

Monthly News Letter –

December 2015

Historic Small Craft Section



Another year passed by. We have had a very busy and on the whole successful year. In this month's News Letter is a summary of 12 Months in the life of a Boathouse 4 / 5 Volunteer. May we wish a Happy New Year to all of our readers.

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**

January - The Green Parrot was re ballasted to help her steering. In the photo over right below Shiner and Chris are working with Danny and Co moving ballast blocks. ST 1502 Work started on her engines and electrical systems. Robert of Nottingham has finished the Islander Class 'Wanderer' and started



making headway with the Admiralty Pattern 14 Foot. HSL 102 /MGB 81– Tiger progressed with the deck

repairs on 102 and started working on the plinth for MGB 81's twin Oerliken gun mounting. FMD Dainty –Pauline was working on Dainty's cabin with Trevor as her mentor. Work progressed on



the skiff as can be seen over left with the team fitting the chine logs. Rope Making made a comeback to

Portsmouth Dockyard – with John P's machine under construction, see below.



February - work on the Green Parrot moved on with Shiner and Chris sorting out the after cabin. Tiger carried on with 102 and 81. Sue Dolman picked up on the RNSA after Robert of Nottingham retired and moved back to the east Midlands. The Exhibition Skiff



progressed with Fran W fairing in the stem and the first planks got

fitted. Princess Anne visited the Portsmouth Sail Training Trust in Boat House 5 and the young members of the



PSTT gave her a demonstration of rope making using the machine.

March- Clanky Tony had a go at the engine on D49, John P worked on the



whaler Excellent in between developing his rope machine MK 2 by making and fitting some new gratings, see below left. 1502 came back over to



our main pontoon under her own steam, Sue D worked on the RNSA remaking the boats stern

sheets, Tiger was up to his neck in deck supports for MGB81 to reinforce ready for the gun mounting. Pauline P and Ricky were working on Dainty's cabin changing from the varnish finish to a nice white gloss. Meanwhile the skiff had been progressed by the team.

Over right she has got her upper planks and gunwales on



and is starting to look like a boat. This was also

the month that the Lord Mayor came to visit **April** – This month 1502 went back over to Gosport for an engine change helped by Clanky Tony, 'leekies' Chris and Eddie and Allan2 all who were up to their arm pits in paint scrapers, brushes and anti-foul as has Richard H and Ricky. Terry was back in his element removing various bits and bobs and the Green Parrot had a good spruce up ready for action which was promptly cancelled, **HSL 102 /MGB 81**– Chippy Chris and Tiger were working on these two boats throughout the month getting them both ready for this year's trip over to Normandy in June. Sue D carried on with the RNSA, Dainty finally got her finish coat to her hull and her cabin was ready to fit. Pauline P was finally photographed by



Fred working on Westerman, the skiff had her stern and stern post laminated and she was given

her first paint job ready for fit out. Dave Schofield retired this month and we finally got to have a preview of the long awaited Boathouse 4 and the

Surf Boat was given her facelift in anticipation of the move to B/H4.

May- During May work continued with 1502, the Green Parrot, MGB81 and HSL 102. The surf boat was finished ready for exhibition and the Heritage



Pontoon mast was condemned and taken down, Pauline P finished painting the inside of the Whaler



Excellent and the skiff fitting out moved on with a declared launch

date of June 8th. Ricky and Tiger were caught working on the WW2 canoe as they made up a set of cradles to display her. This month also saw us lose two



more of our long servers, David Ross and Tony Humphries.

June – Work on the Green Parrot was progressed along with ST 1502. MGB 81 was fitted with her Oelikon and along with HSL 102 went across



the channel to Normandy for the second year running. Dainty

was finally finished ready for her move to B/H 4 for display. The Whaler



Excellent was finalised as was the skiff which was duly named Phoenix and launched along with her harbour trials after which she had her side cut out so that wheelchair access could be made once she



was in B/H4. Below right she s ii her final exhibition status.



July – This was the month of the America's Cup heats off Southsea, the Green Parrot, HSL102 and MGB 81 joined the historic flotilla and escorted Sir Ben Ainsley and the rest of the world competitors to the start line. This was the



month that our 5 ton crane was finally re-commissioned, over left Terry is seen at the actual point of contact. The Huntress was given her final glossy coat of paint and a tiddly waterline. It was also the



month of the start of the big move when the boats were relocated into B/H4. This was a carefully

choreographed move so that they could all be put in place sequentially. First up was Dainty after her final touches, she was located on outriggers from the mezzanine, she was followed by Osborne and the



Huntress then the Teak Cutter and last but one was the skiff

Phoenix and finally Acute our 3 in 1 whaler.

Work on D49 moved on at full pace with work on her transom and steering gear underway.



IBTC Students started to take off a set of lines from the Dartmouth Gig in preparation to build two new versions that will end up as part of the



Community Activity Fleet

August – Work continued on D49, below left and right Spider and John B can be seen at work on



her the Green Parrot progressed a bit more with some of her outstanding tiddly bits being put in place by David G and Sadie. HSL



102 took the

Oborne family out for a committal at sea. Spud Murphy was seen on his knees praying to the great god of pontoons. IBTC students started work



on the new build gig and setting up the Trawler lifeboat. Sue Lloyd stripped of the flaky paint from the inside of the whaler



Westmark, Knotty Tony gave a master

class in net making and there was a monumental



drive to clean and restore a myriad of vintage boatbuilding tools by anyone who looked to be remotely 'spare' or who didn't have a sheet of paper in their hands to make themselves



look busy. Work started to clear Cyclops of everything that wasn't needed for her inevitable move into B/H4. This was also the month in which we all

finally found out just exactly it was that Marian was employed for.



September – HSL 102 was used for several VIP outings, the Green Parrot finally had her jabsco pump clutch wired in by Spider and D49



transom and steering gear was progressed. This was also the month that we all found out what an 'ecking piece' was??? See below left. There now you are as wise as I am. During the month Richard H surrendered his temporary leadership of the Boats Afloat group and



formally handed over to our new Boat Keeper Diggory Rose. One of his earlier tasks was to give the boats a run out

and asses just what it was he had inherited.

Over right he is at the wheel of MGB 81. Work carried on with Cyclops and below left Knotty Tony is seen getting his dinghy up onto the plane as he scoots along in the Mast Pond.



the restaurant neared finalisation Below right is

the new Wood working Machine shop was fitted out by Axminster Tools and



fitted out by Axminster Tool company. Fisherman Pete and Danny changed over all of our mooring lines to thinner but stronger



opened and our 3 in 1 whaler Acute is finally put up above B/H 4 main door for all to see. The IBTC



the 'Ship's Badge display in the restaurant and above left shows the new machine shop being

Pauline and David G prepared some oars for the anticipated triumphal arch as B/H 4 is officially



students have made quite a lot of progress in building the new gig and the 1940's Naval



Trawler Life Boat made a fair bit of progress with her garboard

strake being replaced.

October – B/H 4 was finally opened

to the public and the last of the boats were moved into place. Ark Royal was located on her



outriggers as were the whalers Excellent and Westman. Below are some of the



other memory joggers of the days. In the photo below right is the triumphal arch of oars with the gig making her last move before restoration starts. In the photo below left Jim and Marian cut the commemoration cake.



Also in this month we had the arrival of the Lively Lady and below right she is on her blocks shored up for the

duration of her stay. She was only one of



several boats that

were brought in the month. Work continued on the new build gig and the trawler life boat as they were located in the new boathouse.

Cyclops made her long



awaited trip out of the Mast Pond and

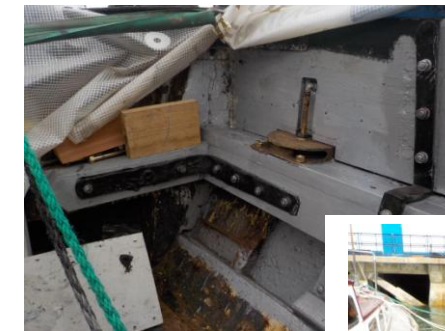
was landed ashore in B/H4 where she will be on



display and be restored to her original

configuration

Shiner and Chris got back to working on the Motor Whaler Danae and work on D49



moved on with the team



making good progress. Finally Rosemary Ryan finished her excellent painting of Phoenix

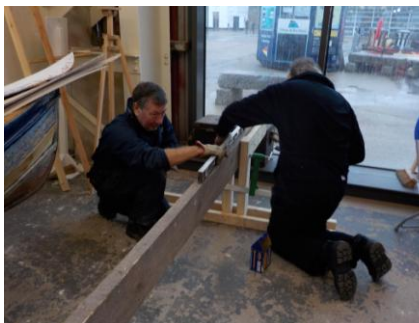
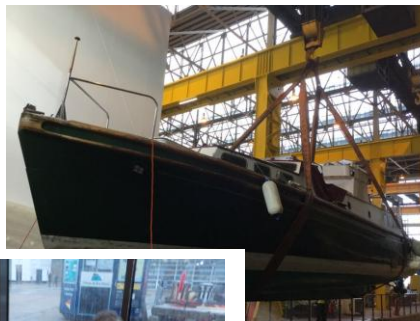


.The Green Parrot repeated the history of 1968 when she went out to meet Lively Lady

as Sir Alec Rose brought her home after his epic journey around the world. Below left she is away out to escort Lively Lady back into Boathouse 4.



November – During November we had the Boathouse open to the public over the Victorian Festival and greeted the best part of 8000 people into the exhibition in B/H4. The question of whether or not the Green Parrot would fit 'round the corner'



was finally answered when she did but with only 8 inches to spare. Work

started on the restoration of the Dartmouth Gig with the construction of a new strong-back as can be seen at the bottom of the previous column.



The work on D49 identified previously unknown skills in one of our volunteers

as 'Snake Hips Beatty' managed to gain access to hitherto inaccessible regions of her hull as he works behind the water trap in her engine room. Spud Murphy makes an

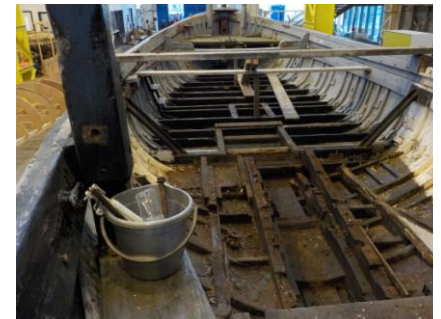


unscheduled visit to D49 as he comes to check out the rate of work. Sophie D draws short straw and gets the job of emptying the



32 Foot Naval Cutter of all of the

accumulation of the past couple of years. The New Build Gig

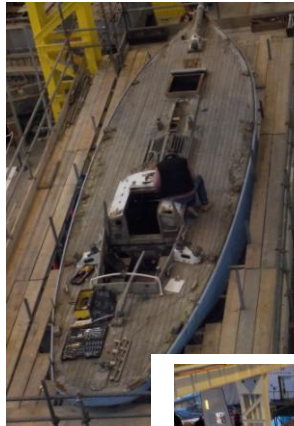


progressed further with the IBTC Students starting on her planking. Cyclops had her



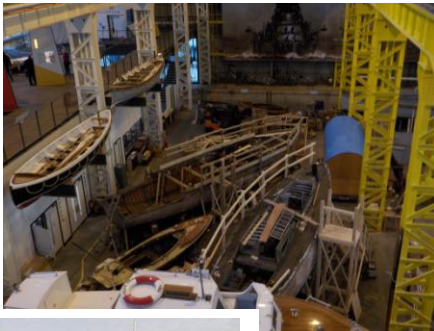
restoration programme started as Jimmy Green and David C started to strip out all of her redundant

fittings. Over right she is seen after her engine room had been removed. The last of our boats, the whaler Westmark was moved into B/H4 and work continued on Lively Lady as the Boat House started to fill up with restoration projects.



Over left Lively Lady is in the process of having her decks replaced and below right a general shot of B/H 4. Also in the month HSL 102 and MGB 81 were both taken ashore for their pre-winter bottom wash and

anti-foul after which they were put



Remembrance Day service at Hornet. During

back afloat with MGB 81 being used as a back drop for the

the month the St Ayles skiff school project moved on well with the six schools involved in the build getting firsthand experience of setting up the boats.



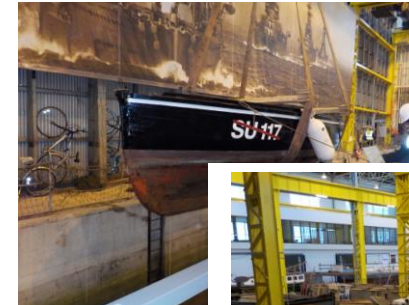
December – D49 finally came home back into the dock after all of the other planned boat moves had been completed, but before that we had another couple of boat lifts to



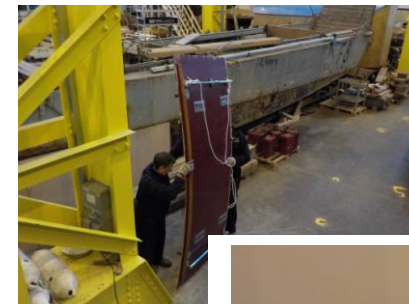
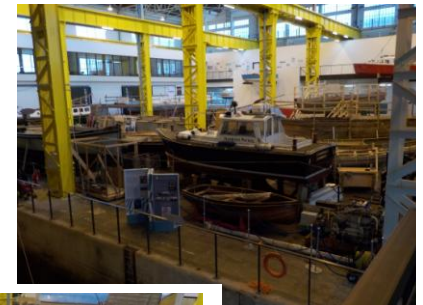
complete.



Below right on previous page is Surf Rider a 1966 off shore race boat and below left is the Itchen Ferry and below right the Poole Harbour Services launch. Work



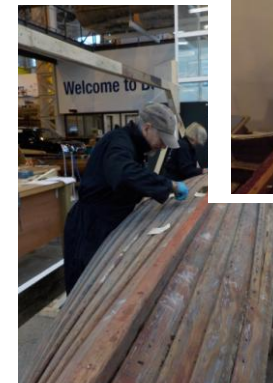
commenced on the Green



Parrot with the removal of her engine room deck-head to



give access to her engine room. The gig restoration moved on with work started on



the boat. Well that just about sums up the year of 2015. We are now all set for the new year of 2016 and if we achieve as much in the next twelve months as we did in the last there won't be too many complaints. Everyone that has contributed to this tremendous output should be congratulated. I look forward to working with you all again in the following year and a very happy New Year to all of our readers.

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: - boatbitsus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name.