

KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



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JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

WINTER IN THE DOCKS

Baden Powell has moved from the South Quay pontoons to King's Lynn Docks for the winter. She's in the Alexandra Dock – the one closest to the river. That provides us with easy access and facilities to carry out the winter tasks such as installing the sails with all the handling ropes and blocks, plus the hoops (made in Lynn by our volunteers) so the sails can be hauled up and down the mast easily. Regular maintenance routines will be carried out, and final adjustments made so the boat conforms to all regulations.

By Easter (Good Friday March 30 to Easter Monday April 2) the boat will be ready to sail out into the River Great Ouse to begin the summer sailing programme. We are planning trips up and down the river on suitable tides, plus longer trips into The Wash, round to Hunstanton or Brancaster. Other similar craft within the **Old Gaffers Association** (www.oga.org.uk) will be invited to visit the town during the summer.

NEW BLOCKS FOR NEW SAILS



Winter jobs include making 20 single and double blocks for managing the sails, plus 30 circular pulley wheels to run within them. Mid-left in the main picture are some of the hoops that will be attached to the mainsail so it runs smoothly up and down the mast when raised or lowered. These are also being made during the winter. The picture includes one finished single block at top right, in a temporary lashing.

You can judge the sizes by the hand tools. Hundreds of years of experience have gone into matching block sizes to the weight of sails. In the smaller picture the editor's 6ft-plus US nephew Edward Janney is seen at the US Navy Museum in Washington DC indicating the size of blocks used by the biggest sailing ships in the days before engines revolutionised ocean travel.

YOUR DONATIONS

A big thank you to many of you who send us donations by cheque. It seems that it is habit-forming for an increasing number of you. We are making a start on repaying a number of loans made to us last year by volunteers and others at a time when it was the only possible way we could continue to fund the re-build at St Osyth. When you next write us a cheque, please make it out to **King's Lynn Worfolk Boat Trust**. Your entire donation will go directly into the Baden Powell pot, and keep us afloat for our exciting sailing plans for this year and beyond.

BECOME A FRIEND

New volunteer Kim Leonard is sorting out how we should go about setting up a **Friends of the Baden Powell** organisation. Many of you will be aware of the fund-raising and social events that are run by similar groups of supporters for other charities. Kim is Treasurer at the Friends of King's Lynn Museum, and we look forward to working with him. We'll be inviting you to join our group, and perhaps take part in some way to help make it a success.

NORTH NORFOLK WOODEN BOATS

We are in touch with two wooden boat ventures up on the north coast that share many of our aims. Centred on Stiffkey close to the boatbuilding yard of David and George Hewitt, **Rescue Wooden Boats** has a visitor centre telling the story of wooden fishing boats and lifeboats along the north Norfolk coast. In the boatyard the Lucy Lavers lifeboat has been restored and took part in a commemoration of her role in the Dunkirk rescue operations. New wooden boats are under construction at the yard, and Worfolk boats are in evidence. They have compiled a wide-ranging archive of filmed interviews, including one with Bill Worfolk and another with Vic Pratt, who is helping us with the restoration of the Baden Powell. There is much to explore when you look at their website: www.rescuewoodenboats.com

A relative newcomer to our shores is the **Coastal Exploration Company** run by ex-marine Henry Chamberlain. Their first season included sailing cruises, delivery commissions, yoga breakfasts and other fascinating enterprises. Their three restored boats cater for open sea trips or exploring the creeks under sail. Tim is in touch with Henry and they will be exchanging ideas soon. Find out more about their business at www.coastalexplorationcompany.co.uk

IDEAS FOR OUR FUTURE

We are developing our own events for the summer. Chartering will be offered, so you can take seven friends out for the day on your birthday for an unusual party experience, or to celebrate an anniversary.

We are exploring fishing trips where our passengers can dig up cockles on a sandbank and cook them at a barbecue while waiting for the tide to turn so there's enough water for the trip back to Lynn.

If you have additional ways you think we could ensure Baden Powell makes a memorable contribution to the maritime experience of King's Lynn, please email them to us at info@floatourboat.co.uk and we'll explore them at our planning meetings.

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