

TRADITIONAL BOATS & TALL SHIPS

THE MAGAZINE FOR LOVERS OF SAIL

ANTIGUA CLASSICS

*EUROPA: OCEAN
WANDERER*

TIM THOMPSON:
MARINE ARTIST

*FRENCH
BRED TOO:
LE RENARD*

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
DISCOVERY

*KATHLEEN & MAY
LAUNCH*



www.tallship.co.uk



*ADVENTURE: GLOUCESTER
FISHING SCHOONER*

Back in her Element

John Cadd was on hand to record the re-launch of the
Kathleen & May

Just 101 years after the *Kathleen & May* was first launched, the trading schooner was re-launched by crane into the River Torridge at Bideford, North Devon. At about 5pm on the fifth of the fifth month, the boat was launched by a giant crane from the quay into the river at high tide. This was just a month-and-a-half after the first failed attempt to make the launch when the crane hydraulics broke down. The successful launch was witnessed in the evening sunshine by more than 3,000 people on the ancient multi-arched Bideford Bridge and town quayside. Fireworks and champagne over the boat's bow celebrated the event. This was the culmination of the complete rebuild and restoration the vessel received from her owner Steve Clarke and his team of about 15 shipwrights headed by Sacha Hall and assisted by the local wooden ship-builder Alan Hinks. This restoration (initially covered in the Oct/Nov 1999 edition of *Traditional Boats & Tall Ships*) has so far taken in excess of 42,600 man hours, and has cost in excess of £500,000. Otherwise, it is not difficult to realise where the money has gone: about 3,000 trenails (wooden pegs costing about £5 each) were used to hold the larch hull planks together; about 60 tons of oak to replace rotten frames, and balau was used to replace the deck planking - all required to return the boat to a seaworthy condition. Before Steve Clarke acquired the vessel, the *Kathleen & May* was not much more than a shipwreck. All that is now required is to find a permanent home for the boat which is registered in Bideford and spent most of her active working career based in the town.



*Above: the man who made it happen:
Steve Clarke*



