

Monthly News Letter

Boathouse 4 Volunteers

August 2018

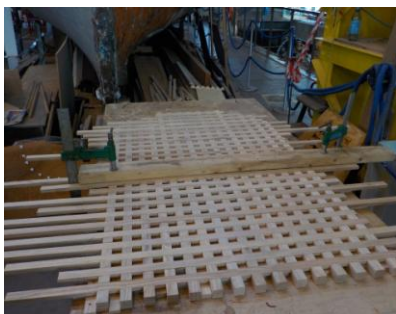


August and Summer has moved on evenings are starting to draw in and still we are knocking out loads of work on a wide range of boats.

Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



gluing up their 'square' grating pieces and below left the ash grating is ready to cut to shape to fit the mahogany frame. Finally bottom right the indomitable duo have got the grating together



sole bearers.

with it's frame and dry fitted to the boat. All that is left now is to fit some strong-backs underneath and give the lot several coats of varnish and preen themselves for another good job before they get started up forward on some more

The Green Parrot – She remains on hold at present.

Motor Whaler Danae – Well she didn't make it back into the water in August but she did manage to get moved over with a clear run down the slipway. So Shiner, Chris H and Eddie, 'On your marks, get set, wait for it!.



Let us see how they get on next month.

Cyclops Restoration Programme– John P and Keith D our intrepid duo have managed to keep going with the job of making the ash grating this month. Seeing that they were only in for three days (and for one of those



Keith got hijacked to make a jig for the CMB) they haven't done too badly.

Above left John and Keith are using the Mk. 2 router jig having cracked the problem with the earlier version from last month. In the centre photo above they are



Dartmouth Gig Restoration- We have had a lot of volunteers working on the gig again this month



Over left Susan D and Linden T are giving the hull another undercoat and above right John S has just given the hull a light rub down with some very fine



wet'n'dry and is doing a bit more filling and fairing.



Above left John S is doing a follow on coat of undercoat with Tim who is doing some rubbing down along with Fay above right who is working with Fred with a bucket of water and some 600 grade wet'n'dry taking off a few heavy brush marks out of an intermediate gloss coat. Finally Peter and Linden are doing a final flattening off of the penultimate gloss coat. In the meantime Linden and Gabi have been cleaning up a set of oars to go with the boat so we are ready for the gig race between this restoration and the student's replica. Watch this space.



ST 1502 – Having achieved operational status she has been in use in the period but unfortunately during one of her trips out one of her engines blew a cylinder head gasket so she has been back along- side for some more maintenance. Tiger and Chris H have been doing the engine repairs so she should be back up and running fairly quickly. Over left Chris and Shiner are putting all of the ancillaries back in place.



assistance of Gabi she has been painted inside. Pauline has made a nice start on the pristine and sharp white gloss gunwales and decks. This boat is going to look stunning once the outside of the hull is painted and all of her tiddy patterns are repainted.

Dghajsa – Wilson Pickett – Between Pauline P and with the



D49 – She has stayed in the dock over this month, a programme of work is being prepared so hopefully in the not too distant future she will get the long awaited refit and deck repairs.

Whaler Excellent – The whaler is now back in the Boathouse with work just commencing to get her hull back up the exhibition standard, once complete she will go back up onto her display chocks on the upper mezzanine floor. Over left the students have made a start on cleaning out her bilges and all of the internal white gloss along with rubbing down her upper planking. Watch this space for another cracking boat as long as Barnaby, David, Fred and Diggory can come to an agreement on what colour she is to be finished in. I think that Fred may hold the ace card as he had already bought the paint but failed to publicize the fact.



Steam Cutter 438 – Her bilges were cleaned and degreased and painted and she now has her steam plant fully re- installed so there isn't much to stop her going for trials once her owner gives her the all clear.

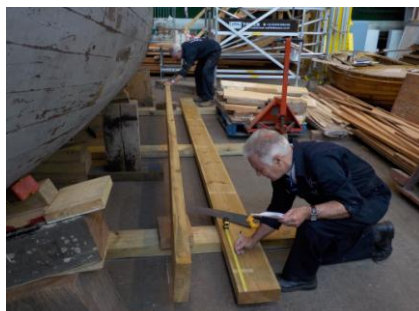


LIBOR Projects “Funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds”

MGB 81– Her major refit is now nearing completion we had hoped to see her back with us this month but it will now be into September. As they say ‘All good things are worth waiting for.’

Landing Craft Assault LCA F 8 – There has been no further movement on this boat at present This is early days for this project so watch this space for future developments.

Armed Steam Cutter ‘Falmouth’ – Work was started on her this month under the direction of Matt our new shipwright instructor, firstly she was moved into a good working position on the floor then she was taken off her trailer. This was a good little exercise of ‘little and often’ as Tiger and David S carefully lifted her hull a couple of inches using blocks and wedges and then gradually slid the trailer out from under her inch by inch fitting new blocks under her as they went Who said we need to have cranes. Once out then work started to make up her cradle and build frame so that her misshaped hull can be pulled back into position.

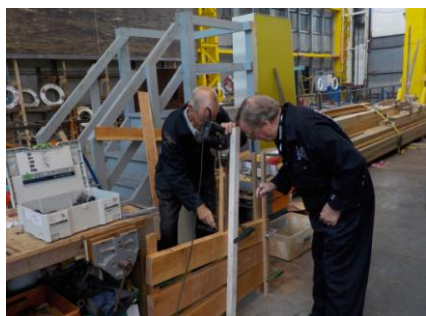


Above left Brian D is cutting a section of 9x3 that will form part of a base/sledge on which the support timbers and moulds will be mounted. Middle photo above, John C and Brian are pushing on with the work that Jim M started earlier and over right Instructor Matt is in the distance getting the set up spot on. Over the coming months this work will accelerate once this framing is completed.

New Build CMB4 – Work on the engine bearers has been moved on, in general a lot of effort has been put in cutting the steamed timber cut-outs and limber holes along the full length of the bottom edges of the bearers. Following on from that it was time to drill the long through bolts from the top to the bottom of the assemblies. These actions needed to be completed before the two halves



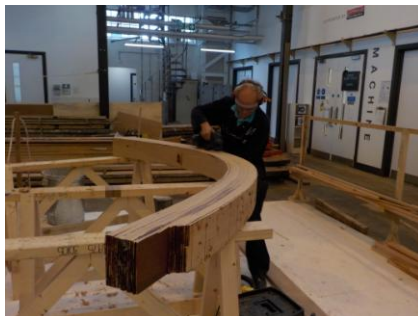
of the big beasts could be glued together. In the photos above a lot of the cut-out work can be seen in progress. There are 120 steamed timbers through the boat, one every four inches and as there are cut-outs on both port and starboard sides that comes to the best part of 240 of the little perishers. By the time the guys had finished you can rest assured that they were pretty good with Whaler John getting the time down to about 15 minutes per from absolute start to immaculate finish. Because these slots will determine where the frames go and the frames will determine the shape of the boat they had to be very accurately paired from side to side with no more than 1/64 inch deviation between sides. For those of you that don't remember pounds, shillings and pence that is just under 0.4 millimetres or the thickness of a sharp pencil line. Below left Brian D and David Y are having a go using Fred's test drilling boards before they get let loose on drilling the long reach through holes across the bearers. We couldn't afford to have diverging holes coming out through the faces of the timber as it may have looked like some very large woodworms had attacked the bearers and poor old Bob would have had apoplexy. Having all practised, we then committed to drilling the holes from top to bottom from each edge to meet in the middle. Below Brian D, David Y, John C, Fay P and Fred are using sighting sticks and lots of pairs of eyes to keep the drill level and straight. The practice paid off as we managed to hit every hole spot on to meet in the middle and there were plenty of holes to drill, one every twenty inches over the full 36 ft length.



Finally having completed the holes it was time to glue up both sets of engine bearer. Middle photo below Steve B is putting the glue onto all of the surfaces and below right he and John S are clamping up the joints having first aligned the critical water line to make sure that we didn't have any unplanned bendy bits in the hull



Whilst all of that was going on another group continued with the stage two laminating the stem out of oak. Below left Fay P, John C Matt and student Chris (hiding below John's hand) are doing the secondary lamination stack and over right Whaler John is doing the first clean up after all is set. Below right the stem has had the initial trimming to shape against the pattern. In doing this job we had to glue up 33.4 Sq. M of timber veneers made up from 122.5 Metres of oak.



Other jobs done this month were the making of the transom by Aaron one of IBTC students, three of transom knees made up by Geoff G, John S and another IBTC student Chris with help from Janina a visitor from Germany. Tom B, Brian E, Janet C, Sadie S and John C made a start on machining up the timber to make the nineteen off full length stringers. Now here is another little snippet of information. In machining up the 38 half lengths our little planer /thicknesser had to cover the equivalent of 3.1 miles of surface cutting.



Above left Aaron is shaping up the transom before he cuts out the torpedo slot, over left Sadie is at about mile 2 on the stringer planning above middle Tom B, Janet C and Brian E are cutting the blank stringers out of the base planks and above right student Chris is marking off one of the transom knees that had been laminated on Keith D's moulding jig.

Fund raising Success – Several months ago I put in a little article about Sue Lloyd's little enterprise with the Ships Badges that she had been painting up. Since then you will be pleased to know that she has received just under £2000 in donations which has gone towards the boat budget. Congratulations to Sue and her obvious sign writing and painting skills.

Special Thanks – I must make mention to the various people that feed in photographs to supplement the News Letter and who fill in for me when I am not around to capture key events / critical stages in the various projects. Without these we would miss out on some of the key build stages which hopefully you all find interesting.

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.