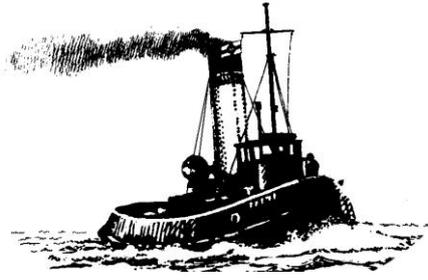


Friends of Steam Tug Brent Trust



Email: info@steamtugbrent.org

www.steamtugbrent.org

NEWSLETTER December 2014

Dear Brent Supporters

It is 14 months since I wrote to you all. My intention is to write yearly and then, as the trust becomes more active to write twice yearly.

It is good to be able to report that this year, on board Brent on many weekends and some weekdays as well, we started a programme of sealing thin and rusted places. These are mainly on the cabin top and particularly just above where the deck and casing join. This may be due to the fact that when Brent worked for the PLA, the decks had been covered with a thick layer of asphalt. If this did not have a good seal where it joined the casing the water would lay in this joint and rusting would be an inevitable result. The asphalt was taken up by Ron and me in 1972. This summer and autumn every possible source of water ingress was sought out, and patched or sealed and the volunteers worked tirelessly to get it all watertight, finally finishing and putting the cover over the aft section on the 6th December. We put a little Christmas tree up on the foremast; a tradition common for commercial vessels in the past. While its lights twinkled above in the dusky light, we had coffee, mince pies and mulled wine, courtesy of Paul, on the foredeck. The Trustees are very grateful to those of you who participated in the working parties.

Having people working on board generated a great deal of interest and we were besieged at times by the passers by, eager to know whether restoration was taking place. Of course we had to say that our work was preventative; to stop further deterioration.

The last Saturday in September saw the Maldon Regatta and this was a big day for us. Looking smart in our new Brent T-shirts and one in Merchant Navy attire we were kept busy all day; some of us on the shore, selling merchandise and manning a balloon powered boat race activity, whilst the rest of our team were on board showing the tug to the all those keen enough to venture on board. We raised about £350.

Next May will see working parties on board again with a new list of tasks, which will hopefully include painting her to make her look a little less forlorn and again prevent further rusting. Richard Albanese has plans afoot for some tasks in preparation for restoration, in the engine and boiler rooms.

An exciting venture for us is our extensive fundraising campaign, which we are going to run from 9th January until 1st May next year. If any of you are interested in helping with this, then please contact me by email or phone (number at the bottom of the page). Our aim is to raise money which will then be used as match funding when we apply for grants. Match funding is usually a minimum of 5% of the total requested. However, with a 20% contribution, or more, one would be in a better position to be looked upon favourably.

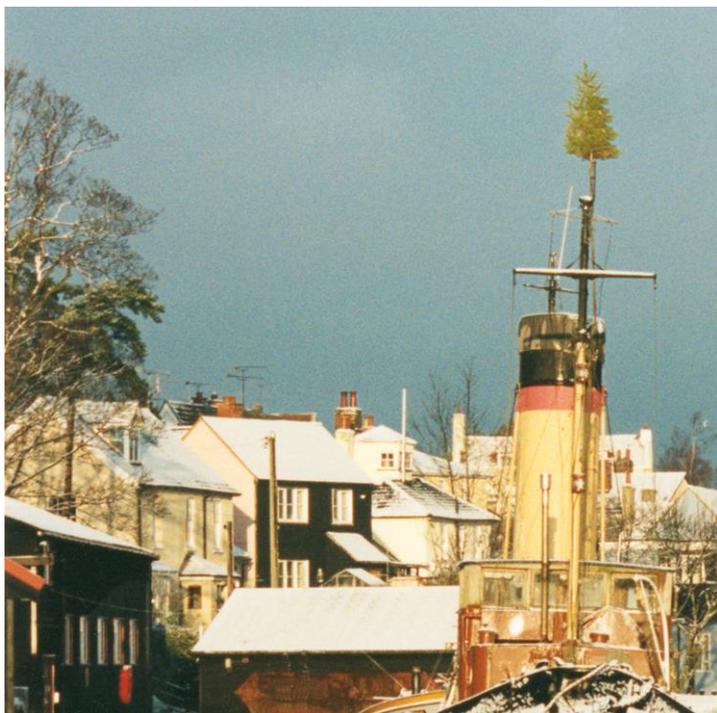
I will be sending out more details of this venture at the beginning of January.

I hope that catching up with the events of our year has been of interest to you. We appreciate your interest in the tug.

With kind regards to you all and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling year in 2015.

Janet

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



2014
Happy Christmas
From
The Trustees
Steam Tug Brent Trust