



THE EMPIRE'S LAUNCH

The Consuta Trust

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

Patron: The Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal

Consuta Trust Newsletter - Winter 2015

Dear All,

End of Season update

Consuta was lifted from the water on October 23rd and is temporarily stored on her old trailer outside the Cowshed at Beale Park. We hope to move her undercover for the new year.

This year the boiler has been removed, and we will be looking at ways of stopping the tube leaks which occur when forced very hard – more about this later.

After Christmas I'm hoping that we will start looking at the options of providing a new boiler, I've come to the conclusion that it would be nice to have a traditional flanged and riveted design, so am currently investigating possibilities.

Our sister Trust the Tamesis Trust has submitted an application for an HLF funding grant to build the proposed museum at Beale Park. We should know the decision by mid January. A press statement about the museum has been put out and a copy of this is included on page 2, also worth looking at the Trust website www.tamesis.org.uk which has more information about the proposals.

Winter Social

Our winter social luncheon has been arranged for Saturday the 20th February at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel. This is a lovely spot overlooking the Thames and I hope you will be able to come along. Please use the booking form included with the newsletter.

No work parties until the new year, so please keep a lookout for the email notices about dates.

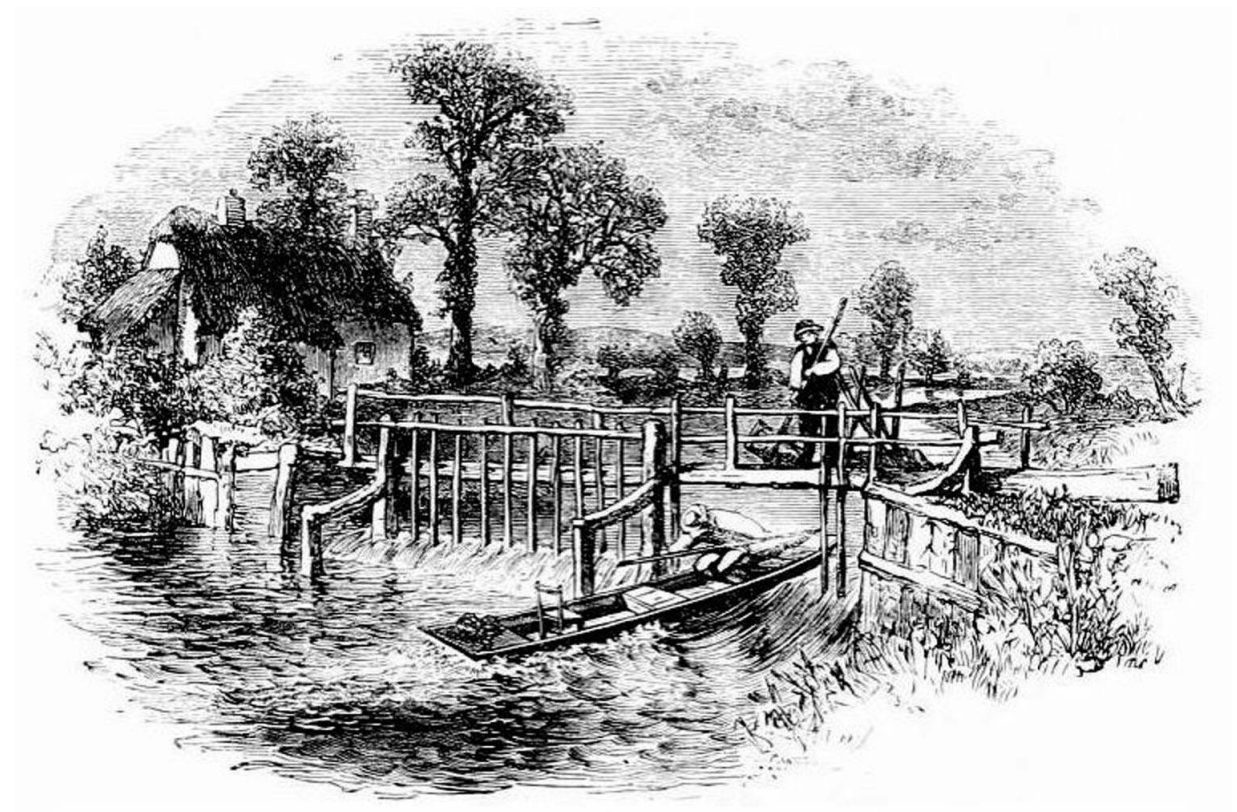
We hope you will have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Brian Smith - December 2015





Consuta currently stored on her trailer at Beale Park. With the new museum Consuta will not have to be kept out in the open during the winter



Engraving of a bunt passing through a Thames Flash Lock
A few flash locks were still in use until the 1930's

During the preparation work for the museum proposal it became obvious that there are no museums which cover the story of development of a new type of boat called “launch”. Dictionary definition:- “ a launch is a boat that has an engine and carries passengers for short distances, especially on a lake or a river, or from the land to a larger boat.”

Various types of launch are very common now but it didn’t exist 170 years ago. It has also become clear that boat builders on the Thames were at the forefront of the development of the new type of vessel, this part of our heritage certainly deserves better public recognition.

The Press Release – 30th November 2015

**The Tamesis Trust apply for Heritage Lottery Funding Grant of £2.5m for Thames
Heritage Boat Museum near Pangbourne.**

Plans are already underway to build a museum which will be located at the popular Beale Visitor Park by the River Thames. The museum aims to tell the navigation story of the Thames starting with the very first uses of mechanical propulsion during the 1800's to present times, the effects these changes had on the river navigation, the surrounding communities and it's boat builders, some of whom achieved worldwide acclaim.

The display will interpret this diverse heritage, by exhibiting historic Thames craft complimented with a wide variety of early machinery and other artefacts that have been used during the last 200 years. On site there will be specialist workshop facilities, as well as an archive department to house historic document collections for future research.

The Tamesis Trust has been set up to deliver this museum project, its Trustees have wide experience of the work required, with expertise covering the fields of Museum Curator, Museum management, Restoration and Conservation work, Education, Broadcast and Published Media Production, and building construction.

Local MP Richard Benyon, a keen supporter of the project, stated that “The history of the River Thames is a much undervalued part of our Nation's Heritage”. The museum will aim to correct this problem and has strong support from the local community, as well as many local and national organisations.

A successful HLF grant does not fund the whole project, so substantial partnership contributions will also need, and work to raise these has already been started. The Trust are keen to consider additional potential exhibits or archives suitable for the museum display.

The Tamesis Trust asks "If there is any way that you would like to help this project then please do get in touch. Help can be anything from potential museum exhibits, monetary donations, or offers of volunteer support for the various work involved. We need your help and support"

Brian Smith chairman of The Tamesis Trust explains:- “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish a high class Museum in a lovely part of the Thames Valley to exhibit and explain the diverse history of the Thames navigation. There are no other museums covering the fascinating story about the development of the “river launch” which has taken place on the Thames during the last 200 years”.

A much overused quote which bears repeating:- “A society that does not understand or value it’s heritage has no future”.

A first round lottery application was submitted in October 2015 for a decision in January 2016. If successful the museum would be open for the 2019 season. For more information and a chance to look at some of the museum details then please check out the Tamesis Trust website at www.tamesis.org.uk . Contact us at tel:- 01488 658795

Two Historic Thames boating photos



Yarrow and Hedley boat yard 1867 - Thames at Poplar



Thames Conservancy launch Donola present at many important events shown here as the first boat through the new Desborough cut in 1935
The water course was made to alleviate flooding in Shepperton.
Lord Desborough, chairman of the Conservancy, is in the bow waving his hat

Consuta Winter Social

Booking form

To be held at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, OX10 8LZ, near Wallingford
from 12:00 to 15:00 on Saturday 20th February 2016

<i>Starters choice</i>	Number
Chef's Soup (vegetable) of the day with crusty bread roll	
Terrine of smoked fish, saffron and spring onion dressing	
Chicken liver and garden herb parfait, homemade chutney ciabatta	
<i>Main Course choice</i>	
Roast Sirloin with seasonal vegetables	
Leg of Lamb with seasonal vegetables	
Baked fillet of Scottish Salmon with crab and caviar veloute	
<i>Pudding choices:</i>	
Sticky Toffee pudding, butterscotch sauce, vanilla ice cream	
Rhubarb crumble, creamy custard	
White chocolate and raspberry cheesecake, tuile biscuit	

There will be tea or coffee to finish the meal.

Cost per person £26 each

The hotel can supply vegetarian options from their normal menu, please contact me for details.

If you would like to come please fill in this form with your choice, include a cheque made payable to The Consuta Trust and send before the 5th February 2016 to

19 Mill Bank, Kintbury, Hungerford, RG17 9UW

If you have any queries please contact me either by

Email:- brian.smith@consuta.org.uk or telephone:- 01488 658795



Shillingford Bridge Hotel