

September 2020

Work in the Boatshed



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This month I was working in the boatshed fitting out a rowing gig. The trust makes 5 man (including a cox) fibreglass rowing gigs that are beautifully fitted out with iroko. They give apprentices a chance to gain the necessary skills to become shipwrights and are then sold to rowing clubs in the surrounding area. There is a vibrant rowing community that has originated from the Pioneer Sailing Trust, the teams train and compete regularly. This month has been brilliant in helping me improve my boatbuilding skills and gain confidence with my woodwork.



The trust is making an educational video about how to sail a smack, which can be given to charter guests or new crew members. We spent a day on *Priscilla* with a videographer in tow, and went about hoisting sails, setting the bowsprit and reefing the mainsail. It was quite successful and hopefully, we got all the footage we needed. It will be exciting to see the finished product.

Pioneer's deck is being re-done this month and we needed some new seaming irons. I got the chance to do some forging and welding to help craft them. One of our apprentices is an amateur blacksmith and is very talented. He was a great help in teaching me the basics of forging. I really enjoyed it and hope to make myself a sailor's knife in the near future.