



The Consuta Trust

The advancement of education in the history of steam launches, by preservation, maintenance and exhibition of the steam launch **Consuta**

Consuta Trust Newsletter - Summer 2026

Welcome to our 2026 Summer newsletter.

The Annual Boiler inspection

We arranged the annual boiler inspection quite early this year to avoid the inspection during the boating season. Several supporters came along to see what it's all about, there were no problems except the new safety valve was blowing off slightly high, this has now been adjusted down during the season.

Henley women's Regatta - Saturday 20th June

We completed a successful day at the Regatta.



This was a very long day for those who were prepared to help involving the steaming raising at Charvil then move Consuta down river to Henley to carry umpires from about 11:40 to 19 45. then steam back through the two locks to our Charvil mooring to shut down and put the boat covers on.



Consuta was being fired with Foss-y-fran coal for the race umpire work and it again proved to be one of the very best steam coal, a great pity it's no longer available now, although we still have about two tons





Some of the operational crew at the Henley Womens Regatta



Following a race

in our reserves. The coal produces lots of steam with very little smoke, and little ash at the end of the day.

Paul has published a great Youtube video of the engine during some of the key race activities. There are nice shots of the engine running very slowly then quickly speeding up to fast. I did wonder about this, was the engine allowed to turn over while waiting at

Supporters taking a well earned cup of tea, during the last part of the journey home.

The crew had been on Consuta duty starting 8:00am and did not get back to our Charvil mooring until about 9pm. Mark and Lyn in fact only getting home by 10:40 pm



the race start perhaps making it a bit difficult for the crew to hold on. Not perhaps recommended in future, however the video of the engine at the race start is most impressive, the engine valve chest pressure is quite low.

Unfortunately there are still a few people who believe that Consuta cannot work as well as the modern umpire launches because Consuta makes too much wash. Let me try and correct this erroneous impression.

When Consuta was first restored she was clearly a bit heavier than when originally built by Sam Saunders. This was due to a new but excessively heavy boiler built for a maximum working pressure of 230 psi (don't understand why so high). This would certainly be much greater than the original which probably was built for half this working pressure. This meant that the weight of Consuta when first restored was over 4.2 tons, she now only weighs 3.2 tons with the recent new boiler.

A key naval factor in the size of wake wash that is produced at speed is a parameter called "Displacement Length Ratio", Basically the heavier a boat the more wash it creates at speed.

I now believe due to the extremely light hull and despite the heavy steam machinery Consuta is no worse at making wash than the modern umpire launches which use heavier GRP hulls compared with Consuta's lightweight mahogany hull.

Boat wash is created by engine HP, Consuta's steam engine probably produces no more than 80 HP while the modern launches have over 150 hp IC engines.

However the one feature which can be a slight problem for Consuta is that she does not turn as quickly as the modern umpire launches, this is due to several reasons.

The Thames Traditional Henley Boat Festival - Friday 17th - Sunday 19th July

Very late change has been made during organisation of this event when the working committee were informed that Fawley Meadow would not be available because of bank restoration work by the EA during summer 2026. This was a body blow for the Henley Boat Festival arrangements but the TVBC committee are now organising a substitute boating event using the upper Thames Rowing club site on the opposite bank of the Thames.

We may arrange for a Consuta day outing during these dates.



Update on Eva

The Tamesis Trust have concluded an agreement to take on the responsibility for future public display of EVA and are currently working out all the details for this change of management including a need to move her to a new location.

There will be considerable cost to the Tamesis Trust for this, if you any questions or would like to help out please do contact us at info@tamesis.org.uk

The Tamesis Trust is a registered charity.

By the way if you are interested in these early Thames steam launches I have just been informed that **Water Lily**, a very early surviving Thames steam launch of 1866, had been removed from display at the Falmouth museum. I'm now left wondering why is there so little public interest in the surviving part of our early Thames boating history?

Best wishes to all,
From the Consuta Trust



Eva steaming during a 1990's visit to Windermere

Remaining events for a possible steaming of Consuta during 2026

Event	Date	Details
Henley Music Festival	July 8th July 12th	Supporter cruise at the event. Consuta outing cancelled
Henley Traditional Boat Festival	July 17th – July 19th	See total update in newsletter
Henley Town and Visitor Regatta	August 1st	Supporter cruise at the event. Good weather only
Down river trip to Marlow	August	Supporter outing could be arranged much earlier in
Private outing		Possibly down river