

Monthly News Letter –

Sept 2014

Historic Small Craft Section



September finally saw the Developers take over Boathouse 4, a full training programme from Day Skippers to Power Boat 2, Competent Crew and Sea Survival days. This month also saw us 'Cooking on Gas'

Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust

The Green Parrot – She has had a small amount of work carried out in the back half of the month. She is still located over in Haslar Marina along with HSL102 and MGB 81. It has been decided that once Boathouse 4 development is completed and the IBTC boat building school is up and running she is in line for a major structural refit. At that time she will have work done to two



of her bulkheads along with the replacement of her side decks. However that is likely to be a couple of

years or so downstream so Fred has been doing some interim repairs to her decks to help keep out the rain water. Above left and right you can see some of the cracks after Fred has finished with his 'raking iron'.



Over left after a couple of day's work the cracks have gone but so has the varnish and at this stage she has had her after coach roof rubbed down, filled and undercoated along with an undercoated Starboard side deck and a freshly painted cabin

side. At least the deck should be watertight. They will eventually be a light shade of non slip green. She is however in Haslar Marina for the duration along with HSL 102 and MGB 81.

32 Foot Naval Cutter Refit – Again this month we have been busy working on this boat. Having given her Port side several coats of primer, undercoat and gloss she is looking really nice. She was heeled over onto her port side and the team got stuck in. Whaler John and Dave S have fitted some graving pieces in where the gaps were just too big for Putty. Bob K and Robert of Nottingham have both had long sessions on her planking stopping all of the nail holes as has Spud Murphy. In the photos below you can see Spud on his hands and knees.



Over Left he is painting the Port side below the bilge rails and in the photo over



right he is putting up the nail holes on the

Starboard side. Ricky has also been involved on her hull as you can see in the photos above left, he is fully engrossed in the job. However to be fair to him he has done quite a lot of physical work as well as giving it a lot of thought. As she didn't have a rudder it was agreed that we should take the pintle assembly off our original 32Ft Naval Cutter and fit it so that we could make a rudder and fit it a bit later on. In the photo below left Chris and Shiner are removing the fitting. Ready for John P to fit it onto the Teak Cutter. John P had also been busy making some tiddly brackets to take Fred's new phosphor bronze 'horse' as well as fitting the pintle to the transom. In the first photo in this section you can see the combined efforts of Fred and John with the horse in place and finally John's efforts with the pintle. All looks to be good and it should be a relatively painless operation to fit the new rudder when it is



needed. In the photo above right Dave appears to be balancing the boat on his chin, in actual fact he is giving the underside yet another coat of paint having just moved the blocks around to get at bits we had previously missed. In the dying days of the month Dave and Whaler John further excelled by nearly filling a dust bin with the scrapings from the inside of half of her hull. While I am still on the cutter, a special thanks to Big John S without whom Fred would still be trying to bend his bit of phosphor bronze.



Training Programme - Danny continued with the Competent Crew programme using 1502 in between Vincent's coats of paint. We also took part in another Sea Survival training day for Fred, Sadie, Ricky, Caroline and Bob K. A good time was had by all. In the photo over left Sadie and



Bob K have just managed to get an 'Unconscious' Fred out of the water and into the raft. It was suggested by some of the less generous people that they hadn't noticed a lot of difference between the unconscious version and the normal state of Fred. Over right the team is carrying out the same exercise with an 'unconscious' Caroline. On completion of the course I think that it was agreed by all concerned that the very best aspect of survival at sea is definitely not to fall over the side or ever get into a situation where you have to abandon ship. The liferafts may be soft and squidgy but they are definitely not comfortable with seven other bods along for the ride. The day culminated with Fred being nominated by Steve the instructor to take part in an ice bucket challenge.



ST 1502 Coding Programme - Vincent finally came back off his work placement programme and was promptly put to work painting 1502's deck. Due to the fairly extensive training programmes running in the month using 1502 his

painting was curtailed so watch this space next month. Shiner and Clanky Tony made a start on some of the through hull fixings as part of the coding exercise

Motor Whaler Danae - Ricky pushed on with the rubbing strakes on the Motor Whaler and nearly single handed managed to get the first fit of the



first section in place. The reason it was only 'nearly single handed' was that he had Fred helping along with some of his interesting suggestions. Anyway as you can see the first bit went round the bend and stayed there after they had walked away so they must have done something right.

Nat's Exhibition Trailer - during the month Tiger pushed on with the exhibition trailer and on the way he challenged a long standing record previously held by Whaler John for the most clamps ever to have been put



in place on a piece of wood. Sorry Tiger but as you can see in the photo over right your attempt was very close but

no cigars this time, the adjudicators deemed that as they can still see bare timber between some of those clamps, (something that Whaler John, our true 'clamping professional' would never countenance). Needless to say they rejected your entry this time around but keep up the good work Tiger you may get there one day. Ready or not this was the month that Nat's Trailer went off to the Southampton Boat Show in all of its splendour. Bottom right of the previous column is a photo of the 'finished' beast in place at Southampton. Like all 'vessels wooden' 'it' became a 'she' and in true order all 'she's' are given a name and her name is 'Tracy' apparently like her namesake she also is an exhibitionist. 'Tracy' attracted a lot of interest as there was a workbench located outside with a range of eager

bods learning new skills. On the day I was there we had Marian and Caroline 'beavering' away with spoke shaves and bolo



planes making some oars and paddles. Above right you can see them both in action. Just remember Marian, if you think that it going against the grain, then it probably is.

Cooking on Gas – As part of Marian's community activity plans she had arranged for Scottish Gas to spend the day with us. As part of Scotia Gas Networks (SGNs) Community Action Programme part of the Innovation



Team flew down from Scotland to volunteer at the Historic Dockyard along with the Southern part of the team. On Thursday 25 Sept Anna and



her teams arrived on site all kitted out in 'Working Togs' along with their brushes, cleaning

clothes and a lot of enthusiasm. We had spent some time planning their stay with so that we could get the maximum amount of



work out of them before they cottoned on they were being conned and lost any impetus. As you can see in the photos above they all appeared to be enjoying the experience as they washed down some dusty whalers, polished dull varnished Admiralty Pattern sailing boats and sanded down some rather large deposits of filler on 1853 wooden figurehead Ariadne. Their standard of workmanship was excellent, surpassed only by their enthusiasm and good humour. They were, as the saying goes 'Cooking on Gas'. The day was of great value to us and hopefully proved useful to them. Anna you can bring your teams back any time and I think we will be able to fill your day.

HSL 102 – Tiger and 'Chippy' Chris have been working on her decks in the month, they have been replacing some of the Glass matting from

her Starboard side deck as it had lifted and water was getting into the ply deck below. I am sure that the job will see her through the coming winter and prevent any further damage from developing.

Future Activities – We have planned a Half Term Activity weekend 25th and 26th October when we will be setting up some benches for young visitors to 'have a go' making model boats and baby 'Fiddler Crab Claw Clamps along with our usual Knotty demos. Towards the 'Build a Boat' benches a lot of the guys and gals have been cutting out diddy boat parts and clamp bits and pieces out of whatever scrap timber we can find. Thanks go to Shiner, Clanky Tony, Ricky, Sadie, Robert of Nottingham, John P, Whaler John, Dave S, Marian, Trevor, Tiger and Fred. Hopefully I haven't left off any other 'Diddy boat bit cutters', if I have I apologise and will give you a full sized entry next month. Also planned for November is a site wide day for Prospective Volunteers for the whole of the Historic Dockyard. This will be on Friday 7 November and will be another 'Hands on' event covering a range of activity benches / workshops.

Donations – In the month of August we collected £340.55 in donations from visitors to Boat House 5, many thanks to all of our visitors and supporters

Any Suggestions for next month - If you have got any just let me know my 'e' mail address is: - boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name.