

# KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



23 Chapel Street, King's Lynn  
PE30 1EG 01553 772329



Charity number 113975

Website: [www.floatourboat.co.uk](http://www.floatourboat.co.uk)

E-mails: [info@floatourboat.co.uk](mailto:info@floatourboat.co.uk)

Twitter & Facebook: @floatourboat17

## MARCH 2020

### ON A MARCH TIDE....

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH should see the Baden Powell arrive at the pontoons at the South Quay for the 2020 summer – probably around the high tide at 1330.

All winter Wednesday workdays have been held in the Travis Perkins yard at the docks, when our volunteers have been carrying out all those jobs which need doing to keep a wooden boat in good trim. Especially when the wooden boat concerned is the historic Baden Powell, that worked from King's Lynn for eighty years before a long programme of work under Project Leader Tim Clayton brought her back to life to play a major role on the town's waterfront.

### THE AGE-OLD QUESTION

Is a restored boat the same boat, or is it a new boat? When restoring the Baden Powell we used as many original parts as were usable. There weren't many.

And as we replaced all the worn out timbers with a replica using new wood, the boat is still the concept Walter Worfolk had in mind in 1900. As Tim says, her spirit lives on.

The cells of us human beings are constantly dying and being replaced. So does that mean we aren't the same people as we were ten years ago?

Please take a look at a very interesting YouTube video under Sampson Boat Co EP58. Leo Sampson is doing a tremendous job restoring the 1910 wooden yacht Tally Ho. We subscribe to his restoration theory.

### “My great-grandfather Walter....”

Trevor Dodd, descendant of Baden Powell designer and builder Walter Worfolk, plans to visit King's Lynn this month to catch up with family and the boat his grandfather Gerald and Great Uncle Bill watched being built even before they were apprenticed to their father Walter's business. Trevor writes:

“I never had the honour of meeting my great-grandfather Walter Worfolk or his wife Lily, but heard many stories of the strict upbringing of their two sons. Gerald was my grandfather. Walter, of course, built the Baden Powell, now faithfully restored to her original condition by a dedicated team of local volunteers. Walter had his sons sign a contract at the age of 12 as apprentices, while they learned the family trade. I'm told the apprenticeships were arduous and lengthy, and they received little in terms of compensation. But they endured

until they were 21 and then carried on the family tradition. As soon as I was able I started to visit their Bentinck Dock workshop. I walked there every Saturday morning while at school and watched progress on their various projects.

“I witnessed one of the boats built from beginning to end. She was the Agnes C, built for a local fisherman, Frank Castleton, and named after his wife. I recall that orders came in from all over the world, from as far away as Australia in some cases.

Launching Agnes C. Bill Worfolk extreme left and brother Gerald extreme right. And who's the lad at the back looking for somewhere to push? Maybe it's Trevor?



“At least one boat, Lady of Lynn, made its way to the USA and Canada. The brothers built almost all the boats in the fishing fleet at that time. But not only fishing boats, as their skills included building 60ft racing schooners. They also worked on larger ships that needed repairs while they were in Lynn or in the vicinity.

“I was fascinated by what I witnessed during my visits. The entire workshop was built from wood, the boats were built from wood, and the floors were covered in wood shavings. The workshop was heated, kind of, by a wood burning stove. How in the world there was never a fire was beyond me. They both smoked pipes but never in the workshop; while working they chewed tobacco instead. I recall there were only two power tools, an electric planer and a band saw. All the others were hand tools. And of course there was a steamer used to make the planking flexible enough to bend into shape as they formed the hull of their latest masterpiece. They almost never talked while working – they just knew exactly what needed to be done next. I never really saw a plan, though they must have made them.

“Occasionally, my grandfather would take me to his local pub, the Bentinck Arms, for a crafty underage pint, much to my mother’s disgust.”

We plan to take Trevor out for a trip in the Baden Powell while he is here, and hear more of his recollections of Lynn. He’ll be catching up with his sister Pat and brother-in-law Dave Hart, one of our longest-serving volunteers.

After attending Wymondham College for seven years, and a short spell at Salford University, Trevor joined the computer department of Jaeger Company in King’s Lynn, and stayed for seven years, before moving to London to work for an American multinational company, Univac. He worked for them in Iran for two years until the Cultural Revolution in 1979. In total Trevor has visited fifty countries and lived in ten. He has now retired to Malaysia with his wife. He has authored three books, the first of which is called “Trevor’s Travels.” All three are available from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in paperback and Kindle formats.

## New hands

We welcomed half a dozen new volunteers to work on the Baden Powell during the winter, and they have put in weekly hours in most weathers under Tim and Chris to ensure BP is ready to take up her summer berth on the river. Scraping and re-painting the hull, sprucing up wear and tear in the hold, and countless other tasks have been completed, so she will be a brave sight when she moves out into the river – hopefully under sail.



## Bookings are busy already

We’re off to a good start with prospective passengers for the 2020 summer season. So if you want to climb aboard for your very own new view of the King’s Lynn waterfront and/or the seals and birds near the saltmarshes of The Wash, it’s time to book via [floatourboat.co.uk](https://floatourboat.co.uk) and check you’ve got something warm to take with you. It’s an open boat – but with a loo!

If you’ve got seven friends – make it a charter party and give them all a treat!

## More new hands?

If you are recently retired or have spare time that you want to fill enjoyably in good company, think about offering to become a volunteer with the King’s Lynn Norfolk Boat Trust. We work mostly on Wednesdays, and there is a great variety of things to do: make films, make tea; paint the boat or pictures; publicise what we do; research the town’s fishing history or make your own contribution in your own way. Email [info@floatourboat.co.uk](mailto:info@floatourboat.co.uk) to start. KH