

Monthly News Letter

Boathouse 4 Volunteers

July 2018



July and a brilliant summer month has gone by, lots of boat work has been carried out this month and good progress on the CMB 4 Replica build

Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



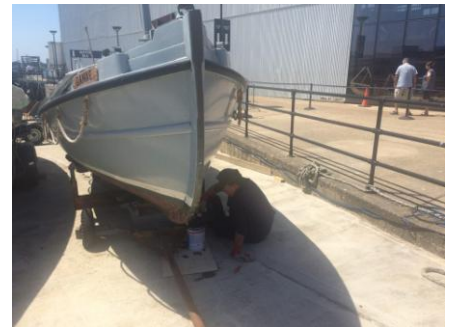
The Green Parrot – She remains on hold at present.

HSL 102 – She has had a successful month with some high level visits with associated trips out flying the flag. One of



the most significant being when she was used to take out the Director of the Imperial War Museum into the Solent and a lunch time stop over at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes.

Motor Whaler Danae – Having lifted her last month she has had the repairs carried out by 'Clankie' Shiner, 'Leckies' Chris and Eddie and they have painted her hull and given her a new coat of anti-foul. Come next month and the right set of tides away she will go back to sea.



Cyclops Restoration Programme– Luckily Keith D and John P have kept up with their good work in the month and Cyclops is well on the way to getting a new mahogany and ash grating.

Below left they are cutting and preparing the outer



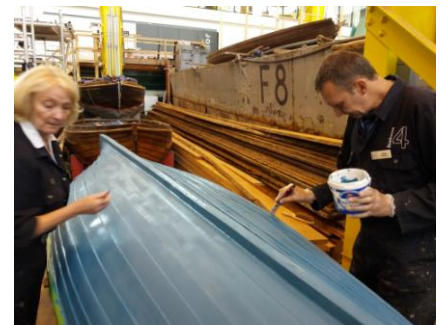
mahogany frame and above middle they have glued it up and trial fitted it into the after deck area. It didn't take John P long to devise a router jig for cutting the ash sections of the grating and above right Keith and John have all of the ash cut to size and locked in place ready for routing out the half lap joints. Once complete I am sure next month they will complete the grating and turn out a two toned thing of beauty, well that should be the outcome as long as John P and Keith can get round a minor jiggling hiccup. Watch this space!

Dartmouth Gig Restoration- Having turned her over last month she is now on the main shop floor, this month has been one of rubbing down, filling, rubbing down, filling and rubbing down followed by



some primer, rubbing down, filling and undercoat followed by rubbing down, filling and painting along with the odd bit of rubbing down and filling in between. I think that it fairly safe to say that in the month anyone who has had a spare half hour to spend they may have been seen

working on the gig. Above left she can be seen just alongside Cyclops with Falmouth in the background, above right Gabi is having his first rubbing down sessions. This is followed below left with John C and Fay P giving the hull a coat of primer with Fay below middle and finally below right Matt, who is our new shipwright instructor taking a lead with a spot of rubbing down.



Above left John S has been giving the hull coat of undercoat followed above middle he and Alexis, one of our visiting French college students/apprentices and flattening off the first blue undercoat and over right above Susan D and Linden T have filled in yet more blemishes rubbed it down again and are now painting another undercoat. In addition to those volunteers in the photos above we have had many others working on her over the weeks, some putting on some, taking off.

ST 1502 – Since last month 1502 has had her sea trials and work has continued to get her up to a high standard cosmetically, at present she is back in the dock in Boathouse 4.

Dghajsa – Wilson Pickett – Between Pauline P and with the assistance of Gabi she has been painted



inside and Pauline has made a start on the intricate artwork around the boat.

D49 – Although only an ongoing maintenance programme on D49 she is now located in B/H4 in the dock. This way her decks can properly dry out as the future work is planned. Over left she can be seen in the dock.



Whaler Excellent – Continues as the lone sentinel at the top of the slip awaiting her turn for a space in the Boathouse. As soon a space is available she will be brought back in for a mini refit ready to get her back onto her exhibition chocks as she is unlikely to be operational this season.

Steam Cutter 438 – The work on her hull was completed in the month and she was lifted off her blocks and put onto her trailer ready to have her bilges de-greased before the steam engine and boiler are refitted. Over

right David Y can be seen working on her hull as he gives



span.

the initial gloss coat a final rub down before putting on the final gloss coat with John S. Over left and middle she is on her trailer looking spick and

LIBOR Projects “Funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds”

MGB 81– Her major refit is now nearing completion and she is due to be back with us later in August.

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’ – The start of this project has moved a little closer this month with a new shipwright being taken on. Matt was previously a Shipwright instructor working with Highbury College so far he is in the planning phase and the area around her has been cleared in preparation for the start to pull her back into shape. The first stage will be to move her out towards the middle of the shop floor

New Build CMB4 – Work on the engine bearers has moved on, these are proving to be a very significant work package with many surprises along the way. At one part of the month it seemed that Mondays were the taking off days and Tuesdays and Thursdays were putting back on days. It has been interesting to say the least. Anyway the following photos try to track the activities as they went from taking off to putting back on.



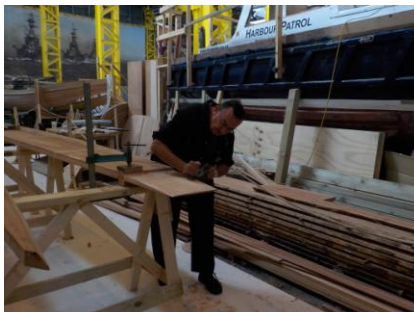
After we had glued up the main blocks to make up the forward engine bearer sections last month we had the distinct view that we had made a major move forward however above left Jacques a visiting French college student is working with Steve D to put in some stress relieving slots to help get the beast flat as it had decided to change shape over the week. Middle above Trevor and Geoff are cramping the timbers flat before we fit a ½ inch mahogany laminate over the whole surface. Above right Jacques, Steve, Rachel, David and Gary are gluing up the Mahogany as the lamination goes on. This was a putting on day.



In the photo above left and middle Steve and Jacques are thinning down the joint area ready to mark out and cut the scarf joints. The forward sections are 2 inches thick as they take the full weight of the engine and the tails are down to 1 ¼ inch thick as part of the designed weight saving process. I suppose you could say that this is a 'taking off day'.



Above left Aaron is marking off the bevels on the bottom edge of the bearers where they interface with the hull. Above middle David G and Matt are giving moral support to Ian P as he makes a major cut, this will define the total length of the engine bearers which in turn will determine the length of the boat!! We can't afford this action to be followed by a 'putting on day', just to make absolutely certain we had about eight people check this measurement independently. Above right Aaron, Matt, Jacques and Steve have carried to bearer away to be re-bevelled following another 'putting on day'



Above left Steve D has made a start cutting the critical scarf joints, in the middle you can see the protective plywood boots he has fitted to protect the feather edge and over right Matt and Aaron are in the process of another minor 'putting on' activity.

Having got the bevels all cut the next stage was to mark out and cut the slots for the 120 frames on both pairs of the bearers. Above left Steve D and David Y are using Geoff's marking gauge to mark off the whole of the bottom edge in critically accurate 4 inch sections whilst in the middle finally having got

all of the slots marked Jim M is drilling out the limber holes and over right John W and Steve D have made a start cutting the slots, 20 down 220 to go.



As well as making headway with the engine bearers we also made a start making the laminated stem, this involved machining 30 off 5mm thick veneers out of oak planks and making a very solid moulding jig.



Above left Tom and Janet are fitting the thrust blocks to the base of the jig whilst middle above an enthralled Alexis supervises the tightening of the bolts underneath and above right both Alexesis and Tom survey a job well done all ready for the next phase of the operation.



Above left Jacques, Steve D and Fay are cutting the planks down to make the veneers, top middle above one of the planks being split and over right Jacques is working with Fred to build the mould jig. Second row above left Matt, Alexis and Brian D are bending the polythene wrapped stack of veneers around the jig during a dry run and middle above Fay and Alexis are fitting the top compression straps in place and finally above right the whole stem load of veneers are finally in place. This just proved our process, next stage was to removed everything and repeat the whole process but this time using lots of

'slippy', 'slidy', 'gloopy' glue spread over all of the veneers, Any volunteers? Watch this point next month.

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.