

# KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



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Charity number 1139759

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## JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

### FILM DEBUT FOR THE BADEN POWELL

On July 18 Baden Powell will record her few minutes of fame when she will be filmed in the Purfleet as part of the new film, 'The Personal History of David Copperfield'. Armando Iannucci is directing, and we may see something of the stars Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Ben Wishaw and Hugh Laurie.

Our own leading lights Tim Clayton and Chris Ward are being outfitted for parts as boat crew, so it promises to be a significant occasion for them, for the boat and for King's Lynn. There will be a significant contribution towards our running costs. Rumour has it that sundry other volunteers may be discernable among the extras milling about the quay purposefully.

### ANOTHER WORFOLK BOAT

Walter Worfolk built his first King's Lynn boat when he moved here from Yorkshire in 1899. Now one of the last boats built by the company he started has been found in a back yard in Upwell.

Walter's sons Gerald and William were schoolboys when their father built the Baden Powell, and continued the family tradition after completing their apprenticeships with their father between the ages of 14 and 21.



Bill Worfolk's last boat? When exactly did Bill make this dinghy for Dr Geoffrey Bolt? And do you know if it was ever given a name?

Bob Nicholson, left, and Tim Clayton examine Bill Worfolk's handiwork.

They took the family business on until the 1970s, building more than 600 ships and repairing many more. One of Gerald and Bill's last boats was the Lady of Lynn, built for pathologist Richard Huntsman of Brancaster Staithe, who sailed it to Newfoundland when his family moved there for him to take up a new job. He did three transatlantic trips

in the Lady of Lynn, which is now in Vancouver and being sailed by Richard's son Timothy.

The Worfolk Brothers finished boatbuilding after Gerald died at 90 in 1981. But Bill made it to his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1994, and wasn't one to sit about in retirement. When another Norfolk medic, Geoffrey Bolt of King's Lynn, asked if Bill would build a sailing dinghy for him, he set to and produced an 11-footer for Geoffrey and his wife Heather to enjoy.

Following Geoffrey's death the boat came into the hands of Bob Nicholson of Upwell, who has been following progress on the Baden Powell, and visited us at the pontoons recently. He told us about 'the last Worfolk boat', and Tim visited him and the boat. It needs work, but Bob is seeing to some of it, and Tim knows someone who can complete the renovation. Bob is happy for us to add this boat to our collection.

If you meet Bob and his Morris Minor Traveller, take a look at the renovation work he has undertaken to the woodwork of his car. He hasn't just replaced the timbers that were always vulnerable to rot at the back of the car. He has expertly scarfed in new pieces as required, and the joints will remind you of the caulking on the best of our classic yachts.

So thanks to Heather and Bob we will have the first and last of the King's Lynn Worfolk boats. The little one is too small to become the Baden Powell official tender, but she would certainly make a classic addition being towed behind BP if a man and boy crew were ever to re-enact a cockling trip out to The Wash.

## **SUMMER SAILINGS UNDER WAY**

We're advertising summer trips, and have completed several so far, with good responses from our passengers, who included Kate Prout of the Anglia TV News team on 25 April. Skipper Brian Smith and Tim Clayton explained BP's history, and the resulting short film that went out on 16 May. You can still find it on the Anglia TV website and our own.

After the latest review of our finances, Tim was heard suggesting that it seems likely that in 2019 we would be able to keep Baden Powell afloat from the income we will get from passengers.

From 22 July the boat has been booked by a party for a five-day trip to Wisbech and back with stops at Sutton Bridge, and we are looking at possible visits to North Norfolk with stopovers.

## **BOOK YOUR PASSAGE....**

When you want to experience what it's like to head out of town on a fishing boat, start by looking at our website [www.floatourboat.co.uk](http://www.floatourboat.co.uk) and click the Contact heading. Then enter your details and complete the application. We will then contact you to talk about when would be a convenient date and time for your Baden Powell sail. If you don't have access to a computer, a phone call to 01553 772329 or a visit to Tim's shop at 23 Chapel Street can be the starting point.

## **BE OUR FRIEND?**

Friends of the Baden Powell is coming together, with Kim Leonard finding the pieces. 'Great progress is being made in setting up a Friends Group for the Baden Powell,' he says. 'Julie Williams, John Woodford and I along with other members of the Trust have agreed the basic principles about how the Group will be organised and run. We have also been looking into ways to reward our Friends to say thank you for their contributions in helping maintain the Baden Powell. We will be in contact when the Friends Group is being launched'.