



TOWLINE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DANNY

ISSUE 5 - APRIL 2019



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Chairman's Piece

Dan Cross

Hello everyone and welcome to what is my penultimate chairman's column for Towline. It is with a sense of sadness and poignancy that I informed our Board of Trustees and staff a few weeks ago that I have taken the difficult decision to step down as Chair no later than the end of this year.

However, for many reasons, some personal and some I feel for the benefit of DAPS I feel that the time is now right for someone else to be sought out and hopefully take the Society and what we do to the next level. So many people get so much from the Danny, whether as volunteers, customers, visitors or simply as passers by that you begin to realise just how much we can offer. I have had good discussions with the board at our last meeting and it is clear we need to start thinking as ourselves as a Charity that can enhance peoples lives, as well being trust that happens to own and operate a piece of the UK's Maritime Heritage rather than simply as a Preservation Society who's only purpose is to own and operate the Danny. Many Heritage Railways now also have this view of themselves, being socially and geographically entwined with the local community of all ages and backgrounds and indeed interests so they are no longer a preserve of the enthusiast but something for everyone. The Board of Trustees will now be discussing and looking for a successor to me and I look forwards to handing the reigns of this superb charity over to that lucky person.

While we are never going to financially secure 100% of the time, things are certainly improving and thanks to a lot of hard work and good fortune, sales for cruise tickets are at present 165% up on this time last year. It appears leaving the Danny at Sutton Weaver over the Winter has actually worked quite well and 1000's of people drive past every day and often see her looking resplendent as she has done all winter and lit up of an evening. There is huge public interest in the ship and this is reflected in the ticket sales. However, we can't sit back and I know Andrea and Georgia are working as hard as ever to bring more booking in. I must also mention the great success that continues with our outreach/ talks team lead by Sheila, Stuart, Colin, Bob, Les and the team who do a fantastic job going out day and night to local groups such as Probus, U3A etc telling the Danny, and now the Ship Canal Story to groups who then often follow up with a group talk/ tour and indeed buy tickets for a cruise.

I was very pleased a few months ago to secure some excellent financial support for the Danny from the Peel Group who include of course Peel Ports. They have agreed to donate £25,000 pa towards supporting the Danny and the education work we do for a minimum of three years if not beyond. This has been a real boost and we are all very grateful. Lottery funding for the project has nearly been expended until next March (2020) when the final amount is owed to us but the Education and outreach work we do and indeed Cathriona's wages will no longer be supported by the Lottery but the Board and myself are determined that the great education and community work done by Cathriona and her team MUST continue as a great legacy to this project so this generous contribution by Peel is well timed and essential if we are indeed to continue enriching peoples lives.

So with our ticket sales and financial position improving I do

hope someone will find Charing such a wonderfully dynamic organisation a challenge to happily accept and not one to avoid.

With a change in job last September back to the Port of Liverpool I have been able to pop down to the Danny a fair bit between sailings and her locality close to my home has helped. I am constantly blown away by the sheer dedication and commitment of our volunteers. We held a recruitment day last Autumn when it became clear we would be stuck on the Weaver. We have recruited some wonderful new volunteers brimming with ideas and energy but I am delighted to say, we have not lost any of our original volunteers, especially those who lived on the Wirral or Liverpool/ North Liverpool and who initially felt the Weaver would pose problems for travel. Everyone has pulled together and are car sharing where possible and we really do have a wonderful team ready for what will be a very busy 2019. I have been particularly heartened to hear some of the lovely comments from the newer volunteers, commenting on how welcoming we have been and how volunteers new and "time served" welcome and work with each other. There are many examples, especially in the Heritage world of volunteers not working together and forming rival factions, all of course to the detriment of what they are trying to preserve or operate. An average working party day through the winter is a joy to watch with everyone pulling together.

The Weaver as you all know from last issue has been dredged as far now as Anderton and as a result, more people are satisfying their curiosity in the Weaver by booking a cruise with us. We are indebted to the Canal & River Trust for this dredging but also their hospitality in general. I am also certain that our appearance on Channel 4's "Great Canal Journeys" which aired over the winter has also helped. That was such a wonderful day and it was a privilege to be able to skipper the Danny that wonderful Summer's day and share our little piece of history with Tim and Pru who both really enjoyed their visit.

I will continue to be a volunteer as it's a great thing to do and I enjoy it hugely. Like most if not all I am now focused at the task in hand and that is operating the Danny for around 50 days in steam this year not to mention all the static events and private bookings we have. Being part of this wonderful team as a volunteer is something I could never give up!



A Message from our Director

Andrea Ward

Dan has given you all a great overview of the season, so I won't repeat too much other than to say the debt of gratitude we owe to our active volunteers is immeasurable, the time and commitment they have shown throughout the year, in all departments is astounding and humbling. The same can be said for our small but tireless staff team, who continually work above and beyond their remit. I have never been so proud to work for and with such an admirable group of people. Whilst we had more than our fair share of problems last year, everyone rallied round and we ended up with a very successful season. With lots of new volunteers and a much higher profile, we have gained our own momentum now, public interest and support is both encouraging and more importantly shown in our higher ticket sales from both groups and individuals. A very promising start to our new season. To our volunteers, staff and our members, a very heart felt thank you.

Welcome Aboard! Membership Report

Sheila Leonard Membership Secretary



Welcome to our first report of 2019. I will start with a warm welcome to our new members who have joined since Sept 2018. They are: Pete Rolfe, Peter Field, Geoffrey Budenberg, Peter Goodier, Samuel Holland and Andy Deyes - a warm welcome to you all and I hope you enjoy being part of the 'Danny' family.

Unfortunately, our membership has depleted slightly since the last Towline, and sadly a couple of our members, Fred Allen and Graham Twidale have passed away.

If you have any friends or colleagues who would like to become a member and help us raise much needed funds tell them to contact me on my email further on in this report and I will send them an application form.

I hope those of you who have managed to join us on any of our cruises throughout the summer of 2018 have enjoyed the experience of sailing on the Danny and if you didn't manage to come aboard us last year you must try and have a sail with us this year as our cruises on the River Weaver are very popular and getting booked up very quickly especially the Gin Cruises - and as a special addition we have got a couple of Real Ale Cruises on our calendar. Hopefully we will see a lot more of our members on our cruises during the summer. I will be on some of the cruises selling Merchandise so please come and say hello to me if you are on board at the same time.

Just a reminder that membership renewals are due on 1st May and remain the same fee as last year (£25 for single membership and £30 for family membership.)

A lot of members pay by standing order and we are encouraging this or via Bank Transfer as another way of payment as it saves DAPS some extra bank charges

which we have to pay now, but if you don't wish to do that you can still send a cheque to me at 60 Halton Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5SB.

If you need to chat about anything, call me on 01928 576967 or email, membership@danieladamson.co.uk

Unfortunately, I am disappointed that 26 of our members did not renew in 2018 and if they fail to renew in May, I will assume they do not wish to belong to the Danny Membership any longer and their names will be removed from our lists.

Don't forget to let me know if you have changed your email address because Georgia our Publicity Director quite often sends out snippets of news, especially to members and we don't want any of you to miss out.

Just for info you will be surprised to know that of our 300 and odd members, 82 of our members have been with us since we first opened our membership and the Daniel Adamson Preservation Trust in 2004 and it's quite exciting to say that 14 of our original 2004 members are still working with us as volunteers.

Also, if you have a bit of spare time and want to join our band of volunteers you will be very welcome, just contact me for a details or fill the form in on our website www.thedanny.co.uk. or check on our website and pop down to the boat wherever she is, to have a chat to some of our current volunteers.

Don't forget we also have a volunteer team who give talks and a presentations about the History of the Danny as well as a new interesting talk about the building of the Manchester Ship Canal. If you would like us to arrange a visit to your Group or Society, please contact me for more information.



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD

We have a spring in our step at The Danny, after a challenging 2018 we are all ready and looking forward to a more straightforward year.

How is 2019 looking so far... Fantastic!

The River Weaver is certainly offering us a friendly home on the river and our Cheshire cruises are proving to be very welcome and popular.

Cruise bookings have been flooding in since January and by mid-January some of our cruises had already sold out and overall numbers are looking very promising and are up on figures last year.

We have tried to offer a range of cruises giving people choices on how long they want to be on the ship and how much they want to spend, hoping that then our cruises can have a wider appeal.

Group bookings, family outings, social gatherings and days out seem to be our main attraction and we are very pleased that our ship is attracting a wider audience than the keen steam enthusiast, who although very welcome, don't provide us with enough long-term business to keep us in steam!

If you haven't already booked, please do and we will look forward to welcoming you

COMMUNITY EVENTS 2019 at Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge

19-22 APRIL | 12:00-15:00 | EASTER EGG HUNT

Explore the historic steam boat, enjoy family Easter crafts, test your skills to find the Easter Eggs on board the Daniel Adamson this Easter. Drinks and hotdogs available. FREE entry to the boat. Small charge for some activities. All donations towards the upkeep of the Danny

4 & 5 MAY | 10:00-16:00 | SPRING CRAFTING FOR THE FAMILY

Make crafts to take home and crafts to decorate the site for our spring festival on bank holiday Monday May 6th, enjoy a Pimms (alcoholic or just fruity) on board in the spring sunshine, and find out about the many lives of the Danny steamboat. Free to join us, small charge for some activities. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Danny.

6 MAY | 10:00-16:00 | SPRING FESTIVAL

Family fun and traditional entertainments. Celebrate spring by the river with us, create some spring crafts, take your chances on the Tombola, test your skills at Wellie Wanging, rope knotting and puzzle solving, enjoy a Pimms (alcoholic or just fruity) on board in the spring sunshine. Performance by Frodsham Sings choir. Stalls from local community organisations. Free to join us, small charge for some activities. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Danny.

JUNE 14 | 19:00-22:00 | FOLK ON THE BOAT

Frodsham Folk Club take over the Danny, programming an evening of folk and acoustic music. Free to join us; all donations very welcome. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Danny. Bar open and hotdogs available

JUNE 15 | 17:00-20:30 | MANCHESTER CANAL REUNION

Did you work for the Manchester Ship Canal Company? Have you got old photos you would be happy to share? Would you like to meet with former colleagues on the Manchester Ship Canal Company's director's launch vessel, the steam tugboat Daniel Adamson? All former colleagues very welcome, all stories and photos will meet an interested and enthusiastic audience of former MSC workers. Free to join us; all donations very welcome. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Danny. Bar open and hotdogs available.

SADLER'S BREWERY REAL ALE CRUISES

In 2018 we conducted a poll on Facebook asking people what kind of themed cruise they would like us to do and a Real Ale Cruise was the most popular choice.

So we are pleased to now be working with Sadler's Brewery to offer our very first real ale cruises.

As well as a wonderful cruise along The River Weaver in Cheshire you will also be treated to the following, all included in the price of your ticket;










- Minimum 3 tastings of Sadlers range - ½ pints
- Bottled beers to buy and drink on board
- Gift Packs to buy at fantastic prices
- A talk on the history of Sadlers, as well as talks on the beer making process and tasting notes on each product sampled
- Take home goodie bag

Sadler's beer range includes; Sorcerer, Thin Ice, Hop Bomb, Hopper's Hut, Mud City Stout, Red IPA, Peaky Blinders Ales and additional ales will also be available including Hawkeshead Ales.








2019 CRUISES



**Bookings can now be made
online at www.thedanny.co.uk**

Cruise Description	Dates available	Duration	Price	Coach included
Sutton Weaver – Anderton Boat Lift Direct	18/5 22/5 26/8 06/9	3½ Hrs	£35	
Anderton Boat Lift – Sutton Weaver Direct	02/6 26/8 07/9	3½ Hrs	£35	
Sutton Weaver – Anderton Boat Lift incl Marsh Lock	17/8	5 Hrs	£50	
Anderton Boat Lift – Sutton Weaver incl Marsh Lock	05/7 26/7	5Hrs	£50	
Anderton Boat Lift – Ellesmere Port	19/5	5½ Hrs	£65	
Anderton Boat Lift – Acton bridge	1/6 22/6 8/7 13/7 14/7 2/8 18/8	1½ Hrs	£20	
Acton bridge – Anderton Boat Lift	1/6 22/6 23/6 13/7 14/7 2/8	1½ Hrs	£20	
Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver	10/6 20/6 21/6 6/7 27/7 5/8 16/8 23/8	2½ Hrs	£27	
Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge	21/6 6/7 12/7 27/7 5/8 16/8	2½ Hrs	£27	
Anderton – Saltersford Lock- Anderton	23/6 14/7 18/8	1Hr	£12.50	

Gin Cruises

Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge via Marsh Lock	7/7 28/7	3½ Hrs	£40	
Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver Via Marsh Lock	9/6	3½ Hrs	£40	
Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver	4/8 24/8 25/8	2½ Hrs	£32	
Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge	4/8 24/8 25/8	2½ Hrs	£32	
Summer Solstice Cruise Sutton – Acton via Marsh lock	21/6	4½ Hrs	£40	

Real Ale Cruises

Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver	3/8	3½ Hrs	£40	
Sutton Weaver – Sutton Weaver via Acton Bridge	8/9	4½ Hrs	£55	

The Ship's Makers Name Plate

John Hake, Chief Electrician

The research for this article was carried out by the late Neil Marsden, a founder member of the society. I came across his 2015 emails relating to the makers name plate as I was doing a bit of tidying up of my email system, so I thought I would share his quest with finding out what the name plate might look like with the rest of the Society.

When we took over the Danny in 2004 there were many things missing and one of them was the makers name plate from the front of the wheelhouse, we didn't know if its had been removed when the vessel was laid up at Old Quay, awaiting her fate or went missing during the 18 years when the vessel was at the boat museum.

We have a photo of the Danny being delivered to the boat museum in 1986 and it shows the square on the front of the wheelhouse but it's not clear if the plate is still there or if it has been removed and we are looking at the unpainted woodwork where the plate was.

I know Neil routinely searched the interweb to try and find any ships still afloat that were built on the Mersey that might compromise our claim that the Danny is the oldest operational Mersey built ship in the world. During this research he came across mention of a Peruvian gunboat 'America' built by the same builder as the Danny, the Tranmere Bay Development Company and not only that but, we believe, built alongside the Danny or as it was the Ralph Brocklebank. The build date of 'America' is 1904, so a year later than the Ralph Brocklebank.

In 2015 he chanced upon an article called "An Amazon Gunboat" about the 'America' on a website called Iquito Times and this article came complete with photographs proving that the vessel was still afloat and in the custody of the Historic Boat Museum in Iquitos in Peru. Armed with this information he fired off emails to people mentioned requesting information on the vessel's makers name plate and eventually he received a reply from the director of the museum who confirmed that the makers name plate was still onboard and supplied photographs, text and dimensions of it.

The dimensions of the Amazon's makers plate are 27" x 18" and the Danny's would have been 19" x 13", a bit smaller but the same oblong shape with identical six fixing points.

To carry on Neil's quest it would be nice to know where and when the original makers plate has gone and to get it back would be wonderful. Failing that, as we now know the font and layout, if we knew what wording was on the plate we could get another one cast.

As a post script there was another plate missing, that was the engine makers plate plate. In the engine room there was a wooden mount and various people said that was where the brass engine plate was attached,

this was also missing. The good news on this is that this plate was returned to us a few years ago, for which we are very grateful, apparently it was removed while the vessel was laid up in Old Quay yard.

This article is, I hope, a fitting tribute to Neil who sadly passed away in January 2016, although he never saw the finished results he knew the refit was well underway and the Danny would soon be a fully operational steamship once again.

Fair winds and following seas, shipmate. We have the watch.

The text of the the Amazon's maker plate reads:

LANCHA DE GUERRA "AMÉRICA"

1904

CONSTRUIDA POR ORDEN DEL SUPMO GOBIERNO DEL PERÚ EN LOS ASTILLEROS DE LA TRANMERE BAY DEVELOPMENT CO LTD BIRKENHEAD, BAJO LA INSPECCIÓN Y VIGILANCIA DEL INGENIERO DON MELVILLE G. CLAYTON: INTERVINIENDO EN EL CONTRATO EL EXCMO SR DON CARLOS G. CANDAMO, E.E.Y.M.P.DEL PERÚ EN FRANCIA Y LA GRAN BRETAÑA Y EL SR DON M. D. DETEANO, CÓNsul DEL PERÚ EN LIVERPOOL. FUE TAMBIÉN DEBIDAMENTE INSPECCIONADA POR LOS INGENIEROS CONSULTORES Y ARQUITECTOS NAVALES MR C.RAMSEY Y MR J. G. GARRICK. VERIFICÁNDOSE LAS PRUEBAS OFICIALES EN EL RIO MERSEY. CONFORME AL CONTRATO DE CONSTRUCCIÓN.

LIVERPOOL. NOVBRE. 1904

The translation is:

THE "AMÉRICA" GUNBOAT

1904

BUILT AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU IN THE TRANMERE BAY DEVELOPMENT SHIPYARDS, UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE ENGINEER MELVILLE G. CLAYTON: ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTRACT WERE HIS EXCELLENCY CARLOS G. CANDAMO, PERUVIAN ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY IN FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN, AND M.D. DETEANO, PERUVIAN CONSUL IN LIVERPOOL. IT WAS ALSO INSPECTED BY THE CONSULTANT ENGINEERS AND NAVAL ARCHITECTS Mr C. RAMSEY AND Mr J.G. GARRICK. OFFICIAL CHECKS WERE CARRIED OUT ON THE RIVER MERSEY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUILDING CONTRACT.

LIVERPOOL, NOVEMBER. 1904



The Danny In Irlam Lock, 1976, with the makers plate on the front of the wheelhouse looking well polished.



The Amazon's makers plate in Spanish



The Danny on passage to the boat museum 1986, showing the makers name plate or where it used to be



The space on the Danny's old wheelhouse where the makers plate used to be



The engine makers plate fitted back in the engine room



Two photos of the Peruvian gunboat 'America' berthed on the Amazon at Iquitos, Peru



Neil Marsden and his son Chris at Sandon, May 2009

Fundraisers Report

Les Green



As can be expected the winter months were a quiet period for fundraising but the time was well spent in meetings on board the “Danny” during October with all the team members and a full review of the 2018 was undertaken. The subsequent outcomes are now being actioned. Deliberately the meetings were very informal and everyone was encouraged to contribute. In summary the year was generally successful with particular note in terms of revenues raised being the on board raffles and the presentations.

Merchandise

Merchandise sold steadily especially with the new DVD and the extension of the paperweight range. Paper weights and fridge magnets also sold well, and the stock of Edgar Hodges prints is now low but cannot be repeated as it was a limited edition with a 150-print run. There are very few teak bodied pens left and these will not be re-ordered.

Following requests from visitors and volunteers a supplier of “Danny” baseball caps was found and they went on sale in late 2018. It is too early to assess their success. A drinks coaster was added to the range late in the year featuring an especially good scene of the “Danny” in the Cheshire countryside taken on her last cruise in the Autumn with Dutton railway viaduct behind it. The photograph was supplied by one of our supporters. Only on sale for a few short weeks but already sales look to be promising.

The meetings endorsed the proposal that a short user-friendly guide book aimed at the general public with a maximum 60 pages in A5 format be investigated.

The overall strategy to seek a balance of quality collectables and “pocket money” toys was discussed and thought to be about right utilising where ever possible competitively priced UK suppliers with a low minimum order quantity. All purchases to be funded from revenues created by the fundraising team.

On Board Raffles

The current policy on prizes was thought to be right with generally a first prize of a good boxed malt whisky but on gin cruises bottles were donated from the sponsor. Manning had been tight with only one fundraiser allowed but working with the stewards had alleviated most problems. These raffles are quite hard work especially when the vessel is nearing capacity, but the profit margin is high.

Fundraising to support DAPS initiatives

In the short period of time since the fundraising team was established after restoration and the completion of DAPS financial contribution to the cost of restoration, the team have focussed on supporting initiatives that help satisfy our responsibilities under the HLF grant and to spread awareness of the ship to the general public.

Many volunteers will have seen the team going about their roles, selling merchandise and raffle tickets and it is worthwhile to review where and how the money was spent. Generally it is very much in response to requests from heads of department who may not have sufficient funds in their budget to make necessary purchases. Most notably education requested extra tables for children`s events and a contribution to exhibition stands.

The rapid expansion of the presenter`s team to go out and develop awareness of the ship thus bringing in the visitors required a new laptop with accessories, projection screen and projector. The excellent sales on gin cruises actually demonstrated the need for extra chairs and ideally small folding types and very quickly some 20 extra chairs were on board.

A further contribution was made when the new canvasses were required and the team even helped out with the cost of the volunteer`s Xmas “scouse “at the annual get together. The fees from presentations are paid in directly to DAPS funds and all merchandise purchases are made from generated revenue except the CD. The artists donated their songs and all production costs for the CD were entirely sponsored by an anonymous donor and the resultant revenue is entirely profit.

Presentations and how we are continuing to go out and about to groups across the UK.

Demand has continued and at the time of writing there are some 19 confirmed bookings for 2019 and 5 for 2020 and we are only in February. We estimate that we will quickly pass the figure of 75 bookings since these were first started and now, we have the target in sight of 100. The record of a number of earlier bookings was not kept but we think the estimate is reasonable. £1750 was donated to DAPS from the proceeds from the talks given in 2018.

To cope with demand, it was fortunate that we have had requests from new people to join the team as both presenters and support crew.

Initially most bookings were coming in from the U3A organisation but now U3A account for about a third of bookings with history societies again at a third and the rest from boating, Age Uk and even vintage motoring organisations.

Frequently these meetings are very much a social occasion with friendship groups or combined interest groups such as theatre visits or chess groups meeting up together. Therefore, without apology, the presentations we develop are

customer focused and not for the shipping or waterway enthusiast. For these diverse interest groups, we don't focus solely on technical aspects of the "Danny" story but touch on elements of economic, social and transport history affecting the "Danny" with the odd funny story thrown in.

Three principles guide the talks we give in that they must be interesting, educational and nostalgic with a professional delivery throughout. The organisation has developed and now has "professionalism" stamped on it from beginning to end; from first booking and the administration process, contacting customers and presenters and to even arriving at the venue an hour early sometimes even before the customers organisers to ensure a prompt start.

Where ever possible we have two presenters and one or two support crew to cater for audience requests and selling merchandise after the event. A cruise programme is placed on every chair to capture the individual bookings and to capture the group visits organisers are sought out and given contact details.

Our new presentation on the Manchester Ship Canal was developed to maintain the level of bookings we currently receive should we not break into other markets and the U3A begin to be exhausted and early indications are that it will be popular as five bookings have been received so far.

At the end of the presentations is a "commercial" plug for the "Danny" and revenues are close to £100 per booking inclusive of merchandise and fees but most important of all do the audience book cruises and for that we can only rely on the comment made in an e-mail by Andrea ward (DAPS - Director) "...we are getting so many bookings and enquiries following talks, they really are raising the awareness of cruises and hires - well done to all concerned"



Prints Expected to Sell Out

The prints derived from an original oil on canvas painting by world famous illustrator, Edgar Hodges, and sold in a 150 limited edition print run is expected by the fundraising team to sell out by the end of 2019.

Edgar, famed for his illustration of Thomas the Tank engine, the Wombles and Dr Who books, painted it in 2014 and donated it to the "Danny. The original was sold on auction at the dinner to mark the launch of the "Danny" after restoration.

The painting depicts an actual scene in Number 9 Dock in Salford in 1938 and the prints are the actual size of the painting number in sequence. Sold on board the vessel and by presenters, the print is often used as a raffle prize onboard on cruises. Priced at £20.00 plus postage and packaging these are available from Sheila Leonard at 01928 576967.



Off- Shore Yachters Welcome the Danny

Manchester Cruising Association formed in 1913 has a membership with their common interest in off shore yachts with some members owning vessels on the Mediterranean but for one night in December they turned their attention to the "Danny" and were enthralled with the story of our ship.

The evening meeting which only had 40 attendees included a light meal and went on for over two hours as question after question was fired at the DAPS team. Highlight of the evening was the response of the audience when our gin cruises were mentioned and the Commodore asked his wife to arrange a group visit.

The evening was rounded off with a revenue of £225 for DAPS funds, one of the highest ever and that included a one off donation of £100.

Bob Cannell said "They really took an interest and Les and I had to be in top form but all in all it was a really good evening"

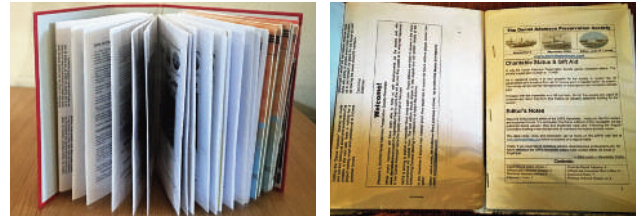
Presentation Team Strengthened

As bookings continue to pour in the DAPS presentation team has recruited two more members with Dave Pickup, a Naval Architect, joining as a presenter and Tony Steele as support crew.

Tony is a former employee from the ship canal where he worked on various tugs until he joined a power company.

There are now six experienced presenters and five support crew and generally they are rostered in pairs with one or more support crew dependant on area and who is available.

Historical Towline Archive Completed



Thanks to the sterling efforts of Colin and Sheila Leonard DAPS now has an archive of every Towline issued since the very beginning of DAPS in 2004 all professionally retained and individually contained in protective sleeves.

In total there have been 41 issues plus one issue termed Messenger Line and whilst Colin was able to find 40 editions, number 32 eluded him, till his friend George Hayes was able to search out the elusive magazine.

DAPS now have a unique historic record of all the trials and tribulations of the restoration of this unique ship.

Former Rugby League Star Helps the DAPS Team

Derek Finnegan who played for Warrington in Alex Murphy's great cup winning side of the 1970's is helping the engineering team with his specialist fabrication skills. Derek an expert coded welder is currently refurbishing damaged steam flanges and pipe work at a workshop in Warrington.

Derek now semi retired was signed by Warrington from the Gentlemen of Moore Rugby Union Club and now lives in Warrington although he was born and brought up in Widnes.

Ship Canal Presentation Successful Launch Rare Archive film delights the audience by Les Green

The new presentation developed for the extensive historical society and U3A market was successfully launched in November 2018 to a packed audience of the "Friends" organisation which supports the heritage parts at Irlam Station. On the evening the rare black and white archive film from the beginning of the C20th was the highlight for many in the audience.

The team had to be at the top of their game as included in the audience were a number of experts on the ship canal but the wide range of aspects covered from building the canal infrastructure to ship operations had something for everyone's interest.

Developed by the fundraising team but utilising the knowledge of a number of volunteers who worked on the canal, the team deliberately covered as many aspects of the ship canals operations and social history as possible even down to the pubs where the tug crews enjoyed a pint or two between tows.

The full presentation lasting over an hour was further refined when shown to nearly 50 volunteers in two sessions in the lower lounge on board the "Danny" in January. As a result some interesting shots of rare visitors including incredibly German U-Boats were added.

Les Green said " We knew we had the expertise in DAPS to develop a unique talk and in the research stage we were delighted at the material we found but we had to be selective on the basis that our audiences would have wide interests. The basic principles behind the presentation was that it had to be both interesting and educational but to some degree nostalgic owing to the age profile of most audiences"

At the time of writing bookings were now coming in some for 2019 but some more work is needed to offer customers the option of a 45 minute presentation where there are room hire constraints.

Note - Irlam Station contains the former headquarters of the Cheshire Lines Railways which controlled many of the branch lines in the North West and was restored recently to contain a museum dedicated to the history of the Cheshire Lines. In addition it has a bar/ restaurant forming part of the popular railway real ale trail and extensive meeting rooms. Its unique character has attracted many visitors and admirers whilst it has also featured in national media.

A CONSULTANT'S POINT OF VIEW ON OUR PROJECT

As part of our work with The Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been working with a consultant to help us move towards a time when we need to be self-sufficient – David Waterfall has been working with the team and here is his insightful view on our future and what sets us apart...

As a business consultant that specialises in supporting the third sector (charities, social enterprise, voluntary groups and so forth), I have great pleasure in supporting a range of organisations across the country. Some are larger, some quite small, but they all have one thing in common – a passion to use the power of community to create something special for society.

Working with The Danny has been no exception. I've been supporting the team now for about three months, and I've learnt a lot about its unique history spanning back to 1903, the unexpected Art Deco interiors, and how rare The Danny actually is (ranked 15th in importance out of over 1,300 ships on the Register of National Historic Ships). The steamship itself is a beautiful reminder of former glory days, which the team work very hard to preserve and make available for the benefit of the public.

I've been particularly impressed by the level of dedication of the staff who work above and beyond

what they're expected to, to help realise opportunities for the ship. I'm also encouraged to see a large group of volunteers that are flexible and committed. Their continuous hard work come rain, hail or shine is a real strength and means that a lot of people get to learn about and travel on The Danny.

I work with a number of groups that are also faced with overwhelming odds – struggles in securing funding for essential work, problems in increasing awareness and hence usage, and the difficult balancing act of generating enough income to meet the constant level of expenditure. All of these are facts that can have an ongoing drain on moral, but the team at The Danny remain optimistic in acknowledging that the current economic landscape is uncertain, and so they all work tirelessly to progress funding and look for innovative ways to continue with the restoration and usage of such an iconic historic ship.

In moving forward The Danny will need to continue with tenacity to deliver its bold plans for growth; increasing its usage, expanding its area of operation, and working towards a position of financial independence. None of these will be easy – but I'm excited by what can be achieved and I wish all of the team the very best of luck.

An update from our friends at S/S Shieldhall

From Southampton it is good to report that the 2018 sailing season ended on a good note. 2018 saw us carrying more passengers in total than in any previous season, even though we were obliged by bad weather to cancel a couple of sailings. Not only that but for the second year running "Shieldhall" came top on TripAdvisor for 'Things To Do In Southampton'. So it looks as if we must be doing something right. We have been making a profit on our sailings in recent times and advance bookings for the 2019 season are looking healthy. So far so good.

However, there is no room for complacency. Our total outgoings far exceed income. Luckily we have some reserves that give us just a little time to plan what actions to take. Happily we start with a ship in good condition and we have the very valuable asset of a wonderful group of volunteers.

In the ship's current berth, it is not possible to have alongside (money making) activities. In the longer term it seems probable that the ship will get a more suitable berth – perhaps within the next two years or so. To resume and expand our various alongside activities will probably not be possible until then. In the meantime an "Income Stream Project" has been launched with the aim of becoming more self sufficient and less likely to depend upon appeals to members to avoid financial disaster. It is still early days for this project but we are optimistic of making significant inroads into the problem.



2018 marked the 30th year since our society was formed. A special cruise had been arranged in July to celebrate this anniversary. Unfortunately that was one of the two cruises that were cancelled because of adverse weather. This was a great disappointment to those Founder Members who had accepted an invitation to the cruise as well as those of our members who had made preparations to make the day a bit special. The cruise had been a 'sell out' so a large number of the public were also put out. Notwithstanding occasional adverse weather, we intend to make sure that "Shieldhall" continues to be active and sailing for another 30 years.

Volunteer Spotlight

Les Green caught up with new volunteer Chris Ellams in a quiet moment on board the “Danny” at Sutton Weaver.

LES “Chris – you are one of the first, and hopefully of many more volunteers, who have swelled the ranks of DAPS teams from the north Cheshire area, where do you live and how did you first hear about the “Danny”?”

CHRIS “I am very much a local being a long term resident of Helsby, just the other side of Frodsham and it was really my daughter who got me involved in the “Danny”. She had seen something about it, I think on Facebook and then being a keen photographer I had seen it and she suggested that I should get involved and I would enjoy it! Yes she was right, I love helping on board. I did my induction at Anderton and thoroughly enjoyed the day”

LES “What do you do in your career before the “Danny” along?”

CHRIS “ Well I am retired now but I started my working life by completing an apprenticeship as a radio and TV engineer working for a company heavily involved in the rental market. As the demand for people with IT skills grew I moved into that role eventually becoming an area engineer visiting customer premises sorting problems”

LES “What is it about the “Danny” that appeals to you?”

CHRIS “ I really like what I call living history which is to me historical artefacts that still exist and that people can see and enjoy so the “Danny” ticks all the boxes. What a fascinating career she has had”

LES “When you are on board the “Danny” what part of the role do you enjoy most?”

CHRIS “It is the interaction with the visitors, sharing my newly found knowledge whilst explaining the history and workings of the vessel. Working with the other volunteers is good fun as well”

LES “You are chairman of a local parish council and would you say that the presence of the “Danny” on the Weaver has gone down well locally?”

CHRIS “It has but there is a lot more to be done to maximise local support. I spoke to one local man who thought it was a “party” boat but I soon put him right.”

LES “Would you say that the quay at Sutton Weaver is in a good position to attract visitors?”

CHRIS “It certainly is being close to the busy road junction and under the gaze of so many railway passengers but improvements need to be made. It is good solid ground but was laid out when there was a bailey bridge in place as a temporary measure whilst the swing bridge was restored. It needs advertising and promoting to attract even more visitors and then physical work to make the area fit for purpose to serve what is rapidly becoming a popular visitor centre. The Weaver Valley has a stunning landscape and it is great that people can enjoy it from the decks of steamship”

LES “Photography, parish council and now the “Danny” take up your time now you are retired , do you have any other hobbies?”

CHRIS “ I have a small MX5 sports car that I love driving”

LES “Thank you for your time today and I hope you continue to enjoy days volunteering upon the “Danny”

Communities Come Together on the Danny

The Danny is really starting to become a place that brings generations and different groups in our communities together, and our berth at Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge is proving a welcoming home for our community events.

There was a very enjoyable, relaxed community feel at last year’s family events. Alongside volunteers’ children and grandchildren, and schoolchildren from our cruises bringing their families, scouts, cadets and local art organisations brought a mix of families who stayed for a long time, enjoying the Danny and the craic with the volunteers in the glorious weather. One of our volunteers worked with a group of deaf people, some of whom had other learning difficulties, and they felt very welcome and at home and part of the whole event. Following on their recommendations, we are running two cruises this year with a British Sign Language interpreter to work with deaf visitors, ensuring they get the most from their visit.

We are building on these experiences for this season’s events at Sutton Weaver. Our volunteers are devising activities and entertainments for local families that get them using the Danny and learning about her history, while enjoying themselves together and the feeling of wellbeing the Danny seems to create. For some of the events, we are working with local groups and charities to promote them, or to offer them a chance to perform or support us.

Our Easter Egg Hunt (April 19 – 22) is taking place entirely on board the Danny, as we don’t want to take the weather for granted. For our spring festival on May 6th, we are planning to have stalls on the grass with activities and information about other local charities, such as the Halton Haven Hospice and

Halton and St Helens Voluntary Community Action. Similarly, we are planning to have other local groups such as Frodsham Sings and Palacefields Ukulele Band take part in our Spring Festival and Summer Fete (August 11th). Our Folk on the Boat event last year invited local folk clubs to take over the Danny at Acton Bridge, and we are planning more folk this year at Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge on June 14th and as part of our summer fete on August 11th. On June 16th, we are also having the first summertime event which celebrates the Art Deco heritage of the Danny, with period music, and the public invited to wear 1920s/30s dress and the galley staff providing suitable prohibition-era cocktails!

In this 125th anniversary of the Manchester Ship Canal, our reunion of all former crew is reaching out to all departments and all areas along the canal and asking everyone to share their photos and stories of working on the canal at Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge on June 15th. We are also reaching out to act as a connection between Manchester Ship Canal history and the digital audiences of the present and future, partnering with the AND (Abandon Normal Devices) Festival of New Cinema and Digital Technologies this coming September.

Finally, our volunteers are making a great success of the visits from youth groups and the workshops with young people and children with autism, and now they are starting a new strand of outreach memory sessions with older people with dementia. The Danny’s potential for bringing people together, and for creating a sense of community and wellbeing is really starting to be realised, with a great team of volunteers making it all happen.

AMAZING ADVENTURES ABOARD THE DANNY FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

We had a very successful primary schools programme last year, with over forty workshops, music sessions, presentations and cruises on board the Danny and out in schools. The success wasn't really about the numbers, though, it was about the sheer enjoyment and engagement of the children with the Danny. One of the best comments we had was from a year 5 pupil, who said his favourite thing about the Danny was 'that it was an amazing adventure'.

The children loved having the chance to look at the water and at nature as we went by. Support from the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail volunteers meant we had an ornithologist on board to help them identify and learn about the birds we saw. They also enjoyed finding out about the engineering of the Danny and the locks and the swing bridges and meeting the Canal and River Trust lockkeeper.

They took in everything and produced some wonderful artwork. The whole experience gave them a very visceral sense of the importance of history and of preserving their heritage. They also had lots of ideas for the Danny's future. These ranged from having more space for information about the Danny's history to an arcade with games where you build the ship canal or steer the Danny up the river to a complete refurb of the Danny with several new decks and a glass bottom, to taking her to the Mediterranean and crucially, adding waterslides off the upper decks into the warm water below.

The exhibition of the children's work alongside objects and archive images from the Danny was on display for three weeks in the Brindley last November. It was very warmly received

locally and had approximately 1,200 visitors. The children produced two excellent performances, having written the very first Danny rap and re-enacted the dramatic events that led to her rescue from the scrapyards in 2004. The volunteers were wonderful in supporting the children in having the best, most professional exhibition possible, and working with the volunteers really brought the Danny's story to life for the children.

This season, we are teaming up with the IET (Institute of Engineering Technology) to make our first offer to secondary aged pupils of a full day of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) activities on board. We are also training up with the artists from Interference Arts, who worked with the children on the exhibition last year, to build in a high-quality art offer to our primary school workshops, to go along with the history, geography and STEM activities we are offering, all fitting in with the national curriculum and bringing the children's learning to life.

If you know of any primary teachers, be sure to let them know we have still got some workshop and cruise places available. It is such a wonderful, enriching experience for the children, we want to ensure as many as possible get the chance to take part.

