



Monthly News Letter May 2011

Historic Boat Section



Two Bank Holidays under our belt this month and we still managed to do quite a bit of work. Whaler 'Westerman' nearing completion, the Green Parrot engines out, Motor whaler 'Danae' engine in and a new stores area near completion. Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust

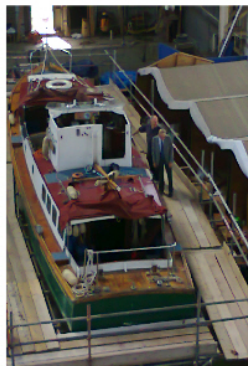


May 2011 Update -

Landing Craft F8 - She went totally green in the month. We could leave her dodgy pumps no longer and so Terry and Fred finally fitted two installed 12 volt pumps, float switches a big man's battery set and an even bigger big man's solar panel. Eat you heart out Brian H, no more poking the pumps and switches with your big stick. They are finally automated and the pontoon is clear to walk on without tripping up over power supplies, leads and extension leads, quite boring really, no fun or excitement left.

The Run Away Crane came down the track and she blew - Fred went up in the world and had some high level training during the month. Whilst spending the best part of a day driving the cranes for their annual tests he managed to demonstrate to the inspector very effectively that the override brakes on the 30 Ton crane were a bit dodgy at full speed. At least we know that the wooden buffers will stop the crane going through the end of the boathouse but it does make one hell of a bang. Alan 'a' Dale (who had been a crane service engineer in an earlier life) has done a fantastic job of servicing the contact controllers and for the first time we have some low speed control over the beast.

The Green Parrot Refit - She has been progressed well in the month, firstly before we could make a start she had to have some staging put up around her. Over left Brian is taking a steady walk round and finding out what needs to be replaced. So far it is the Starboard side of the cabin sides that seem to be



worse off with quite a lot of rotten timbers. The engines have been cleared of all ancillary kit and both engines removed ready for the 'clankies' to get to grips and sort out the holey sump. The photo on right shows the port



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engine nestling comfortably on the new engine service bed that Fred and John so carefully made last month. Don't you think it sits nicely? That's because Fred has now rebuilt it so that it actually fits the engine that came out of the boat rather than the spare engine that he took the measurements from. Who would have guessed that the engine mounts would have been 10 inches shorter. Good Old Clanky Tony and his mate Clanky Shiner did laugh, they were very good though they only casually let it slip to whoever they met 30 times in the first hour. (Smart B#s<^~ds.). It is as well that we have taken out both engines as the Starboard



engine also has a hole eaten away in the sump. Let's all hold our breath whilst we sort out a skilled aluminium welder or somebody with a couple of big bottles of champagne that

we can take the corks out of. Over right is the Port engine after Fred had degreased and pressure washed it and the photo below shows Terry taking out one of the oil filters on the clean engine. He waited until Fred had cleaned it so that he wouldn't have to get his 'dannies' dirty. Terry and



Rob had a go at the grotty bilges but I think Rob was struggling to get down and dirty and he knocked off as soon as he had put the ladder in place for Terry. So far I think he has pulled out another 30 gallons of oil and waste. We had the Asbestos Surveyor in to check the Engine room bulkhead material and it has been confirmed that there is **no** asbestos involved. Masks off, deep breathing commence.



May 2011 Update -

Whaler Westerman - She has been back in the water twice in the month after last month, she was still making water. We have done quite a lot of work on her in the month and is due completion 31st. May. Then the fun really begins. We are positively locked



in to the 'Round the Island Race' at the end of June so it will be all systems go to get some sail training done. In the photo over left



Whaler John and Geoff are caught fitting a fashion piece along the centre board casing to stop one of the leaks whilst right Alan surveys his handiwork having just finished another grating, (he's bloody good ain't he). Below Ian is seen taking things too seriously to get his paint line on the rudder level, yes he is using a spirit level. On the other hand though below right 'Fisherman' Pete is busy very freehand painting the



inside of 'Westerman', sorry if I took you by surprise Pete, fair stopped you mid stroke. Other guys and gals involved in trying to finish 'Westerman' this month have been Trevor, Fred, Sadie, Dave and Poser Vince. Watch this space next month for her 'Maiden' voyage!!!!!!



May 2011 Update -

Motor Whaler Danae - Her engine is now back in and fully plumbed with her prop shaft set up and aligned thanks to clankies Tony and Shiner. Robert 'I have started so I'll finish' of Nottingham has been busy fitting out and painting her after bilges and bottom boards, Terry, Fred and Geoff have fitted her new bilge keel and Allan 2 has been rewiring the engine electrics. Below you can see some of these merry men all



gainfully employed with Ian in the bottom photo doing his impression of Bugs Bunny, I think!!!



It won't be long now before she gets her new rubbing strips back on and another coat of paint.

Tribute to the Subterranean Team - Ian's initiated stores project has progressed extremely well with him having successfully conned a whole group of volunteers to help him out with it along the way. The photos at the top of the following page show a before and after state. This section is a small tribute to everyone that got themselves sucked into Mad Ian's project and of course to Ian himself who we all thought was totally off his trolley when he started it. So here we go, there was 'Poser' Vince who went mad with the White emulsion on walls and ceilings,



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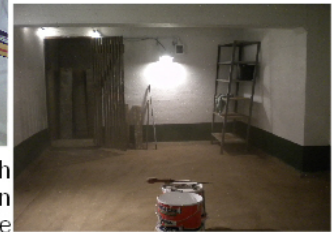


Fred who spread some spare grey paint around the bottom of some of the walls and generally

tried to keep well out of the way, Alan 'a' Dale who knitted some wonderful necklaces of lights and



things, Robert of Nottingham who helped with the initial sorting out and also helped Alan 'a' Dale with his bits of electric string, Trevor who helped Fisherman Pete clear away some gash framework



and also helped him with the new gate, Fisherman Pete also cleared out the new paint store and set it up and made and fitted the new gate despite everybody else and their helpful suggestions (like 'I wouldn't have done it that way') and also helped to sort out the 'rising damp'. 'Airman' Pete, Rob and Brian H also got sucked in from time to time.

June Wish List - Quarterly work sheets - These are now up and running for the boats detailed below and cover the year up to the end of June and will be updated.

HSL 102 - MGB 81 - HLD D49 - ST 1502 - Whaler 'Excellent' - Whaler 'Westerman' - Motor Whaler 'Danae' - Green Parrot - Cyclops - all of the above have detailed Work to lists in place.

25 Foot FMB 'Ark Royal' - Get her afloat for a short run to check her out

Osborne - Continue monthly checks.

Landing Craft - Improve access with a temporary deck enhancement.

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