



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 - Christmas 2019

Consuta project work

We've finally seen the licence from Beale Park for use of the shed next to Henley Boats. The shed although ideal for storage is not really suitable for the project conservation work due to being very damp and lacking all facilities ie no water or electrics – we are not even allowed to have any heating on the premises.

Most of the wood and metal work is therefore being carried out at the home workshop, it then has to be moved to BP for fitting. This, although slowing down the work progress, has actually significantly reduced costs so that we will not now need to request the last 10% part of the HLF grant fund. I believe quite unusual for many HLF project budgets.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Project activities programme

Six talks funded by the HLF had been arranged by David Howard during 2019 covering a wide range of topics about small boats and steam. Some talks were very popular, others less so, perhaps we didn't market them as well as possible. The last one had over 100 attending.

Mark our treasurer had asked "could he arrange an HLF sponsored visit to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard". Yes, the date chosen was November 26th, but why in Winter? The deal was however very good and allows a free return for a whole year, needed because there is just too much to see in one visit. Thirteen people booked, an additional feature was to have a great view of the UK's 2nd new aircraft carrier, the Prince of Wales. The Boathouse 4 collection of small craft has a splendid selection of small naval vessels including six steam powered, some in the water.

Undercover were **Mischief** (SC438) – 23ft, **Osborne** (SC437) – 31ft, **Falmouth** (Albert, now SC26) 35ft, **Janet**-236 – a 40ft admirals barge; with **199** – a 50ft pinnace, and **VIC56** – 85ft afloat outside.

We will probably be arranging visits to other steam related museums during 2020, and of course Consuta will be in steam during the 2020 boating season as well.

Consuta Winter Social Luncheon

This is to be at the Swan in Streatley. The Swan has recently reopened after a multi million pound refurbishment taking several years to complete and is well worth a visit for its splendid river views.

Date is set for a Saturday luncheon at 1:00pm on 29th February if you would like to come along please let me know by Sunday 23rd. The arrangements will be that the trust books enough tables for our party, you will then be able to order from the Swan menu of the day. Please note you must book through the trust before Monday 24th to avoid disappointment.

Email:- skipper@consuta.org.uk **or phone:-** 07967 853603

Are you wondering what happened to Consuta's old boiler?

Our old loco boiler was sold to a Kees Helinga who owns a small tug in Holland named Johannes. This boiler is much smaller than the tug's previous 2m diameter Scotch boiler which had worn out. With only half the grate area we did wonder if it would work out OK. Kees has sent the following words, now the boiler has been fitted and steamed.

"After lots of work the Johannes is steaming on the old Consuta boiler! And it's exactly as I had calculated; 60-80 RPM is possible on coal firing and a speed of 8km/h, max. 10km/h on forced draft."

We have build an own designed steam dome on the boiler, four mounting plates on the boiler and the boiler is standing on a steel frame. Also a new smokebox is fitted. The old bottom blow and feedwater flanges are welded and the check valves are now mounted on the original flanges with inner pipe, we have one Dikkers injector and the engine driven pump pumps the water to a feedwater heater on the right of the boiler."

We congratulate Kees and his helpers for their work, and we are delighted that Consuta's old boiler still has a useful future; see photos below.

Wishing everyone all the best for 2020.

Brian Smith

The Consuta Trust

December 2019



More photos

The Swan at Streatley for the Trust winter Social

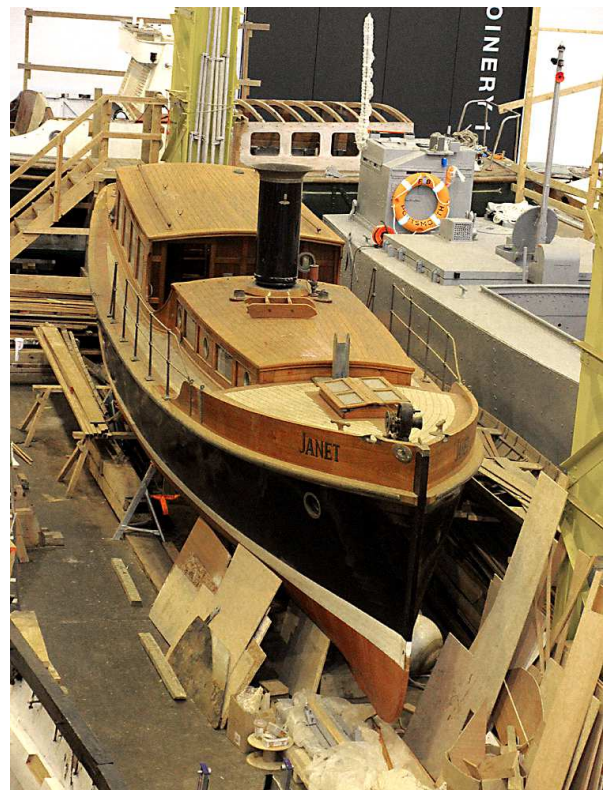


These two photos show the part of the refurbished. Streatley Swan restaurant overlooking Goring weir.

If you would like to come along on Saturday 29th February please let me know at least a week before to book table places.

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Below two photos taken inside boatshed No.4. On the left ; steam cutter no.438. on the right; – steam pinnace No.236. A great shame we don't have such museum facilities on the Thames.





Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

*HMS Warrior of
1862 and also
VIC 56 of 1945 a new
acquisition on the
water at the
dockyard museum .*

*This photo was
taken from
Boatshed No. 4 cafe*



*These three photo taken in Warrior's boiler
room:- 10 box type marine boilers each with four
furnaces. The working pressure is very low at
20 psi. Feed water is taken from the sea, this
means that the boilers need to be blown down
frequently, and de-scaled every 18 to 20 days.*

*Boilers using salt water cannot work at pressures
over about 40 psi because the saline water
creates foaming at higher pressures,*

*One of our party tries his hand at a firing iron, I
think it's a clinker breaker bar.*

