

Monthly News Letter – January 2012

Historic Small Craft Section



Just as we get used to lounging around and eating mince pies and Christmas pud along comes the New Year and it's all systems go again. Roll on Easter and 'chockie' eggs

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**

Cyclops – Her Engine room pump failed in the month and whilst sorting out the problem it was noticed that the big bad dry rot fairy had made her nest in the Port inner



gunwale over the distance of about 5 feet. This work can be done afloat and will be started in the next



month or so to remove all of the rot. The photo over right shows Whaler John giving the flooded bilges a serious looking at whilst his mate Fred is up to his ankles in water whilst Terry looks on with glee.

The Green Parrot - This month has hopefully seen the end of us taking bits off and we are now in the process of putting all of



the bits back. Trevor and Pete have moved some of the scaffolding to allow us access down to the water line Below left Trevor and Fisherman Pete are doing their imitation of butch scaffolders. Fisherman Pete and 'part time' Vince have volunteered to carry on with the hull strip. Above



right Vince is posing with a paint stripper trying to kid everyone he is working whilst Fisherman Pete is seen really working on the same job. The main



assembly job is to complete the after deck and tiller flat which had been stripped back to basic cross beams. Dave, Whaler John and Fred

have been busy in this area whilst Photo over left shows Dave and John as they start to put back and strengthen the damaged transom main beam. Clankies, Tony and Shiner have got back onto the dreaded lifting eye bolts if only for about five minutes. Terry and Dave cleaned up the stern gear and props and prop shaft as well as removing the damaged studding from the sacrificial anodes and replacing the gland packing in anticipation of



the engines going back in at some time in the next month or so once they have been rebuilt. Over right Dave is seen

polishing the propellers. An interesting observation has been made by the



wo intrepid fellows. The propellers are slightly differing sizes, aren't they clever people, the first to spot this in over 15 years and multiple refits!!!!

ST 1502 – She hasn't been used in anger this month and as the weather had been very good early on Vince offered to go aboard and give all of her woodwork another coat of Teak Oil. This can only be put down to his New Year's Resolution of becoming our best and most productive volunteer or he wanted to top up his tan before the weather changed. I am sorry that missed the photo opportunity but I was in severe shock for the rest of the day and by the time I had recovered he was back, job done.

Whaler Westerman – We finally got her out of the water in the month and onto some landing blocks. The plan is to get her back into the water fairly quickly so that she doesn't dry out too much. She was given a full rub down with wet and dry removing any loose or blistered paint. This job went to Andy and surprise surprise, our 'Changed' volunteer Vincent. The pictures here show the two of them at work doing an excellent job. The photo below left shows Vince in his latest supervisory position giving poor old Andy the benefit of his new and revised experience whilst below right he is seen in working mode painting the antifouling and much to my amazement I



have to say he did a very good job. (What is happening to us all, the world has gone mad.) Vince and Andy later went on to give Westerman her top coat of gloss. Sorry Andy I missed your part in this



finish off her refit. (I can't believe I am going to say this) but again it was Vincent who washed her down and got rid of all of the slime. 'Excellent' has got a split plank below the waterline on her port quarter. Once this is replaced she will be finished off inside and her hull painted. She will then be ready for Royal Navy team that have asked for her to take part in the Queen's Pageant in June.

Boat Crew Training – The long awaited 'Competent Crew' and boat Coxswain courses have now been set up with the first class room session taking place in the month. Any volunteers that wish to take their chances have put down their name. We will be using the harbour launch D49 to build up the practical aspects of the two courses so watch this space. Once again our super volunteer Vince took advanced steps to get ahead of the game. He took early boat handling training with the help of Trevor. He decided that he wanted to be able to at least row a dinghy. In the photo above left he is pictured in our dry land simulator 'rowing' across the boathouse floor.



has been busy confounding everyone with his latest creation. He has been doing a bit of 'offset' work for one of the sail training ships by way of payback for

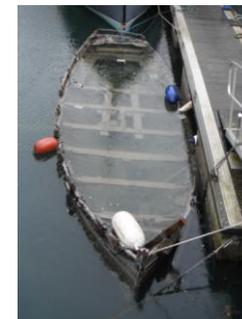


but here is another of 'Vincente' at work.

Whaler Excellent – She was also taken out of the water so that she could have her noted leaks addressed and then

earlier donations that they had made to the Trust. Below he is busy making a 'Radar protection' net to go round her radar aerial. He has been doing this in between getting summoned to help Terry on the LCA as they replace yet another bilge pump.

Mast Pond Clear up – The 32 ft Cutter was removed from the tunnel so that some of the other boats could be taken out in anticipation of some of the Mast Pond development. The 22ft Fairline 'Sirius' previously sold to the Sea Cadets has been removed and she will go to her new owner very shortly. The work-boat Nimbus is coming ashore and will be stripped of her cabin have a strengthened transom and will start life again as the work boat for the Maintenance group. The cutter will be landed in the Boathouse early on in February where she will have a final assessment as to her



ongoing viability after which she will be stripped down and all useable parts salvaged. Over left the Cutter has assumed the same status as Dominique's Bottomless Boat as seen last year.

Motor Whaler Danae – Robert of Nottingham and Allan 2 have done some work on her in the month,

Allan2 has been trying to sort out the throttle cables and Robert has been busy fitting battery box and fuel box lids. The photo below right shows Allan2 busy in the dock.



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.