

Monthly Newsletter

Boathouse 4 Volunteers

January 2024



At the end of January 2024 all things are ticking over nicely and we are well fixed for another good productive year. We may have a bit of a set back early on in February due to a big maintenance programme on B/H 4 roof.



VIC 56 Our intrepid duo has been very busy in the month, Bob and Paul spent some time in the engine room cleaning



out all the soot residue from the boiler tubes. Paul would have us all believe that it was the absolute messiest job he has ever done with both the guys being plastered from head to toe and all regions in between with soot. I don't necessarily believe him, he is just a very 'dirty boy'

Cyclops Restoration Project- We have had a full team working on Cyclops but soon she will be out of bounds as Sub-contractors tackle the boat-house roof and windows as part of a major maintenance programme. In the following



photos some of the work can be seen progressing. Over right Hamo T, John B 01 and Mike S are bagging up a plank of timber ready to try steaming it as part of our wash-board trial programme. Below left the steaming has proved successful so no reason for our mahogany not to be next. This fair curve was achieved with just 20minutes in a polythene tube with a wallpaper stripper, so not much mystique there then!





Above left Ian P is making himself comfortable in the bilges as he, Hamo T and Steve B are removing some of the old engine bearers to make way for the rest of the floors to take the bottom boards. Above Middle Hamo is stretching out under the boat as he receives some of the engine bearer bolts being driven through by Ian. Finally Hamo is over far right dry fitting two of the new floors.



Above left Mike S and John B 02 are flexing their muscles and saw as they get ready to cut down one of the dummy wash-board poppet recesses. Above middle one of the dummy poppet cutouts and over right a pair of them, one with a poppet fitted on the right side stained.



Above left Mike S is trialling a jointing process for the rowlock chock/ wash-board, here he is trialling twin dowels having already knocked the biscuit joints on the head. Shortly after this we decided to revert to 'Simple' and do away with all fiddly bits and go for a bog -standard butt joint. KISS!



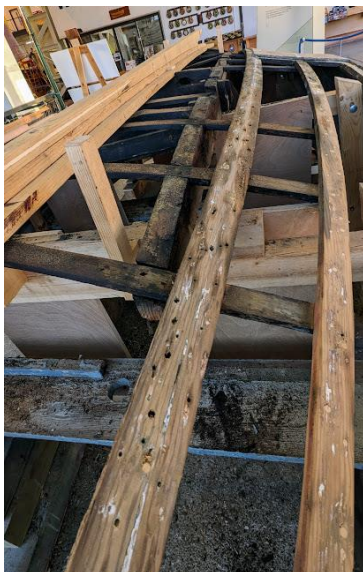
In the three photos above on the previous page we have, on the left, what appears to be Micky M on his knees praying to the great god Cyclops. In fact, it is nothing of the sort other than Micky M on his knees measuring up some timber to cut to make the stern sheets support stanchions. Above middle he is in the lathe turning one of his little beasts and over right one nearly finished, leaving just another fourteen to go. This is where Micky finds out it is easy to make one turned stanchion but a different kettle of fish to make another fourteen identical versions.

Below left and working on the 'orrible stem, Igor is fitting one of his sneakily clever clamping jigs, getting ready to pull a



couple of unruly planks back to heel. Above Middle Mike S has been busy with a hot paint gun and has striped off the whole of the transom and over right Peter F and Ian F have finished their fettling and have the quarter badge fitting nicely. All that is left now is a 4mm coating of mastic and get the bolts taken right down nice

Dory Restoration – I think that I can now say without fear of contradiction that Steve D and his team are starting to put bits back in place, or at least putting them back. They have invested in a number of jobs off the boat, in preparing a set of timbers ready to be steam (See bottom right). They have made some external mould frames which you can see hanging over the boat along with some internal strong-backs below the boat. I think now that Steve has got to this stage we will be seeing some positive progress with a firm "boat shaped" beast developing in front of our eyes. Watch this space. If you go down to the boats today you're sure of a a big surprise, cos' today's the day that hog and boat combine, right before your eyes.



Motor Whaler – Danae She has been brought out of the water into the Boathouse for a full refit. The last time she was right out was 2017 when we finished off the 2009/2011 refits after which she went back afloat. It is hoped to turn her round by Easter and get her back afloat and working on the pontoons. There is a fair amount of work needed before that can happen. Good luck David G. Work has started but, unfortunately we have found a bit of inter-glass wet rot. At least Shiner has been silenced from his whinging that no one bothered about his boat. He will soon have everyone and their mother's uncle working on her. Watch this space.

ST 1502 – She is also ashore for her annual refit Tony H has drawn the short straw to run with this one. She has some structural work in her transom and sections of her after deck with the plywood delaminating and in need of replacing.



. Tony has got access to a good team, but this will slow down ASC26 a little.

Steam Cutter 438- is being worked on by Steve and his team Frank and Barry ably supported by Shady Lane.

F8 Landing craft - is taking up a lot of Tiger's time but very soon, as the roofers take over the various bays in the Boathouse some of our active boats will become out of bounds and lots of bods will become available. All this work is with the view of getting them ready for the spring season on the pontoons.

HSL102 – Is in Lympington at Berthon having her annual spruce up. Below are some of the stages of her transformation from a heavily sanded hull to a bright shiny, too good to touch finish. I wouldn't want to be the skipper that dings this one.



Apologies to all the good people whom I have failed to mention this month.

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.