

MTB102 Newsletter May 2016.

MTB102 had to wait until mid February for the slip to be available and was manoeuvred onto the cradle on the 15th February. With the cradle pulled to the top of the slip 102 was pressure washed to remove all the growths on the underwater side. Once clean she was winched into the shed.

Apart from two doubler planks that had sprung on the starboard quarter MTB102 was in very good shape below the water line and so after one or two very small repairs she had two coats of bitumen applied followed by antifoul paint.

Our tame shipwright, Mark, was set to work on the deck beside the wheelhouse where there was evidence of soft deck covering and spent the next ten weeks cutting out various timbers and deck and making up and fitting new deck and topside reinforcing doubler timbers. The reinforcing timber is larch and was 16 feet long, 18 inches wide and inch and a half thick. Mark made an excellent job of the repair and while he was doing that the rest of the hull and topsides was sanded down ready for repaint.

As soon as Mark had finished John was off with his brushes, rollers and large quantities of grey paint and very soon 102 was looking herself again.

Maggie set to work below decks and had every thing washed down and looking shipshape. And all was ready to launch 102. The cradle was greased and checked over, all the blocks removed and on the 9th May first thing she was run down the slip and left to wait for the rising tide.

High water was due at 12.00 but by 10.30 there was enough water for her to float, both engines fired up immediately and we backed her off to her own mooring.

In the meantime Mark was busy making up some new hatches to fit on the engineroom cover which when fitted will add to the authentic 1940 look of MTB102.

For several weeks we had known about a “blockbuster movie” that was to be made about the Dunkirk evacuation and the Trust was contacted by the Warner Bros. representatives with a view to MTB102 playing the part of her self in the movie. After a bit of negotiation and clearing of transatlantic misunderstandings a deal was struck so through late spring, early summer MTB102 will be back in Dunkirk several times to do what she did for real in 1940, for the movie cameras.

With the ADLS Commemorative Cruise to Ramsgate, The Queens 90th Birthday parade on the Thames and filming days, 102 will be busy for a while.

**Richard Basey,
Skipper MTB102.**