



THE EMPIRE'S LAUNCH.

The Consuta Trust

19 Mill Bank
Kintbury
HUNGERFORD
Berks.
RG17 9UW

Dear Supporter,

01488 658795

Thank you for your help over the Easter weekend. We had a very successful start to the paint scraping of Consuta over this weekend.

NEWSLETTER 1

During the Saturday and Sunday some 20 helpers gave time and effort to remove all layers of paint from the hull exterior. At the end of the Sunday, we had completed about 70% of this work, a truly great effort which will have saved the Trust a hefty boatyard bill. Many who helped have said that they had enjoyed the weekend!

More paint scraping

Colin Henwood has told us that there is a pause in the boatyard schedule of work for Consuta - it's the busy period at the yard when everyone wants their boat made ready for summer. Colin has generously suggested that we can have another volunteer's weekend on Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th April. Hopefully it should take us just one more day to finish the job if we can get enough helpers, so please let me know whether you can give a hand over this weekend, basically the Saturday.

Other Consuta news

I have just heard from Graham L. that we have been promised covered barn accommodation at Child Beale Park to complete the fitting out details of Consuta (later this year) - this is splendid news. If you are planning to come to Boats 99 you will see what a great place this would be as a permanent base for Consuta. We have hopes that some of our plans for a permanent base may be finalised for the year 2000 - I cannot say any more at the moment.

The Consuta Trust have applied for charity status. If accepted for registration, there will be many benefits for tax relief on cash gifts and it will also help with applications for future funding. For example: we will need covered wet dock accommodation and a means of displaying Consuta to the public, this will be expensive item and we will need independent funding.

On Easter Monday, I steamed up the 6 + 6 × 6½ Desvignes engine which we have on loan for Consuta. This was very satisfying and its quite an impressive engine, and it certainly gave a foretaste of things to come. Mark took a bit of video of this for our future edification. The boiler is now being made ready for Consuta by Michael Webber. All being well it is almost certain that Consuta will be in running condition some time during the year 2000.

Volunteers will always be needed.

The Trustees will need your continuing support, this can take the form of moral support, physical effort at times, or even cash donations. So far the project has consumed a great deal of cash, and more is needed to complete the work at Henwood and Dean. When Consuta is moved to Beale Park we will still need cash to purchase materials, plus the labouring help to complete some of the final tasks. However, even if you are unable to provide any of this, we still will welcome your support and encouragement for this great historic project, so please stay with us. When Consuta is operational we will need plenty of help to run her, and we definitely intend to use her, no static museum exhibit here.

Brian Smith, 7th April 1999

Trustees:

Derek Brown Tony Cundick Graham Lindsay Geoff Newton Brian Smith

A Working weekend on CONSUTA

17th and possibly 18th April 1999

The final paint scraping

How and when to get there

Colin Henwood is allowing us full access to his boatyard and the facilities during this weekend. Aim to get to the boatyard by about 9:30am, Colin will be around a bit earlier.

Purpose

Following our extremely successful Easter weekend working party, I am aiming to finish the remove of all paint on the outside surfaces of the hull. This work was started by volunteers over the Easter weekend and is about 70% complete.

Tools needed

If you haven't been before the basic tools needed for the paint removal are a hot air paint stripping gun, a paint stripping tool - we find the small Skarsten with renewable blades is best, and a right hand glove (thick gardening or welder type) to hold the scraper and avoiding a scorched hand (assuming that you are right handed). There are plenty of power points near the hull, but it might also be useful to bring a short (heavy duty) power extension lead.

If you don't have any of these items don't worry, we will try to provide them.

We are not allowed to use naked flame torches (fire risks) or chemical paint strippers (interfere with the resins). The hull is stitched with copper wire, this should be flush with the surface, but it isn't!

Meals

Lyn will be providing a buffet style lunch on the Saturday, plus of course those essential teas and coffees throughout the day. Please bring your own favourite beverages for lunch.

How many do we need

I am hoping to have a core workforce of about 12 persons on the Saturday, if there are more then we can take turns at the scraping, this will give time for a natter and an informal look at other boats in the yard.

Confirmation Please

I have enclosed the simple check list, and would be grateful if you could call me and confirm details so that I can make the weekend arrangements.:-

I will be coming on Saturday

I will need a Hot air gun

I will need suitable scrapers

Please call me and confirm these details:- 01488 658795

Brian Smith 7/4/99