

April 2020

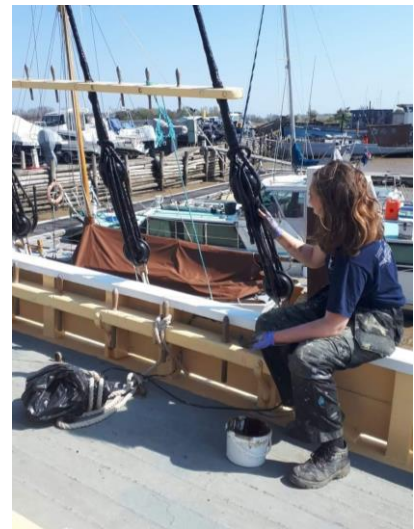
Working from Home



Alanna Cameron



I went back to help at Pioneer for a week at the start of April to do the last few bits of maintenance on her. Luckily it was only a few small jobs to be done as there were only a few of us there. We were painting hatches, the deck and the topsides. The tiller, mizzen mast and mast hoops needed to be oiled. We also blacked the rig. That was a fun job on a sunny day, with a mix of Stockholm tar, linseed oil and turpentine we coated the shrouds. Pioneer's thick wire cables are protected by lanolin, tightly bound tarred linen and served with tarred marline twine. Periodic coatings of blacking protect it from weathering. Unfortunately, clumsy me also tried to black the freshly painted deck. A cleanup operation ensued.



It was a strange transition to working outside with a large group of people to working alone



at home. I am very fortunate with where I live, on a lovely little farm just outside the village. The farm owners were very kind to let me clear out one of the sheds to use as a workshop. After a few days of throwing things in the skip, sweeping, build a workbench and fitting vices to it, I had a perfect home office. Before Pioneer locked down, I prepped some wood to make a paddle and rosewood box. I have also been upcycling scrap deck wood to make some birdboxes.

I built a desk that fits by the window as an ideal study space. I have been doing quite a bit of work on my online Yachtmaster theory this month. I am really enjoying chartwork but it can be quite challenging at times. It is making me look forward to when we are able to sail again.



Like most people at the moment I have picked up new hobbies to keep myself occupied during isolation. I have joined the sourdough bandwagon but haven't quite got the knack yet. The neighbours have let me borrow their two lovely labradors, Bumble and Honey, to keep me company on my daily exercise. My little veg box is producing enough salad, chives, parsley and kale to keep my well stocked up on the veg front. I am also growing some tamarind seeds which are sprouting well. My latest crochet project is a beautiful pattern inspired by beachcombing.



Stay safe and happy.

