

October 2019

New Friends, New Adventures



Alanna



At the beginning of October, I made my way to Portsmouth to start the induction to the Shipshape Heritage Training Partnership. I met the other trainees and we got stuck into going through paperwork and the course outline. During our time in Portsmouth, last years trainees made some wonderful presentations to get us excited for the coming year. Soon it was time for the SHTP 2 trainees to make our way to Falmouth for the second part of the induction.



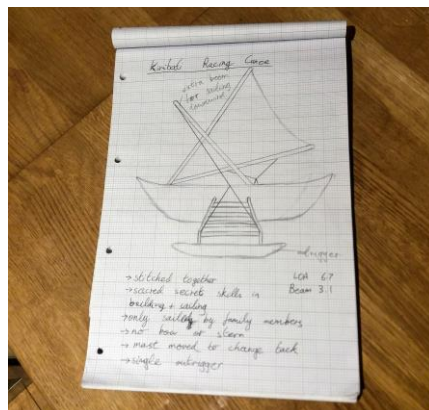
In Falmouth we visited the Maritime Museum and saw lots of small boats in their collection. I found the kiribati racing canoe fascinating. We had a tour of their workshop; it was really interesting to see the process of restoring a steamboat. We also did our Powerboat Level 2, First Aid and Sea Survival courses. The powerboat course was brilliant fun despite the rain, wind and considerable swell. Doing doughnuts were definitely my favourite part of the day. It is just as well I don't have a driving licence, I reckon I'd be a terror on the roads.

One of my favourite experiences during October was our stay on the *Lynher* barge. There was such a warm, welcoming atmosphere on board. We had a lovely day sail on a bright, clear albeit windless day. It was perfect conditions for us to try things out for ourselves. The crew were brilliant at letting us learn for ourselves through practice. The day after we worked on our small boat skills. I loved dingy sailing, especially crouching on the bow holding out the spinnaker trying to get it to fill. We also got a chance to see the tall ship, *Phoenix*.



Finally, to bring an end to the induction, we travelled to Brixham to stay on *Provident*, a traditional Brixham trawler. I had never been aboard a traditional fishing vessel before. It seems exceptional that historically, they manage to sail a huge boat and also cast and haul nets. A visit to the Brixham museum gave me more knowledge and I discovered that the early Brixham trawlers aren't dissimilar from the traditional fishing

vessels in my home town, the Galway Hookers. Here we received our VHF licences and had a day sail on *Pilgrim*. After a break at Halloween I was ready to start at the International Boatbuilding Training College and learn new skills in boatbuilding and boat maintenance. The first month of the programme was invaluable. I gained more confidence in my own abilities and really got to know the other trainees. I feel lucky to have met such a wonderful group of friends.



Sketch of the Kiribati racing canoe from Falmouth maritime museum