

# VIC 96

Report No 22

Chatham

**Julian & Joanna Swift**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011

During the last week or so we have been asked to go to Ramsgate at Easter for the opening of the Maritime Museum there (I think that's correct). A good idea as it will mean we can, hopefully, leave the ship there for a shorter hop to Ostend the following month. This is all dependent on the stopover being approved but it is highly likely as they really want us there and we can try out another venue at little cost to us except the trip back.

Anyway in the unlikely event of them cancelling we will be up on our work programme, as with the chance to go we changed plans at the last moment for Saturday to get ready for the cold boiler inspection on Monday. Then a phone call Friday night said "Andrew Reen, the inspector, will be here mid afternoon tomorrow!"

As we arrived the team was building up with, further cleaning of the boiler and fittings scheduled, and about to start. Soon there were too many for the engine room so Arthur rested from electricals to light the fo'castle stove and tea was up. Derek finished getting the frozen heads valve fixed (ladies on board!) and Joanna started getting another coat of sealer on the wheelhouse. Some of us sorted the woodwork messed up by the plumbers and then started chipping and painting the starboard hold coaming. Everyone in good spirits and busy. Much discussion at lunchtime over coal supply and prices and availability are being sought. A good start on the work had been made last visit so all was ready well before Andrew arrived at 4.30 and with his usual cheerfulness went over the boiler very thoroughly and pronounced it "a lovely boiler and a pleasure to see it well used and maintained". We patted it and agreed and closed up and went home as it got dark. During the day several passers by showed interest and we had a visitor or two on board to show round.

Arthur and Gladys, Tony and Jean, Jim, Nigel, Derek and Louise, Ian, Joanna and Julian present.

Next Visit Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>

Hopefully, Tony and some of us will have raised steam in preparation for the steam test to be done before this visit. In any case much cleaning and painting is needed as well as essentials like nav lights, life raft and much else needs to be refitted before the Ramsgate trip. So all welcome!

Joanna and Julian