

KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST

Registered charity 113975

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Another sailing season over. How good it's been to get back to regular sailings after the chaos and disappointments of the covid years. During the 2023 season we hosted nearly 300 visitors aboard Baden Powell for trips out to Bulldog Bank in the Wash to see the seals. Not forgetting, of course, the views of the Lynn historic river frontage and docks twixt the Purfleet and the Fisher Fleet which even long-term residents tell us they've never seen and usually spot something that they didn't know about.

HELP!

We have a bit of a dilemma. Up to now Travis Perkins have very generously allowed us to overwinter the boat in their yard on the Bentinck Dock and this included the sole use of a workshop. This afforded us a space to work on Baden Powell over the winter months doing all the necessary fettling that a summer season of usage inevitably causes. We normally strip the boat completely of its masts and rigging and every rope, sail and fitting undergoes rigorous inspection to ensure that the boat can safely operate in the coming year. The below-water hull is carefully scraped and coats of bio-friendly anti-foul applied – not everybody's favourite job!

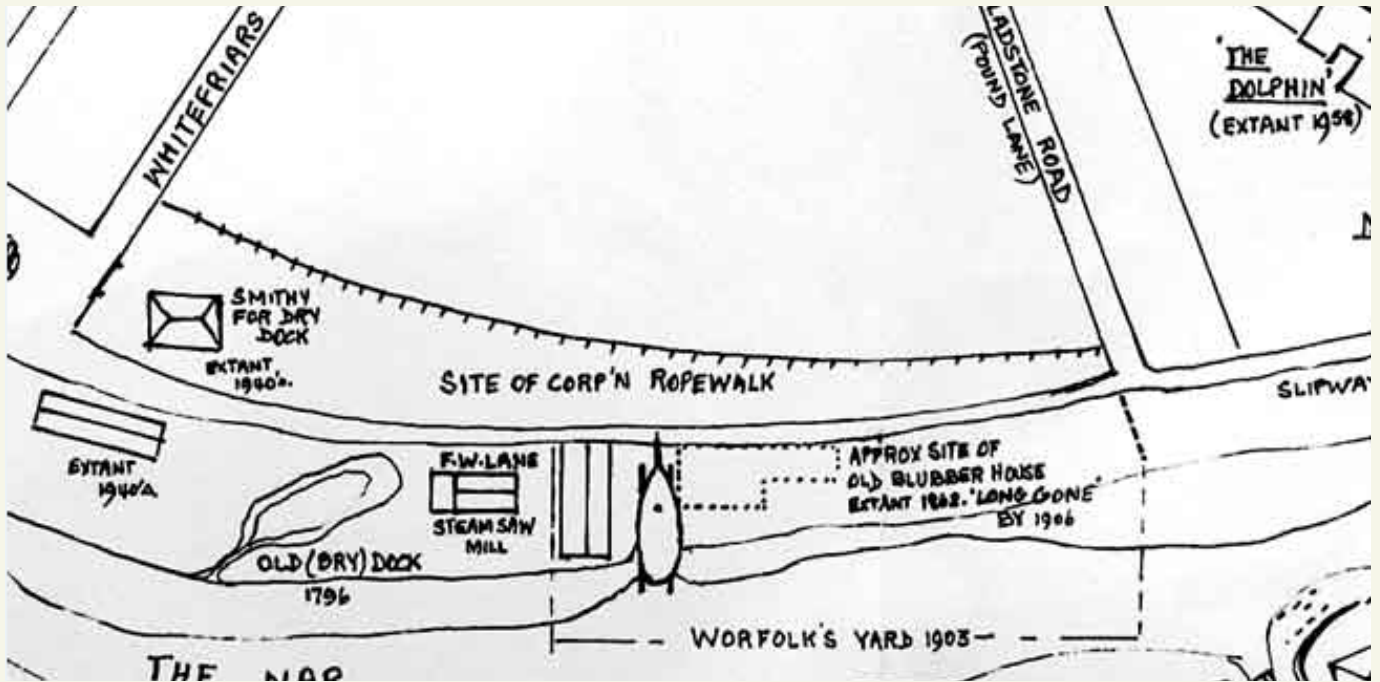
Unfortunately Travis Perkins are no longer able to offer us the yard and workshop and the Docks are no longer able to lift the boat out. Consequently we don't have a 'home', or rather winter quarters, for Baden Powell. Options are being explored but if anybody reading this can offer us a solution we should be pleased to hear from them.

News from Lindsey Bavin, the curator at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum, of forthcoming events includes the 25th series of True's Talks focussing on local and regional history. They are to be held every Thursday at 1pm from February 2 to March 23, 2023.

Admission is free (although donations are welcome) but places are limited, so booking is essential and can be made from January 10, when the museum reopens after Christmas closing.

The talks cover a variety of local history subjects from 'Disastrous Floods in King's Lynn 1374-1953', to St Faith's Gaywood, Fenland railways and growing up in North End.

Where was the Baden Powell built? The map shows the location of Walter Worfolk's Boatyard on the River Nar not far from South Gate. Walter had arrived from Stainforth in Yorkshire with his young family the previous year and knew that Lynn did not have a boat building company to service the fishing fleet so he put the skills he learned in Stainforth to immediate use by building the 34ft Baden Powell for Harry and William Cook. Nothing remains of the yard today although the site can be viewed by walking along The Friars between the Whitefriars and Gladstone Road junctions. As can be seen on the map, prior to the yard the blubberhouse serving the local whaling fleet was situated there. That must have cast quite a smell over the neighbourhood! The River Nar in those days was navigable and flowed out to the Great Ouse via Boal Quay.



Have you got some spare time and would like to get involved with Baden Powell as we are always looking for volunteers. No special skills are needed. We look at it as our 'men's shed' (with due deference to our lady volunteers who also don their overalls and get stuck in). We are a very sociable group – everybody is a volunteer including skippers, crew, and those who help keeping Baden Powell up to scratch. If you fancy training to be a skipper then we can offer that too.

There are a variety of jobs to do: painting the boat, helping to publicise what we do, crewing and, of course, skippering our trips. You will be made more than welcome. Email info@floatourboat.co.uk to make contact.

A Great Christmas Gift idea!

Gift vouchers covering trips with us on Baden Powell can be purchased on our website. These can be used for bookings on future trips. The vouchers are available for £20 each and provide the recipient with the opportunity of a fascinating trip out to meet the seal and bird life of The Wash. Vouchers will be emailed to you to give as a gift, usually within 24 hours of your request. Please note that due to insurance restrictions passengers must be at least 5 years old. Just go to floatourboat.co.uk and the voucher purchase button is at the top of the home page.



Wishing you all a very Happy
Christmas, a prosperous New Year,
and happy sailing in 2024!

Our Sponsors

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