

Peggy the World's Oldest Coble: 101 Years and still afloat

Extract from Fred Crowell's Essay of 2012:-

Built in 1924 by Harrison's of Amble with a Registration No: BK 7, the first port location being Seahouses and the owner Robert Rutter. She was then bought by a Mr Eric Gregory of Beadnell and sold on to Robert Robinson of Amble and given a new name Glad Tidings and re-registered as BH177.

She survived the Second World War was then eventually sold to a pair of Hartlepool sea anglers where she was found by Peter Weightman who introduced them to Mick Dawson of Greens Place, South Shields.

He was aware that the Boat Angling Club of South Shield had moorings on the river Tyne, as one could see from Greens Place, made a member and helped to bring the Glad Tidings, after the sale was agreed, to the Tyne in late 2002.

After the old Coble had over wintered on the Tyne she was lifted out of the river to be pressure washed and a given a place in the SSBC's yard repainted and while Mick was well capable of repainting her and renewing the antifouling he was happy to employ a professional, Paul Robinson to do the sign writing.

When we came to give her, her home port, Paul had remembered that he had not long before put BK7 on the side of a similar coble and as I had a Port of Tyne registration number for her of 479, I asked him to put that on, that rather than that of Berwick, so that anyone who needed to know could check with them that Peggy had not been put back into use as a commercial fishing boat.

It was traditional to put a Coble's home port on the starboard quarter and the owner's name on the opposite side and both Paul and Mick agreed about this and to this day her home port is shown as South Shields for her owner in 2003¹:-



Fred himself said, at the end of his essay:-

Well I hope this will be of interest and helpful to anyone trying to restore a coble and you enjoy the task as much as I do. I apologize for any grammar or spelling mistakes I am a boat builder not an author if the paper was wood and the pen copper nails it would have been a better job.

Good luck to all
Fred Crowell

With thanks to Mick, his son and my number one helper, Alan Woods

1 – in 2017 the ownership was changed, without Mick's consent, by NEMT to C Lowdon.