



The Consuta Trust

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

Registered Charity No. 1076505

Website: www.consuta.org.uk

News Letter No. 52 — Spring 2013

Dear Supporter,

So has Spring arrived at last? The Thames was in flood at the beginning of April and the outside day temperature was still only 1.5 deg C. However by mid April temperatures seem to be rising, the Thames is safely navigable – well maybe, and we have seen our first crop of ducklings, the weather however is still proving to be unsettled.

Consuta Social

What a great social this was based at Colin Henwood's boat yard, Hambledon. Over 60 people came along and enjoyed a lovely meal provided by Lucie Henwood and her team. We were all intrigued to know what the surprise desert was to be; well here is a photo and it tasted good as well.



We had plenty of time to chat and having a look around the boatyard winter work. I was interested to see a steel riveted classic 44 foot launch named Lady Charlotte. This was being fitted out and electric propulsion was to be installed. I knew this boat some 20 years ago on the River Avon near Stratford when she had been fitted out as a steam launch named The Flying Fox. Interestingly she had been built in 1914 as a motor passenger launch on the River Dee, so quite a variety of power plants.

Consuta winter work news

We have only had two work parties so far this year, but despite the cold there was a good turn out of helpers; many thanks, some excellent work was carried out. Mark found our tube brush had rotted out – must remember and get some new stainless ones.

The Thames Heritage Boat Museum

Planning

At last our planning application has been submitted to West Berkshire Planning. The application which is for outline permission is reference 13/00575/OUT and is now open for comments. We contacted many of the local river communities and clubs who had indicated that they will provide planning support letters. If you would like to support the planning application please do so – a support letter can be sent by email or by post.

Planning has changed much over the last few years and applications have now become an expensive matter. We are only requesting outline permission because the costs of making a full application would be just too much at this stage.

Beale Park is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and West Berkshire Council unfortunately don't have any useful local policy for managing development by the Thames so normal planning policy is to reject anything, this is a shame; so good support at this stage is probably necessary.

We were interested to learn that the Goring Gap Boat Club have been offered the use of a site just above the Gatehampton rail bridge for a possible base. I understand that they may shortly be submitting a planning application. The GGBC organise the very successful Goring and Streatley Regatta above Cleeve Lock each year; the regatta started here in the 1880's.

Funding for a Museum

This museum is going to be an expensive project so we have approached the HLF with a pre application request for advice. The costs for building the museum building would only be a part of overall costs because the lottery require high quality methods of presenting the heritage to the public; it's called display interpretation, so there will be a substantial total cost of about £1m.

Four of our project team went to meet the HLF application advisors and the impression I gained is that we do have a very good project, but it was pointed out that competition for HLF funding was fierce, so our application would have to be of high quality. The HLF have asked to see us again when we are ready to submit a 1st round application for funding.

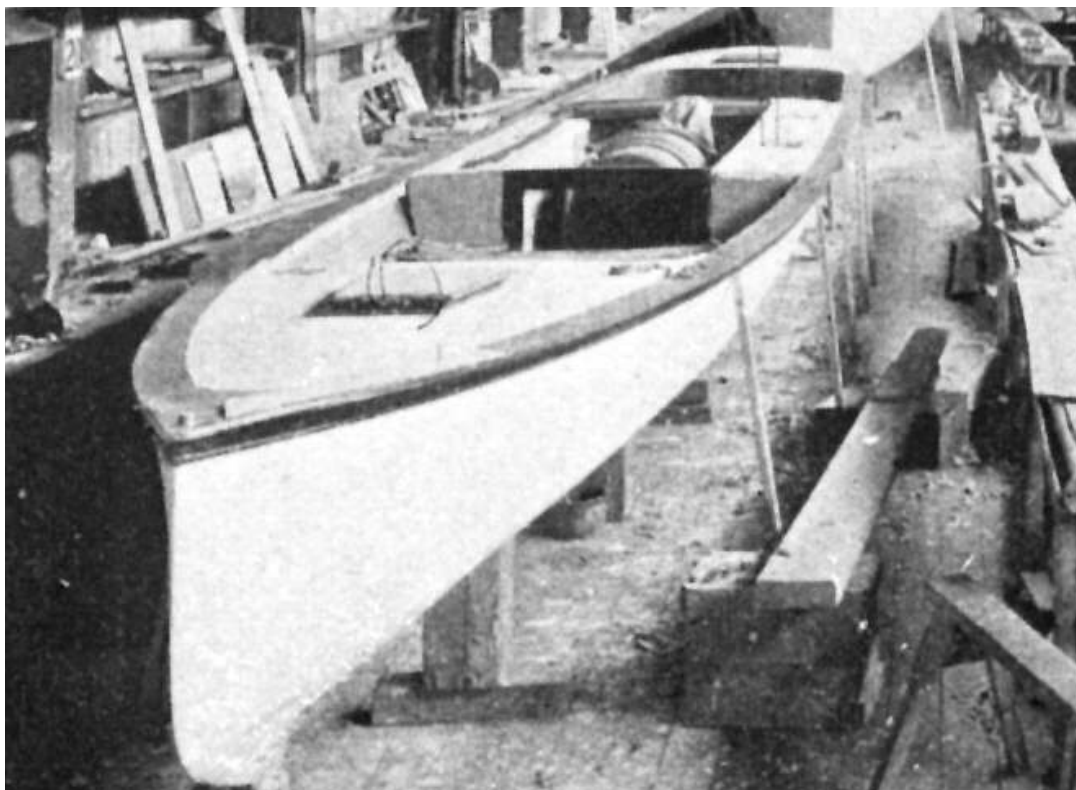
Incidentally nobody has come back and said what they think our museum should try and do. Over the last few months we've been conducting a survey of museums, services provided and entry costs.; all I can say there is a wide variation of styles and costs, all most interesting. We have a list of some potential histories/stories of the Thames which would be great for illustrating/ displaying in our museum – I might be able to publish these in the next news letter.

A New Boiler for Consuta

David Eager and self with prodding from Paul Smith have been making some good progress. David has an excellent CAD programme and he is a dab hand at using it – who wants to go back to the old drawing board methods. This excellent free CAD tool is called “Creo Elements/Direct Modelling Express” and runs on any reasonably modern Windows PC. The software can be downloaded from <http://www.ptc.com/products/creo-elements-direct/modeling-express/> (You are very welcome to a copy of the boiler design files to try it out).

The system works by using machining commands to create a 3D model that can be viewed and sectioned from any angle. It can calculate weights and produce drawings automatically.

However we are finding that it is very difficult to draw up a good boiler design that can be fitted with the low profile as originally installed in Consuta.



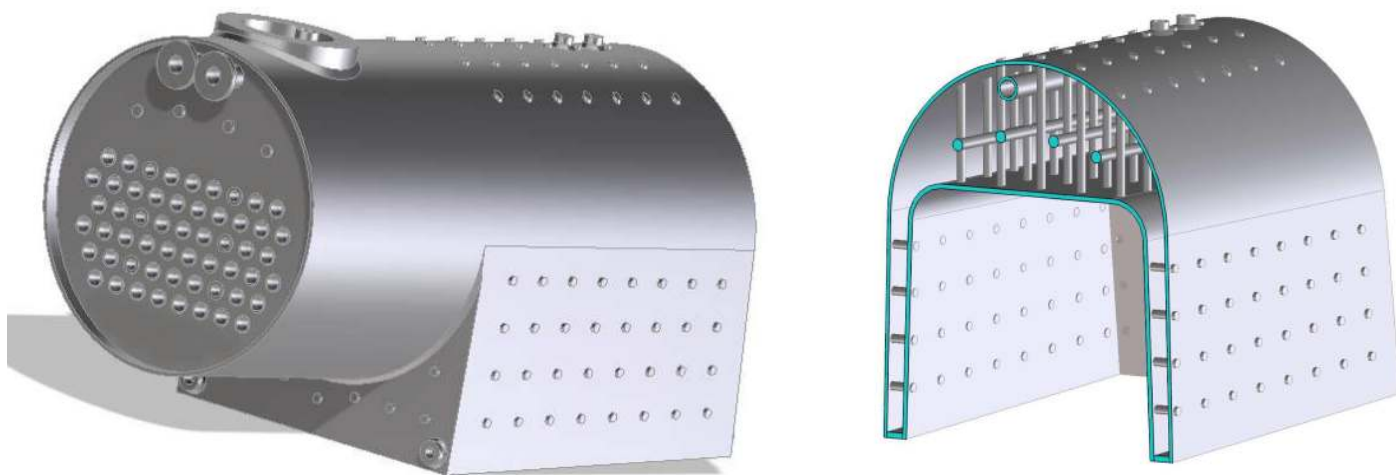
The picture above is of the Saunders works and we think shows Mauritana on the stocks. Just look at how low the boiler is in this boat, even though it has a large diameter barrel. The top of the barrel is probably no more than a couple of inches higher than the decking. Once we are satisfied with the boiler details; we will need to get the design assessed then see how much it will cost to have made.

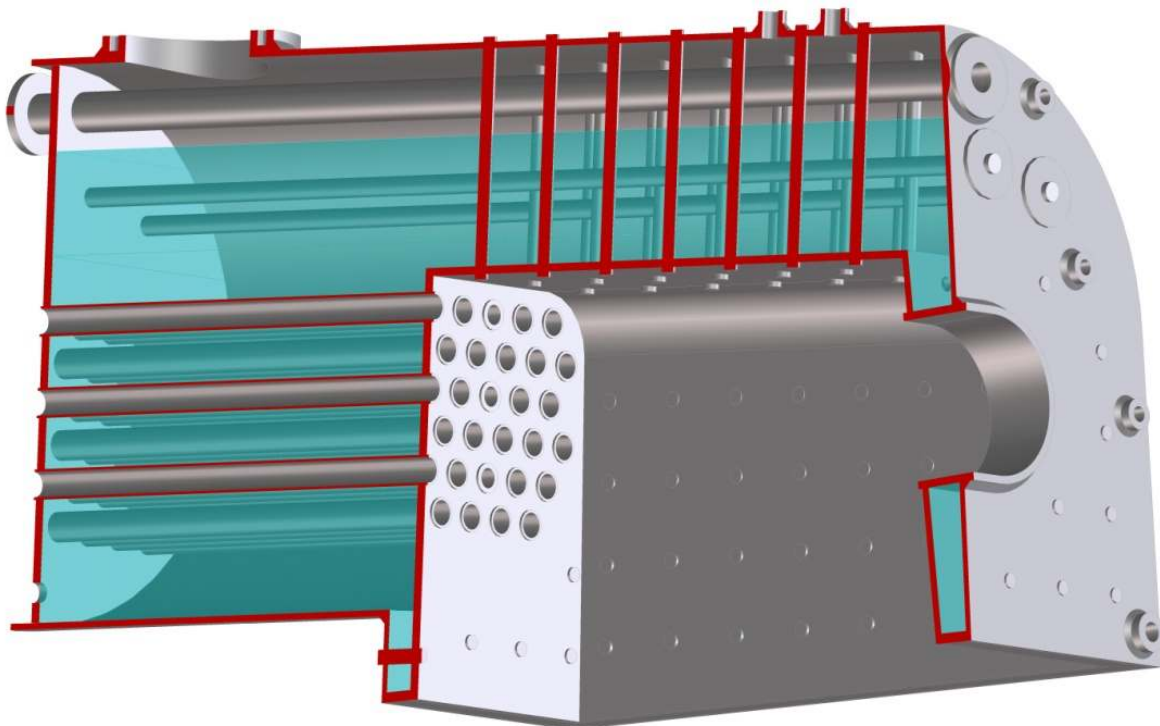
Below are a some pictures from the Cad design. As you can see loco style boilers need a great many stays, the cutaway pictures shows this very well.

The new boiler design will be lighter than the current boiler but we'd also, if possible, like it a little lower to allow a more historically correct boiler casing outline on Consuta.

We also intend to provide some superheat using a smokebox steam drier.

The challenge is to achieve all of these in the new design and the results can be seen from the sectional view from the CAD system below. All of the requirements (enough fire space, enough tube area, enough working range and room for superheat) stack up and make it difficult to reduce boiler height.





We have modelled the old boiler in the CAD system for comparison purposes and the new design is a definite improvement. Here are some figures:-

Total empty design weight of the new design is 1,340 lbs, this is 780lbs less than the current boiler. Weight of the new boiler when full of water would be 2012lbs compared with a 2,890 lbs of the present boiler, this is a weight saving of 878lbs, the equivalent of 5 passengers or 18 x 20 kg bags of coal. We already know the sinkage rate on Consuta so with a new boiler she will ride at least an 1 inch higher in the water than present.

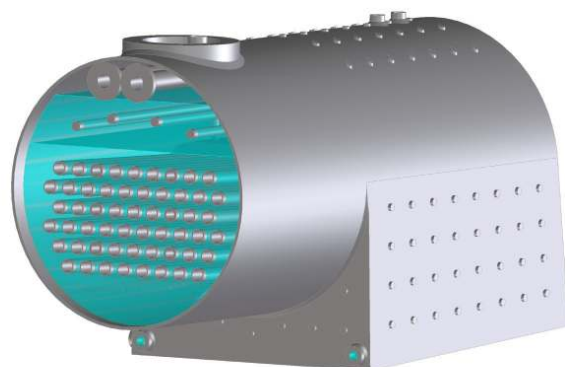
Well there you are; we have two great projects which will need funding; so start saving your pennies now. If you have any issues at all which you would like to raise about Consuta and its future, please do contact us. *Brian Smith* – 01488 658795 – brian.smith@consuta.org.uk

Finally when does the boating start

The first Consuta steaming event of the year will be the Beale Park Boat Show, relaunch is expected to be some time in May. The provisional calendar on the last page shows events which Consuta could possibly attend, some dates have already been confirmed. Private outings are an option if you make a suitable donation.

The lines marked with ?? Are repositionals these are days chosen for good weather and are an ideal time to have a trip in Consuta either as a passenger or for a bit of crew training. On the next page are some photos of work parties.

The new **Museum of Racing and River** boats is now open in the Tithe barn next door to the cowshed and Cygnet is on display here.



Best wishes to all for 2013, Brian Smith



The Beale Park Boat Show

Consuta will be in steam here, providing public trips; come along and enjoy the activity.

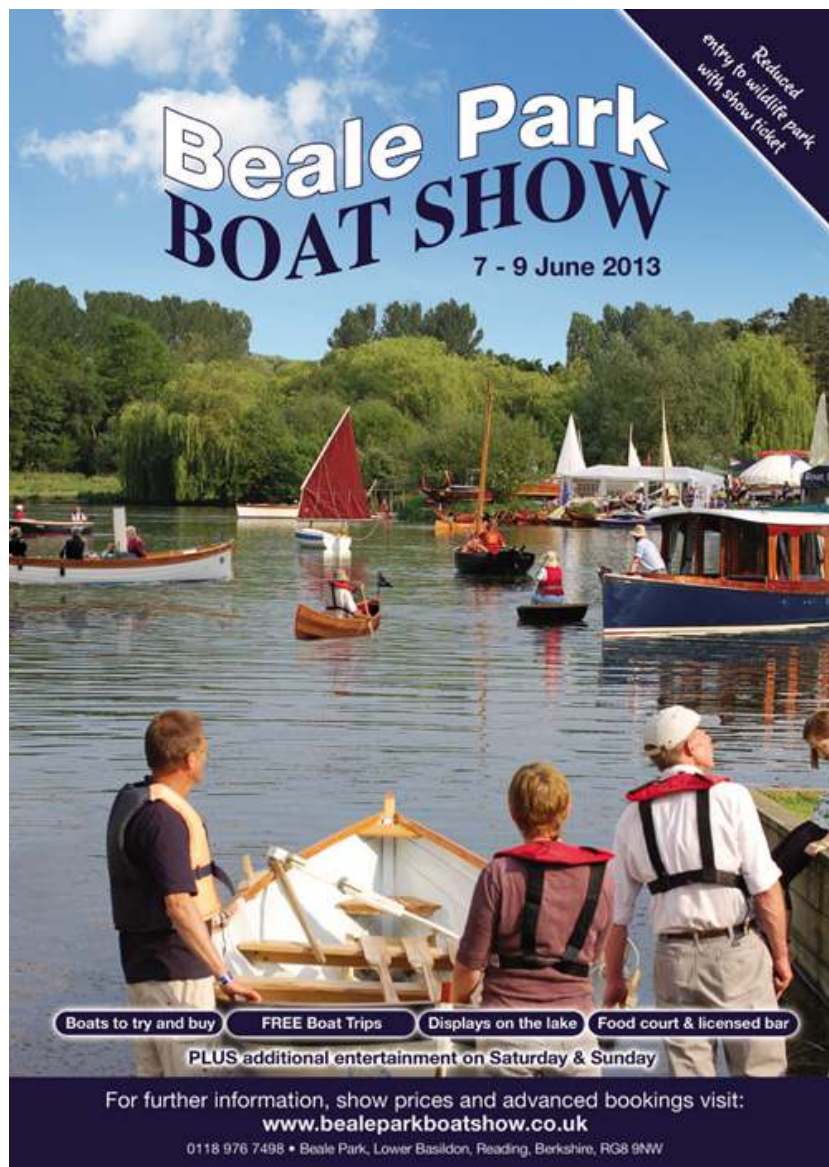
Find all about our plans for a
Thames Boat Museum

Consuta may attend other public events during the year as below.

Consuta can also be made available for a few private functions during the year. If you want to celebrate a special event with a boat trip contact us:-skipper@consuta.org.uk

Details about our public outings will be circulated to supporters, why not join our group and help operate
Consuta contact us:-

skipper@consuta.org.uk



Date	Event
April – May	Consuta work parties
Late May	Re-launch Consuta
8th –10th June	Beale Park Boat Show
??	<i>Repositional from Pangbourne to Charvil</i>
16th June	Henley Women's Regatta
3rd June – 7th July	Henley Royal Regatta
10th – 14th July	Henley Festival
??	<i>Repositional from Charvil to Pangbourne</i>
20th July (Saturday)	Goring and Streatley Regatta
??	<i>Repositional Goring to Charvil</i>
20th – 21st July	Traditional Boat Rally
August	River and Rowing Museum
??	<i>Repositional from Charvil to Pangbourne</i>
7th September	Oxfordshire Council award of a Blue plaque to Gorings to celebrate the history of Sam Saunders
13th – 15th September	SBA Rally at Lechlade – this would be a potential first time visit for Consuta