

Sean Chilton – February 2019

This month I have been finding my feet a bit more, and have been entrusted with delegating my time throughout the week to focus on my tasks. I have spent less time in the boatyard as Leo has been away a few times, and the boatyard currently does not have a project as a result of the launch at the beginning of this month.

Curatorial

This month I received a more in-depth tutorial on the processes of cleaning museum boats that are within an indoors environment, and spent a day with Mel Oakley learning the ropes. Mel comes from more of a museum objects background; however looking at the boats on display (*Jubilee*, in this case) as museum objects, rather than ships, allowed me to think about the process from a different point of view. This has also tied in nicely with unit two of the historic vessel conservation course.

Mel will be leaving the museum shortly, which is bittersweet as it allows me to take the reins on the boat collections programme. The plan now is to speak very nicely to some of the volunteers to try and rope them into this scrupulous, yet ultimately rewarding job.



I have been tasked with creating digital documentation of a large collection of historical boat plans and other miscellaneous items from Forbes boat builders. This is proving to be a painstaking task, though definitely interesting. At the point of writing this, I have gotten through 105 plans, after about eight hours of working on this.

Boatyard

The start of the month was exciting, as we launched *Athene*. She is looking absolutely wonderful, and it's great to have this feeling of pride so early on in the placement. The plans now are to advertise her and find a potential buyer. I do not expect this to be difficult – see for yourself from the photo! I am currently writing up a data sheet so that we can have her up for sale soon.



The downside here, is that there is no longer a boat in the boatyard. The work is now focused around gutting the boatyard and moving some things around. Hopefully this means there will be a more streamlined work process in the boatyard, and will ensure that volunteers are not leaving tools and equipment around.

I have progressed through the clearance checks for going to see *Reaper* in Rosyth. Fingers and toes crossed that this is all finalised soon, as I am itching to see her!

Coursework

In keeping with last month, I have been lucky enough to get a flying start to unit two of the historic vessel conservation course. Learning about cleaning the boat collection has tied in well with learning about stabilisation and degradation. My aim is to be quite far ahead in the course so that when it gets round to summer, I can be more involved with the goings-on around Anstruther. Apparently it is quite the booming little town during the summer months. It is also around this time that the museum will begin its 50th year anniversary celebrations, so all the more reason to make sure I am available. Rest assured, this does not mean that I am rushing the course; I am merely making the most of the time that is available to me while it is still quiet.

Ends