

An ancient pump of unknown origin

Stephen Mills September 2022

The society was recently contacted by David Allen, a Senior Lecturer of maritime history at the State University of New York 's Maritime College in the Bronx.

He and his students are looking for information on a mysterious artefact, namely a hand-cranked bilge pump found in an old wooden lifeboat (possibly pre-1912). They are trying to unravel who may have originally manufactured the pump. The only clue is the logo cast into its side – this looks like two letters, namely an H, and possibly a Z or an N? The lifeboat was reputedly acquired from the Lane Lifeboat Company in Brooklyn, New York, sometime after 1912.

It was suggested that the letters could refer to Newman, Hender and Co (from before 1938). In its final form, the company was based at Woodchester, just outside Stroud. They manufactured bronze, iron and steel valves, cocks, and general fittings for steam, air, water, oil and gas services. At its peak, it had no less than 1800 employees.

Several society members have looked on line and in Gloucestershire Archives but have been unable to confirm that the logo refers to Newman Hender. David and his colleagues would greatly appreciate and thoughts or suggestions as to the origin of their mysterious pump.

Has anyone come across this logo?

