



# Monthly News Letter March 2010

## Historic Boat Section



**Another day, another dollar. This month must be a record, we have managed to get seven boats into work. The trouble is they are all underway together. Just what Brian needed!!!. Who in their right mind would want to be a curator of Historic Boats with a group of volunteers running wild.?**

**Portsmouth Naval Base  
Property Trust**



## March 2010 Update -

### Harbour Launch Refit -



Below we can see Dave going through the final fitting stage of the Port Bulwark. Once this is fitted the Starboard bulwark is the last to fit Fred has progressed with wiring the winch, he has made a big man's battery box to go in the engine room but

due to the size of the hatch it had to be stripped down and built in situ.

Robert of Nottingham tried to fit one of the hand rails back on the wheelhouse and as he looked at it it broke in two. Below you can see him at work planning down a new piece of timber to the required diameter. The outcome was a triumph of one man and his roll of sandpaper over the vagaries of a solitary piece of wood. Robert 'I have Started so I'll Finish' Of Nottingham finally finished the Harbour



Launch's Emergency Float Rope locker. Below we can see it being given the 'Float Test', as you can see it is upright and stable as it faces the full onslaught of Portsmouth Harbour in a Spring Tide. The photo was taken just



before Robert had managed to convince six volunteers to jump in and test it for real. ( OK so it was just a photo and there were no takers to jump in). Fred carried on with the wiring up of the Winch. Below right is a photo of the new battery box in it's final resting place. Providing the weather isn't too good for the rest of the month then Fred won't be in his caravan and he may just get this job finished.



## March 2010 Update -

**MGB 81 and HSL 102** - They were both taken out again in the month on speed runs following a full refueling visit to the Saudi Arabian Oil fields. On the last run they were accompanied by Sea Plane Tender 1502 as film boat. Danny was very impressed by her turn of speed. HSL 102 was brought round to the main pontoon so we could remove her mast for re-varnishing. Once down it was fairly obvious that it hadn't been worked on for several years judging by the very poor state of the varnish. The mast is now in the boathouse being worked on by Geoff.

**ST1502** - Allan2 had a look at fitting the new ignition switches but unfortunately they are a slightly different format and some small modification will be needed to both the wiring and the front of the console. We have finally found it impossible to fit the main boat cover because it needs to be re-sewn along all of the seams as the stitching has become rotten with age.

**Donations to the cause** - Following on from last month our friends on HMS Nottingham have turned up trumps again. As well as all of the donations made last month they have given us some more this month, a new fridge for the rest room, a large amount of 'Damage Control' timbers, tooling, 12 volt batteries, and many other goodies all of which will undoubtedly get used in the fullness of time. As far as the boat section is concerned we can't wait for Gordon Brown and his mate Alistair to get moving on the defence cuts and pay off the remaining three ships in the Royal Navy.

**Extra for Pirates of the Caribbean located** - The 32 Foot Cutter Reclaimed from the depths. We managed to get the boat to the right level in the mast pond by opening the gates. Ian made an early start and fitted some pumps and by normal start time she



was up out of the water looking decidedly sorry for herself. After a few hours pumping and a wash down by Peter and Brian H she was looking better. Fred fitted a few more patches and a load of new buoyancy floats and she was up and about. She will be returned to her full glory, but not just yet. The next plan is to move her into the tunnel to get ready to lift her when D49 is moved out.





## March 2010 Update -

**Whaler Excellent -**  
The job moved on in the month. Over on the right and below we can see Brian and



John busy letting in the thole plates for the rowlocks. The fitting out is taking its time but hopefully she should be complete through April. Phil has been working on the stem sheets but more of that later. John has also deserted the dreaded Harbour Launch

refit for the more romantic jobs on offer on Excellent. Talk about the rats deserting the sinking ship.

**Tool Security -** This has become a real issue of late and various volunteers take varying courses of action to ensure 'Tool Security' is not breached. Fred, Dave and John have taken to storing all of the tools that they use on the Harbour Launch thereby deterring other users because at low tide it's a long way down.

Mack, Bob and Sadie on the other hand look after theirs by stowing the tools that they want to hang on to in their lockers. Some people are so sneaky that they just leave them on the benches so no one else can ever find them. However by far the most se-



cure approach has to go to Phil, he decided that nobody was going to get their hands on his clamp, so he built it into the seats so if anyone



wanted to pinch it they would have to take the boat as well. Just so we can all benefit from his approach I have added the photos above as a training aid. These show Sadie in the process of trying to break the code and get Phil's clamp out of the woodwork. Nice one Phil, it must have something he learned at the Lyme Regis school of boat building.



## March 2010 Update -

**Motor Whaler -** My boomerang won't come back, Oh no My boomerang won't come back. Having laminated the first half Fred released the clamps from the jig once the glue had set and all was fine. The trouble was that after a short time the breast hook turned into a boomerang with lots of failed joints. Ian was not



happy and called on at least half of the horse-men of the apocalypse to do all sort of horrible things to his erstwhile mate Fred. However in reality Fred had done Ian a favour by showing up some duff bonds,

that's the trouble when you use an unknown glue for the first time on a critical job. Still we live and learn and Ian needed the experience.

**A new arrival -** The Trust's new 3 in 1 whaler. She is an early version of the original 3 in 1 built in



1959 employing double diagonal mahogany planking on Canadian Elm ribs and risers. She has no engine or stern gear but makes a welcome addition to the collection. The photo below shows her as she arrived on the back of a low loader. Below right she has made it off the lorry and onto her blocks with all of the guys milling around her sizing her up to determine if we are going to let Ian loose on her after he has finished the Motor Whaler. This whaler makes up our complete set of the four types. She will be restored but not as a floating exhibit, she will be a dry display only in the boathouse. She has been started on by some of the Marchwood team. She has been cleaned out and the mast and boom have been stripped down and he varnish coats started.



**Spare FD6 Foden Engine. -** We have managed to locate a complete engine and gearbox. It is in Northumbria just short of the Scottish border. It is for sale or possibly exchange for some of our Foden Spares.



## April 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 Tui -** 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. 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 -** Chase up the spare gearbox located in Hexham and check viability of obtaining it.

**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 -** This one is a cracker. Who is that takes a 110 volt refrigerator, changes the plug so that it will fit a 230 volt supply and then wonders why his milk has gone off. Do you want a clue, if the name you have is loosely linked with Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest then Bobs' your Uncle.

**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