



THE EMPIRE'S LAUNCH.

The Consuta Trust

The advancement of education in the history of steam launches, by preservation, maintenance and exhibition of the steam launch **Consuta**

Patron: The Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal

News update No. 29 December 2006

Dear Supporter, a brief news update.

Consuta was successfully lifted out of the water in October, after raising steam and making a few turns around the lake. The excuse for this was to get the boiler all nice and hot before blowing down; emptying the boiler by a steamed blow down is the best way to get the interior of the boiler dry ready for winter storage. This winter the boiler is to remain in the boat during lay-up. The day we picked for the crane out started off beautiful and sunny, but ended up raining, fortunately all the hull cleaning was completed before the rain. Consuta had to be kept out in the open for two weeks before the Cowshed was ready. These two weeks coincided with a frosty period, and oh dear, we hadn't drained down the pipework, so when we came to put Consuta away we found some ice; fortunately it was not cold enough for any damage.

Car Parking for the Social at Woodclyffe Hall, Wargrave

The village car park charge is 30p for two hours but £1.50 for up to four hours. Alternatively you could park in a side street which requires a 5 minute walk, for those who don't mind. The street is Station Road (towards Bushnells). Go down it for 100 yards and park on the left, then walk on the metalled path (to the right of the War Memorial) across the Green to the kissing gate, and up to the lights where you turn left.

The Consuta Trust Social Luncheon

on Saturday 17th February 12:00 for 1:00pm
at the Woodclyffe Hall, Wargrave.

Social including meal, cost is £13 per person.

- On arrival coffee/tea and biscuits.
- Main meal is being provided by the local Indian restaurant
Selection of curries, with accompaniments plus a vegetarian option
- Choice of Cheese Cake or Gateau.
- Coffee, cheese and biscuits.

Total number meals required

Cheque made payable to the Consuta Trust £

Please bring your own wine or other drink (glasses will be available)

If you do not wish to have the main meal, you are very welcome to attend, but we would welcome a small contribution to help cover the cost of room hire and light liquid refreshments.

Send this booking form and your payment to Brian Smith **no later than 5th February 2007.**
Address is 19 Mill Bank, Kintbury, Hungerford, RG17 9UW please.

Some minor maintenance work has been carried out during November. The bilges have been mopped out and the broken stem brass trim has been removed ready for the repair work to the woodwork.

I will be arranging some work parties for the new year, this time the winter work should be fairly minimal.

A floating boathouse is our major project for 2007. Tony C. has drawn up some first thoughts on the design and has also produced a simple wooden model. Present thinking is to have two steel pontoons linked with a flat roof, and room on the end for workshop/storage/social requirements; it could be dressed up to look like a college barge. We are in discussion with the Trustees of Beale Park to see whether they will have us; to date the planning authorities have given a mildly positive response to our proposals.

The winter social is 12:00 on Saturday 17th February at the Woodclyffe Hall Wargrave. If you require a meal please return the booking form with payment – see over. Please bring any pictures, videos or anything else of interest, we look forward to seeing you there.

If you are presently receiving the trust newsletter through the post (this one excepted) but could take it as an email attachment, send me an email to confirm this. The newsletter is in pdf format and is limited to no more than 1 Mbytes; the pictures are in colour and the last issue had extra pictures. This will save postage. My email is:- brianws@ukonline.co.uk

By the way if you have ideas how you would like Consuta to be used during 2007 please do let us know. We always have a need for additional crew support. We provide guidance and training to manage the boiler and engine, why not come along and try it during one of the many re-positional cruises.

Many thanks for your continuing support, so essential to keep Consuta operational. Wishing you a happy Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

Brian Smith

