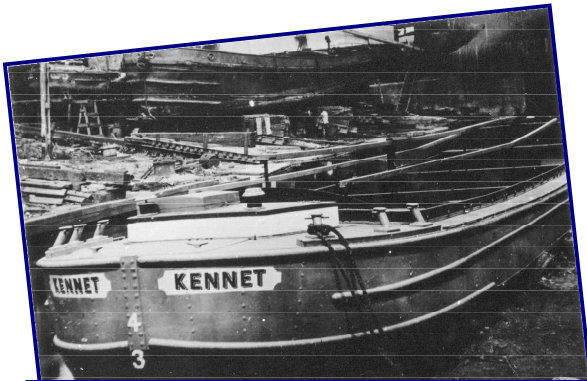




Friends of Kennet

Newsletter

Sept 2011 Number 6



Kennet, motor short boat, being built at Yarwoods, 1947

Picture courtesy of - **The Waterways Archive
National Waterways Museum(EP)**

2011 to date

2011 - another milestone in the history of Kennet which started in 1947 with her launch at Yarwoods Yard on the 25th March and being handed over to Canal Transport Ltd. Liverpool on the 3rd July of the same year.

Our application for Lottery funding was accepted and work has started in earnest on her refurbishment ready for Kennet to start a new chapter in her 65th Year in 2012.

The work started in the dry dock at Worsley, after the hold was stripped at Bedford Basin and the floor lifted to reveal a huge amount of scaling and rubbish, which was removed by the "sack load". After a full survey £2,600 worth of steel work was carried out to the hull to a standard which we expect will reduce the potential requirement for further large repairs in the near future. This included replacing plating round the ballast tank, over plating the hull under part of the engine cabin, repairing the engine cabin roof, repairing holes in the deck and filling in all the outdated service holes.

Alongside this a small dedicated bunch, blacked the hull (2 coats), gave a coat of red oxide to the hold, coated the bottom of the hold with 2 coats of Waxoyl and laid roofing felt ready for the ballast being added not forgetting the new grease tube to the prop which ensures that the grease arrives in the "correct place".

On leaving Worsley Kennet stopped at Bedford Basin to have 8.5 tonne of concrete block & brick ballast added in 3 hours by a team of 6, before continuing on the journey home. This turned out to be an eventful journey when Kennet arrived at the basin at the bottom of the Wigan flight to find it was virtually empty after being vandalised that morning. Then at the 2nd lock from the top at Johnson's Hillock the bottom gates wouldn't open enough for Kennet to get through, due to a build up of silt behind the bottom gates. This was cleared the next morning by BW. This isn't the first time this has happened – it really requires the lock to be drained and the whole of the lock to be cleared of silt to stop it happening again quickly!



There was a "hole in our ballast tank"



The ballast goes in ...

Kennet arrived back on her home mooring at Greenberfield on the 9th September ready for the regular third Saturday of the month work day. This saw a second coat of paint applied on the hold sides, part of the floor in the front cabin being lifted to remove more scaling and rubbish in preparation for the same treatment as in the hold. A sterling start was also made in the engine room to clean the years of grime and treat the rust in preparation for painting.

A Big Thank You

Many thanks to the dedicated group of old and new members who have spent many hours over the last couple of months in moving Kennet and all the work which has been done in a relatively short time. However this is just the beginning of our new journey and we look forward to welcoming newcomers who can come along to help.

Looking Forwards

After the very successful start of the Kennet Project, over the next 9 months we are looking to complete the refurbishment and install the new displays ready for Kennet's "re-launch" which is being planned for the end of June 2012 to co-inside closely with the 65th anniversary of the start of life as a working boat.

This will see a new generator/electrics, new superstructure/sheets, repaint into her traditional colours, services for the staff and a new access & displays for the public, ready to start her role as an "Interactive Museum" taking heritage and learning to local communities and organisations along the canal corridor.

This is not withstanding the huge mountain we have to climb as volunteers to achieve our goal.

We have therefore decided to increase the regular "Monthly Work Days".

Timetable:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| → 6th October (Thursday 9-00am – 4pm) | Working day at Greenberfield |
| → 15 th October (Saturday 9-00am – 4pm) | Regular working day at Greenberfield |
| → 29 th – 30 th October | Moving Kennet to Skipton for professional works |
| → 5 th & 19 th November
(Saturdays 9-00am – 4pm) | Regular working days at Skipton |
| → 3 rd & 17 th December
(Saturdays 9-00am – 4pm) | Regular working days at Skipton |

Please let us know your availability through the contact information below

Help & Donations

In order to give some idea of the task ahead here is a summary of the Projects Costs both directly and indirectly –

Project Costs over the 3 year period of the Project :-

HLF Funding –	£49,900	For refurbishment, superstructure, fit out & learning
Historic Ships Register Funding –	£1,000	For survey
L&LCS Cash Funding (supported by Friends of Kennet) –	£12,500	For steel work, ongoing maintenance & insurance
Total Cash Contribution –	£63,460	
BW & Volunteer Non Cash Contributions-	£16522	Mooring fees, Travel & learning
Volunteer Time –	1723 days	Covers refurbishment, crewing on the move & at locations, along with general maintenance

– so please make a donation and/or volunteer to help with the very many aspects of the project and help to make it a huge success .

- **please contact us to help and/or send a donation (checks payable to "Friends of Kennet")**

Friends of Kennet, c/o 2 Cross Lane Mill, Bradley, Keighley, BD20 9QB

Email: friendsofkennet@btinternet.com

Tel: Cris Shave on 01535 631975 or Harold Bond on 01535 630597

PLEASE FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE YOU THINK MAY BE INTERESTED