

# KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



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## SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

### OFFICIAL START TO SUMMER



**Deputy Lynn Mayor** and Mayoress Geoff and Rose Hipperson (foreground) were our first 2019 passengers when they greeted Baden Powell as she arrived at the South Quay pontoons on Wednesday 3 April to start the summer sailings. Behind them, left to right, are Dave Jennings, John Buckle, project leader Tim Clayton, Chris Child and skipper Chris Ward.

Lynn News picture

They all took a brief trip along the waterfront before the boat was settled into her summer berth.

Also in the welcoming party was Pat Hart, the great grand-daughter of Walter Worfolk, who designed and built the original Baden Powell in 1900 at his boatyard on the River Nar near the South Gate. Pat's husband Dave has been a long-time volunteer in the team that rebuilt the boat.

The first passengers supporting us with donations headed out of Lynn On Monday 15 April. High tide times over Easter are in the early mornings and evenings, so there will be limited opportunities to sail during this holiday. But one hardy party will be setting sail at 7am on Good Friday to get an early view of the King's Lynn holiday waterfront. So check possibilities out on our website. No harm in asking!

### GLADYS SET FOR RESTORATION BID

When Baden Powell was being built in 1900, Walter Worfolk's sons Gerald and Bill were at school in South Lynn, but were often about their father's boatyard. By 1915 both had finished their apprenticeships in the yard, so they would have been able to take a full part in the construction of Gladys, the whelker that had her keel laid down in that year. But they would still have been under Walter's pretty close supervision, by all accounts.

Following her fishing career, mostly fishing for whelks in The Wash, Gladys had a period on the mud in the Fisher Fleet, but then became one of the boats offered to the True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum in North Street. By this time her name had been changed from Gladys to Kenneth William – The first names of a fisherman's son or sons probably. Very tempting for graffiti writers. At least one

of them added an S to the William when the boat stood on Boal Quay alongside Baden Powell. Kenneth Williams was a great comedian, but as a hero for a North End fisherman? So she's now back to Gladys – the wife of the first owner?

Fast forward a century, and there is a possibility that Gladys may be headed for the Baden Powell experience – working again and back in Norfolk waters. So the Worfolk name could have even more exposure in Walter's chosen county.

## **OLD BOAT – NEW REGULATIONS**

Walter Worfolk had no health and safety team at his boatyard in the Friars. The pail used for bailing out in bad weather had many uses, such as throwing water on an over-stoked stove in the cuddy. But as engines began being used in small fishing boats, it would have been sensible to include more efficient firefighting gear. Putting Baden Powell back in the water in 2019 means meeting modern regulations for communications, lighting, fire and survival equipment. We have benefitted from the generosity of many local suppliers in meeting these needs. Such as Fenland Fire Appliances, who did a risk assessment for us, then supplied what we needed and let their enthusiasm overcome the invoicing. Thank you

## **BIGGER RUDDER MAKES BETTER SAILING**

First reports from skippers who have tested Baden Powell's performance under sail report definite improvements because of the enlarged rudder that was fitted over the winter. "It helps us make better use of the light winds, and we achieved speeds of over seven knots on one of the first trips in April," reports project leader Tim Clayton. That's a lot better than previously, and will enhance confidence to turn off the engine during regular sailings, to experience how Baden Powell performed during the first thirty or so years of her life. It will also reinforce our admiration for the skills of the first owners, the men of the Cook family, who operated without engine power for so long. Coming back to Lynn in a southerly breeze could mean hours of rowing, or anchoring until the wind and tide were more favourable.

## **GET YOU OUT THERE THIS SUMMER TOGETHER.....**



First party for 2019 got off to a sunny Monday start on April 15.

At this point the skipper was just about to turn off the engine so the boat could go downriver by sail only.

Slower – but so much quieter too. Time to listen to bubbling water, creaking rigging, wind in the sails, the wildlife; and appreciate details of the town as the panorama unfolds.

Time to gather a group of friends or relatives and treat them to a unique new West Norfolk experience!

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