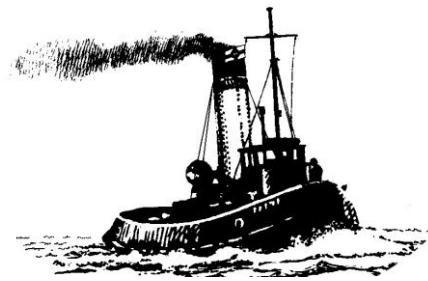


Friends of Steam Tug Brent Trust



Email: info@steamtugbrent.org

www.steamtugbrent.org

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

Dear Brent Supporters

2013 brought us a wonderful summer but one which we were not able to take advantage of. For us as a charity, it has not been such a good year and I wish I was able to start the newsletter with different news about our situation regarding sponsorship. The situation is as follows:

We had long and detailed dealings with a company involved in waterside development sites in London. Negotiations started in 2011. We were approached by an agent of the company and asked if we would consider the idea of a free berth where the restoration of Brent would run concurrently with the building programme and then on completion, Brent would be based there to perpetuate the historic, dockside character of the area. Richard Albanese prepared a lengthy and detailed document for our working partnership. We attended several meetings and Richard gave a magnificent presentation, which was well received by both the public and the representatives of the company and we felt buoyed up by the verbal encouragement we were given. However, despite all our efforts to get a formal agreement, communication with us ceased in 2013 and we have had to abandon the plan.

Although saddened by the amount of wasted time and effort and the effect this waiting has had on Brent's condition, we have lost none of our determination. We have other ideas in the pipeline and will write another newsletter as soon as we have anything new to report.

Despite the fact that there has been little hands on activity on board the tug this year, and no progress with our quest for funding, we hope that you are continuing to be supportive of the Brent. We had hoped that this year would be the year when we would be springing into action, but that was not to be. The trustees remain undaunted and can assure you that they are working as hard as ever to find the funding that will enable us to start work. If by next spring we are still in the same position, as we are now, then, rather than continue with this waiting game any longer, we will smarten Brent up with some filler and plenty of paint to make her look a bit less shabby. Although this is not in any sense 'renovation' it will certainly make her look a little more loved. Any of you who walk past her along the prom at Maldon will have noticed that her condition has deteriorated. This is mostly superficial however; her hull and decks and the machinery inside remain in good order.

There have been quite a few new offers to assist with work and our list of volunteers has continued to grow throughout 2013.

There are also always interesting enquiries from members of the public and interesting new information for our archive. Brent is a TID class tug. There are only 3 with their steam machinery left in Britain, of the 182 built between 1942 and 1946.

One contact made with us was from Steve Mew. His father had been in the Royal Engineers in World War II and had served on a TID Tug on the canals in France; a photo can be seen on www.medwaymaritimetrust.org.uk, 'A complete list of tugs' No. 37.

Steve visited all three of the last surviving TIDs and gave us information on the TID's war duties, which he had found during his research at Kew.

The other two surviving TID tugs which Steve visited are TID 164 and TID 172. Brent was originally TID 159 but soon after completion was sold to The Port of London Authority, who gave her the name Brent. Since the early days of the Brent's preservation we have had close connections with TID 164 and this connection has been extended recently to TID 172; Richard Seager has taken on overseeing her restoration. It is very useful for the three tugs to have this link, enabling us to share information, spares, fabrication of new parts, etc.

We would like to wish you all the best over the coming months and maybe we will see some of you on board the Brent in 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the tug.

With kind regards to you all.

Janet

Richard Albanese, Chairman
Richard Seager, Chief Engineer
Janet Hall, Secretary

We would like to encourage you to visit our online shop, where you can purchase 'Brent' Christmas cards.

They can be purchased more cheaply if you wish to collect them from me, Janet Hall, from the address below. Please ring me to arrange.

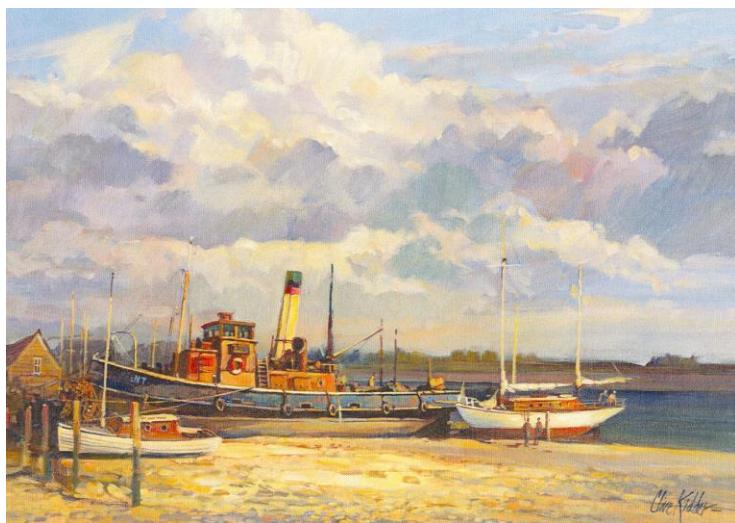


2013 Card

Greeting inside,

Happy Christmas

Price 40p each



2012 Design (a few left)

Greeting inside,

Season's Greetings

Price 25p each