

VIC 96

Report No 20

Chatham

Julian & Joanna Swift

26th February 2011

So there I was carrying some nicely cleaned up spanners given to us back in the winter by our Kent friends, carefully getting down to the pontoon, which was much lower in the dock than usual. I was surprised to see someone dressed in waterproofs carrying on with pressure washing the pontoon deck and went right up to the chap and thanked him for doing such a good job in the rain. We went on board, plenty going on in the engine room so Luke and I got on with carpentry jobs, Louise called tea up and I went to tell Derek. Julian—"where's Derek, Louise?"—"over there"—"where?"—"pressure washing the pontoon"--- 65 next Tuesday and rain on my glasses were not allowed as excuses.---

The spanners were a hit with the engine room, being nice quality and mostly Whitworth, and cleaned of much rust and dirt were a very welcome gift. Luke freeing off the foc'stle cupboard doors and fitting upstands to more shelves in the galley were a hit with Joanna. I leave you to find out what I did, but a clue is it will be a pleasure for Ian and others at lunchtime. Nigel from Kingswear Castle came and helped Tony and Jim opening up the boiler for inspection, and they also got started on other maintenance, eg. packings etc. on the pumps. Derek kept going until he had made the pontoon all along the ship safe to walk on. Despite the rain it was good to be there. Present were Derek and Louise, Tony, Jim and Nigel, Joanna, Julian and Luke.

Forthcoming Dates

Saturday 12th March 2011 –Engine room cleaning and maintenance will continue and other general after winter cleaning (which may generate soot). Given we need to prepare for the inspections and do a lot of painting before our open day on Easter Monday and Ostende all help with a good in depth clean will be welcome. Jo and I will be in Ireland but will see you all for the next working day, which will be---

Saturday 26th March. We are planning to sheet up the engine room this day (so not much to do down there) so that we can have a good go at paint scraping in the top of the engine room across the gratings and the ladders without covering the engine with scrapings of paint and rust. Funnel and smoke box cleaning will hopefully be done on the 12th.

Please let us know what you plan to do, as soot, dust and dirt do not go with fresh paint so we are trying to get the heavy cleaning done first. And painters cannot paint outside when we are raising steam! After the bad winter we will probably need to delay the dent job until later this year, unless anyone has ideas?

Looking forward to a good year

Regards Julian & Joanna