

# TRAINEE BLOG: BELINDA CREE

OCTOBER 2019



Our first stop after the networking days in Portsmouth was to Falmouth. Here we completed some of the courses you'd need to be working commercially at sea, like First Aid and Sea Survival, plus my absolute highlight: Powerboating Level 2!

Becky also arranged for us to visit Luke Powell at his Working Sail yard to see *Pellew* being built. I was fortunate to have got the chance to visit before the previous year, so it was amazing to see the progress on the build and hear from Luke's experience in the traditional maritime industry.



Then in Plymouth we joined up with Dominic and Barbara, the dynamic duo who run the *Lynher* barge on the River Tamar. Here our hosts gave us the opportunity to get out on the water in small craft (some of us for the first time) for a crash course (pun not intended) in wind awareness! I also had the opportunity to practise my knots, and can now confidently sheet bend with the best of them. Dominic and Barbara were also able to give us their first-hand insight into what it takes to run a traditional vessel commercially, and the decisions that go into the potential restoration or conservation of a vessel that's no longer operational.



Our last stop then was the Heritage Pontoon in Brixham, where we'd be based for the final week aboard *Provident*. The other seafarers and I did our VHF courses/exams (all passed) on the first weekend. After that we had a couple more meetings with Becky and Victoria from the Shipshape Heritage Training Project to square away some final details. And just like that - we were done! These three weeks have simultaneously felt like they've lasted for about three minutes and three years. I can't wait to start the next stage!

