

Monthly News Letter

September 2013

Historic Small Craft Sect.



September, the month of firsts – '1st first', Boathouse 5 is filled with wooden boats for the first time in dozens of years, '2nd First', Charmian leaves the Mast Pond and goes to sea for the first time in over 13 years, '3rd first', Charmian arrives on dry land for the first time since Nelson was a boy. '4th First Fred glues his hands into his gloves.

Portsmouth Naval Base

Property Trust

Cyclops – The refit on Cyclops is moving forward, below left she can be seen being cleared of all of her fenders, deck boards and random bits and pieces by one of Ian's naval working parties. We were sent some more



photos of Cyclops in her earlier life courtesy of Michael Murray her previous



owner. Above right she can be seen in the process of having her transom renewed whilst over left she is air-borne on her way back

into the water. I am not sure who the figure is bottom left he appears to be either fleeing from the potential forces of gravity or an irate Health and Safety Officer. Meanwhile back to the present, over right Dave R is busy polishing Cyclops's propeller. Steve



really got carried away at one point sanding off her bottom, as you can see in the photo over left; he looks more like the creature from the black lagoon.

Cyclops has some pretty interesting sculpture work in her keel carried out by the

local Gribble as you can see in the photo below right. As this refit is an interim holding stabilisation process only at this time we will not be carrying out a full repair. However we have had some excellent assistance by the Flexcrete Technologies Ltd. who after some discussion with their technical group have kindly made a donation of some of their waterproof marine repair mortar which we hope will be able to stay the gribble for the next couple of years until she can be given a full rebuild. Watch this space for progress.

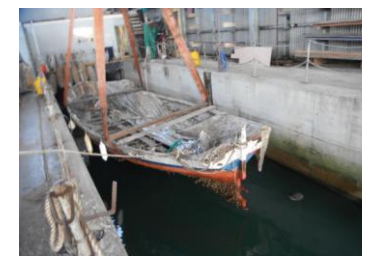


Charmian - This was the month that Charmian finally left the Mast Pond and was brought ashore in the Boathouse. The following Photos track her little voyage. Over right under the watchful eye of Jim she finally leaves the lock gates and is on her way. Below left with 'Tugboat' Trevor at



the helm Nimbus brings Charmian and her crew of Vincent and Mack's grandson safely into the dock.

Over right she is out of the water for the first time in 'yonks' giving us the first glimpse of her hull and keel. First impressions were very favourable as we had anticipated that the Pompey



Gribble may have had a field day on her. Finally below right she is on her blocks and we can really start to get a good look at her. Apart from some dry rot in her transom the worst problem with her at present is the rancid odour of the guano and the remains of 'ex pigeons' left by the odd three hundred or so winged squatters over the years. Can all volunteers desperate to clean her out please form a queue behind Vincent.



HSL 102- She attended the Southampton Boat Show for 4 days courtesy of Richard H and his band of followers. HSL 102 was very well received by the visitors and created a lot of interest. Our 'Mr Knotty' was well up to speed with his performances keeping the crowds



entertained. In the photo above left we can see HSL102 in all her glory alongside. Over right is Knotty Tony in full flow.



Dockyard Lorry refit - Robert of Nottingham has finished the paint job. She is looking brilliant.

Terry, Clanky Shiner and Chippy Chris they have managed to remove the old, make new and refit the the 'P' bracket blocks. Trevor, Vincent, Steve and Ricky have repainted her below the waterline and Vincent and Brian L have made a start on smartening up her brightwork with

a judicial coat of Danish Oil. In the photo at the top of the next column is the dripping Port 'P' bracket just after Fred and Chippy Chris had finished this month's competition for who could get the most



Mastic in the smallest place. Below left Terry is busy trying to remove the old rotten block from the inside of her



hull and below right is the reason that she was leaking, this is what remained of the internal block through which the bolts that



held on the bracket passed. The good news was that both sides were the same once we removed the bolts.

Four Men in a boat, (or not as the case may be). -

Following on from the PB2 Certification training course, the next stage was for some of intrepid coxswains to carry out 'Survival at Sea' training. In the



photo over left the four are seen in the drink. Whilst over right here they are all safe and sound,



warm and nice and dry. They obviously had a good time or we wouldn't be having all those smiling faces. They look almost as happy as Westerman's crew did **after** they had been rescued after we capsized in the Harbour a couple of years back.

Boathouse 4 Move - In anticipation of Moving Whaler 'Westmark' Ricky and Steve have fitted some temporary reinforcing planks along her sheer strake, see over left. Below right Vince is catching up with his new 'e' ciggy



Below left Trevor is organising one of lan's brilliant naval working parties as



they move our 32ft cutter into position outside Boathouse 5. Our figurehead 'Ariane' has also been moved and at present she is reclining on her trailer ready for the move.

Donations - We received £478.60 from collections in Boathouse 4 in addition to the donations made to HSL102 at the Boat Show. HSCS received two donations in kind, many thanks to David and Marion Smith who donated a Coventry Victor boat engine/ gearbox, drive shaft and ancillaries for FMD 'Dainty'. Thanks also go to Flexcrete Technologies Ltd. who kindly donated 74Kg of specialist Marine Environment Cement and invaluable technical guidance for its use on Cyclops's keel.

Suggestions for next month - If you have any ditties, articles, comments, scandal or just plain lies that you would like included just let me know at: boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name.