

## Wreck to Rescue

### *The story of the* **'RESOLUTE LADY'**



### **Presentation by John Rhodes**

Billed as the third oldest tug in the U.K and currently under renovation in the historic coal port of Bullo on the River Severn, this fascinating slide presentation captures the trial and tribulations of the once proud workhorse of the river, '*Resolute Lady*'.

Forged of Bristol sweat and tears at the Stotherts Yard the *Resolute Lady* has spent all her working life actively plying her trade the length and breadth of the River Severn and Gloucester & Sharpness Canal until prematurely laid up in 2001.

Originally conceived locally at Hotwells in 1897 as the *Resolute* only to be renamed *Thelm Leigh* upon changing fortunes, John recaptures the glorious past of one of Britain's last remaining former steams tugs still in existence today.

This is seamlessly achieved with the use of extremely rare and recently rediscovered images which during a 45 minute showing, document the transformation from steam leviathan to mighty diesel powerhouse. During this time John, her current skipper and guardian, outlines his labour of love in his attempt to keep her afloat and in therefore preserved for the nation.

Asked why? John typically downplays his mammoth task with his customary relaxed manner

*"Resolute Lady's* historical importance can be judged in layers. She is a 'living' artefact not a museum piece. She is a Severn Trow derivative, built as a tug the last of a breed that goes back a thousand years: *The Resolute Lady* is one of the few indigenous working boats still afloat in the area."

That aside the talk effectively documents the *Resolute Lady*' continued development and John' ongoing commitment to nurse her tired wrought Iron sides back to health and breath life back into her trusty Ruston & Hornsby engine once again .

For booking details contact **John** directly on **01452812709** or **07969918121**  
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