

Monthly News Letter

Boathouse 4 Volunteers

June 2019



Lovely hazy summer days but by no means lazy. We have had another busy and productive month in the Boat House.

Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



Cyclops – She remains on temporary hold so we still haven't managed to move Cyclops forward in the month again however we are hoping to restart in the coming month with some bench fitting work for some of the parts for her Gunwale/wash board so that they are ready for when we move into the next phase once all of the sole bearers are completed.

Motor Whaler Danae – She continues in general use as our workboat

Dartmouth Gig – She is back in the boathouse following her escapades over with the Langston Rowing club under the guidance of



Tom B. She is looking as pristine now as she did following her restoration. She does have an additional set of sculling oars following quite a lot of experimentation by Tom and his crew. They finally decided on the optimum configuration.

ST 1502 – She is located on the new pontoons and is ready for operational use. Below left she is on the new pontoons ready for the local D Day commemorations when all of the boats were available for visitors to view afloat.



HSL 102 – Below left HSL 102 leaving Portsmouth Harbour accompanied by MGB 81 as they head off for Normandy for the 75th Anniversary of the D Day landings. Below right also travelling with MGB81 and HSL102 are Harbour Defence Launch Medusa and Motor Anti Submarine Boat 27. All four boats attended the commemorations based at Pegasus Bridge. These four boats formed this



year's Power Boat Squadron.

Dghajsa – Wilson Pickett – She has been moved onto the main shop floor so that some of the students can carry out some work on her as part of their surface preparation and paint finishing part of their course curriculum. In the photos over and below some of this work can be seen in progress. Top

left they have rubbed down all of her hull and marked off the dips and hollows ready for filling and fairing. Below left the fairing work continues with several intermediate coats of under coat and filler. Below right the team have put a laser level line along her hull to mark off the water line and under coated the bottom of the hull. Left in the second row of photographs they have glossed below the waterline and started undercoating the hull with a dark grey before a final flattening off followed by a couple of gloss coats before she is handed back to Pauline. Once the students have completed this phase Pauline will get her back for all of the traditional designs / pattern work to be painted back on.



In the two photos over right she is virtually ready for the students to hand back to Pauline so she can paint in all of the traditional decorations and motifs.

Harbour Launch D49– She remains in the dock inside Boathouse 4 pending appropriate funding with running maintenance on her pumps and batteries. She has however been in and out of the dock several times in the month to allow for general boat movements.



LIBOR Projects “Funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds”

MGB 81 – Since last month she has been fully operational with the main focus on the 75th D Day ceremonies over in Normandy and the Channel islands. Over right she is under speed with both HSL 102 and MASB 27. Below left alongside just preparing to get underway and finally below right she is moored up in the distance on her new berth on the pontoons.



The New Pontoons – These were put to extensive use over the D Day weekend. Below the photos show the full complement berthed, these were some of the Dunkirk Little Ships which had gathered for the weekend.



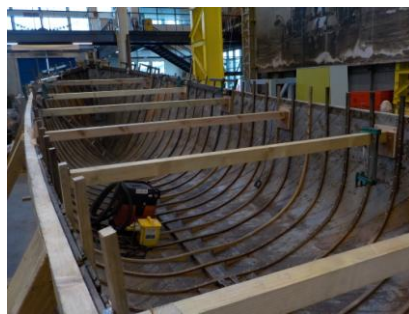
Landing Craft Assault LCA F 8 – Work is moving well under the direction of Landau UK. Below right she can be seen from overhead with a nice white engine room. Very shortly she will have her stern gear fitted including the propeller shafts, Propellers rudders along with all of the new through hull fittings ready for the new engines. Over



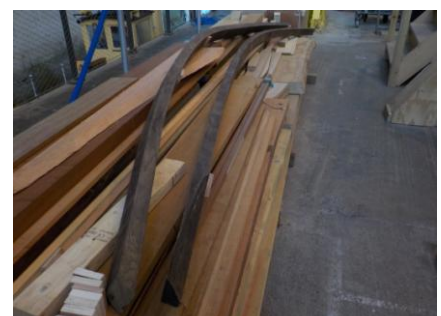
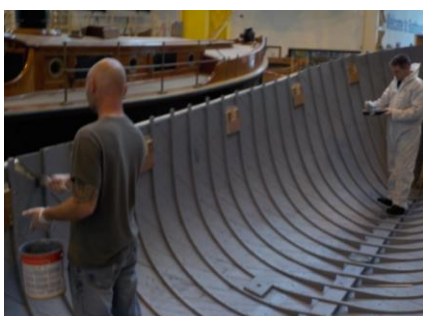
left are all of the fittings looking more like a jigsaw puzzle than a kit of parts.



Armed Steam Cutter ASC 26 'Falmouth' – Matt's team has made more good progress in the month. All of the hull restoration is now finalised and very soon fitting out is in danger of starting. Below top left Matt is working on Emily as he and one of the students fit another plank. Below centre and right are



general views showing the remainder of the steamed timbers and below left and centre the inside of the



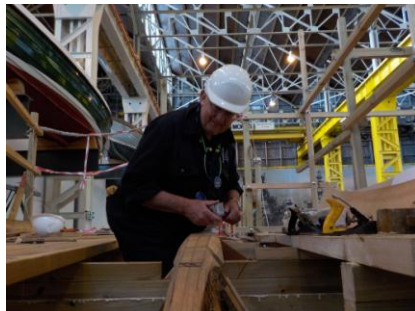
hull has had two full coats of primer. The photo far left is also a good shot for showing all of the bilge

wedges in place, whilst over right the two forward sections of inwales have been taken out for priming before they go back in. it is good to see how they hold their shape after steaming. I think that perhaps the real reason the team has made such good progress is summed up in the first photo above top left with my mate Matt working on Emily!!.

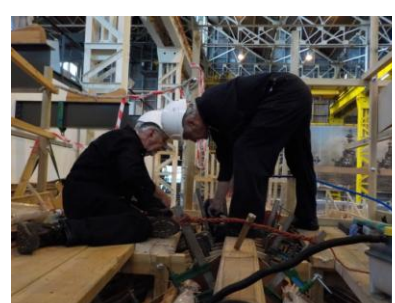
New Build CMB4 – All of the regular teams have been pushing on through the month. We have been doing lots of little jobs with the result being not a lot of difference to be seen, however eventually all of these little jobs will all bear fruit. Below left Steve made a start on the stem by marking out and cutting the planking rebates. In the centre below John C is in the process of steaming a stringer end and over right Fay is fairing up a repair on one of the damaged timbers so we can get it back on the boat.



Below left John P is in the process of cutting away part of the staging, now this may seem a little strange as Fred was standing on the other end. In the centre below Steve is progressing with the rebates and over right John B doing one of the apparent never ending jobs of cleaning up the surplus glue from the nailed timbers.



Below left and centre John P and Keith have made a start on one of the internal 'U' brackets that will eventually fit between the engine beds to stabilise them whilst over right Juliet is also cleaning up surplus glue. I think everyone who has had a go at this job deserves a medal because it is hateful.

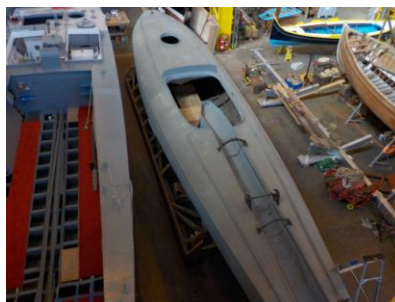


In the photos above on the previous page Fay is doing another repair and centre finds John and James machining up some mahogany for planking trials with John C and Trevor gluing up the stringers which they steamed earlier.

Below left you shows the output of Ian's Wednesday team having fitted dummy timbers to whole of the forward section of the boat. In the centre below Steve and Fred are cutting the housings for the forward timbers and over right John and Keith's 'unmentionables' first 'U' bracket is glued and drying.



A little point of interest – You may remember me mentioning in some earlier News Letter that the Imperial War Museum had agreed for us to display the original CMB4 previously held at RAF Dunsfold. During the last few days of the month the big day arrived as did CMB4. In the photos below are some of our very first images of this historic little boat. It just brings home just how brave those crewmen were to take on the Russian cruiser Oleg and sink her with their single torpedo. Just to put it into context, her hull is just 5/8 inch thick (about 16mm in new money) and her deck is 3/16 inch thick (5 mm) all planked over steamed timbers 1inch x 3/4 inch cross section. Over the coming few weeks we will be working hard to get her up on display for everyone to see. So come on over and see her for yourselves, then you can compare her to the new replica which we are building.



Over left you can see Steve sitting just aft of where the engine would have been located. The engineer had a tiny slatted wooden seat 13inches long x 8 inches wide. He may have got one cheek of his rear end on it if he was lucky. This was fixed to the inside of the hull alongside his engine to sit on when he wasn't tweaking the roaring beast. The Captain was much luckier he had the whole of the torpedo warhead on which to sit as he conned the boat, lucky old tosh wasn't he.

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.