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Friends of Kennet Newsletter

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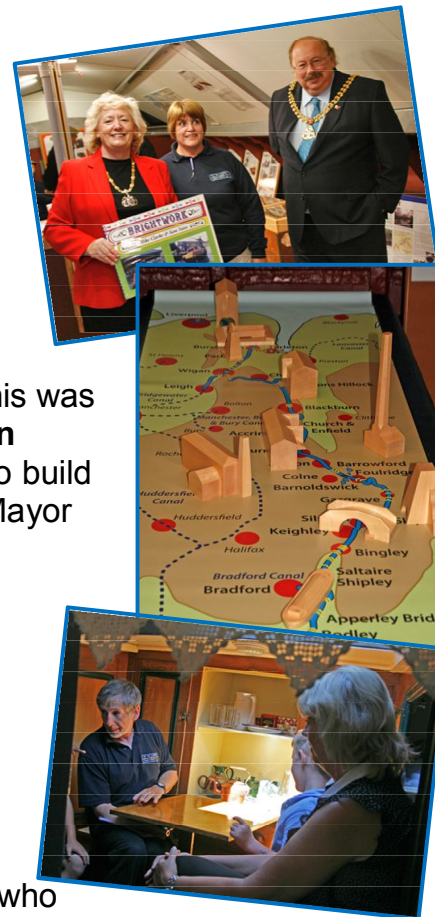
2014 Season

This has been the third and final year of our Lottery Funding. This has seen Kennet mainly on the west side of the country, taking in Runcorn, and the furthest south we have taken her to date. On her journey Kennet attended 8 events and hosted 8 school visits, with some **3900 visitors**.

- ❖ The season started with Kennet taking part in the **ELWY Boat Club Easter Rally** at East Marton. Over the weekend the club members visited Kennet and had a “reception” with slide show.
- ❖ This was followed by Kennet’s traditional visit back to the **Skipton Waterways Festival** where Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society took her in 2008 after BW agreed to the loan of Kennet. Once again it was a very successful weekend.
- ❖ Kennet then started her travels westward, stopping at **Hyndburn** for the first 2 school visits of the season and the first for Hyndburn. On the Saturday Kennet was also open for the **Hyndburn Heritage Day**.
- ❖ A short trip to **West End** to host a visit of the local primary school, where two of our Captains Harry Belshaw & Ken Barnes, attended in their “younger days”. Harry & Ken enjoyed reminiscing about their early involvement with the working boats like Kennet.
- ❖ Kennet then continued to **Burscough** for 2 school visits and the **Burscough Heritage Weekend**. Ambush and Victoria (Heritage Long Boats) were also there to add to the interest. Severn (a sister boat of Kennet) passed between Kennet & Victoria on her way to Liverpool – a rare opportunity to see the area as it would have been in its “hey-day”. The School’s visits saw the first use of our new large floor map of the canal which illustrates the development of the canal and cargo movements. Also used was “The Mary Lawson Story”, an illustrated book which tells the story of Mary Lawson’s life on the canal in her own words.
- ❖ Kennet’s next port of call was **Litherland Wharf** to join with the Pride of Sefton for the **CRT Sefton Explorers School Visits**. Another first for us all to have school visits from Sefton. A hugely successful two days despite our Yorkshire volunteers having some difficulty with the “local dialect”. Our thanks to Katie Jackson, CRT Education Co-ordinator (North) for her input and organisation.
- ❖ At the end of the second day at Sefton Kennet started her journey to the **Bridgewater Motor Boat Club, Runcorn**, where she arrived on the Saturday ready for Dry Docking on the Sunday. This enabled the hull to be pressure washed for our regular Insurance Survey and then re-blackened. At the same time our BSS was revalidated. We are very grateful to the volunteers from the BMBC for carrying out the work. While at the boat club Kennet was viewed by the club members and on the next day by the public on the towpath side. In late August she was opened at the end of the arm as part of the **Unlock Runcorn Fun Day**. This was organised by the Runcorn Locks Restoration Society to raise the profile of the “Unlock Runcorn” campaign.



- ❖ September saw Kennet at the **Crooke Boat, Beer and Folk Festival** over the weekend 20th-21st. Another successful weekend with many very interested visitors, some of which volunteered to help Kennet “fly” up the Wigan Flight on the Monday on her journey to Reedley Marina. Many thanks to one and all.
- ❖ Whilst at **Reedley Marina**, Kennet was used as a venue for a meeting with Andrew Stephenson MP, a member of the Parliamentary All Party Waterways Group and the local MP. This was followed later in the week by a **reception for invited guests on Kennet at Burnley Wharf** to promote Kennet in the area and to build up connections for the future. We were honoured to have the Mayor and Mayoress of Burnley attend.
- ❖ As part of our week in the superbly restored **Bank Hall Dry Dock** with a new roof, to have the topside paintwork refreshed, Kennet featured in their **official opening** by the Mayor of Burnley.
- ❖ Kennet is now back on her home moorings at **Greenberfield** awaiting updates to her hold area in the New Year before next season.



The success of this year is in no small part due to the **32 volunteers** who spent more than **2750 hours** and travelled over **7500 miles** by car and public transport. The year hasn't been without its problems as in previous years, mainly Kennet being slowed up or stopped due to the “bottom of the canal being near the top” and lock gates not fully opening. **Many thanks to everybody who have given their time and effort to ensure Kennet continues to be a success and move forward each season with her development.**

Winter Period

We are now in the process of completing our “paperwork” to claim the last of our HLF grant. This will be followed early in the New Year with a meeting of the Working Group to organise the winter programme of working parties and 2015's season.

Life for our volunteers would be so much better with more volunteers to spread the load.

There are always plenty of opportunities to help both moving and staffing Kennet along with helping the “backroom volunteers” – if you are interested in helping then please contact us:-

Email: friendsofkennet@gmail.com **Tel:** Harold Bond on 01535 630597

Join us in helping to promote Kennet by spreading the word

- PLEASE FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE YOU THINK MAY BE INTERESTED

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Address: c/o 2 Cross Lane Mill, Bradley, Keighley, BD20 9QB.
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To keep abreast of our activities don't forget our online calendar at -
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