



**SAGAMI BAY, JAPAN**

**Restoration starts on giant Camper and Nicholson ketch**

A fascinating boat restoration project is making good progress in Sagami Bay, just south of Tokyo, Japan. *Cynara* (originally *Gwendolen*) is a 95ft (29m) ketch designed and built by Camper and Nicholson in 1927. She had a succession of European and American owners until 1973, when she was taken to Japan, where she has remained ever since.

Having first considered shipping the boat to Europe so she could be restored at an established yard, the owner decided to keep her in Japan. The work is now being carried out by a team of experienced boatbuilders

from 12 different countries working alongside eight Japanese carpenters, who – although highly skilled – have had no previous experience of traditional boatbuilding.

The restoration includes the renewal of most of the oak frames, the deck and the spars, while most of the teak hull planking and interior joinery has been retained. Once she is completed in the spring of 2020, she will remain based in Sagami Bay, where (incidentally) the sailing events for the Olympic Games will take place in July. *Nigel Sharp*

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**CLOVELLY, DEVON**

**Clovelly's new oyster boat**

The 1904 oyster boat *Bessie* has arrived at Clovelly, following restoration at Cockwells for owner Clovelly Estates. She travelled by road to Instow for commissioning and launching, then sailed to her new home of Clovelly in late August. The intention is to sail her in Bideford Bay each summer under competent skippers. Working from Clovelly harbour, it is hoped that many will enjoy the spectacle of her under sail.

She is referred to in *The Falmouth Working Boat*, a book by Alun Davies, as an original Looe-built boat of 19ft 6in (5.9m) in length. She was later named *Vivian*, when she moved to new owners in Falmouth to work commercially on the Helford oyster beds. In retirement, she regularly raced with other boats of her class at Falmouth on the weekly summer evenings. In her recent restoration, frames, floors and some planking was replaced or reinforced, before recaulking throughout. The hull was put in the sea to take up before rebalasting, painting and antifouling. The later work done at Instow, at which point the temporary rig was assembled to sail her round to Clovelly. This winter, her full rig will be installed ready for a whole new season of enjoyment for all to view or go sailing.



C/O CLOVELLY ESTATES