

KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



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IT'S BEEN A BUSY SUMMER

The season's not over yet, but Baden Powell has notched up some pretty impressive performances during her second season as King's Lynn's historic working boat. We have been on some 40 outings up to September 15 – and carried something like 300 donating passengers.

All remaining sailings for September are now fully booked, but you may be lucky if you're quick for October, given good weather. Otherwise you'll need to wait at least six months until you get a chance to see King's Lynn waterfront unfold from the deck of our historic boat.

A highlight of the year was the four-day visit to Wells-next-the-Sea over the August 26/27 Bank Holiday weekend. The ski-boat racing in Lynn was making use of our pontoon berth so we had to make ourselves scarce. See Tim's report below.

Next year we hope to do another coastal trip, perhaps re-experiencing supporter Joe Solly's trips to Lincolnshire, where he and Fisher family friends used to fill the Baden Powell's hold with mussels off the beaches – sometimes rather too many for Joe's peace of mind during the journey back.

Or it could be visiting an east coast port for a gathering of boats like the Baden Powell, who are also members of the Old Gaffers Association. Perhaps we will succeed in tempting some of them to visit Lynn.

OCTOBER LAUNCH FOR DAVID COPPERFIELD FILM

"The Personal History of David Copperfield" the Amando Iannucci film of Charles Dickens's personal favourite among his 19th Century novels, opens the British Film Institute's 2019 London Film Festival on October 2. It's the ninth time the novel has been filmed – and there have been four TV versions.

Festival Director Tricia Tuttle says the new film 'shows Iannucci's trademark wit and a joyous sense of style.' It also shows the Baden Powell in the Outer Purfleet, with Chris Ward and Tim Clayton in crewing roles. Supporting roles are taken by Ben Whishaw (Uriah Heep), Peter Capaldi (Mr Micawber), Hugh Laurie (Mr Dick), and, oh yes, Dev Patel as David.

They're all sure of a warm welcome when the film rolls out in King's Lynn after general release in January. Reviews so far have been highly complimentary.

TIM'S TAKE ON WELLS

Our sail to Wells was skippered by Bob Panrucker, and crewed by Chris, Gordon and I. We headed down the Lynn channel under motor, past Vinegar Middle and Bull Dog Sand. Then the westerly breeze gave us the opportunity to set sail, and we changed course for Sunk Sand, then to Wells Cardinal buoy where we anchored up to wait for the tide to turn. This gave us time to inspect the hull and check how the anti fouling is standing up this year. Although there is some growth, it is nothing like the amount we found when we took her out of the water last winter. So hopefully we will be able to clean her up more quickly this winter.

We then had a hearty supper of chowder and crusty bread. When the tide turned we radioed Wells Harbour, who talked us in. A fishing boat guided us into the outer harbour where we were made very welcome. The following morning Chris and I took her into the inner harbour, mooring up on the pontoon near the 1899 clipper Albatros.



Then we had a brilliant sail with several descendants of Walter Worfolk out in the boat he designed and built in 1900.

Just as the two great great great grandsons are still Worfolks, our Baden Powell is a familiar version of the original boat – built in loving detail by our volunteers and professional boatbuilders more than a century after Walter launched the original into the River Nar. We took rather longer than he did; about ten times as long!

But our livelihoods didn't depend on it.



Chris and I took time to have a look at Rescue Wooden Boats at Stiffkey, and had a long chat with David Hewitt, one of the boatbuilders, who kindly allowed us to look at the collection of salvaged RNLi boats. We also had a good look over the Lucy Lavers, one of the Dunkirk Little Ships, which now does trips around Wells Harbour and is well worth supporting.

We came back to Lynn on Wednesday 27 August. Sadly the winds were not in our favour and we had to motor a lot of the way. But while we waited for the tide to turn we had some sailing practice for our new volunteer Carol, which went very well. We look forward to sailing with her again. Back in Lynn on the height of the tide, we were all tired – but well pleased with our trip.

ASHES TO THE DEEP

The Fisher family, owners of the Baden Powell for many years following on from the Cook family, renewed their association with the boat in memory of two Fisher brothers. Their ashes were taken out into the Wash, where the brothers had spent many hours of their lives, and in a brief ceremony they were committed to the sea, along with floral tributes.

FRIENDS PROGRESS

Kim Leonard writes: Although only a year has passed since its inception, the Baden Powell Fishing Boat Friends Group continues to grow steadily. We now have 34 members, including 12 life members who have paid £72 each. Annual membership is only £12, and there are concessions.

We would really welcome additional members, so if you know anyone who would like to join for the cost of a few cups of coffee or glasses of Chardonnay a year, please contact Kim Leonard on email friendsofln138@gmail.com or on 07985 673935.

Our first set of accounts have been audited and approved and we have a healthy surplus carried forward, which is available when the Baden Powell needs it.

During the past few months we have purchased some LN138 baseball caps that are available at all events to help raise more funds to keep this unique fishing boat in ship shape condition.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

We look forward to welcoming visitors at the South Quay pontoons on Sunday 15 September. It will mean them putting on a lifebelt, but we expect many to take the opportunity to see the boat in detail, and get their questions answered by the volunteers who will be showing off the craftsmanship. High tides are 7.55am and 8.24pm, so not suitable for taking Baden Powell out for a trip. KH