

Monthly News Letter

Boathouse 4 Volunteers

October 2018



Well we couldn't ask for much more in a month, the gig is finished, ASC26 Steam Cutter is back in shape, Cyclops sole bearers started and CMB4 looks pretty much boat shaped.

Portsmouth Naval Base

Property Trust



Cyclops Restoration Programme– Having done a nice job on the grating and the stern decking John and Keith have covered the whole area up with some Sterling board to protect it for the duration. Over left Fay had given the whole of the hull above the decking a good coat of pristine white primer /under coat. In the meantime David S and



were removed at day one with the aim of making a good pattern ready to remake them. John B has been working on

The Green Parrot – She remains on hold at present.

Motor Whaler Danae – “Danae” was finally re-launched this month and to prove it Danny has taken some photos. Really I think they were more to prove to Vanda, his other half that he does go to work a few days a week and



not ‘swanning’ off somewhere else. Above right he is at the tiller bringing her back in after a brief run across the harbour to visit HSL 102 lying alongside

in Haslar Marina for the duration of the dredging around the north side of our main pontoon. Above left Eddie and Chris are some of his crew for the trip. Here they are alongside in Haslar Marina with 102 just visible in the background.

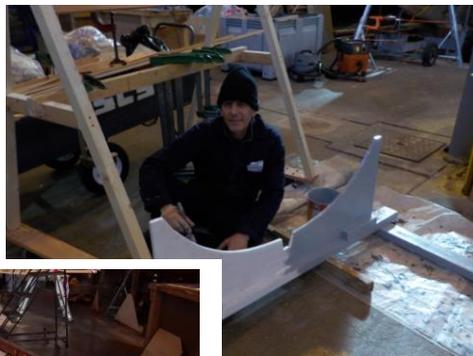


locating the platform back in place. In the photo below left David S is crawling over John and Keith's newly laid forward sole bearers so hopefully with a bit more judicious planning we can get all of them snarled up fighting for the same bit of space in the boat.



Dartmouth Gig Restoration- The Dartmouth gig restoration program was completed in the month and a very pretty little boat

she is too as you can see in the two photos below left and centre. Linden has been working on a cradle for her and Gabi spent some time painting it as you can see above



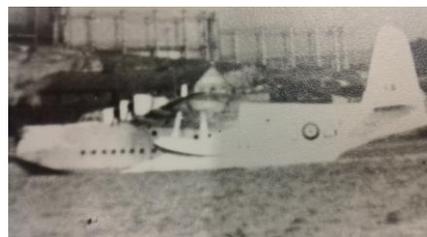
right. Below left and middle the finished gig stands for all to see in all of her glory. Well done to

everyone who was involved in her restoration over the past two and a half years. In the coming weeks she is going to be launched and taken for harbour trials so watch this space.

ST 1502 – She has remained in the dock inside Boat house 4 for the month, Sadie has been carrying out some repair work as she is making a new engine cover for the Starboard engine. During this month we were visited by David Gibbs the son of one of her post war crew circa 1948/49 and he spent some time telling us some stories of her post war service along with some photos of her on station at Mountbatten Plymouth, Invergordon in Scotland, he also served on her at Abersoch Wales. Below left



ST 1502 is operational at Invergordon along with her crew at that time. Top row left to right Geordie Morrison, Ken Blackman and Taffy Berry plus front row AC2 Peter Gibbs (David's dad) and A N



Other bottom right. In the photos over left AC1 Peter Gibbs just after joining up in 1947 and his intake in 1947 with above right one of the Sunderland flying boats at Mountbatten 1949. Peter was one of the crew of ST1502 and having started his RAF career at Calshot one of his first jobs after he had completed his Engineering training with the RAF was to help put 1502 back in the water at Alness prior to bringing her down river to Invergordon. When you think that these boats were only

designed to have a service life of a few of years to still have ST 1502 operational today 76 years after she was built is some feat and testimony to the Hythe yard that built her and the groups that have owned and maintained her over the years.

Dghajsa – Wilson Pickett – Pauline has been pushing on with painting her I can't wait to see all of her traditional paintwork around her wash boards in bright new colours.



D49 – She remains on hold at present but she is living in the dock inside B/H4.

Steam Cutter 438 – There has been no further work on her in the month.

LIBOR Projects “Funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds”

MGB 81– All of her planned work is now complete; she is now fitted out with a galley, heads, showers and new albeit functional accommodation to go with her new engines. Diggory, David and Tiger took her out for her first sea trials towards the end of the month with very good reports coming back from all three.



Landing Craft Assault LCA F 8 – She is due to be moved to a more accessible spot in the boathouse very early on in November where she will have all of her armour plating taken off to lighten her before she is moved out to a local boat yard to be worked on.

Armed Steam Cutter ASC 26 ‘Falmouth’ – Matt and the guys and gals have had a good month on ASC 26. Having got all of the base moulds locked in place along with a temporary gunwale all round the boat she was jiggled and joggled, pushed and pulled and low and he hold she now has beautifully symmetrical lines. Once that was achieved the teams started working on the inside of the hull and some of the structural members. Below left Tom, Dave, Phillip and Jim have taken out the first of her engine bearers, these ran the best part of half the length of the boat. Middle photo below Matt is getting ready with his profile taking wooden chain I think that he originally thought he had a dog on the end of his



wooden chain but looking at him he appears to be saying to himself

“Here Boy, good dog”. Above right Tom B is spiling another pattern and over left he is trying



an external mould for size. Over far right Tom and Dave are discussing tactics or perhaps just passing the time of day as Matt is on holiday. There was some misalignment between the 'A' bracket and the stern tube so it was decided to remove both. Below left the stern tube is out and the stern log is plain for all to see and that is a potential problem because once you can see things you can also see what is wrong and what needs fixing



In the photo middle above Tiger is looking at us through two off 100 year old Lignum Vitae propeller shaft bearings that were found inside the stern tube after it was removed, (non of your high density polyethylene jobbies in those days), David is checking his coiffeur and Matt just looks happy to be there. Far right above you can see an internal strong back that is being used to push out a serious flat in the hull on the port quarter. This had been caused several years ago when the boat got filled with rain water and pressed heavily onto one of her shore side supports. Below left Whaler John is looking pretty pleased with himself at getting a very nice fit on his pattern for an external body mould and below middle Matt, John and Tom are obviously having a detailed management 'thinking about it' session.

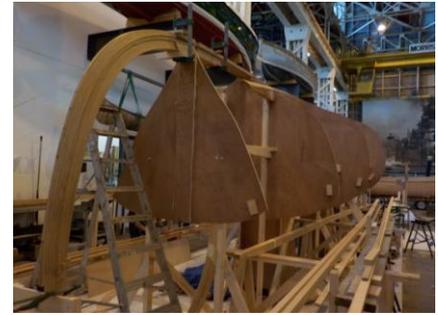


Finally above right, having taken pout the stern tube, a couple of floors and a knee the stern log didn't look as chipper as it could have done so Tom is busy cutting out some dodgy timber to see if it was feasible to fit a graving piece in to repair it.

New Build CMB4 – Well this month has seen the boat transform from set of parts to something that is



actually 'boat shaped'. Above left Geoff G is doing his film star bit as he is bolting up the engine bed tails to the transom and gluing and screwing the hog, he is too good looking for our lot really. Trevor D is marking out the moulds with the 'steamed timber gauging block' and Bob and Bruce have made a start on machining the twin rebates in the stem. At the top of the next page far left Geoff and Steve D, in the middle Bob has got his smiley face on because the stem has moved onto another stage successfully and on the right with the stem dry fitted we can almost think 'boats' providing your imagination is good enough.



Below left Steve D and Bruce are gluing up yet another scarp joint on one of the nineteen stringers whilst in the middle Steve and David Y are busy cutting a set of scarps for the next stringer. Over right Steve is on the Ikadder waiting for Bob to get back with a couple of bolts as we are gluing and bolting the stem finally in place. In this photo the twin rebates for the double planking are nicely shown.



Below left we have got two sets of stringers in place, these two are the very critical ones as the bottom one is for the sheer of the boat and the upper ones are for the chine onto which the hydro step will locate much later once the hull is planked up, perhaps middle of next year. Below middle Steve D is taking one small step for man and one major step for the CMB build crew as he tentatively tries out the new work staging that we had just put up so that we could work above ground level. Below right the finished staging along with the safety rails. Finally bottom left a view of the boat never seen before as we gain access to the upper reaches of the stratosphere and can see over the boat.



Now we can get at the boat from this angle we can now cut all of the slots and get the other stringers in so hopefully next month we should really be able to fit all of the breast hooks and quarter knees and start thinking about putting in the 120 off steamed timbers.

A note from the Library – Jon our new librarian to whom I introduced you to last month has obviously been busy getting to grips with the wide range of extremely interesting and in some cases rare documents. The following is a note that Jon has asked that I include in the Monthly News Letter. From Jon - "Thank you all

for your support as I begin the task of sorting and cataloguing the Library. Hopefully, each month I will let you know about an 'interesting' item I have found. This month's 'interesting' item is; "Instructional Manual for the "Merlin" Sharp EL-512 Calculator. Published in Booragoon, Australia in 1985". If you need a copy let me know!" Jon the Librarian. If this document is of interest to you and you would like to borrow the copy please don't hesitate to contact Jon I am sure he would welcome you into his empire and take you through some of the other interesting stuff he has come across.

A Group Visit – Earlier in the month we had some visits from four groups of students who were visiting the Portsmouth area. The groups consisted of young people attending University Technical Colleges. The students were potentially interested in engineering as a career so it was thought that some of the staff and volunteers could give a series of mini talks / demonstrations of skills used in the boat building industry. The following photos show some of these students as they progress through the Boathouse being entertained / challenged.



Above left Matt is taking one of the groups through a practical use of Pythagoras' theorem in setting out the lines for a keel and transom on the shop floor using chalk lines and the invaluable 3,4,5 ratios relating to a right angled triangle. Next Tom and Janet are showing their groups how to transfer a drawn shape on a lofting floor onto some pattern making material using the sharp edges of nail heads, this they followed up with the use of a fairing batten to plot the lines. Finally Steve D has a group to whom he is explaining the build of the CMB4 whilst showing them the full sized body plans from which we made up all of the boat's moulds. In addition all of the students had a brief engineering based talk by Bob, they were shown the rope making machine and Jim M carried out a demonstration using the students. It was all fairly short and sweet as the visits were limited to one hour max due other visits on their agendas

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.