

KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



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Charity number 1139759

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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SUCCESSFUL SUMMER STARTER

Baden Powell will be tucked away this month for the winter in King's Lynn Docks, out of the water. Our first season has met many of the objectives that were set for the project during the decade up to the re-launch in 2017. Here are some of the statistics –

We did fifty trips up and down the river.

Baden Powell went into The Wash eight times.

We visited Sutton Bridge and Wisbech.

Total 2018 passenger count was around 300.



It's great that youngsters are now able to see the King's Lynn waterfront close up from a new angle, and learn how coal, grain, timber and many other commodities were traded into and out of the town in the centuries when roads made travelling by land slow and risky, and railways had not been invented.

These are King's Lynn Beavers passing where the main harbour was until 1850.

WINTER JOBS

Out of the water doesn't mean the volunteers get the winter off. They will be back on the boat some Wednesdays to undertake a thorough check to pinpoint signs of wear and tear. There will be painting and repairs, and adjustments to ensure better handling next year.

New equipment will be installed, like a toilet in the forepeak 'cuddy' to make longer trips more relaxing for all aboard.

A small boat 'tender' will be arriving from Brian Kennell – the Essex boatbuilder whose wooden boatbuilding skills and knowledge helped us so much in rebuilding Baden Powell. Donated by our secretary Julie Williams in memory of her late husband Ralph, the new tender will have an outboard motor so passengers will sometimes be able to go ashore and experience close up the flora and fauna in our special part of the coast. There will also be opportunities for picnics, barbecues and sandbank explorations. Weddings even?

Tim has also found a wheeled trolley on which the Baden Powell can be fitted to make

for easier manouvreability when she's out of the water. That opens up new possibilities for us in the future. She'd look great in Saturday Market Place!

FRIENDS ARE OFF

Kim Leonard has got Friends of the Baden Powell Fishing Boat launched. For £12 a year, new Friends will be contributing directly towards preserving part of King's Lynn's fishing and social history, and will qualify for a range of benefits from the prospect of a free trip to reductions on buying T-shirts and other merchandise. Full details on our website, or contact Kim direct on 07985 673935 or at friendsofln138@gmail.com A very warm welcome to all.

WORFOLK PAIRING

The Salford, another Norfolk boat, was in the Lower Purfleet for the David Copperfield filming, and looks as though she will be a regular visitor. Built in the 1950s by Walter Norfolk's sons Gerald and William, the Salford has a clinker-built hull (overlapping planks) and was mainly used to fish for whelks.

Now owned by Wells-based Henry Chamberlain, the 30ft Salford is the largest of three boats he uses in his Coastal Exploration Company to show people the wildest places along the North Norfolk coast among the saltmarshes on short or longer excursions. Fancy up to four days including camping?

Henry is also setting up a distribution network for transporting goods around the county. He has started by delivering kegs of beer from Barsham Brewery around the coast and up the River Great Ouse to the Bank House Hotel in King's Lynn, and is looking for more business in each direction to build into a sustainable arm of his enterprise.

HANSE FESTIVITIES IN MAY

Early plans for Sunday May 12, the King's Lynn Hanse Festival, mean we should be in company with the Salford again, plus the local coastal rowing club and maybe other clubs from further afield. Flags of other Hanseatic towns will be at the head of a parade through the town, and the waterfront will become a street market. Hanse House will be the natural centre for shopping and family events, with visitors from other Hanseatic towns expected.

OUR FIRST REGULARS

The group of birdwatchers that commissioned the Baden Powell for a trip out to The Wash soon after we got going in the summer were so pleased at the variety of birds and other wildlife they saw on their first outing that they soon took two more trips, and are now booked in for more in 2019. We're hoping that groups of people who are equally keen on flowers, insects and other manifestations of life on our foreshores will see the value of making regular visits to update their experiences.

MORE EXPOSURES

We earned some good money for Baden Powell's short stay in the Lower Purfleet as part of the setting for the David Copperfield filming in the summer. We're now exploring how to get ourselves upfront when other film-makers are looking for boats like ours and waterfronts like the Purfleet to feature in their filming. With so many historical dramas featuring on our screens at present, there must be more opportunities for us.

Did you know that Baden-Powell's brother George owned a steam yacht, the Otaria? In 1896, he took a party of scientists up to Novaya Zemla in the Russian Arctic, to observe and photograph a solar eclipse. He too was knighted. Their sister Agnes was heavily involved in founding the Girl Guides while Robert was busy with the Boy Scouts. Their father was an Oxford Professor of Mathematics. He clearly had it all worked out. KH