

## BRISTOL CLASSIC BOAT CO. NEWSLETTER, 11.10.07

This is our first newsletter about the 56 ft. Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter we're building for The Island Trust. Our website has pictures and a webcam as well as more about the boat herself and the people building her, [www.bristolclassicboat.co.uk](http://www.bristolclassicboat.co.uk), but meanwhile here's a little information about how far we've got.

We started in January 2007 and the boat will be ready for sea, down to lifejackets in the hanging locker, cutlery in the galley drawer, and loo-paper in the heads, in May 2008. And we're still just about on schedule...

The hull is complete and we've finished caulking her (or Peter has, as he says he enjoys this mindless work). The deck structure is also finished and we're working inside partitioning the

boat into its various areas. This is much easier before the deck goes on, as was lowering the engine into the boat - which we did after removing several panels from the roof of our building shed, which we had not anticipated having to do!



We're discovering suppliers of specialist bits and pieces far and wide - a local foundry has made a great job of casting bronze parts; a Swedish friend has put us on to an alladin's cave of a traditional chandler in Sweden; our surveyor has introduced us to an Indian boat builder who has made all the bronze nails for the hull planking...and so it goes on.

That's it about the boat but you might also be interested that The Island Trust, which commissioned the boat, offers sailing opportunities to disadvantaged young people [www.theislandtrust.org.uk/cutterappeal.html](http://www.theislandtrust.org.uk/cutterappeal.html), and last week a group of boys and girls from a Special School in Oxfordshire came down to see us. They were hugely enthusiastic about seeing progress on the boat they'll be sailing next year. Seeing and talking to them added a whole new dimension to

what we're doing, and we all picked up on their enthusiasm.

Next week we're being entertained to lunch by the committee members of The Island Trust. The venue for lunch will be our own workshop, an ancient building with bags of character, which will be tidied up and lunch will be served off wood boards resting on trestles and surrounded by woodworking machines. The scene will have a distinctly Victorian flavour, not only because the workshop doors will be open so the bows of this large wooden vessel will be very visible, but also because giving us lunch will be a show of appreciation for the efforts of everyone working on the boat – the relationship between client and workforce being one of mutual respect and trust, more common perhaps in the Victorian age than in our own cut throat times. Lunch is expected to include game pie from a very special butchers in Devon and some good wine - so it's being eagerly anticipated by all here!

If you have any comments or questions on the newsletter then please email us: [mark.rolf@btconnect.com](mailto:mark.rolf@btconnect.com)

## NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2007

Christmas is upon us so we thought we'd let you know how we are progressing on our new wooden boat.

For a start, she has a name and is to be called 'Pegasus'. Even I know that was winged horse - but apparently closely related to Neptune and anyway it's a good name.

Have a look at the webcam on our website

[www.bristolclassicboat.co.uk](http://www.bristolclassicboat.co.uk)

and you'll see the deck going down - it's now finished.

We put this sequence up on youtube to persuade people that we could lay a deck in a minute and a half

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=sITAcESs-FU>

Below decks, we are well on our way with fitting tanks and bunks and joinery but there is plenty more to do before May when we launch, come hell or high water.

## NEWSLETTER 11.02.08

Our third newsletter is rather later than planned but we are committed to launching Pegasus on May 22 so we're kinda busy building her...

Since Christmas, three of us have finished laying the deck, faired it, caulked it, pitched the seams, scraped off the excess pitch and sanded it again - that all took a month.

Meanwhile the internal structures - bunks, lockers, galley, heads etc. are in place, awaiting mahogany trim once everything is top-coated white. John Douglas, a painter we have worked with before so we know he has the required sense of humour, has joined us and he is well aware that we will be keeping him busy for the duration.

Mark Loveday, the electrician/plumber is now attaching shiny things and knobs and switches to the wiring we had the foresight to put in as we built the interior - and the heads and galley sink are in their final positions.

It sounds finished, doesn't it?

However, if you take a look at the webcam on our website -

[www.bristolclassicboat.co.uk](http://www.bristolclassicboat.co.uk) - it clearly isn't. We still have to fit the rail round the deck; fit the hatches; make the mast (!); make a floor to stand on down below; paint the hull, which has been a dull grey primer for a very long time.....anyway, you get the picture, we won't be idle for the next few months and we're going to do it, whatever it takes, by May 22. Well, the mast goes in a few days after that and then has to be rigged so we have a few days in the water to snag before the bit we have all been looking forward to - sea trials and delivery to the south coast.

No firm orders for the next one - so now is the time to order your traditional wooden yacht!