

Visit to Freebody's Boatyard

On the morning of 11 August 2022, 27 members of the Society visited the boatyard of Peter Freebody and Company in Hurley and were shown round by Richard Freebody and his young son George. During the visit we enjoyed a fascinating insight into the workings of a craft boatyard.



Introductory Talk by Richard Freebody

Coming from a long line of boatbuilders, stretching back over 300 years, Richard's father, Peter, had started the business in Hurley and wisely decided to focus on the craft building and repair of beautiful, bespoke, wooden boats rather than the mass production of fibreglass boats as was popular at the time.



Freebody Slipper under repair

While they have repaired fossil fueled boats, including the servicing and full rebuilds of the engines, their new boats are powered by electric motors and are friendly to the environment being both quiet and green. Much more detail about the work of Peter Freebody and Company can be found on their website at peterfreebody.com.

We would like to thank Richard, George, and the staff of Freebody's for their time, patience as we wandered around and asked questions while they worked, and the insight into their craft and business. As a sign of their appreciation, those present gave a donation to Swan Lifeline, the charity suggested by Richard.