

Monthly News Letter – October 2012

Historic Small Craft Sect



So here we are ten months into the year, dark evenings and still loads of work to do. Only a couple of weeks to go before we clear out the Boathouse again for the Christmas Festival and wonder just where it is all going to go.

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**

The Green Parrot – October has been a really interesting month for the Green Parrot and all those who sailed in her. After much ‘toing and froing’ she is seen here with Ropey Tony stood to attention training for the Boat’s inaugural VIP outing with the 2nd Sea Lord as guest. However

before we got to this stage we had all been working on her to sort out the engines yet again as well as the vagaries of the wiring as it fed (or more to the point, did not feed) power to all corners of the boat. In the



photo over right Terry is on engine watch as the trial gets underway. In the photo over left apprentice Steve is getting in some sea time. This was before all of the fun started. Shortly after this was taken both engines

decided to dump their cooling water. The port engine by creating a power washer jet out of the heat exchanger seals whilst at the same time the Starboard engine’s ‘new’ water pump decided to blow a water seal. The net effect was a pretty stupendous Turkish bath with clouds of steam emanating from the engine room scuttles and doors. Needless to say there were no photos taken at the time as we busy convincing QHM that we were not on fire



and didn’t need any assistance. In the photo bottom left under previous column Terry and Dave have replaced the water pump, Fred has tightened up all of the heat exchanger nuts in the hope that we had sorted out the issues. A brief run up the harbour proved the Starboard engine water pump but the port engine was still getting warm so Terry took out the thermostat so she would run cooler. Over left you can see the wake as Danny puts her through her paces so she was ready to take out the



2nd Sea Lord. At last we all started to breathe a little easier.

Over right the 2nd Sea Lord is aboard the boat and all systems are ‘go’. We delivered him safely round to H.M.S. Excellent and sent him on his way successfully. Alas it was

not to be a joyous outcome as on the way back home again the Port engine rapidly gained high temperature and had to be shut down, returning to base on one engine. It was generally considered to be a leaking



head gasket at that time so in the words of the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland ‘Off with its head’

Over left Terry can be seen giving it a good thinking about, whilst over right his mate Dave has had enough and can



be seen beating a hasty retreat asking himself 'Does my bum look big in this engine room'. It was a bit of a thrash lifting the heads off as it was impossible to split them from the exhaust manifold due to some very special magic nuts used to put it together. With the joint efforts of Terry, Dave, Steve and Fred the beast did eventually surrender and we managed to lift off the whole lump in one. Over left you can see the outcome along with number 6 piston showing signs of



breaking up, probably the real cause of the overheating saga. So it will be back out of the water for the engine to be taken out and repaired. In the meantime however Dave and Whaler John have been pushing on with the after cabin finishing off the tiddly bits and trying to locate the point from which she is making water. As you can see below right they are busy making the most of a splash of sunshine doing some fitting and varnishing.

Below left Fisherman Pete and Fred have got the short straw to clean out the drip trays of oily, diesel impregnated dirty water. No matter what grotty job Peter gets given he is always smiling. Watch this space for future developments on the Green Parrot. Our resident electrician, Alan 'a' Dale has been kept really busy in the month sorting out the GP's wiring. He finally managed to get all navigation lights back working along with a couple of new pumps, Kent windscreen wipers, boats horn, as well as



two new pumps.



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Ark Royal – We put Ark Royal in the water in the month to make sure all was well with the engine, batteries and electronic and also to provide a back-up boat for the Green Parrot as we had been asked to provide the Naval Base Commodore with a boat to take him out to mark his promotion and his leaving Portsmouth for his new job. Over right she is alongside the pontoon getting ready for her second series of harbour trials (this after we had cleared her prop of some rope that we managed to pick up first time out and also after we had dressed the propeller taking out the worst of the dings that we managed to pick up at the same time) You can't say life isn't interesting with us. Below left Steve can just be seen moving the 'P' bracket as we check it out and



repair the dented propeller. At this time Trevor had opted to work inside the tiller flat as he felt the work space was well suited to his stature. In the

photo below right Danny, Tony and Spider are taking the Ark Royal away with the Base Commodore safely on board along with Peter Goodship accompanying him round to number 2 Basin to pick up H.M.S. Thrasher.



Whaler Westerman – The Alexandra Shackelton Epic Expedition crew have requested the use of Westerman during November to continue with their sail training programme before they depart for the Antarctic in

December. Below left Vincent has volunteered to burn off all of the old paint and along with Sadie and Apprentice Steve they have been busy so that she looks OK. I will let you know how the venture carries on next month.



Talking of Sail Training – Last month I told you

about Ricky our other apprentice going off on an adventure of a lifetime on the sailing ship 'Pelican'. Well he had an excellent voyage down the Las Palmas. Unfortunately whilst there he had an accident and fractured both ankles. He is now home but will be laid up for a while but we all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to him coming back to work. In the meantime Apprentice Steve also managed to get a week's sail training in on board one of our local sailing boat going from Southampton along to Falmouth. He is back safe and sound along with his 'Competent Crew Certificate'. Well done Steve.

HSL 102 – She has been out of the water in the month and had her propellers changed along with some ongoing maintenance by Richard, 'Chippy' Chris, Allan2, 'Clankies' Tony and Shiner. She completed sea trials shortly after completion.

ST 1502 – She has been used on regular basis throughout the month. Below right she is seen taking out David Butters and his family on a short harbour trip. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

Donations We had a total of £242.00 donated which included £135 from September.



Any Suggestions for next month - Just let me know at:- boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name.