

Monthly New's Letter

Boathouse 4 Volunteers

April 2022



All Fool's Day paid us a visit, April showers have been and gone. Plenty of work has been done with some key stages achieved. Watch this space!!

Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



has got Mark and Pauline making up a dummy section. The photos at the top of the next page show them getting to grips. Of course this exercise is also good practice for the two volunteers as they extend their skills base.

Over right Mark is doing an impression of an instructor advising Pauline in the art of using a panel saw . You will notice that he is a very brave individual leaving his pokey finger so near to the tips of Pauline's saw. Below left she has obviously got it weighed

HLD D49 maintenance Jeremy and Linden have carried on with the weatherproofing of D49's decks. Hopefully the weather can hold off a bit longer.

VIC 56 – Paul and Beth have been busy again in the month with general maintenance. Paul had another go at tidying up the coal bunkers and attacked the bags of coal yet again.. In the photos belo left and right they have also been



paint/rust stripping of the upper deck along with some priming and undercoating. It all helps to keep her looking good and ready to meet her public in

the upcoming steaming sessions.

WW2 Dory Restoration. The team have been working on the keel to prepare the boat for straightening the keel which has developed a bit of hogging over the years. They hope to remove all of the original outer sacrificial



secondary keel to weaken the whole. Then once that is away they can put a couple of solid shores up inside dropping down from the hog to the workshop floor, then with the help of gravity and some brute force bring the ends of the boat down and force the hog up by an appropriate amount. In the photo over left they have nearly got the sacrificial section off. All they need now is a nice wooden wedge to drive through whilst releasing the fixings, no soonesaid than done as in the photo above right. Steve thinks it is important to be able to explain to our visitors the construction of the keel.

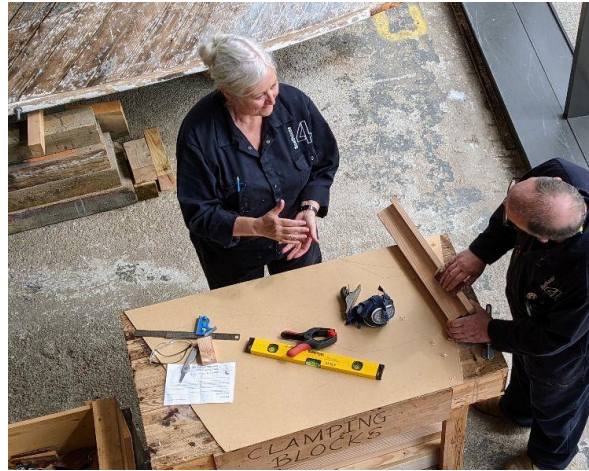
Therefore as an exhibition piece he



off as she cuts up the dummy keel leaving Mark in a state of virtual redundancy whilst below right the two of them have the component piece parts together ready for bolting



Last month we saw Steve working on the prop shaft, below right he has finished his fettling with the shaft looking pretty smart. Bottom right Steve has got himself another willing volunteer in the shape of Les and he is busy removing the damaged garboard plank ready for the kee / hog straightening process.



CMB4 Replica build – We made some good progress in this current month of April Harry pushed on with back fillingte step voids with te foan inserts, eventually to be joined by Steve B and Fred. Below left Harry is trimming off surplus as in



middle photo below Far right is Fred's saw mid stroke slicing away the bulk before using a grade 40 sanding block. Far left in the photos on the next page Ian P is busy drilling through the internal longitudinal strings ready for bolting down. Next to that in the middle photo Steve B is cheating as he uses Fred's multitool to cut away the spare and over right David and Harry discuss the next phase.



Below left James is taking a break from his 'Storeman' duties and has moved his section on and has given the whole step a thin coat of low density resin filler and is sanding it all down smooth and fair. Below middle photo the majority of the Wednesday team are looking at the bronze engine bearer bolts and are putting some threads onto the ends now that our



tame Blacksmith has finished putting the domed heads on.

Above right Mike F and Fred have made a start laying the first stage of the step side planking. Below left and middle Mike and Tim are cutting up some planks ready for the big push of planking the main surfaces of the steps with Mike F cutting an extra inch and a half of thread just to keep Fred quiet as he fits some the engine bearer through bolts in the after section.



Below left the job has been moved on yet again with all the Starboard side first stage planking fitted, faired and skimmed. The razor-sharp edge of the step is exactly what the doctor ordered. Below middle the starboard side looking forward from



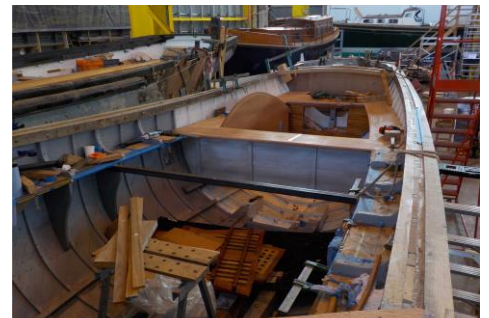
the trailing edge of the step and over left shows the port side as the planking is progressed by the other teams. At this stage the planks have not been faired down but the trailing edge has been screwed to the former, the twin rows of screws can just be seen.



Ove3r left, David G , Ian B, Ian P and Fred are having a discussion on the merits of getting the narrow edged planks faired down. In the Middle shot Harry is checking the fairing of the starboard side as one of his parting shots as an Employee. Harry's time as a 'Government funded 'Kick

Start' body is finishing. Harry has been accepted as a mechanical Engineer in the Royal Navy. He is awaiting his start date, likely to be the end of May. Harry has made a real contribution to the CMB4 Programme with his work on the step. Good luck Harry for the future. He hopes to continue with us on a voluntary basis until he starts at HMS Raleigh for the first part of his basic training.

Armed Steam Cutter ASC 26 – Ollie and his team Have made some big steps forward this month in respect to the foredeck planking and fitting out of the midships and after sections. John and Keith, our resident 'gunsmiths' have



continued with the Maxim Gun. This month they have concentrated on the deck fitting and base assembly. We have had some really good news this month regarding our 'Kick Start' Government funded employees, Emily has finished her time with the Kick Start programme and due to her progress has been offered a staff position with the Trust. Below right she is painting the hull. Well done Emily . Below left and middle the foredeck planking has moved forward and is looking very



swish..

In the photos at the top of the next page some of the stage shots of the Maxim Gun can be seen, Top left the base ring has been given a coat of bright shiny metal paint with the internal ring assembly at an early stage of fettling. Middle photo shows the dished internal ring fitting ready to be drilled out and over far right the near completed base assembly with the central spigot and gun box assembly in place as a 'for instance'. The inevitable 'Hand' of John just giving it a little support.



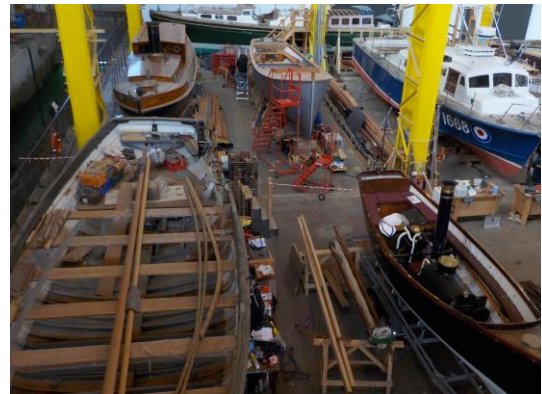
Seaplane Tender ST 1502 – She is now operational and ready for the season and upcoming events for our Open Pontoon sessions



LCA F8 - The team have completed all the work on her and she is fully operational and has been running visitors around the harbour in the month.



We have had quite a big move around in the month, **Range Safety Launch RSL 1668** – has finally been brought into the Boathouse for a refit. She will be used by one of the classes of IBTC Students as part of their painting course curriculum.



Now out of the water she looks quite big in comparison to ST1502. **Steam Cutter SC438 Mischief** has been moved out of the 'Goldfish' Bowl giving Steve and his Dory a bit more room. He promptly leapt away and collared another work bench. **ASC 26 Falmouth** has also been moved almost back to where she started in 2018. As well as making room for the boats it also gives us the opportunity to have an interim tidy up, never a bad thing in a shed to size of B/H4.

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: - boatbitsus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name