



# Monthly News Letter Oct. 2010

## Historic Boat Section



Ten months of the year have managed to slip by and all of a sudden we are about to move all of the boats out of the boathouse to make way for the Christmas Festival. Again another month with loads of work done on the boats but it may be the last until we get back to normal after the Festival.

**Portsmouth Naval Base  
Property Trust**



## Oct. 2010 Update -

**Harbour Launch D49.** Work has progressed in the month without taking her out of service. Dave has pushed on with the Engine room fittings that were



taken out to replace the carlin earlier in the year. He has been doing some sterling work John and Alan a' Dale have replaced some more of the secondary ribs that we found were rotten when we took out the

ballast blocks. This work package has been quite difficult as most of the joinery work has been below the deck boards in the forward cabin. Above left you can see Whaler John getting down and dirty. Below right you can see one of the new laminated ribs in place before cleaning up the joints. It was easier to photograph it than it was to do it. Terry replaced the leaking fuel lines on the engine. The acid test came on the day planned to take out some of our benefactors and low and behold she started first time following the change of one battery.



**L.C.A. F8** - Ongoing damage limitations. The landing craft still gives some of us regular work just keeping her drained down. Below we can see both Terry and Brian H on their daily stints sorting out the pumps trying to suss out just what the hell the other has done



the day before. Bottom right shows my mate Terry getting the last drops out of the tiller flat whilst Upper left

shows Brian H taking his life in his hands to reposition the dreaded mains pumps in the engine room. Just don't step back to admire your work Brian.



**ST 1502** - She has had a lot of work done in the month, unfortunately some of the painting has been wasted as all of the weather quadrant around the superstructure has had to be removed as it is rotten



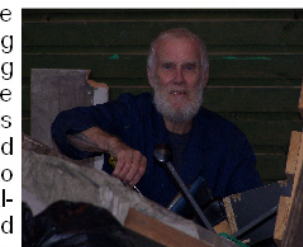
## Oct. 2010 Update -

and also the coaming around the engine bay has had to be removed as it had been made of soft wood during her last refit prior to coming to the Property trust. This was done by Paul with a saw and a big hammer and chisel. Terry finally replaced the sea-cocks and they look the real business, hopefully we won't have the problem of the dodgy lever any more not knowing if the cock was open or closed. No doubt the engines will breathe a sigh of relief. Above



right we can see Vince getting to grips with a piece of dodgy quadrant as he strips off the old pieces whilst over left we can see Robert of Nottingham getting ready to put some of the new quadrant back in place. He would have been

helped by Alan 'a Dale but I found him going through the skip seeing if he could find some knee pads because his stint on D49 had killed off his knees. He had to make do with a salvaged chair back. Fred made a start on replacing the coaming once the new timber had been delivered. Hopefully using hard wood will ensure that the new coaming should outlast Fred so some other poor 'person' can remove it next time.



**Whaler Excellent Refit** - Spud Murphy, Mack and Alan1 have all been busy on Excellent this month. Spud has continued with the painting doing an under-coat. Mack promptly came up after him varnishing the thwarts only to be conned by Fred into getting the big man's sander going to clean off all of the old varnish and spray a good solid coat of dust all over the boat. Sorry Mack you should have seen that coming. But Spud proved his worth yet again by getting the vacuum out and just carrying on. Alan1 has started on another set of Gratings and as you can see over page





## Oct. 2010 Update -



he always looks happy in his work. Over left he is seen fitting the stem flag staff to his first grating panel, and no that is not a Christmas hat he's wearing just his dust mask. Below right Mack is caught with the sander in action so there is no denying it, he definitely made the mess, and lower left he is



cleaning up one of the thwarts with some white spirit ready for varnishing.

**Motor whaler** - Ian and Rob have progressed again with this boat, Rob is very nearly there on the stem post repair. Below left Ian is about to get dangerous with a big man's circular saw as he prepares to cut up some expensive timber to replace the rubbing strips on the whaler. Below right we can see Ian swearing at me because of my camera as I catch



him giving the beast another coat of grey undercoat. I think that what he's saying he would like to do to my

picture taking machine is probably illegal. Bottom left Ian has co-opted some more of the guys into helping to rub down the other side. Clanky Tony and his sidekick Allan2 have been busy on the engine.



## Oct. 2010 Update -

They managed to extract the engine from it's hiding place amid a vast amount of huffing and puffing and help from any unwary individuals who happened across their path. They have removed the injectors, the starter motor and generator and all are away for refurbishment prior to rebuild and re-installation. Sorry I only managed one photo because I was one of the unwary that got sucked into lifting and shifting with them.

**Boat Covers -R - Us** - At last we have got another body that can unravel the intricacies of the sewing machine. Trevor is one of our newer volunteers and has got experience of sail making as well as being a shipwright in an earlier life. He has been busy amongst other things knocking out some boat covers for the boats in anticipation of their move outside for the Christmas Festival at the end of



November. The trouble is, as soon as he finishes one Ian comes along with another requirement. We have now got a whole board of jobs waiting to be done. Talk about 'over working a willing horse' Above left we can see Trevor hard at it making one of the covers for the whalers, whilst over right I managed to catch him preparing some timber to fit out our Number two 'grey' whaler, (his other job). It's nice to see this whaler being progressed as she has been on hold for a couple of years waiting the right priority.



**H.S.L 102** - Having come back from the Boat Show we have been trying to catch up with the list of jobs needed to be cleared as part of her coding requirements. We had the surveyor back in in the month and have now got an agreed way forward on the outstanding issues. Fred and Terry have been working on her but she has now been taken back to Gunwharf where further working is impracticable at present.

**MTB 81** - She is also back from the boat show but unfortunately her Starboard engine has decided to stop playing and despite the best attentions of Fred and Terry she is in need of professional diagnosis. The amateurs can get it started but not by using the on board controls/wiring. A potential alarm sequencing problem is suspected.



## Nov. 2010 - To do list

**Quarterly work sheets** - The full update on the work to sheets will be made in the month extending the programme of work out to cover November, December and January.

**HSL 102** - Finish fitting the battery charging circuits in place when the 12 volt versions are available and agree the new anchor winch. Build a grating / walkway in the forward section of engine room midline. Complete all of the outstanding 'Coding' tasks.

**MGB 81** - All major work is currently being done by outside contractors. Other work needed, Battery charging circuits to be fitted. Fit bilge alarms, assess the bilge pumps and wiring, fit radar reflector.

**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.

**Landing Craft** - Fit some low volume pumps with batteries and solar panel similar to Cyclops. 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

**ST 1502** - Fit new ignition switches, finish current programme and service the engines.

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

**This Month's Competition** - Who was it that Ian conned into going afloat in the rubber dinghy and who got his feet wet when it leaked. If you want a clue, he is mates with Clanky Tony, he was in the Fleet Air Arm and he has been competing with Terry to see who can sort out the outboard engines. If your answer isn't Allan2 then you are wrong.

**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.