



Technical Bulletin

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring Edition

Issue 1 Volume 2

Deputy Chairs Message

Welcome to the Spring edition of our quarterly technical bulletins. Progress was made on both the monkey island and the wheelhouse before the lockdown stopped our work.

During this time the vessel is closed to all visitors and volunteers. Only a few senior members are carrying out a security check on the vessel and are practicing social distancing while doing so.

If there's anything that you'd like to see in the Technical Bulletin then let me know, I'm always happy to hear your comments and feedback.



Monkey Island Update

Work continued on the monkey island until the lockdown was announced. As you can see the deck has now been sealed and painted. This has greatly reduced the amount of water getting into



the bridge deck and is a major improvement. Wooden frames have been fabricated and these will be completed once lockdown is over. The frames will be fitted proud of the metal deck and will be used to support plywood sheets

that mean the area will be safe to walk on again. The task is far from over but our team of volunteers has made really good progress. Perhaps by the end of this year the monkey island will be open to the sky once more.

What we are doing during this crisis

There are a number of things that are currently being worked on such as worksopes, policies and procedures and training. All this will result in the SS Explorer Preservation Society coming out of this crisis in a better position than when it started.

We are also looking at how we can raise Explorer's profile with schools during this time through developing education activities based on the Explorer that can be done at home.

Finally, we are working on ways that each of you can help, from your own home, during this time.

Volunteer Handbook

The initial volunteer induction presentation is almost finalised. Now work is starting on the volunteer handbook which will be issued to each volunteer.

Firefighting Plan

We have started carrying out a review of the existing equipment, identifying where the best location for fire extinguishers is and if we need any additional equipment.

Volunteers

Obviously during this time we are not seeking new volunteers. However once lockdown is over we will be launching a volunteer recruitment drive.

Are you a current member and could get down to the ship after this is over? Do you have a skill you think could be useful? If you do please get in contact.

A Bit of Archeology

Decca was a type of navigation system first used in world war 2. It used signals from fixed navigation beacons by comparing signals in the 70 and 129Khz ranges. The system was simple, robust and accurate to about 200m. The Decca system was eventually replaced by GPS, the system in Europe being shutdown in 2000 and the final system in Japan was shutdown the following year. The Decca plotter in the photo was used to draw the



ships position on a piece of paper as the ship moved which would serve as a record of the voyage.

Important Dates

At the moment all dates are provisional, but watch this space for updates. Some new virtual events may be listed as lockdown continues.

UK Maritime Heritage Forum – Portsmouth – 30th - 2nd October 2020
RINA historic ships – London – 2nd & 3rd December 2020

Contact Us

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Speak out for Engineering

In February a member of the technical committee took part in the Institute of Mechanical Engineers Speak out for Engineering competition. The event provides an opportunity for engineers to practice the public speaking skills. Heats are held at the local, national and international level. It was a good evening with a wide range of interesting topics from assessing the use of inhalers to deliver medicine to the effectiveness of the FFA in implementing accident investigation recommendations. Unfortunately the Explorer didn't get to the next heat. Our topic was the possible reasons for the corrosion of the Aluminum under the Douglas Fir decking on the monkey island.

Feedback

We always welcome any comments or suggests for the layout or the content of the newsletter. Email technical@ssexplorer.org