

VIC 96

Report No 19

Chatham

Julian & Joanna Swift

12th February 2011

It was good to get back to the VIC after a long break. Snow and freeze ups messed up last year's final visits but several of us went to ensure no frost damage would occur. My family went to a cold gathering at the dockyard on 27th December and then to the VIC for a warm up and food and a gang turned up for a visit. I can report that all were very impressed especially at how original our ship is. Not everybody was enjoying sledging or Sentinel stroking as can be seen by our updated and huge website, courtesy of Louise.

Saturday 12th February 2011

Louise and Derek, Jim, Tony and Jean, and Joanna and myself enjoyed a good time getting together again both to start on catching up with the end of season cleanup and also to catch up with friends. Stoves were lit, floor plates replaced in the engine room and the boiler fully ashed out. Ash and rubbish were bagged up and carted to Jim's motor for him to dispose of along with most of the rotten ash buckets, which were crunched up. Similar sized paint buckets would be gratefully received by Luke to paint and stencil for the next trip please. Our Kent pals were out in force, on top of their ship maintenance they pressure washed the pontoon deck to make it less slippery. Some interest was shown from passers by as usual. Most of us were very happy to be back. Jean said to Joanna that it is a sign of friendship when you can yawn together. We're ok then!

Forthcoming Dates

Saturday 26th February 2011 – Main plans are to finish giving the ship a thorough clean up, engine room first. Continue painting the upper works so we can get the deck painted as soon as the weather warms up. We are going to paint the hull above waterline as well before the Ostend trip, other engineering and deck jobs continue. All welcome.

Regards Julian & Joanna