

# Monthly News Letter

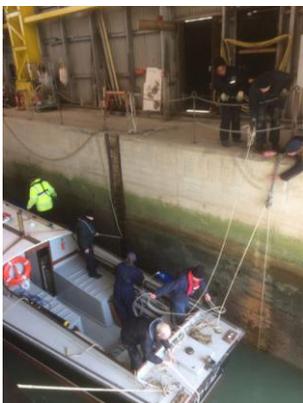
## Boathouse 4/5 Volunteers

January 2017



January has been an interesting month, Planning started on the pending Armed Steam Cutter Restoration along with some early stage Project planning work on the replica Coastal Motor Boat and finally Marian our Volunteer Co-ordinator retired.

### Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



**The Green Parrot** – The guys and gals have now got her port after cabin side complete and in place with the homelets cut to take the coach roof beams.



**ST 1502, HSL 102 and MGB 81** – It is the time of the year for MGB 81's annual lift out and bottom scrape ready to be anti fouled. In the photos below she is being lifted at the boat yard ready for our team of willing bods to descend and get paint all over their heads and hands. She looks as good in the air as she does afloat. Well almost!



**ST 1502-** She had been brought into the dock in the boathouse to keep her dry and safe over the Christmas period. She was due for a short run into the harbour as a test run to check out her engines and pick up some fuel. We had a little bit of a problem firstly she didn't want to start and then having sorted out an air block in the fuel lines as we tried to warp her out of the dock and onto

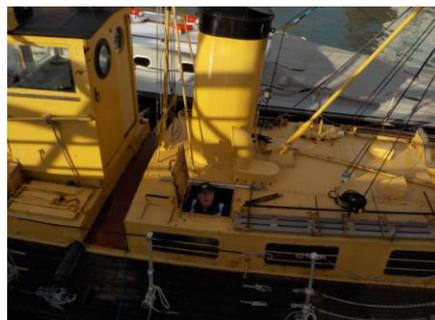


the pontoon it became apparent that one of her 'P' brackets had caught up on our warping line over the weeks with the rising and falling tide. In the photo over right the guys are in the process of trying to disengage the tangled warp. In the meantime we had a group of willing volunteers ready to get on board and have a little jolly to blow away the post Christmas cobwebs. Over left you can see Graham A, Fay P and Brian D along with John C all who had been excused duty on Cyclops all eager to go. It was however not be, at least not until we had lifted her out of the water and got rid of the offending bit of line. All in a day's work in Boathouse 4. She didn't go out on that day but she did go out later on with the engine installation engineer as part of a diagnostic run to see why she wouldn't run up to the correct speed. The engineer fitted two new fuel pumps and the investigation continues as we

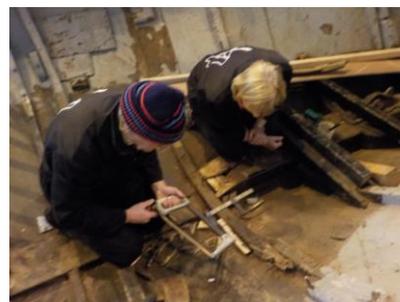
try to get the extra 7 or 8 knots out of her.

**D49** – She is operational now up and running leaving us to finish off all of her outstanding paint jobs and for John B to finalise her upper deck seating. In the photos over on the next page some of the guys can be seen pushing on with the jobs. On the left John B is in the process of gluing up the last of the upper deck seats and

over right Chris H is appearing from the engine room just as if he had had a summons from a higher being. Oh alright then, it was me setting up the photo from the gangway, I just called his name and he appeared.



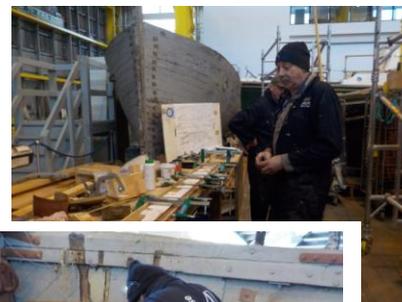
**Cyclops Restoration Programme-** Things have moved on quite well in the month, we have had some fairly consistent crews working on her each day. David S, Graham A, Keith D, Pauline P, Whaler John, John P, Brian D, John C, Aiden P, Susan D, Linden T, Jim L, Keith D, Fay P, Pauline, Tom B, Jim M, Janet C, Brian E, Ron L and Sadie have been working on the thwarts, finishing off the risers, making up rowlock chocks and making and fitting frames. In the series of photos here and below some of these activities have been captured. Over left John C is working on one of the thwarts as he glues up a filler piece. Whilst John is doing that Sadie is busy cutting out some of the rebates that the thwarts will fit in. In the photo above right Whaler John and Anne C are cutting out a damaged section of one of the frames so that we can fit a new piece in place. There are about twelve or so frames that will be replaced or repaired during the whole programme. Both of Cyclops's risers are now complete with the last section being spiled in by Anne C over left as she makes up the makes up a spiling board to take off the pattern for John P above right to mark up and cut the timber to shape. Following on from last month's frame building in situ this month we used a different method and made up a series of moulding boards to make up the laminated frames. In the photo over and above left Whaler John, John C and Brian D are doing a mass 'glue up' ready to put the laminations together and cramp them all up. Over right after it has been glued it is being cleaned up and bevelled by Fay so that it fits the boat. Just think all this work just to produce something that looks like an anorexic anteater bottom left. Then finally, in the photo over right another of the new frames is in place and we are ready to move on to the next. Below you can see a selection of frames made by Tom B, Jim M, Brian E, Janet along with one of the rowlock



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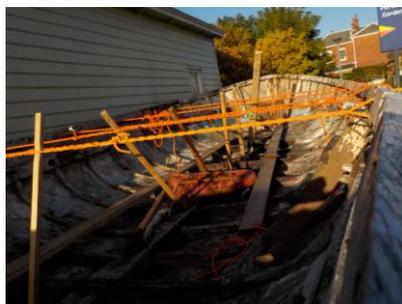
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chock prototype being used to trial fit Fred's brass inserts and far right Brian D is putting a bevel and bull-nose edge to one of the new thwarts.



**Dartmouth Gig Restoration-** Work on the gig this month has had a bit of a set-back as David G has sadly not been able to come into work due to a personal bereavement, all of our thoughts are with David at this time.

**Charmian** – She has only had a quick turn of the Spanish windlasses in the month and she is still in the process of slimming down across her beam. She is down to about 10ft.6 across her beam. Only another 12 inches to go!



**Replica 1916 Coastal Motor Boat – CMB** - Following on from being awarded a grant from the LIBOR funds some early planning has been taking place. Diggory and Bob, our resident shipwright made a visit to RAF Dunsfold to have a good look at the original craft which is on display in the Museum. Apart from many photographs being taken of the boat I have managed to obtain a photograph of Bob F having a shuffie through the exhaust. Just like one of our little boat fairies, green pixie hat and all (Courtesy of Photoshop).



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**Armed Steam Cutter ASC26 – Falmouth** – Bob has also started to look at the initial planning stages of her restoration which hopefully can start later on in the year as we move forward with Cyclops. Work has also been started off site on her steam engine.

**A little point of interest-** In last month's News Letter if you remember I put in some photos of Illustrious as she departed Portsmouth for the last time bound for the Turkish scrap yard. Well this brought back some memories for Tony Dalton a friend of Mike Murray (who was Cyclops's previous owner). Tony has sent me a photograph taken by Mike of Illustrious as she steamed between the Bagh Glean Nam Mhic and Jura through the famous Corryvreckan whirlpool in April 2001. This area is of special interest for Cyclops as it was her earlier stomping ground during her earlier working life.



**Farewell to Marian** – Marian Smith, who has been our Volunteer Co-Ordinator for the past 34 months retired on the last day of January. Marian has worked extremely hard since joining us from the Warrior in April 2014 helping to put together the Boat House 4 Volunteer group and to organise the various activities that we have put on over that time by which we enthral all of our visitors. The following photos show some of Marian's life over the past 34 months. I hope you enjoy looking through these and will join me in wishing Marian a long and happy retirement and wishing her good luck for the future. Over right she has just been presented with her going



away prezzies by Caroline and Fred. I am sure we will all miss Marian's smiles in the face of adversity and her 'attaboys' and 'high fives' when all was well.



**Suggestions for next month** - If you have got any ditties, lies, scandal or photos that you would like to see in print just let me know, my 'e' mail address is: - [boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com](mailto:boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com). Fred is the name.