

Friends of PRESIDENT



195

February 2018

'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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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.easysearch.org.uk/>
Current total : £94.86 from 10,586 searches

By shopping online via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fop>
Current total : £675.24 from 33s registered supporters

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

Editorial

Welcome to the February edition of 195, the days are stretching and we are getting closer to the boating season again. In this edition you will be able to read about some of the plans which are being made for President for the coming season and the work which needs to be done before boating can begin.

As well as the boating season fast approaching it is also nearing the time for our AGM which will be held on Saturday 14 April 2018 at 1:00pm in the Canal Side Buildings at the Museum. You may remember that I offered to be the Acting Editor of 195 until the AGM so please give serious consideration as to whether you would be able to take on this role. We also still do not have anyone who is responsible for the Sales Stand. An important part of our income comes from the Sales Stand and as you will see from the notes from the Committee Meeting and as Nick noted in his Chairman's New Year message, last year was a very expensive year and our funds are low. Sadly, Chris Walker has resigned as Crewing Secretary and a big 'thank you' goes to Chris for all his work in this role. So, we now have another vacancy on the Committee. Please think about whether you would be able to take on either of these roles. Formal notification of the AGM will be given in next month's edition of 195.

I am very grateful to all the people who have sent me items for inclusion in this month's edition. I hope you will be as interested as I was to see Tony Millatt's photographs from the trip which he described in the 1987 edition and the information from Penny Clover about the Daniel Adamson. I think the picture is of the Danny on the Manchester Ship Canal but I may be wrong. You may have some old photographs in the loft or in a cupboard or a memory of a trip on President which you could send me for inclusion in a future edition.

From the Committee Meeting

The ongoing work on President's boiler was discussed. It is hoped the non-destructive testing (NDT) will not raise any issues. The smoke box will need to be rebuilt. It is hoped that the NDT will take place in the near future and the boiler will be back at the Museum by March. There will need to be a site meeting to discuss how the damage to the keelson can be repaired. Further consideration will need to be given to how the issues raised by the insurance survey of Kildare can be dealt with.

The major expenditure continues to be on President and FOP provided £9000 to the Museum to ensure the boiler work was completed. Expenditure so far is around £12,000 this is for towage, docking and painting. The total boiler package is still to be paid and two payments have already been made - £6,000 out of a total cost of approximately £12,000. The final cost of the boiler may increase as the NDT has still to be conducted but at the present time it continues to be within budget.

The boating programme was discussed and this is largely dependent on when the boiler is returned. It is still hoped that the boats will go to Little Venice (early May bank holiday) and then to Rickmansworth, the Crick Boat Show (Spring Bank Holiday) and then to the Braunston Historic Boat show before returning to the Museum.

The current membership is:

Category	Number
Corporate	2
Family	42
Individual	69
Honorary	8
Total	121

The Museum is still working on Forging Ahead programme. All planning documents have to be in by the end of February and the first planning applications can be found on the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council website. The Colliery area refurbishment is nearly completed, the steam hammer is now working and Tram 5 is now also working and carried a large number of passengers before Christmas.

Update since the Committee Meeting – Nick Haynes

Maintenance

Meeting has been held with Ade Polglase, who carried out work on the hull when President was dry docked last year, and the damage to the keelson can be completed in situ at the Museum. This work will be completed during February before the boiler is returned, but will need more extensive work the next time the boiler is removed.

Whilst there has been a delay in the NDT on the boiler, which is now imminent, work has been done on refurbishing the main steam valves. Hopefully, there will be a more detailed update next month but we are still hopeful a full boating program will be possible from mid-April.

Membership

Membership renewals are progressing but our Membership Secretary is still waiting to hear from 41 of last year's members, we're missing you.

From the Archive continued.

Tony Millatt, the author of the trip report which was republished from the 1987 edition of 195 contacted me and sent the following photographs and comments. The photographs were taken on the trip which he described as the Day of the Hurricane, a memorable trip.



Passing Merry Hill in the early days of President's construction.

Left to right are John Crompton, Mark Walker and Les Langworthy. Harry Green is hiding behind the funnel. John and Mark were both from BCM (as it was named in those days). I think John went to museums in Scotland from BCM. I'm not sure about Mark.



Nearing the bottom of Delph



Games at the bottom of Delph. Harry Green and Les Langworthy, both sadly no longer with us.

It was Harry Green that got me into canal boating. In 1989 at the end of a trip on Lindsey from UCC at Braunston, Harry and I persuaded all the crew to donate to President's new boiler fund and to become Members. As a result, Nick Haynes joined FOP. He has done well, hasn't he ?

Tony added: Missing from all of my pictures is Keith Rogers who was not allowed out of the engine hole.

Other steam boats

My thanks go to Penny Clover for the following information. Penny commented in her email how much she and Harry had enjoyed their trip on the Manchester Ship Canal from Ellesmere Port last year.



The steamship experience with a unique story



[Our 2018 Steam Cruise timetable is now launched](#)

[Click here](#) to book and view our wide selection of cruises from £25 to £65 per passenger with cruises available from 2.5 hours, to a half or a full day.

We look forward to our 2018 launch at The Easter Boat Gathering as part of the event at Ellesmere Port organised by The National Waterways Museum. During the event, which runs from March 30th to April 2nd, we will be running 90 min mini cruises, ideal for families.

You may remember that President travelled to Liverpool for the re-commissioning of the Danny in 2016 and participated in the Liverpool Steam Symphony. You can watch the Symphony via the link below – President first appears around 3 minutes 48 seconds and then at various intervals. You may want to watch this with the volume turned down quite low!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=adQYdWbczul>

In the Media

Thanks to Neil Ratcliffe for the following information:

In the latest edition of NarrowBoat magazine (winter 2017), it lists items in the next edition. One of which is FMC steamers.

Alan Faulkner looks at the steam powered fly-boats operated by FMC in the south and east Midlands.

The spring 2018 issue is on sale from 29th March.

Some people emailed to say how much they had enjoyed watching the video which Neil provided the link for in the last edition of 195. You may have noticed in the credits that the crew of President were mentioned. They were:

David Stott
Simon Nuttall
Sean Neil
Bob Jervis

As you know David and Simon continue to be members of FOP and are our Chief Engineer and Treasurer. Richard Thomas, the only member of FOP to have a speaking part, was not mentioned in the credits and he also continues to be a member of FOP and is our Archivist.