

Monthly News Letter –

January 2015

Historic Small Craft Section



A good start to this New Year we have missed the snow and ice, work on our boats has progressed fairly well with some new volunteers joining us as we get ready for the completion of the Boathouse 4 development programme.

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**

The Green Parrot – She has only had a bit of work carried out but she remains operational. Clank Shiner and 'Leckie' Chris have finished their ballast block bracing section for the Forward compartment and they fitted it place along with the ballast blocks. Once they finished with the ballast blocks they made a start on sorting out



the after cabin with the help of one of our new volunteers, Alan Beattie 2 started with us in the month. In the photo over left they are seen fighting with the

Green Parrot lay apart store which has just bottomed out through the floor of the Clankies workshop. Over right a group of them are working afloat on the Parrot showing Tim, another of our new starters the boats.



D49 – Danny took out D49 for a brief run up the harbour with some of the guys however this was more about giving the boat a quick run rather than the training programme. The training programme probably wont get back up and running in full until later on in the spring. D49 was also lifted this month for her annual bottom scrape and antifoul. All was well with her.

ST 1502 Coding Programme – She remains in Gosport Marina and has had some work carried out on her engines and electrical systems. Watch this space for future developments.

Motor Whaler Danae – There has been no work on Danae this month partly due to the colder weather but in the main due to changes in priority. All is not lost and she will be picked up again shortly.

Islander Class 14 Ft, 'Wanderer' - Robert of Nottingham has finished the 'Wanderer' and is now making headway with the Admiralty Pattern



14 Foot. Over left Bob can be seen with the Wanderer in all her glory and below right he has started

stripping off the varnish from the inside of the hull of the RNSA 14Ft. This is obviously a labour of love for Robert as it is being an absolute pig of a job getting between the ribs and the clinker planks.



HSL 102 /MGB 81– Tiger has progressed with the deck repairs on 102. He has also been working on the plinth for MGB 81's twin Oerlikon gun mounting that is being fitted just aft of the wheelhouse on the engine room deck head. In the photos over right he is



busy making a full size mock up pattern in the workshop out of thin ply.

FMD Dainty –Pauline has been working on Dainty’s cabin with Trevor as her mentor. Just to really make her day, having managed to get a couple of coats of varnish on the cabin we have decided that in reality it should be painted white. Having thanked Fred for being the bearer of this good news she has been rubbing own the varnish that she had so diligently applied over the last couple of weeks. Oh the joys of being a volunteer.

Exhibition Boat Building Project – Having completed the assembly frame last month we have checked all of the moulds and faired them in so that we could 'loft' out the final shape of the bottom board. In the first photo over right Jim is seen checking out the scarfed joints of the three 8x4 ply panels from which the bottom board is



to be cut. Over left Tiger, with Jim in the background are busy cutting out the full panel



whilst over right Dave and Whaler John are in the process of cutting the

scarfs for 8 off 20 ft battens to be used to laminate the chine logs. Below Dave is on hands and knees cutting all joints in one hit, this way we can guarantee that if



one is good they are all good but conversely if one is duff needless to say so are the rest. Hence the smiley face on John who has decided to watch progress from a distance. Over left Jim is working with John gluing up the joints and



below right is an action shot of 'all hands to' loading the prepared bottom board onto the strong back. Unfortunately in this 'critical phase' shot Fred managed to miss out half the team that were involved, the most important omission was our Admiral Neil Rankin who was somewhere behind Ricky on the right. Sorry about that Neil!



Once the bottom board was secured it was just a quick three days to get it set up perfectly plumb and true. Below left the first stage of the laminated chine logs are in place and glued up. In this shot we have got Carl then Fran along with



Alan B2 and Ricky in the background. Over right you can see Tim B-B yet another new volunteer on his first day with us cutting yet another scarf joint into the



chine logs. Finally for this stage we have a group photo of everyone taking a quick turn of a clamp for a last minute 'tighten' before the glue

sets. Below right is what we have all been aiming for over the past couple of weeks. The moulds set up and fairing battens trued up so we can finally see the size and shape of the beast to



come. At 22Ft with a beam of about 6 Ft. she has grown up from her designed size of 14Ft 7ins with a beam of 4Ft 7ins. Amazing what an enlarging photo plotting table can do. **A point of interest regarding our little boat, she is the first wooden boat to have been built from scratch in Portsmouth Dockyard in about 55 years.**

Rope making is coming back to Portsmouth Dockyard – As part of our long term exhibition and activity days/ workshop demos we will be running a rope making machine for the visitors to use and get an experience of the art. To get this off the ground John Parsons, one of our



Machine'. In the following photos you can see the beast



as it develops from his initial design to the final configuration. Bottom right you can see one end

volunteers has designed and is in the process of building 'The Portsmouth Rope Making



of the rope machine on its truck. This section will move along the bed of the table under tension as the rope is wound whilst the other end will remain static.

In the photo over right you can see our unsung hero trying to merge into the background as he cuts some of the parts for his creation. Sorry John but I had to get a photo of you somewhere.



Whaler Excellent – We have not progressed Excellent too much in the month but things will be moving again soon.

Introducing some of our new volunteers – We had some new starters in the month. Below left Ricky is taking Alan Beattie 2 through some of



don't's' of the pillar drill. At the top of the next page Fran is working with Jim as he explains to her the way we laminate timber and how it



retains the shape after the clamps have been removed. Tim BB joined us for a day

and was promptly thrown in at the deep



end with a chisel and mallet to prepare a scarf joint on the 'Skaffie'. Above right he is busy wondering why

he had volunteered. Dave Casey came in for a taster day so that he could see what we were all about and he was working on the 'Saffie' as well, this time making up some intermediate bevel moulds to be used in shaping the chine log. These are seen in place above left with the 'Hand of Fred' holding his modified bevel gauge.

Donations – In the month of December we collected £87.65 in donations from visitors to Boat House 5, many thanks to all of our visitors and supporters. As in previous months all donations go towards the Small Boat maintenance funds.

Any 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. Fred is the name.