

## August Blog

August has been a great month! I started off by going hiking one weekend on the Isle of Wight, camping for a night then returning to Hamble in time for a day sail on the Tuesday morning.

Since we started in late July, we have had a fun time on our day sails, with tons of sunshine and only a few days where there wasn't much wind. We ran most of the day sails with only 4 staff and around 7 guests and the crew were the only ones allowed to do the sail handling and parking of the boat so it was tough to begin with until we had a system going for pulling up the sails and maneuvering the boat under sail, because of the limited amount of crew we decided that 17 knots of steady wind was the upper limit for our day sails, luckily only one day was cancelled due to heavy weather. But the majority of the time our day sails were great.

The basic structure was guests join at 10:00am, safety briefs and off the berth at 10:30am, and a speech on the history of the boat which I delivered most of the time while we motored down the river towards the Solent. Then after getting the sails up we sailed around either western or eastern Solent. Depending on the weather and what the guests preferred, we either had lunch whilst sailing or anchored for lunch and swam where possible. Then we would casually sail back and dock the boat by 16:00pm and the guests depart.

On those scorching few days in the first two weeks of August, swimming was a life saver. The water was such a nice temperature, and when we did have some kids they loved jumping off the boat, diving and doing bombs.

On the days between the sails I would clean the boat, do a few other maintenance tasks and I also got through quite a lot of my yachtmaster theory. When we were out on our sails I would constantly be on the lookout for certain landmarks, navigational aids and such, always practicing and learning.

At first with all the day sails I felt very rusty, almost stumbling around trying to remember what the next thing we needed to do was etc. Nothing ever went wrong, everything just took a lot longer. But after the first few trips I was starting to feel comfortable and by the end very confident in all aspects of what I needed to do in our day sails and maneuvering the boat.

Sometimes we would have some quite tricky maneuvers such as spinning the boat on the anchor in the middle of the river which becomes very hard work because we have to pull it up manually.

All in all, it has been a great month and it has been amazing being back on the water sailing around. To the right is a picture I took from the tender on one of our trips.

