



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 - Spring 2023

Hello All,

Welcome to our Spring News letter.

At last we now have a launching date for Consuta, please put this in your diary, I will however send a reminder to those on our active list nearer the date.

Our favourite crane company have been booked for Wednesday 31st May at Beale Park, the crane should be on site at the slipway about 9:00am .

However helpers will be required earlier to manoeuvre Consuta out of our shed then across the grass track to the tarmac road which leads to the park lake and the main visitor parking area. This boat movement in the past was a simple operation but will now probably take a little bit longer, and we do need to get Consuta to the launch site by nine o'clock. I will be starting to get things ready at our shed from about 7:00am. The actual launching should be completed by 10:00am provided there are no hitches, however we may be a bit rusty.

Helping hands will be very welcome, onlookers are also OK but please put all cars in the park's main visitor area shown on the map, and not in the field or on the road.

We are planning two further work party days prior to the launching date, both will be on a Saturday, first is the 13th May and another on 20th. If the weather is good. we can check out how Consuta can moor safely on the lake for several days; not even sure if our old pontoons will still be serviceable.





There has been a lot of activity since Christmas, and we now have a new influx of some active Consuta supporters.

The first event on our 2023 calendar was a revival of the popular pre Covid Consuta Winter Social. This year's get together was held at the **Rowbarge Inn** (above) based on a River Kennet section of the K&A canal in Woolhampton.

The luncheon was attended by 17 Trust members and despite a rather cold day, several ventured out to look at the road swing bridge over the river in top photo. We were rather tempted to use a waterway key to see it working.



This is where the canal joins the river Kennet which then flows through some interesting and seemingly very wild country scenery for about two miles towards the Aldermaston lock cut.

*Two photos on the right were taken at our room in the Rowbarge.
The photo below left show a few braving the cold, with Woolhampton lock in the background*



Our first Consuta work party

Was held on April the 1st, and no it wasn't an April fools day prank.

Eleven helpers came along despite an awful wet start to the day, youngest supporter was Henry Willock 10 years old.

Rather boring work but a large amount of brass was polished, the port hull topside cleaned off and then top water section was antifouled



The photo above shows young Henry sitting in the bow helping with the polishing .



This photo also shows the historic steam launch Cygnet under the blue covers, and a section of a hull parked vertical on the right. This is a Saunder's thirty footer stitched hull, same method as Consuta but only with three veneers.

We stayed indoors as it was rather wet outside even the public car park in the lane was flooded.

I later heard on the news that March had been the wettest month for over 40 years.

Photo above shows work was started to clean (de-rust) the lifting frame bars before being repainted.

Eight of our group decided to have a pub lunch at the Streatley Bull inn, the food was excellent and very cheap but it did take some time before we were served.

I hadn't visited the Bull for some 4 years and there had been some changes, now fitted out with a pool table and a piano but with less dinning area

The second work party was held on a nice and dry day, even with a bit of sunshine at times.

We again had a good number of supporters who came along, which was most encouraging although I spent more time talking to old friends than doing much work; sorry, but maybe a privilege of old age?

However we finished off the starboard hull side and completed the antifouling painting of the waterline on the starboard side. Just need some keen soul to go underneath to antifoul the hull bottom – any volunteers?

The two photos below shows the newly painted lifting frame. assembled to check all was well. On the right some quick repairs to the shed temporary plastic panels.



Below Lyn cleaning Consuta's boat covers at Kintbury



Best wishes to all,
Brian Smith, Trustee and Chairman of The Consuta Trust