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MAYFLOWER NEARLY READY:

In Brixham Harbour, Mayflower the Second is nearly ready for her good-will voyage across the wide Atlantic. Sixty-six year-old John Buckler works away with his adze - for not only the ship's design, but as far as possible the tools used, are a faithful copy of the famous original which carried the Pilgrim Fathers to Massachusetts more than three centuries ago.

Catering facilities will be a little more up-to-date, and she'll generate her own power for lighting and radio. But in spite of such modern equipment, the Mayflower's crew intend to navigate her by 17th century instruments. They'll be carrying many beautiful good-will gifts, too.

In a London office, the ship's parchment insurance policy is handed over to the company of the Mayflower, headed by Captain Alan Villiers, her skipper. The crew also visit the tailors - for this question of historical accuracy is taken very seriously indeed, and it demands the clothes for the job!

This shipyard, by the way, is the only specially exempted by the unions from the nation-wide shipbuilding strikes. Yes, it really is a good-will project - in every sense of the word!