

KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



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Charity number 1139759

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER SAILINGS START IN APRIL

Baden Powell will be unfurling her sails and returning to the South Quay pontoons at the end of March, preparing to start summer trips in April. Over the winter volunteers have been clearing barnacles off the hull so they won't slow her down, painting, installing the toilet, and re-shaping the rudder, among many other improvements.

Nobody's very sure how the original rudder looked, because it had been changed over the years to perform with an engine rather than with the original sail power. Last year it was realised that under certain wind and tide conditions it was difficult to make way by sail only. It helped if all hands were aft, ensuring the rudder was well underwater, and the tiller was given some welly. So the rudder, although still activated by the existing system, has been extended in area by about a third, with new timber and sturdy bolts. How much extra manoeuvrability that brings us we shall soon discover. It's called reducing the weather helm. A new tiller has been made to enhance the effect.



More volunteer hands were on board the Baden Powell recently when youngsters Dean Whitmore (left) and Ashton Towler devoted their Wednesday off work to making sure all will be ready for the boat to get back in the water. There's always something for willing helpers to do while we are in the Docks at the Travis Perkins yard, undertaking winter maintenance

GLADYS HAS CAUGHT SOMEONE'S EYE

Our other, bigger Norfolk fishing boat, the Gladys, LN28, built by Walter Norfolk's sons Gerald and Bill in about 1914 for George Bartlett, Tom Rose and Edward Balls, was seen as a possible second project for the Trust once the Baden Powell was up and sailing. But she has caught the eye of another Norfolk group, which is looking to add another wooden craft to their boathouse. We are dedicated to keeping Norfolk boats alive, and the Baden Powell and a dinghy have been the results so far. If we can see the

Gladys taken on by someone else who shares our aims, then we will have played a part in the new project, and can offer encouragement and expertise along the way. Negotiations are proceeding, and news of the project will be announced as and when.

FRIENDS OF LN138

Be sure to register with our Friends group friendsofLN138@gmail.com to become a regular supporter of all we are achieving. Kim Leonard runs the Friends, and writes:

“The Friends Group is now well established, and a big thank you to the 21 members who have signed up so far – twelve of whom have paid the Life Membership option. To help contribute to the future seaworthiness and maintenance of the Baden Powell (LN138) we would welcome more supporters to join us for £12 per annum, which is less than four pints of Guinness or glasses of Chardonnay a year. So, if you are willing to push the boat out or know anyone else who would be interested in continuing to support us, please email our website or call me on 07985 673935.

“There are benefits on offer for Friends of the LN138. One is a free trip that you will soon be able to take advantage of. Please ensure that you bring your Membership Card with you on the day, once your trip has been confirmed. Whether you take advantage of this offer or not, the most important benefit is that you are helping to preserve what is a unique piece of King’s Lynn’s social and maritime history.”

COME SUMMER

While Baden Powell was being prepared for the new season, trustees and volunteers were coming up with ideas on how this summer’s activities might come together. One was how booking a trip might be organised better. So this is how to get on a trip in 2019: go to www.floatourboat.co.uk to find a high tide at a time on a day you would like to have a trip, then make a request on-line following the instructions. You’ll get a response pretty quickly, and then you can plan your day.

The least predictable factor is the weather. So if a trip has to be cancelled, passengers will be contacted in good time. Otherwise, all that remains is for them to turn up at the stated time, leaving the stiletto heels behind and taking some warm clothing. A lifejacket will be supplied. Each passenger will also receive a guide giving some historical background about the buildings along the waterfront.

HOW FAR WILL WE GO?

Last summer we sailed out to The Wash several times, seeing up to 37 bird species and many seals. We took a party to Wisbech. This summer our longer sails might include Brancaster or other north Norfolk ports, or Boston. Along the Norfolk coast and in Lincolnshire ports, Worfolk-built boats spent decades fishing for their owners. We may meet up with some of these ‘relatives’ during the summer.

WORFOLK BOATS TO VISIT?

Any owner of a Worfolk boat who brings it back to Lynn will be sure of a good Norfolk Worfolk welcome. We can offer help with mooring if they contact us with their plans.

The Old Gaffers Association www.oga.org.uk is for owners of boats like ours, and we are now members. Their reach is very wide, but the strong east coast representation is mostly in Suffolk and Essex.

Nevertheless we’ll be inviting members to King’s Lynn. It would be fantastic to have a flotilla of Old Gaffers along our waterfront.

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