



MEDWAY QUEEN

Grand Easter re-opening



The Medway Queen's grand Easter re-opening has been a total success. She had a steady stream of people coming to look at the work that has gone on over the winter. The lower forward saloon has now been started and part of it has been fitted out as a mini cinema, where a presentation of the entire history of the ship, including her time at Dunkirk has been shown. The people that came aboard all remarked on the fantastic venue and the wonderful interesting film.

The people to the left were enjoying a cup of tea in the galley before going "below" to watch the film. The ship had re-enactors dressed in 1940's army and navy uniforms on board, and at regular intervals, they were called to battle stations at the back of the promenade and on the poop decks. They fired their machine guns into the air at imaginary enemy aircraft. (They were gas firing as used in the movie industry.) The guns were fitted on the ship as they were fitted during World War 2. The whole event proved to be very realistic and helped to bring to people's minds the difficulties that she had to endure when she made the seven runs back and forth to Dunkirk back in 1940.

On Easter Sunday a young man came on board who had travelled up from Bristol just to see the ship. It transpired that Alfredo Ruit had been one of the tradesmen who had helped to build the new hull while she was at Abels Yard in Bristol. He seemed impressed with what the society are doing with the ship, and he liked the cinema enormously. During the afternoon Miss Ophelia Wollney was declared the Medway Queen Easter beauty queen. She was also dressed in a 1940's outfit.

Despite the weather a great time was had by all of our visitors and at a later stage (date to be determined) we will have an official opening of the cinema, where the public will again be most welcome to come aboard this wonderful ship. In the meantime, it will be open every Saturday between the hours of 11.00 am and 3.00 pm so why not come along to our site at Gillingham Pier, Pier Approach Road, Gillingham ME7 1RX



Above, left and right: Grey Funnel Line re-enactors



Miss Ophelia Wollney



Alfredo Ruit

March 2016
Brian Goodhew
Pam Bathurst