with FOP which can then be included in 195.

Update on the Boiler – Nick Haynes

We are all aware of the delays to the re-tubing of President's boiler but I'm glad to say that on Friday 22nd September approval was given, by the Museum Chief Exec, for the arrangements to be made for the boiler to be picked up and the work started. Thanks to Dave Powell for all his efforts in driving the fund-raising to get this and all the other work on President and Kildare funded.

The good news is that the boiler is being picked up from the Museum on Wednesday 4th October and taken to have its re-tubing. That should mean it will be back and reconnected by the end of the year. It will be 'all hands to the pump' when the boiler returns, probably early in November.

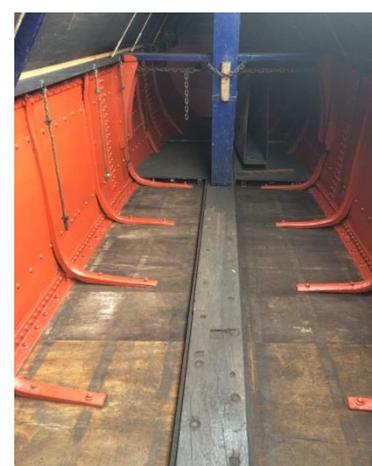
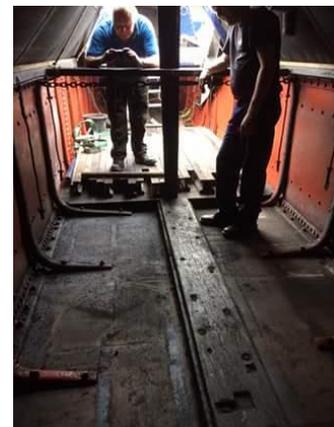
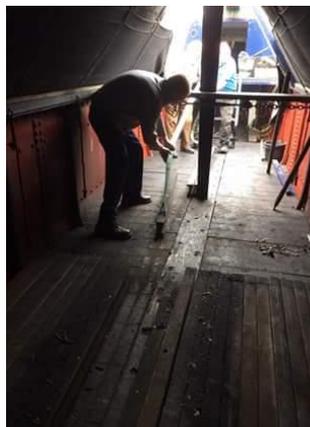
Work Parties

The final working party to be held before this edition of 195 was during the Boaters' Gathering at the Museum on 23/24 September.

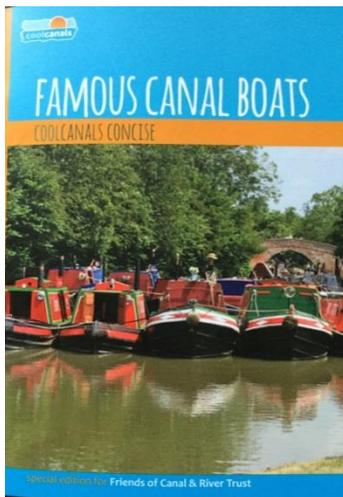
Nick writes: Just in time, over the weekend of 23rd/24th Ian Wilkinson, Martin Burke, Mich Bookes and myself moved the ballast away from the middle section of the hold. This allowed us to remove the boards (I've been told they were not called shutes on Joshers, I'm sure this will start a debate), scrape clean the hull timbers, paint the chines with Owatrol and paint the inside of the hull with red oxide. This will give Dave Stott a bit of a rest as he's been doing most of the painting work himself.



From left to right: Mich Bookes, Martin Burke, Ian Wilkinson



In print



I was delighted to receive an email from the Canal & River Trust offering me a free book. I could choose from a number of titles which included 'Famous Canal Boats' which I chose. Before long I received my book in the post and quickly opened it to find that President featured in the book. I'm sure no one is surprised by that. I have included a picture of the book and the pages about President and I hope you are still able to read the text and can recognise the FOP members in the photograph. Unfortunately, there is no mention of FOP in the text.

Janet



I have to thank Neil for the following items from the October edition of Waterways World.

There is a two page article about a new five part series on the inland waterways. Whilst President isn't actually mentioned in the article there are two photos with a scale model of the boat. Both these photos also feature elsewhere in the magazine, one on the front cover and the other on the contents page.

There is a further five page article on steam on the cut which has a potted history of President and two photos of the boat and Kildare in action at the start of the article.