

May - June

12th May

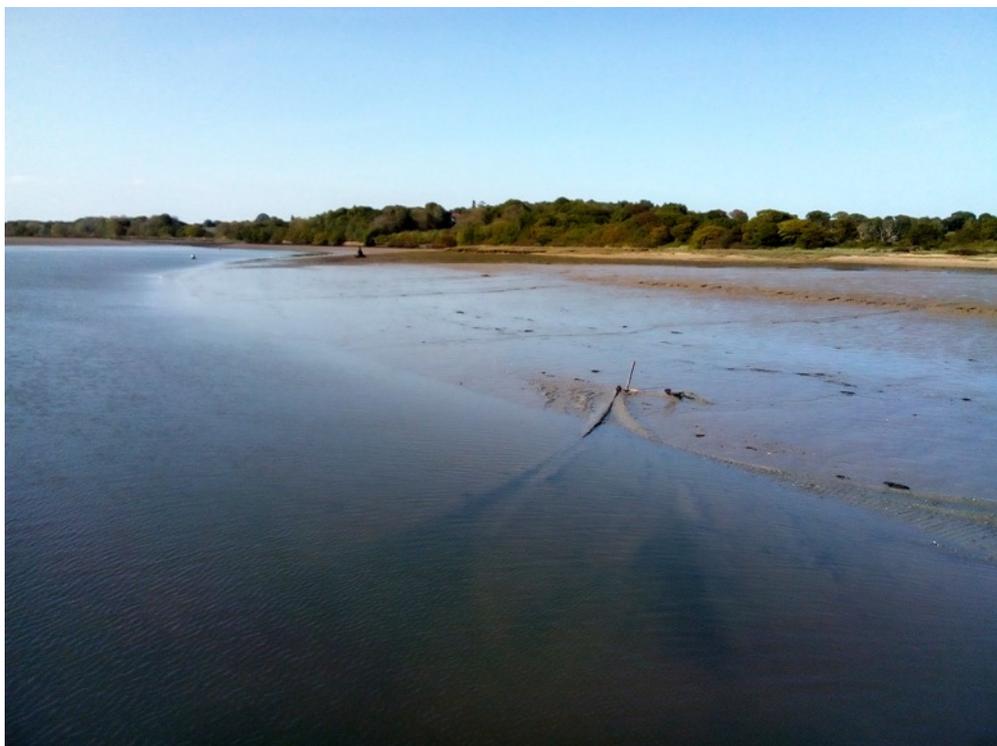


This weekend I went to the Maldon mud race, as expected a lot of people ran/trudged through a lot of mud, some of them had to be dragged from the mud because they sank in too deep, and one man raced completely naked. A good time was had by all!

17th May



This week we had our second trip on Reminder, they were a good group of young people, really enthusiastic, had some good sailing, and a great afternoon of crabbing, rowing, and rigging climbing, and a tide-related incident involving an unexpected amount of mud on the way back from a trip ashore (hence all the washing hanging to dry in the above picture...).



I *might* have got quite excited when we realised we could see our anchor in the mud as the tide was going out at Alresford. It went out even further than in the above picture, to the point that you could see the tracks made by our chain in the mud where we'd been swinging in the tide.

24th May

This week we had the youngest group I've ever worked with, all 8/9 years old. I was a little bit apprehensive about working with such a young group, but actually they were great, they were more engaged than plenty of older groups. They were bouncing off the walls quite a lot of the time, something you rarely get with teenagers so that was different... but they were also adorable so it balanced out.

We did a little bit of maintenance as well, end-for-ending one of the vang, and replacing one of the bowlines which was starting to look decidedly fluffy.





31st May

We finally had our first proper trip with a group on Blue Mermaid! And to make it extra special we laid alongside at Mistley Quay. The original Blue Mermaid, which ours is a replica of, was designed and built by the Horlock family, based in Mistley, and it was the first time a Thames barge has laid alongside there in many years.

The group we had on was a My Blue Pass group. MBP is an organisation that provides free opportunities on the water to young people, like dinghy sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and sometimes barge sailing. A great group to work with, and they sent some fabulous young people too.

3rd June

The last couple of days we've had a photographer, Emily Harris, on board, working on a film about the SHTP traineeships. She spent a couple of days working with us, and specifically filming/recording me and what I do on the boat.

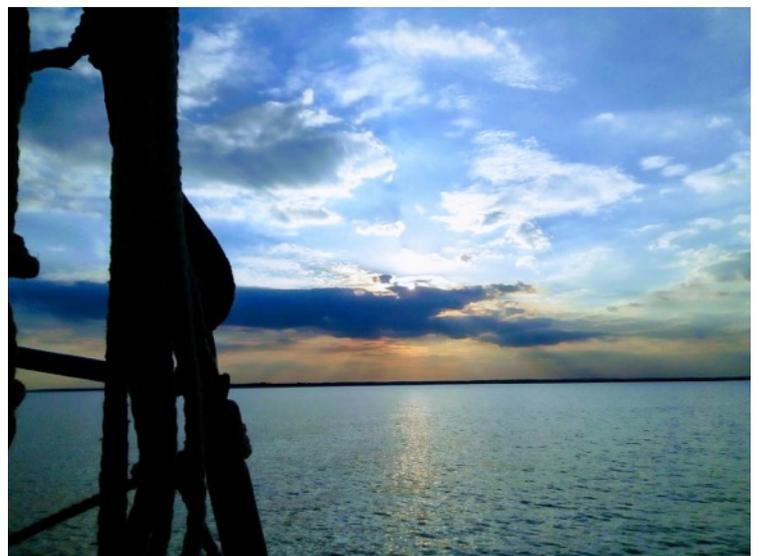
She went on to do some filming with Josephine on Pioneer as well, and she's going to put together all the footage she got into a little film about the SHTP project. I don't exactly *love* being filmed, but I think it'll be worth it.

10th June

This weekend was the Blackwater Match, both mine and Blue Mermaid's first ever barge match!

We came second in our class, out of three, but still, not bad for our first match. Only beaten by Edme, and she is a total speed demon anyway.

It was a really fun race, and a very different experience of barge sailing, everything's much more focused and all about the little tweaks you can make to gain that extra 0.1 of a knot.





12th June

Yesterday we hosted a selection day for next year's SHTP lot. It was really interesting to see the range of people who'd applied, some with very little sailing experience, but having worked in other hands-on jobs, some from museum backgrounds wishing to move into working on operational vessels, some already with experience of working on traditional boats. A mix of people, and a mix of weather too. They got a real taste of what it's like to be almost becalmed for a good while... the perils of working on a sailing boat without an engine.