

Monthly News Letter

Boathouse 4/5 Volunteers

January 2018



We managed another great month some old boats have gone a new one arrived and we are about to start on the CMB4 and the volunteers have managed to move from Boathouse 5, what a team.

Portsmouth Naval Base

Property Trust



The Green Parrot –Progress has continued in the month albeit all dependent on availability of the students another three horizontal planks have been nailed and roved

MGB 81– All three of her engines are now out with the rest of the work progressing well. You may be able to catch up some of the detail on the Berthon blog page, just follow the link below

<http://www.berthon.co.uk/berthon-blog...>

HSL 102 – She is now back home following her mid winter refit and ever is looking stunning



Motor Whaler Danae – She remains operational our resident ‘Clankies’ continue with the ongoing care and maintenance, she has had her battery recharged this month to make sure she can be run at short notice.

Cyclops Restoration Programme – Early on this last month we made a start setting up the sole bearers.



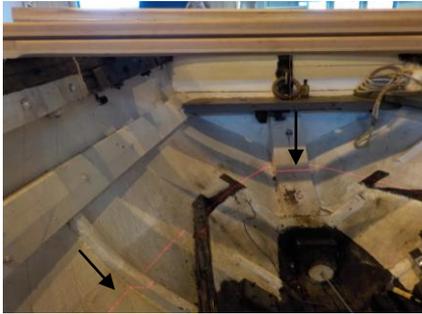
These are the ‘floor joists’ of the boating world. Over left John P is

going through the very early stages of setting up a good solid datum point about which all of the sole bearers and the thwarts will be located. In this photo you may just be able to see the spirit level and the plumb bob as we sight through the boat. Gradually as we proved that Pythagoras may have known a little bit about the properties a right angle triangle we also brought his theorem into practice as we moved on the combined wire tight lines, plumb bob and spirit level. Having proved that we knew what we were doing ‘Old school’ John cracked and introduced modern technology



Over right he has brought out the self levelling laser level and for the more sure sighted amongst you on the top left of the next page you may be able to make out our initial laser line running around the section of the stern sheets. Now I say that this is the initial one we had to re-visit the set up of the boat

several times and take quite a few scaled measurements from our quirky 1:13.31 scaled Plans before we finalised. Once we had the levels set we could then think about clearing away some the old engine bearers that had reared their ugly heads above our beautiful pristine line. Fay P and John C came to rescue as they started chopping and cutting and pairing and hacking and for a brief few moments John was also chewing his way through these ancient timbers



In the end the task was a great success and left the way clear for David S and Fred to give the whole area below our line a nice clean coat of Primer followed up by Keith D and John P fitting the first sole board bearer. Below left he is putting in the cheek plates on the very first of the new sole bearers

In the meantime Shiner and Chris H had cut out the big metal structure that had been fitted during Mike Murray's time to support his Ferrari Hi Ab (Hydraulic crane) Below middle we can see Alessio our Swiss Helicopter pilot as he is trimming off one of reference thwarts as part of the overall set up just to make certain the everything 'sights' through the boat. On the basis that if it looks right the chances are it is right.



Middle photo above Alessio is working with Whaler John making another tweak to one of John's frames and over far right David Y and Keith D are in the process of taking out another part of the Hydraulic lift base. This is a piece of beautifully preserved 10 inch by 4 inch solid mahogany A note here for Mike



Murray rest assured Mike we have thrown them away. In the photo over far left David S is doing a major clean up and this photo also gives an indication of the lay of the forward sole bearers the wiggly white line is actually tracking a perfectly horizontal level right round the boat. Next to that we have got one of the final frames being glued up by Steve D, Whaler John and Brian D and finally after being primed and bedded we have got John P's and Keith D's very first sole bearer in place

Rover The Clyde River Cruiser – Finally left us this month and a low loader and obviously the reinforcing work that we did at the end of last year paid off as she lifted clear a bell without so much as a creak. Finally at the bottom of the previous page here we have a perfect Rover shaped space on our Boathouse floor. Now what are we going to use this space for hear you ask? Well, wait no longer because this is going to be the long awaited lofting floor for our new build replica CMB4 our 1919 40 foot Motor Torpedo Boat. Definitely watch this space.



Dartmouth Gig Restoration- The Gig team have moved on with her fit out below left you can see Alessio our Swiss helicopter pilot in the process of fitting the capping piece to the top of the gunwales. Middle below some smiley faces that have just been caught getting ready for their daily 'David Brief'



and below right the daily 'David Brief' is in full flow and all the time the boat is making nice progress. Well done guys and gals. In between these photos Tom B has turned his hand to making a rather smart rudder so

there will no excuse for her to round in circles once she is afloat.

Dghajsa – Wilson Pickett – Work has slowed a little this month on the Dghajsa but it will pick up again in the not too distant future.



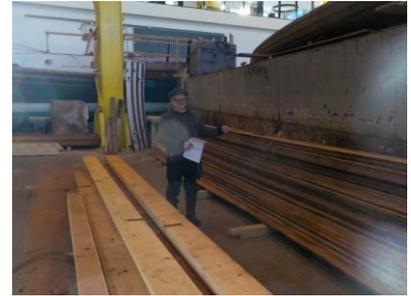
D49 – She was moved in the month to make way for ST 1502 so we could get her into the dock.

Whaler Excellent – Remains outside at present but as soon a space is available she will be brought back in for a mini refit ready for the new season

New arrival to our Boathouse collection - SC 438– In the month we took delivery of a 1919 Stem Cutter SC438. She is privately owned but is effectively being displayed as part of our overall collection through a collaborative arrangement with her owner whereby we will carry out some repairs to her and bring her up to a very high standard over the coming months whilst her boiler and steam engine is being serviced. Once back together and fully operational she will reside in the boathouse available for her owner to use as and when. She will also be used by the Trust for our own volunteers to be able to use under instruction as part of the build up of Steam Plant operations in readiness for the completion of the restoration of our 35Ft Armed Steam Pinnace Falmouth.



New Build CMB4 - Over recent months I have made various mention of one of our major build projects, namely the build of a full sized operational replica 40Ft 1919 Coastal Motor Boat. During the month the start of this project has moved forward as we took delivery of a full sized African mahogany tree. The tree trunk was 40 feet long and about a meter in diameter. It has been machined to planks that can be converted for use. Below the photographs show the arrival of one big shed load of timber. It is all 'hands



to' for this one as we couldn't access the load with the crane all went really well and hardly any time at all we can Robert F contemplating his 'Flat Packed' CMB just imagine that pile of wood steaming across the Solent at 40 plus Knots going "Vroom, Vroom". However before any of that can happen we have got to loft (draw out) her lines from her 1:12 scale drawings up to full size so we can make her moulds. That brings me on to the photo over right which is a Flat packed Lofting floor which will be laid in the Rover shaped floor space I spoke about earlier.



Watch this space for tracking this special job.

A Point of Special Interest

Hello all of you avid News Letter Readers, how many of you have an interest in the Second World War and the part that the WRNS made? Well one of our regular visitors and News Letter readers Douglas Lindsey is also an author who has published a book about this certain young lady 'Wren Jane Beacon'. Book 1 follows her journey from Civvy Street to her joining up and carrying out an active role. Book 2 is due to be published very shortly. I have read Jane's first story and she proved to be quite a girl. If her stories appeal to you please visit Douglas's web site and find out more, I don't think you will be disappointed.

WREN JANE BEACON GOES TO WAR

Book one, 'Wren Jane Beacon goes to War –In the Beginning', proved to be a really an enjoyable and easy read. So perhaps it might appeal to a wider audience and in particular some of our subscribers to the Newsletter. It tells the story of an adventurous girl who in 1939 joins the Wrens as the first pioneer boat crew wren and despite the entrenched doubts of the Navy, manages to make an outstanding success of it. The story is all about her doings in naval boats and hopefully some of the readers of our newsletter will find a great deal in the book about interests close to their hearts with much of it written in 'Matelot Speak', therefore down to earth. It is all of the heroine's life so her personal and emotional aspects are there too along with the disciplinary troubles these get her into.

Jane's website www.wrenjaneb.co.uk gives full details of the book and how to obtain it on Kindle or as a paperback. Shortly (it is hoped in March) Book Two will be published, carrying the story forward and also into debate about war and her place in it. Although they are novels, these are thoughtful deeply researched stories as well as having lots of bangs and perils of the sea; but the boats are always there virtually as characters in their own right. We expect a series of about twelve books taking the story through the war to 1946 and post-demob adventures as a smuggler in the Baltic. She's quite a girl.

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.