



Monthly News Letter February 2010

Historic Boat Section



Torchy, Torchy, Battery Boy. We certainly used 'Torchy' this month on MGB 81 loading six heavy weight lead acid specials. This was a good month were given lots of paint, lots of varnish, lots of thinners, lots of flags, we did lots of work and we had lots of fun and laughs as well. Magic!!

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**



Feb. 2010 Update -

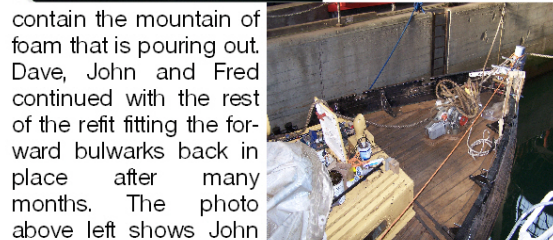
Harbour Launch Refit - The wheelhouse has been completed and the wiring has been checked OK, so ends a fully combined effort from Robert of Nottingham, Dave, John and Fred. The the engine test run was first class with the engine firing up at the first pull of the starter, it also ran as sweet



as a nut. This is obviously be due in no small part to Tony our resident 'Clanky' and the service he



gave the engine earlier. Robert of Nottingham has progressed the rope locker and it looks as if he is in real danger of finishing it if as you can see above he can manage to



contain the mountain of foam that is pouring out. Dave, John and Fred continued with the rest of the refit fitting the forward bulwarks back in place after many months. The photo above left shows John fitting the new bits in place. John, don't get too cocky just because it looks good from up here, Brian has got to check it close up yet. The photo above right shows both bulwarks in place having been dry fitted and shaped. The winch fitted last month is due to be wired in for the very first time since it was first fitted some nine years ago. On the test run it worked OK so watch this space for full commissioning now we have a second set of batteries salvaged from MGB 81. With the progress being made on several fronts we are in danger of getting this boat finished ready for the season.



Feb. 2010 Update -

MGB 81 - Talking of this we fitted new batteries at the back end of last month and I have to say that without the very able help of Steve and Andy from the Maintenance group it would have taken us 'wrinklies' days to achieve what took them only hours. What it is to be young and fit. The photos below show the two man mountains in operation in very confined spaces making it look so bloody easy. The first two pics show



them getting the old batteries out, whilst below Steve and Andy can be seen in the forward end



of a very congested engine room making light of putting the first of the new batteries back in. Below left Andy is seen



slipping through an eleven inch gap between engines with three quarters of a hundred weight of Lead Acid battery in his mits. Well done guys we were all most impressed, so much so that even I

can't think of anything horrible to say about you. Also in the month Brian bought some new fenders for 81/102 just to keep them apart. As you can see over right they were 'Big Man's' fenders but once between the boats there is no way the boats can get close up and personal. Which is more than I can say for Peter and Spud Murphy who are carrying the fenders.





Feb. 2010 Update -

Whaler Excellent - Sadie's team grew bigger this month and the work moved on. Lots of paint stripping, rubbing down, filling, rubbing down, filling, and more rubbing down and then a bit more paint-



ing. Sadie managed to find even more reasons to remove another set of knees. In replacing them she made about four sets so that she could choose the best ones to fit. (or not as the case may be) In the photos we can see some of the frenzied activity taking place. In the photo on the top right we can see Geoff hard at work rubbing down and filling the whaler. He thought he was working on



the Dartmouth Gig. Geoff "You should have gone to Spec Savers". Middle left Sadie is getting to grips with the stern sheets whilst above right Alan is fitting some wooden plugs in the thwart chocks to make the screw holes look pretty. We haven't got photos of the Marchwood team this month but we did have a bit of excitement when one of our extension cables was used as a space heating element whilst the guys were burning off the paint that Sadie had put on last month. She was not a happy bunny. The bottom photo shows Excellent with her second undercoat on with Robert 'I have started so I'll finish' of Nottingham just in the background having just wheeled out the Harbour Launch's floatable cable locker. Wonders will never cease.



Feb. 2010 Update -

Motor Whaler - Ian has finally got the dreaded breast hook out and is in the process of making a new one. This one is being laminated from many thin strips of



Sapele, if we carry on at this rate Ian will be our next master shipwright.

Then there was the big bunch of b*%^£ds** - As soon as Danny had cut the rope to knock



out the lines for the 'Big Man's' fenders for MGB 81 and HSL 102 along came Spud Murphy to help sort out the coil of rope.

"Honest chief I was just coiling it up and all of a sudden it came to life and ran all over the place. There you are Spud, Knit one, Pearle one, knit two, pearle three and then cast off and you have a lovely string vest to keep you warm in winter. I bet Marion will love you in that. Anyway Spud once you sort it out Robert of Nottingham has got just the place for you to stow it away in. Yes that's right his rope locker that



he has just finished. Below you can see work in progress with Bob having just poured the foam and on the right Brian getting sucked



in to check if the sponge cake had risen far enough.



Mar. 2010 - Wish / To do list

Search & Rescue Launch 102 - Ongoing monitoring of boat and equipment. Strip and varnish mast.

MGB 81 - Pump out bilges and dispose of waste and keep watching brief on batteries.

Crew Training - Both of the above need to have special crew training. Who, when and where, how? **Ariadne** - On hold until further notice.

Osborne - Weekly checks on state of boat and surrounding stand.

Pram Dinghy Tul - Weekly checks on state of boat and surrounding stand. Re-rig her mast after her move.

Green Parrot - Remove the covers for repair, wash down all of her decks and tops, run up the Starboard Engine to boost batteries. Fit temporary cover sheets over her aft section to protect from pigeons. Hold start of refit until completion of HLD/ Excellent.

25 Foot Motor Launch Ark Royal - Finish the small covers and agree the display format and location.

Admiralty Pattern 14 Ft. - Start rubbing her down ready to varnish and get her on display.

32 Foot Rowing Cutter - Raise her enough to be able to pump her out and fit additional buoyancy blocks under thwarts until her refit can start.

Landing Craft - Remove all loose debris from the tank deck and fit an updated pumping system. Fit temporary decks aft to provide improved access.

20 Foot Cutter - The engine needs to be serviced and restored before it can be fitted back into the hull.

Spare FD6 Foden Engine - Source some spare gears for the gearbox.

15 Foot Fast Motor Boat - Assess overall state and plan the future activity relating to this boat.

Sewing shed - Re-establish so that we can work on any covers needing repair.

1502 - Repair the main cover along the central seams and around the access covers. Fit new ignition switches and resolve remote engine stop problem.

Main Pontoon - Construct a power stanchion to incorporate the twin solar panels, battery to provide 12v/24v DC and mains power for the boat shore lines.

This Month's Competition - Who is it that invites some generous matelots in for a thank you tot of rum, then accepts a drink and bottles the tot so he can drink it the next day when he hasn't got to see the doctor? I'll give you a clue. He is on the front cover wearing long white gloves and his name rhymes with 'mud turf'

Any Suggestions for next year - If you have got any stories, facts, fiction, lies, scandal or suggestions for this ditty next month let me know my 'e' mail address is :- boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name