

MTB102 News November 2018

After another winter of repairs to the underside of MTB102 she was launched on May 1st and moved onto her home berth where she was prepared for sea on May 4th.

The first run out was a combined sea trials and filming for a programme in the Combat Dealers series. All went very well with all systems on 102 performing well and the filming was good. For the first time 102 was filmed using a drone from the Lowestoft North beach. The results were excellent and the Trust was very fortunate to get a copy of the drone footage which we hope to use in a promotional video.

The ADLS Commemorative Cruise 2018 was to Ipswich Marina so on the afternoon of the 25th May 102 slipped her mooring and took the 14.30 bridge lift outbound. It was very foggy out on the North Sea but using radar, GPS and AIS we made good time and arrived in Ipswich at 19.30.

At one time 102 had a home berth in Ipswich Wet Dock but this has now changed immensely and is un-recognisable from the pre development days.

There was a good turnout of Dunkirk Little Ships for the Cruise and much interest shown by the people of Ipswich.

On Bank holiday Monday we slipped from our mooring and cleared the Ipswich lock on free flow at 11.30 and had an excellent trip back and were in time for the 16.00 bridge lift at Lowestoft.

Four days later and we were off again, this time to Brightlingsea Sea Festival. Another foggy start but with our well equipped vessel we were able to make good time. As we approached the Deep Water Channel at Harwich we were requested to increase speed to clear the channel ahead of Maersk Nottingham, a very large container ship. This we duly did and the next day at Brightlingsea, the Harwich VTS controller came to see us which was a bit of a surprise. We don't very often get to see the face behind the voice on the radio. It was good to make personal contact.

This was due to MTB102 now being equipped with AIS which means we can be identified easily and contacted by radio if there is any doubt as to our intentions at sea.

As usual we had a busy time at Brightlingsea. Some of the weekend we had the pier to ourselves and at other times had to share with Pioneer, a restored sailing vessel based at Brightlingsea.

At 15.00 on the Sunday we slipped our mooring and headed back to Lowestoft where we were back on our home berth by 19.45.

At the end of June we had what is now our annual trip to Hippersons Boat Yard at Beccles for the Beccles Charter weekend. As we only have to go through the railway bridge and Mutford Lock this is a very easy trip for us. As usual the event was well attended, our only problem being the tight space we have to put 102 in and the amount of weed we pick up in the water intakes for the main engines

On a beautiful day in mid June we did a scattering of ashes out in the North Sea.

A trip to Harwich Sea Festival had to be cancelled due to winds forecast above our operational limit.

After our visit to Ipswich in May we were approached to take part in the Ipswich Maritime Festival in August. Due to traffic problems for the crew we were late getting away and arrived in Ipswich after dark but all went well and we had a very good weekend with lots of visitors. The event was part of a port festival with all sorts of attractions around the whole dock area.

We left Ipswich on the Monday morning at 06.30 with the lock on free flow and had a good trip back to Lowestoft and by 11.30 102 was back on her home berth.

We had been approached by Fambridge Yacht Haven on the river Crouch to attend their event on August Bank Holiday weekend. To us this was a new destination and an event we were looking forward to. The forecast for the weekend was terrible so the trip was cancelled. The actual weather was atrocious!

The last event of the year as usual was Gt Yarmouth Maritime Festival. The trip there was very good but brief. The Saturday weather was dull, wet and windy, Sunday was much better with a lovely trip back to Lowestoft on Sunday afternoon. At this event we always meet up with friends from years past but it is a pity that it is not possible to show 102 properly due to the high quay sides.

At the end of November we slipped 102 on the big cradle, cleaned her off and pulled her into the shed for the Winter refit.

**Richard Basey,
MTB102 Trust**