

Monthly Newsletter
Boathouse 4 Volunteers
February 2023



Second month of the year been and gone, a lot more volunteers joined us along with Phillippa Clare our new Head of Boats /Boathouse 4 who joined us to replace Diggory who has moved on to pastures new. Good Luck Diggory.

Portsmouth Naval Base



Incorporating Projects funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds

VIC 56 – What a cracking team we have on VIC 56, there is just no stopping them. Below right they managed to co-opt Emily into crawling into the hobbbs of hell so that she could clean out all the cinders and gash after a burn so that the boiler could be inspected. She seems to fit the bill to a 'tee'. You don't get too many 70 year old volunteers able to bend their legs and back to get into a hole that small and get out without cramp.



In addition Paul and his associates have been cleaning up the wheelhouse with a nice coat of varnish. See below left and below right they have been sorting out the flag locker

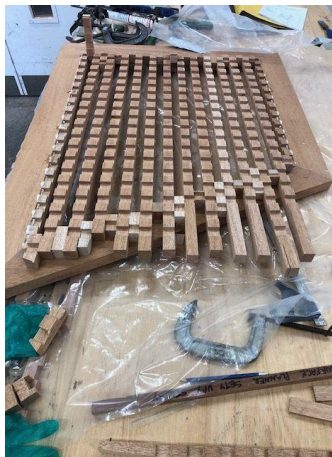


JohnP and Keith D have both been knocking on with the wheelhouse

deck gratings. Below middle they are in the process of gluing up another of the sets whilst below left it is glued and ready for several coats of varnish. Below right is



one they did earlier.





Over left is the after cabin which has been cleaned out and repainted with a nice shiny smoke stack. Anyone for a first class upgrade for the next cruise then.

, all takers form an orderly queue behind Emily.

WW2 Dory Restoration - Steve and his team have been moving the boat around this month to allow slightly more room to work and to open up the fire gangway. Below left Trish and Cmaeron are in the process of moving the benches to allow the Dory to be relocated. Below left the team is busy with a pallet truck dragging the boat over. In the photo below middle Syeve and Cameron are having a go at making some 'Tee bar' keel bolts out of Bronze rod



Over left Steve is using a nice sharp draw knife trimming the outer keel section. Below right the dory is well



and truly re-located with plenty of space all round her . Over



;left Pauline and Trish have drawn the short straw as Steve has got them stripping old tar varnish off some of the stringers and timbers. He is all heart is our Steve.



CMB4 Replica build – There seems to be more bits and bobs than you can shake a stick at these days. Below left Steve B is nearing the end of this particular torpedo launch control ring before getting it painted in black 'Cast' paint.



Above middle Steve B, Mike S, Ian P and David G are doing a dummy fit of the torpedo trough side panels, again the same element above right. In the three photos below you can see some of the torpedo launch control rings fully laminated,



primed and painted

In this sequence of photographs, you can see some of the stages the engine fit ot at our off -site sub-contractor. Who would like to book their seat for the trial runs? The Chief Engineer sat on a little bench seat about 18inches long by 12 inches wide just alongside his beloved engine at full



Revs. Please submit your requests along with a suitable CV detailing previous CMB Engine room Operational experience, to Ellie Jo no later than 28th February 2023. As we are expecting a very high volume of takers, sorry but we can't accept late submissions.

Whitehead Torpedo Replica build – Another month of sanding and filling, but now Igor has brought it to a conclusion. He has finished that stage and has started painting. Meanwhile Brian E has been having a go at the other end having



finally fitted the warhead. Above left Igor is in the process of bringing the fairing operation to a conclusion. Middle photo

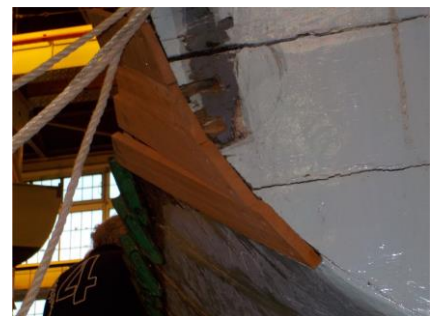


above lurking in the boathouse not unlike an oversized suppository, is the beast with her undercoat primer on. {Photograph and description courtesy of Paul G, who for some unknown reason had been set free from the murky depths of VIC 56 to wander at random amongst the sane and busy in Boathouse 4.}. Top row above right Brian E has made a set of fins, and above left he is fitting them in place. The dexterity shown leads one to wonder if he has had earlier experience in a veterinary practice. In the photo above middle the torpedo is looking fairly streamlined and above right Igor has started on the first shiny top- coat.

Armed Steam Cutter ASC 26 – Tony and his team have slowed down a little as the engine and boiler are being worked on before they go back in.



Cyclops 42 Ft. Rowing Launch – Another steady month's work with some movement forward. By the end of the month we had managed to replace all of the rotten plank ends along the port gunwale with the exception of the final section at the transom and that is still work in progress. It is proving to be a little 'piggywig'. Bottom left photo shows Hamo cleaning



up the top of the port riser, next on previous page Jeremy, Mike F and Roz R are working on one of the last 'long' planks using a shore and a 'big man's' clamp to pull the top into shape. Far right is one of our earlier attempts to sort out the final section of planking adjacent to the transom. All to no avail, so back to the drawing board on this one.



Above left a general shot looking aft at some of the planks in place. Over right in the middles two Mikes are steaming a stubborn plank or are they really making a cup of tea. The time had finally come to make a start on the starboard inwale and gunwale capping and above right Steve F has been cutting off the gunwale capping so that we could assess the inwale. It turned out that it was like the curate's egg, Good in parts. Below left Jeremy C is way down aft tucked up against

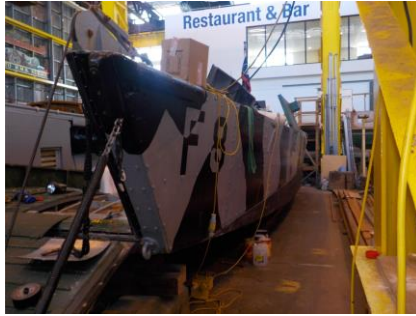


the transom removing some of the rotten inwale. Above middle shows some of the gunwale capping that had been removed I think that in general it proves the point of cutting it out. Above far right you can see some of the poor parts of the curate's egg, or in this case the dodgy inwale which will be cut out and replaced.



Above left a close -up of Jeremy wielding his spanner as he removes some crabby inwale sections. Above middle Roz R is pulling in the bottom end of one of our new planks and finally Hamo cleaning up surplus glue from the new planking on the port side. It is probably appropriate that this article started and ended with Hamo T working his magic as he extends the Thorneycroft boat building history.

LCA F8 – The mini refit came to an end in the month and she was put back into the dock. The photos below show her ashore and back afloat.



Above left work is underway on her forward deck and ramp, middle photo above she has had a new coat of paint and finally she is back afloat in the dock. Soon be ready for sea trials and hopefully the new season of arbour tris.

Suggestions for next month - If you have got any ditties, lies, scandal or photos that you would like to see in print just let me know, my 'e' mail address is: - boatbitsus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name.