

Monthly News Letter

Boathouse 4/5 Volunteers

August 2016



Another busy month for one and all, the Summer Festival, 100th Anniversary of Coastal Forces, Open days and the rush of the summer visitors as well as numerous boat movements.

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**



line astern with HSL 102 and Smiter viewed between the barrels of MGB 81's twin Oerlikens. Over right is one of Danny's boyhood dreams coming to life, as a little boy he always thought that he had ferries at the bottom of his garden.

HSL 102 and MGB 81- Along with 1502 these two boats have been proving their worth again in the month. In the following series of photos track the Coastal Forces 100th anniversary commemoration with the mustering of the boat crews as the various film crews get set up for their interviews. This was carried out on the Heritage

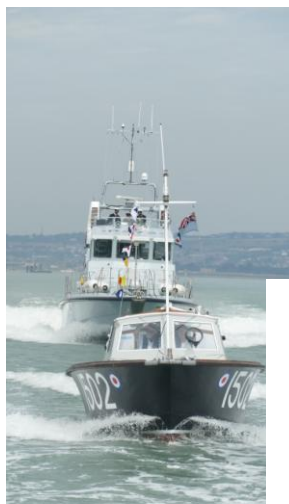
The Green Parrot – The replacement planking adjacent to the Starboard exhaust port has now been completed all being fully nailed and riveted in place. The top left photo shows



the inner view with a myriad of copper roves and the photo over right shows the outside planks with nicely countersunk nail heads all ready to take the stopping.



ST 1502 – Following her coding programme she has been on active service in the month. In the photos below she is busy along with the other two power boats and Medusa and Naval Patrol Boat Smiter. The flotilla was celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Coastal Forces Maritime Squadrons. Over left it was just like a Christmas pantomime, "Look out Danny, she's behind you", "Oh no she isn't". "Oh yes she is". Above right it was a case of 'Hello Big Buoy, what are you doing all



the way out here". Finally over left she is away on her own and looking good and middle she is



Pontoon. We were met on the pontoon by Medusa as she was to form part of the historic sail past in the harbour.

Below left the volunteers are all together and ready to go and over right the squadron is alongside with 81's gun crews all closed up as can be seen in the left and centre photos middle row. Over right 81 and Medusa are getting ready for the sail past and finally at the bottom left 81 is seen steaming along looking her usual exceptional self.



If you would like to have more information about the Centenary, follow the links below.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire.37182943>

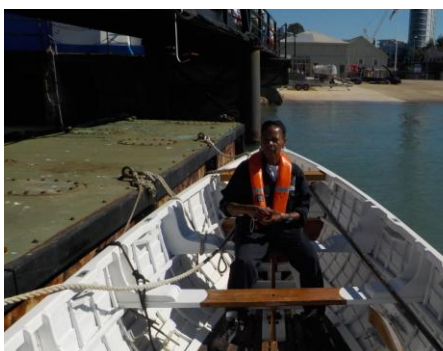
<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/search/?q=Coastal+forces+centenary>

For more photos see us on the Boats Afloat Boathouse 4 facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Boats-Afloat-Boathouse-4-662222557286452/photos>

Dartmouth Gig Restoration- Progress has been maintained in the month with David G and his team repairing the planks and getting some of them back into position. Tom B has made a new transom and that has been fitted. He has done a very nice job of retaining the boat's graving number from the original transom by in-laying a section of the old into the new. This can be seen quite well in the photo over right.



Whaler Excellent – The whaler has now been finalised with the exception of fitting her rudder, in the photo

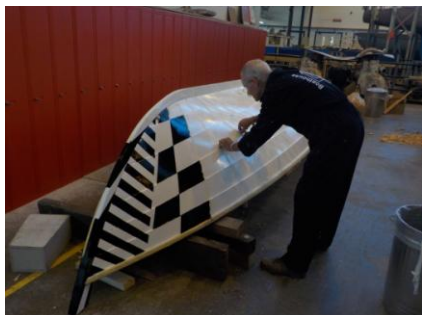


above left John P is fitting the last of the thwart stanchions. Fay and Trevor have also been busy making some of the small fittings necessary to stop the bottom boards floating away. Above centre Fay is cutting out some toggles for the bottom board closure boards and above right the finished items are ready for a couple of coats of varnish before she fits them into the boat which she is doing over left. Trevor D made up a dozen or so bottom board swivel toggles which clip the bottom boards to the margin boards to hold them in place.

Charmian – As I said last month the plan was to move her out of B/H4 and put her alongside B/H5, this was done in the month, and below are some of the photos of the move all of which went well. Below left Jim and Tiger are bringing her out of the boathouse and below she is being moved around a tight corner along Boathouse 5 under the watchful eyes of Peter G and John B to finally end up in her medium to long term resting place. Jim's driving of the forklift was an absolute pleasure to watch even Peter was impressed. It is alongside B/H5 that the ongoing reshaping work will be taking place by the volunteers

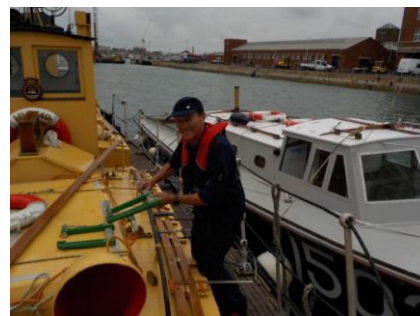


St Ayles Skiffs – Below, on the next page some of our volunteers are showing their skills off as they paint the bottom of one of the skiffs. First off is Hazel showing that she is happy in her work and below right Keith and Pauline look as though they are about to duel with their brushes 'en garde' and finally Brian D is masking off and painting the 'dazzle' camouflage.



Middle left the first skiff is about 25% there only another three rolls of masking tape to go. There is no doubt that the design is striking.

Harbour Launch D49 – What with other priorities and programmes again she hasn't had too much work done on her this month but John B did progress some more of the seating slats as can be seen over right.



Some of the other stuff that has been going on in the month.- In the following photographs you can see some of the other activities that



have been taking place in the month.

Over far left Linden is working with Ron who has come in for a 'taster' day busy cleaning up some brightwork. In the middle Janet C is getting to grips with a spoke-shave fettling a piece of wood making what looks

like a cricket bat but I am probably way off the mark with that one. Above right Mike is giving some eager little visitors a chat on floatation and all things Archimedes. Finally bottom left it is our incomparable duo Pauline and Keith, but this time they are polishing the bright-work on Queen Victoria's Steam Pinnace Osborne. We also managed to catch Tom B with a large group of visitors as he gave them chapter and verse on wooden boats and all of their parts. Also involved in large group tours were Jim M, Janet C and Brian D.

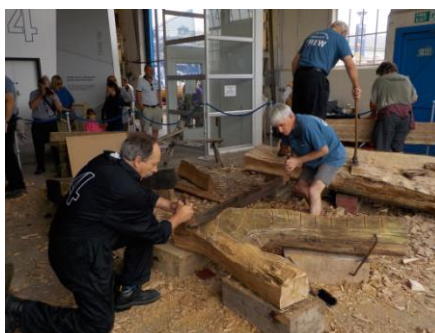


Boat House 4 Summer Festival - In the month we had our first Summer Festival providing a full open house to the public. The event was very successful with some excellent demonstrations of medieval boat building skills courtesy Chris Dobbs and Damian Goodburn. This group started off with some very large tree trunks and then over the three days cleaved them and chopped them and adzed them down to very presentable finished planks using only medieval hand tools and a lot of muscle and sweat. First take a walk in the forest



and choose your tree, then using some wooden wedges split it into quarters and then again and again until

you have a piece of wood about the right thickness and then spend a few days with an adze and an axe and keeping tabs of the number of toes you have on any one foot and the number of feet you have on any one leg keep slicing away and miraculously a plank of wood emerges from the tree. You



will never guess what is hidden inside a tree trunk just waiting to be released. Above left John P and one of the Mary Rose shipwrights are using a cross cut saw to pare away the timber in their efforts to produce a rising deck beam from a grown fork in the tree as found on the Mary Rose whilst middle above John P and Fred are using the same saw to help trim away the timber to produce a replica butchers block. Over right Jim and Sophie D are at work using a mock up of a medieval saw pit to cut a baulk of timber. It is amazing just how effective these apparently

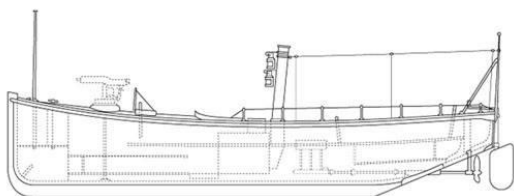


crude tools are and just how quickly they render a tree down into very usable pieces of timber but it is equally amazing just how much energy you have to expend on the same task. These



last photos cover some of the many activities carried out the Festival inside Boathouse 4 whilst the boats on the Heritage Pontoon were open to visitors at the same time. You just can't keep boys away from the guns

A New Arrival into the Collection – The Trust took delivery of a 'new' boat into the collection this month she is a 36 Foot Steam Cutter off HMS Falmouth that was sunk shortly after the Battle of Jutland off the East coast.



Her hull is in good condition and she will have a steam engine built and fitted eventually. The aim is to bring her back into an operational condition over the coming years. The photos below show her progress into the Boathouse.



Looking at the crew below from a very early photograph can you guess which one is most like our own steam loving Diggory? I think that it would be the one low down stoking the fire up to his elbows in coal dust, smoke and steam.



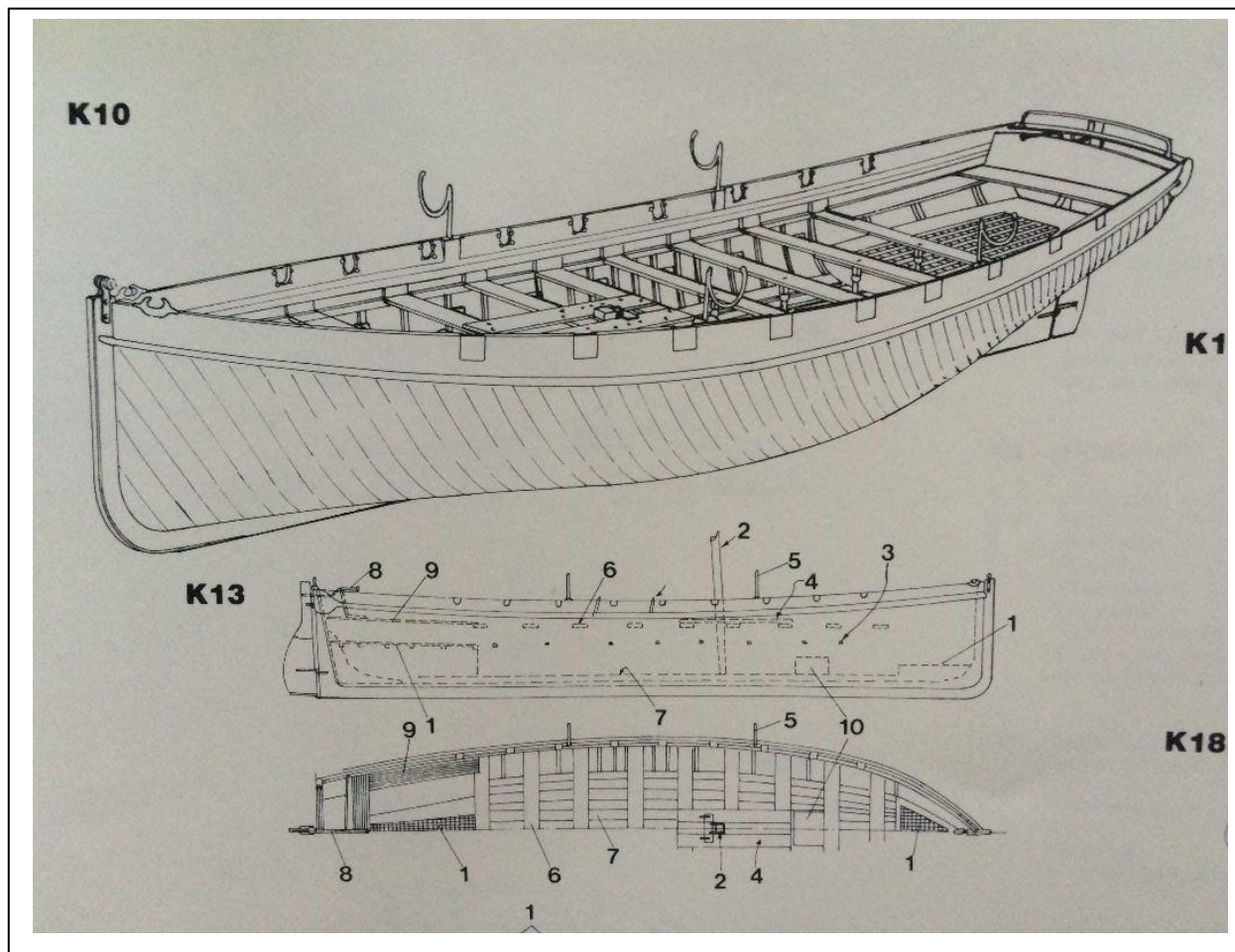
Our Very Own Mr Knotty making Breakfast at Henley – Do you remember me telling you about our breakfast at Henley being recorded on film, well journalist Bob has now published his video so if you would like to see how to make toast on a gas camping cooker follow the link below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMsPuVOTzjI&sns=em>

Cyclops – Work begins next month – The planning work to bring Cyclops back towards her original configuration has begun. We have got an interim work to list and a cutting list has been configured. The plans are at present to bring her up to a high exhibition standard but not back to an operational boat. The work will replace all of her thwarts, mast partners, stern sheets, gratings and gunwales along with a new wash boards and rollock chocks. So that her construction is visible to our visitors only half of her bottom boards will be in place. A pair or so of oars/sweeps are going to be made and subject to available skills we may endeavour to make a replica gun to be

mounted on her foredeck. She will be given a high class paint finish inside and out and we may even stretch to rigging a mast albeit it may be a stumpy. This is a big opportunity for all of our volunteers to learn new skills and contribute to the restoration of this historic boat.

Watch this space as the volunteers move this project on over the coming months.



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.