



Monthly News Letter Nov. 2010

Historic Boat Section



November gone, December here, Christmas next and then New Year. The year has slipped away. Lots of work done, all we need to do now is finish just one boat amongst the many to make the governors smile.

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**



Nov. 2010 Update -

Harbour Launch D49. Another month's work under



our belt with more of the 'To do List' items completed. Dave, Whaler John and Alan 'a Dale have pushed on with the fitting work whilst Terry had another go at the engine with

Tony. Above left Dave is seen supervising Whaler John on how to use a screwdriver whilst fitting the weather quadrant on the foredeck. John and Alan also are still knocking on with the rib replacement job



and Alan can be seen over right on the last knockings. He has also played an absolute blinder in cleaning out the bilges of all of the waste and rubbish left from the old ribs. All we need now is a quick coat of bilge paint and we can get the ballast blocks back in place. The Rubber dinghy took some water during the bad rain sessions so it fell to Fred and John to empty the cover of about 30 gallons. In the photo below right you can see Whaler John fitting back the empty cover over the dinghy, this was taken by a very damp Fred who had just been on the receiving end from an over exuberant John. It only took three days to dry out my boots. My time will come.



Whaler Excellent - Alan 1, Spud and Peter carried on with the boat until she was moved out for the Christmas Festival. The photo left shows them with Mack at work before the move. Things were obviously getting serious on the "We had better get it right" front as I also caught Peter with a set of Whaler



Nov. 2010 Update -

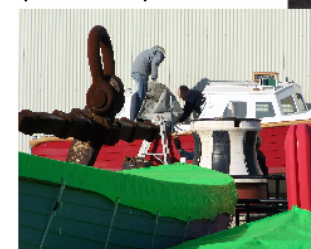
drawings in his hand, see below right. Below also are some photos taken during the mass migration of the boats.

Directly below shows Spud Murphy and Alan temporarily out of work following the loss of their whaler posing



with another 'anchor making three in total. Below right shows Ark Royal just about to leave the Boat House with all of the chiefs giving random instructions to Trevor who is driving the forklift.

Below Excellent is in the foreground with Ark Royal in the background all ready for the Christmas Festival. Also present is Spud and Alan



1's friend the third anchor. Last but not least shows Excellent all

dressed out in her new green cover ready to weather the storms.

Tool repair time - Last month we managed to



blow up the main band saw. Below you can see Alan 'a Dale tracking down the backing plate for the replacement Air Conditioning motor that we salvaged earlier. He and Fred were in the process of fitting it. This was only the third time he had put it down and lost it. Promise us you will buck up in future Alan.



Nov. 2010 Update -

Motor whaler Danae- First of all she was allocated her name, since then it has been all systems go this month on this whaler. Firstly Allan 2 and Tony carried on with refitting the engine. Below left is Allan 2 giving it a coat of green gloss, (what other colour would a 'greeny' use.?) After that the two 'intrepids' fitted the new injectors, alternator and Starter Motor. During this work Allan 2 found the manufacturer's build tally on the engine. It was built in 1933. This makes the engine older than most of the volunteers. The only difference is the engine still works or would do if our resident butcher had spent more time watching what he was doing with the starter motor rather than thinking about mincing beef, filleting a pork loin or cutting lamb chops. I am not trying to infer that he is a butcher, he is a butcher. All we need now is a replacement starter motor. In the meantime Rob and Trevor pushed on with the stem post, in the photo over left, Trevor is seen giving Rob a head start on trimming the new timber and fitting the rudder bar and propeller guard. Rob is seen below giving her a coat of primer



Also allocated names in the month were the 3 in 1 Whaler now to be known as 'Acute' and our second Montagu whaler which has been allocated the name of 'Westeman' after one of earlier volunteers having spent much time working on her before he sadly died.

1502 refit - We made quite good progress on her in the month with Alan 'a Dale and Terry having completed all of the underwater work. Fred and Vince pushed on with the engine space coaming replacement and Robert of Nottingham fitting all of the weather quadrant round the superstructure. Dave 4 made some really nice brass fiddly bits for Fred's new



fuel tank. Next we have got Vince imposing his will over an innocent piece of quadrant making sure it matched up



piece. Below Right shows the boat back in the water with Robert 'I have started

so I'll finish' of Nottingham aboard rubbing down the weather quadrant. Peter also sorted out the damaged battery box cover as you can see below left ably assisted by Vince who made up some nice brass corner brackets.

To do to list stats . The analysis of the last three months worth of 'To do List' showed a 68% hit rate.



Nov. 2010 Update -

coaming and Dave 2 fitted the stem light / flag staff base in place. She finally went back in the water on the Monday before the Festival. Below are some of the photos showing the work as it progressed. First left



Terry and Alan 'a Dale fitting the final sacrificial anode, you can't see it from this shot but Terry's arm was extended by about six inches so that he could fit the inside bolt without removing the

with one of Fred's efforts. Over left is a shot of the new coaming in place ready for finishing before Fred fitted the capping



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Dec. 2010 - To do list

Quarterly work sheets - The next rolling quarter's lists covering December, January and February are available. Including some new guidelines covering some of the requirements from the Manual "Conserving Historic Vessels" Vol 3.

HSL 102 - Responsibility for this boat is being transferred from this group. Work package / handover in the month subject to Boat Committee.

MGB 81 - Responsibility for this boat is being transferred from this group. Work package / handover in the month subject to Boat Committee.

Crew Training - Hopefully to be set up in the coming weeks / months to be completed before next season

Ariadne - Figure head refit on hold until further notice.

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

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

Admiralty Pattern 14 Ft - Work held pending completion of current work load.

32 Foot Rowing Cutter - Keep a watching brief on her now she is held in the tunnel in a holding condition.

Landing Craft - Fit some low volume pumps with batteries and solar panel similar to Cyclops (subject to Boat Committee approval depending on remaining time left on the Mast Pond). Improve access with a temporary deck enhancement.

20 Foot Clinker Sea-boat - The engine needs to be serviced and restored before it can be fitted back into the hull. Work held pending completion of current work load.

15 Foot Fast Motor Boat - . Currently on hold.

Main Pontoon - Construct a power stanchion to incorporate the twin solar panels.

This Month's Competition - There is no competition this month but I am sure everyone would like to wish Maintenance Steve all the best for a rapid recovery from his current stay in Hospital. The lengths some people will go to get a eight weeks off work never cease to amaze me. Good luck Steve and take care.

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.