



NORTH EAST MARITIME TRUST NEWLETTER

Restoring traditional boats | Rebuilding heritage skills



Some of our volunteers, supporters and friends enjoying our Christmas BBQ last month

Contents: Bedford – 2019's project; Launch date for Henry Frederick Swan; Recent donations; Reminder about your membership renewal; News from the Coble and Keelboat Society; Temporary roof repairs; Bridlington Sailing Coble event 2019; Volunteers appreciated for Cygnet & small boat restoration work.

'Bedford' 2019's next restoration project

In partnership with The Tyne Lifeboat Society, our next major piece of work will be to take the former South Shields lifeboat 'Bedford' (built in 1886) out of storage and start work on her.

This is a remarkable boat and one which has survived against the odds, more or less unscathed for 133 years.

20th April ~ A date for the diary

After almost fourteen years since she first came into our workshops, a provisional launch date for the former Tynemouth lifeboat Henry Frederick Swan has been set. Subject to a surveyor's inspection next month, and obtaining the appropriate insurance cover, we are planning a launch on the tide on Easter Saturday when as a member, you will be invited to watch and join in what should be a memorable event. Further details and (any changes to the date) will be issued nearer the time, but meanwhile we are working hard to complete the rigging, spars and boom so that – weather permitting – we can hoist the sails and

Bedford:



Bedford leaving Eyemouth in August 2017 after being bought by the trust and heading back to Tyneside after an absence of 50 years.

Built within a few hundred metres of NEMT's yard she spent all of her service years and until 1968 on the south side of the Tyne and is to be preserved on her original carriage. A real piece of South Shields history!



Bedford in storage at Port of Tyne being visited by our partners (Tyne Lifeboat Society) and some of our volunteer workforce.

Anyone with wheelwright knowledge, please get in touch!

Donations and Support

The last quarter has seen a humbling amount of financial support and donations from a variety of sponsors for which

really show off this 101 year-old lifeboat in all her unique glory.

Henry Frederick Swan:



Nearly ready
(Dec 2018)



Nearly lost
(2005)

Membership Subscriptions 2019 Those members who renew their subscriptions by cheque or in cash should now be aligned to an annual renewal in January. This means that unless you have recently renewed your membership, it is now due, at £15.00. Please send it by post, or call round in person – it would be good to see you! Those of you that pay annually via PayPal or standing order will continue to pay on the anniversary of your first membership. Many thanks for your on-going support.

Coble and Keelboat Society - News

Our friends at the Coble and Keelboat Society (CKS) held their AGM in November -18 at the Crescent Club in Cullercoats which attracted a good turnout as usual. Among its core business the Charity offers its members a view of current and future events, has a great deal of knowledge about the region's boats and valuable archives too. As a partnership organisation they often mention the

of course we are always grateful. These have including major funding from The Barbour Foundation, The former Jarrow Community Association, The Tyne Lifeboat Society and the John Lightfoot Charity. In addition we have received a large screen TV and, from the family of the late Charlie Bradley, a former navy engineer, who served his apprenticeship at the Harland and Wolff yard in Belfast, a large selection of valuable machinery and tools.

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Temporary Roof Repairs The week before Christmas, one of the sky-light windows in the boatyard roof was blown off and an emergency repair had to be carried out. This is on the north elevation – the side that has yet to be repaired – and it highlights the increasingly desperate state of that side of the roof.



A rare close-up of one of the many holes in the last side of the roof needing extensive repairs.

North East Maritime Trust at their meetings with updates about events and boatyard progress.

After the AGM business was completed, guest **Katrina Porteous** who is a freelance poet, historian and broadcaster gave a very interesting talk about the role of local fisherwomen, wives and children invariably with hard family lives which were ruled by the sea, just as much as the fishermen themselves.



Cullercoats – waiting for the boats to come in!



North Shields Fish Quay Herring packing for export 1930s

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Appreciation of our volunteers

Obviously the success of any organisation lies with its members and particularly those that take an active part in giving their time – usually without complaint! During 2018 much progress has been made on all of our restoration and new-build projects, which is hugely appreciated. As described above, the work on Henry Frederick Swan is about to reach fruition with her planned launch in the Spring, the new-build boarding boat – Cygnet – is having her ribs fitted onto her completed hull and our two

Bridlington Sailing Coble Event – 27th and 28th July 2019

Following the highly successful event last year when we took our coble Royal Diadem II to Bridlington and cut up the Yorkshire fleet of boats with her, we are hoping to replicate the trip this year and hopefully motor down with Henry Frederick Swan as well. Should make quite an entrance! This is quite an ambitious plan but would be brilliant if it comes off. If anyone thinks they would be interested in organising or taking part, please step forward!



smaller sailing craft restoration projects are proving useful training vehicles for assessing the extent and type of restoration required, and how to approach the work involved.

Cygnets after several ribs are steamed and bent into position.



John, Stan and Alan applying some 'gentle persuasion' with Snow Goose's steamed ribs.



Graeme demonstrating that even joiners can tidy-up after themselves (most of the time).