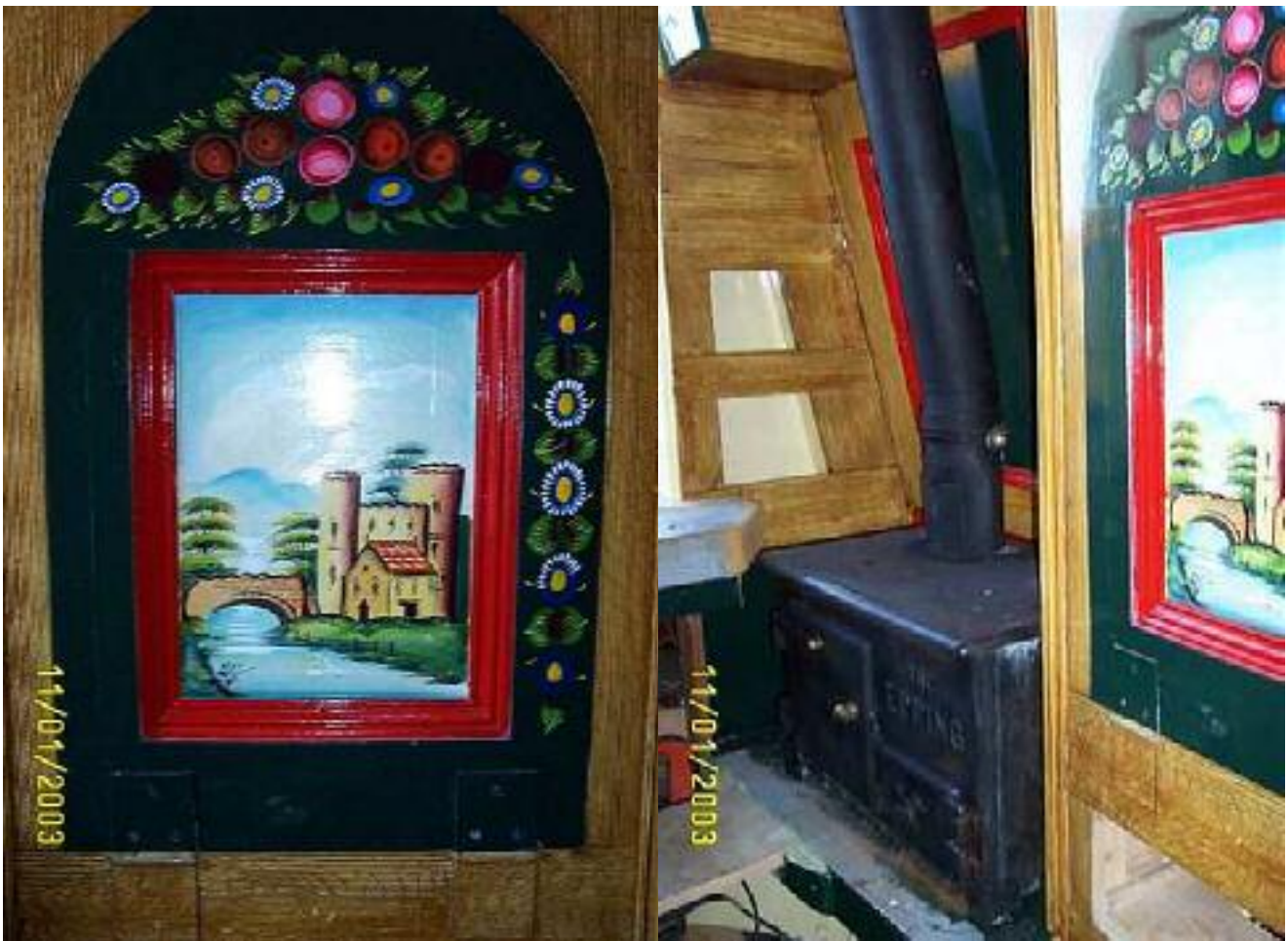
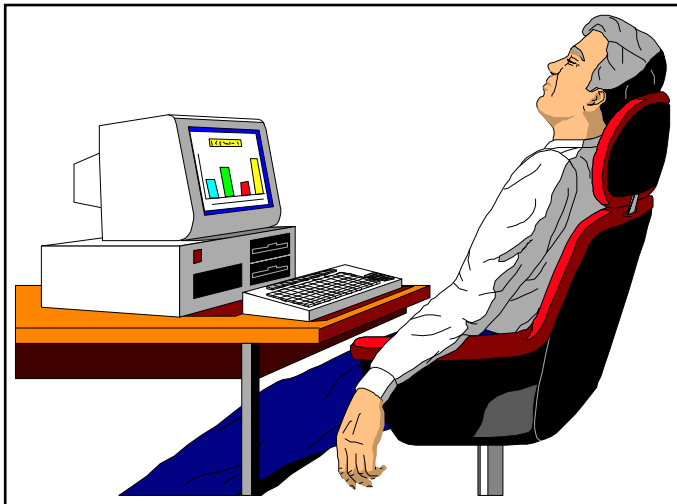


Friends of PRESIDENT

“Steaming Up” – Issue 7



“Our new cabin”



From the Editor

It's a New Year, so why not start as I mean to go on, with another edition of our newsletter. And, what an exciting year it promises to be. Sometimes FOP can become routine. Each year ticks by, a visit to this rally or that, producing the next issue of '195' or organising

the next work party etc, but, I can honestly say I am genuinely excited at the prospect of seeing the boat back where it belongs – the Black Country Living Museum and in STEAM! I can confess to counting the weeks until our seminar - 22nd February. I hope as many members as possible will be able to come for what will be a very special day. This will be first time we can all see the boat in all its restored glory.

This issue is a fairly short one, with an update on progress together with information on the seminar and this years boating programme. My thanks to Dave Powell for the majority of photographs in this issue.

See you on the 22nd!

Simon Nuttall



Harry Stoopman painting the hatches on Kildare

Website www.nb-president.org.uk

Seminar 22nd February

First of all, can I resolve the slight confusion, which has arisen over the changing of the date from the 15th to the 22nd. The date for the seminar is now **SATURDAY 22ND** at 11:00, please note that there is only one seminar and you do not have the choice of dates. I would apologise for the rapid change of dates, which was due to circumstances beyond my control.

May I take this opportunity to encourage all members to attend. The day will be varied and interesting. It will cover all aspects of the operation of the boats, including boat handling, the new steam plant, meeting the public and our new training manuals. All members whether or not they have crewed before are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend. Please complete your forms that were sent out recently.



Progress Report

We really are in the homeward straight, with only just over 5 weeks to the seminar there is still a lot to do. Recently Dave Stott took a big step forward, the first whooph! [For those who do not realise about which I am talking I will explain one of those “in” sayings that inevitably develop. The saying comes from the sound of lighting a teapot full of paraffin in a warm boiler. If you’ve never heard this sound then you’d better volunteer for some engineroom service] Dave carried out a full steam test recently. He reports that all went well and that seeing and hearing the safety valve going off at 150 psi was a whole new experience. Much more aggressive than before!

Unfortunately the pipework has been delayed for three weeks and will now start on 27th January. This delay was due to staffing problems at the company contracted to complete the work.

A full workparty took place on Saturday 11th January with 9 members attending. The tasks included loading 700 feet of spare rubbing strake into the hold of President. The hatches of Kildare have been painted.

The range has now been re-installed into the cabin. The broken top has been replaced by a new one cast by a firm in Essex. This was arranged by Colin Grantham for a nominal sum a most welcome saving on the cost of new stove.

At present Ron Spencer is making new doors for the cupboard at the rear of the hatches; he is making these with a metal section at the rear with the hope ensuring a longer life than the others which had rotted at the bottom.

It is understood that Ian Kemp has about two weeks work to do, this includes painting the fore end and flooring the engine room after the pipes have been installed. Ian has some older style chequer plate, which he will be using to do this. I am sure that if he repeats the standard of workmanship he has produced on the rest of the boat then it will be a considerable improvement on the old floor.



The rubbing strakes being loaded ready for return to the Museum.

Proposed Boating Programme 2003

Although as yet unconfirmed, there is a slight change to the dates for the Bone Mill event, it is in fact being held on the weekend of 7th/8th June.

Museum Event	Wolverhampton	26th - 27th April 2003
May Bank Holidays & Weekends	BCLM	
Bone Mill	Eturia	7 th - 8 th June
Middlewich Festival	Middlewich	13th - 15th June 2003
FMC Working Boat Gathering	Braunston	28th - 29th June 2003
Inland Waterways Exhibition	Birmingham	18th - 21st July 2003
National Waterways Festival	Reading	22nd - 25th August 2003
Bonded Warehouse	Stourbridge	Oct 2003

Work parties

At present we do not need to hold formal working parties, but it would be appreciated if members could contact Ron Spencer if they are able to spare some time to help keep 'Kildare' ship shape. 0161-980-3539