

## Monthly News Letter –

February 2015

### Historic Small Craft Section



**Well how did February go for you? Overall I think that it was a good month for us in the Boathouse. Quite a few new starters have joined us in the period and are finding their feet. The Exhibition boat project has moved on well and is on target.**

**Portsmouth Naval Base  
Property Trust**

**The Green Parrot** – Shiner Wright, Chris H, Clanky Tony and Eddie have been working on the Green Parrot in the month along with Fran who volunteered to scrub down all of the blue seat covers. In the photos below left Chris H is



busy painting the bottom panels out of the Green Parrot after cabin lockers. And below right Shiner is seen using the

band saw, this photo was taken whilst he still had all of his fingers attached to his hands. Who said Clankies don't work with wood. Terry and one of our new volunteers, Bob Hackett (2) moved one of the bilge pumps in the engine room so hopefully now we can pump out any water that gets in there.



**D49** – There has been very little in the way of D49 work this month.

**ST 1502 Coding Programme** – 1502 is due back over from Haslar in the next few days. She has had most of her wiring replaced along with a new battery charger. Her engines are still in the process of being surveyed so we will know just what she needs doing shortly. There are concerns over her oil coolers and it will depend on the findings when they are removed as to whether we need to replace them or just acid wash to remove the build up of salts and fit new seals and some sparkling new oil.

**Motor Whaler Danae** – Still no change with this boat at present.

**Islander Class 14 Ft, 'Wanderer'** - Below left and right, Robert 'I have started so I will Finish' of Nottingham can be seen stripping off the varnish from the inside of the hull of the RNSA 14Ft. Unfortunately these will



probably be the last photos we will see of Robert as he has now done what it said on his tin and has now actually 'Finished'. Bob has retired from his years as a volunteer and is moving back to his home area to Derby so that he is nearer to his family. Congratulations Bob,



take care of yourself up in the Midlands. You will be missed, everyone here sends their best wishes. We will carry on with the RNSA, one of our new ladies, Susan D is going to adopt it for you. Above left she is telling Marian about the scarph joint she has just put into one of the RNSA's damaged seat slats.

**HSL 102 /MGB 81**– Tiger continues with the decks on MGB 81 and along with Chippy Chris and Richard H they are starting to get the boats

ready for the next trip to Normandy which is being planned for the middle of the year.

**FMD Dainty** –Pauline has been working on Dainty’s cabin with Trevor as her mentor. Below right she is busy varnishing the window surrounds from Dainty’s cabin and a deck grating off one of the whalers.



**Exhibition Boat Building Project** – The Scandinavian Skiff project has moved forward well in the month. Over left we have got one of our new Starters Dave C having a short



teach in on the why’s and wherefores of fairing the Chine logs. Abover



right Whaler John is checking the angle of the chine log making sure that he can nearly shave with the edge. Over left you can see a potential

volunteer doing her ‘Taster’ day. This is Sophie D with a block plane to hand getting stuck in. In the main the early part of this month was definitely a case of ‘Block Planes ‘R’ Us’ as they were definitely the tool of choice. Over left again Sophie is shoring up a dummy plank to test the bevels.



Below right Fran W is having a go at shaping the bevels on the Stem Post. In this one she is joining up the gaps left by Fred after he had cut to angles with his saw. Below left the stem has been generally bevelled and a dummy plank offered up to check how snug it fits. In the photo bottom right Ricky is busy locating the spiling plank in place so that we can take off the shape of the first plank. The spiling plank is a full length section of



dummy planking running along the middle of the chine rails with gaps top and bottom. It is used in



conjunction with a set of dividers to mark off a series of points along the full length of the boat to take off the shape the shape of the new plank. Once marked the spiling plank is laid onto the full plank stock and the lines are taken off. Below left Alan Beattie (2) and Dave S are giving the position a final once over. Below right is a photo of Marian taking a photo along with Jim who is doing an impression of the ‘Man from Delmonte’



about to say ‘Yes’. Below right you can see the full sized plank after Tiger has scarphed three off 8 Ft x 2 ft plywood planks together and below left at the top of the next column he is just getting into the frame. Whilst all of the plank prep work was underway Dave C had



been cutting a fitting a pair of ‘blending’ chocks at the ends of the chine logs to tie them

together and fill in the gap. He can be seen finalising the fit in the photo at the bottom of the previous column. In the photo below right Jim and Tiger are busy making like wood worms putting lots of little holes in the cut plank ready to take the screws



Finally just to



prove all of the calculations were right the first planks are in place some of the waste on one

side having been cut off.

**Rope making by Royal Appointment** Last month I covered the 'John Parson's Portsmouth Rope Making Machine' and its' construction. During the month it had a chance to prove itself in anger. Princess Anne visited the Portsmouth Sail Training Trust in Boat House 5 and the young members of the PSTT gave her a demonstration of rope making using the machine. In the photo over right you can see John P (Chief Designer and Constructor), Marian, Jim and Knotty doing the first test run on the new machine. It didn't take long to iron out the few glitches and get to the point where it was



a case of 'Money for old Rope' or in this case new rope. Over right Princess Anne is watching the PSTT young volunteers



operating the machine. The Princess Royal was so impressed with their efforts that she took away the length of rope she had seen made.

**Whaler Excellent** – John P has managed a bit of work on Excellent in the month in between making the Rope machine and doing a bit of careful chipping on the Skiff.

**A bit more of our new volunteers** – The programme of 'Taster' days continues well. Sophie Dyke had a good day with us as can be seen over left. Susan Dolman who has adopted



the RNSA from Robert of Nottingham also had a taster day and then came back for more, so we must be doing something right. From previous months we now have Dave Casey, Allan Beattie (2), Tom Bennett and Bob Hackett (2) now with us and all proving to be useful assets. Tim Bicheno-Brown who came in last month for a day has also said that he enjoyed the day and would like to join us mid -year. We also had the pleasure of a 'work experience'



student for a couple of days. Chloe had come over to see us from Belfast. Over left at the bottom of the previous column she is marking the hull of the skiff with a gauge to show the plank land..

**Knotty Work Continues** - Knotty Tony is still keeping his hand in, below left he is busy with some wire splicing. He has also been busy making some 'Open Day' amusement demos and games. We now have a mini skittle alley and two rope quoit games to keep people busy along with a 'Get the ring on a bottle' teaser.



**An Unplanned Presentation** – The volunteers were presented with a small brass plaque by IBTC in recognition of their efforts in making the strong back that is destined to be used on future boat construction programmes. This is now mounted on the upright along with the signatures of the build team for all future users to see.



**Donations** – In the month of December we collected **£80.12** in donations from visitors to Boat House 5. As in previous months all donations go towards the Small Boat maintenance funds.

**Any 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.