



A BRIEF RECENT HISTORY.

Having contacted the previous owner, Mr. Tony Wood, I can now give the following information.

The launch was discovered in 1976/77 at the bottom of the City Mill River near to Bow Bridge in East London. Mr Wood raised and pumped out the boat and began a restoration.

The launch was open with a "cabin" fore and aft, although they were really only covers with supports. The original steam water tank was still in situ as were the propeller shaft and various items such as deck bollards, cleats etc.

It was originally thought that the boat was an ex-Naval pinnace but after some research it became clear that it was in fact a Thames Steam Launch. An ex-Royal Naval friend and historian was quite clear that the internal frame of the boat was far too light for a naval pinnace. Contact with the Steam Boat Society and the magazine "Model Engineer" led Mr. Wood to the conclusion that the boat was a Thames steam launch.

Stamped on the eyebolt (photograph 11, page 8) fixed to the sternpost is the number 1913 although this could be a part number or date, it is not clear.

Original parts still in the boat include the propeller sheath, the exhaust pipe, steering column, steering yoke and pulleys.

The launch was laid up at Stanstead Abbots Marina fifteen years ago where it has since remained.

FOOTNOTE.

This survey and report will be the final chapter in the launches history as it is due to be the star attraction at the bonfire party to be held at the Marina on 13th November 2004.

Sid Payne,
18th October 2004.

Nautical Archaeology Society

