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Issue 182, December 2020

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IN BIRMINGHAM**

P18-19



TRADER
BOATS FOR SALE
Starts on **P23**

Three of a kind



Historic narrowboats *Nutfield*, *Brighton* and *Sculptor* line up beside the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne to each receive a £1000 donation from Tim Coghlan of Braunston Marina, full story on page 2. Pictured from left are: Nick Lake, Friends of Raymond; Kirk Martin and Alison Cannon, Narrow Boat Trust; Rob Westlake, Sculptor volunteer team; Tim Coghlan; Roger Goulder, Friends of Raymond; Lynda Payton, Friends of the Canal Museum; Louise Stockwin, the Canal Museum and Steve Bagley, Canal & River Trust. PHOTO: KATHRYN DODINGTON

Meeting the challenges of the second lockdown

LEISURE boating has again been brought to a virtual standstill by a national lockdown imposed by the Government in a bid to tackle the second wave of coronavirus cases.

Canal & River Trust chief executive Richard Parry told an online press briefing that there was some similarity to the situation back in April and May and the trust was again encouraging boaters to make only essential movements and to stay away from their boats if they are not their main residence.

Some of the commercial boats are unable to operate but the towpaths remain open. "There has not been a lot of drama on this occasion, people are resigned to reverting back to the situation as before but there is not such clement weather as there was then."

Head of customer support services Jon Horsfall said: "The day trip boats have been particularly impacted. We have done our best to keep right up to speed with Government guidelines. But at this time of year there is not as much

movement and not as many people want to get out and about."

National boating manager Matthew Symonds added: "The use of unpowered craft for exercise is permitted this time and people are travelling longer distances to do this."

Richard Parry continued: "The news about vaccines gives us some hope for events in the summer next year. But we will have to see how that turns out."

On the subject of winter works, he said: "We are carrying on with our

repair works and maintenance all year round. We have developed Covid-secure ways of working and have been able to continue with these measures in place."

Projects such as the next phase of work at the Crofton Pumping Station on the Kennet & Avon Canal had been postponed but more conventional bridge and lock repairs are going ahead. However the first phase had addressed quite a few of the water supply problems.

President update

HISTORIC narrowboat *President* could be back in steam by Easter 2021, according to David Powell of the Friends of President, writing in the November edition of their newsletter. Thanks to a great response to their recent appeal, the costs of a new boiler have almost been met although funds are still needed for fitting. It is proposed to fit a hybrid part welded/part riveted boiler which should be more durable and will be made to the same layout, which will help as most pipework will be in place. Donations can still be made at www.bclm.co.uk or www.justgiving.com

Eco moorings

WORK to install the electricity bollards for the Islington eco mooring zone trial is almost complete, according to the Canal & River Trust's national boating manager Matthew Symonds. He told a recent press briefing that the moorings should be up and running by the end of the year. They will operate on a pre-booked system which, once open, will enable boaters to book 14 days in advance via the trust's website. Matthew added that some funding had been received from Defra and it is hoped that there will be other eco mooring schemes across London.

Capital congestion

THE Canal & River Trust is currently conducting an online survey and series of 16 virtual engagement sessions for people to express their views on the mooring situation in the capital. These both conclude on January 8. National boating manager Matthew Symonds said: "We are currently undertaking some engagement work and have come to a consensus that we need to do some future-proofing. The number of boats in London has grown enormously and most of them are lived on. We are looking to come up with some proposals in the new year."

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