

Adaptation is a skill in itself.

I'm not quite sure where April went. I had settled into the lockdown routine and pottered about with little projects such as sewing a ditty bag made of sailcloth and continued to work hard on Day Skipper - too hard at times, which only led to frustration and silly mistakes. But motivation came and went in waves. It's amazing how many distractions you can find when you only have few things to get on with and what seems like infinite time on your hands! The creation of "Procrastination Cake" was the result of one of these episodes. And no, we don't own a cake mixer, but IBTC's Power Tools session really came in handy - thanks Rob!

Procrastination Cake

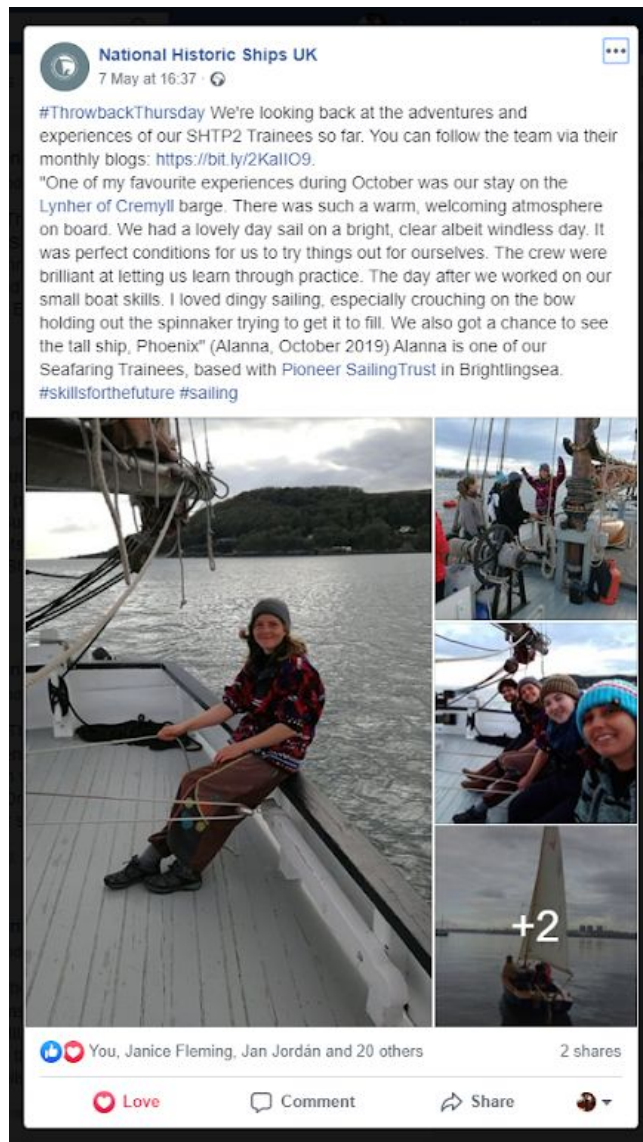
2 x over-ripe bananas, mashed
140g butter
120g sugar
140g self raising flour
2 eggs

Coffee Buttercream

40g soft butter
1tbsp instant coffee powder
1tsp (heaped) cocoa/hot choc
4tbsp icing sugar (more/less to taste)



Use your Ryobi whisk to cream butter and sugar together. Add bananas, eggs and flour, alternating each a little at a time. Divide between 2 cake tins. Place into a preheated oven at around 170deg. Check on it after 15 mins using a skewer, it can go for longer though the cake should be a bit gooey in the middle. Allow to cool completely, sandwich together with coffee buttercream between and drizzle a coffee/icing/water mix over the top.



Other than sewing and baking (how very domestic!) I spent a large percentage of April on my laptop; from Day Skipper theory, regular Zoom meetings with Becky and the SHTP2 team, taking part in Q&A's and live streams with sailing industry professionals to distance learning on YouTube. I also became hooked on "Virtual Regatta" - an online sailing simulator and to be fair I feel like I learned a fair amount from it - race rules and finding the best point of sail to go the fastest etc.

While I'm not able to develop 'real' sailing skills at the moment, I decided to put some of my other skills to good use. Before starting the SHTP2 scheme, I was a Graphic Designer, single handedly running Marketing and Media departments for an Academies Trust. So I created a series of Social Media posts for National Historic Ships UK to raise the profile of SHTP2 and showcase some of the fantastic things we have already accomplished. Keep a lookout for these popping up online soon!

Be safe, be well, wash your hands x

Pupdate - Lockdown dogs, April.

Another month without meeting any dogs! Though these good boys and girls have kept me company as I follow some of my favourite Youtubers getting on with their projects.



Akiva - Acorn to Arabella

I've followed Steve, Alix and their good boy, Akiva since they began building Arabella; a 38' Colin Archer inspired, double ended ketch 4 years ago, from trees planted by Steve's great-grandfather many years prior. Following their progress has been really interesting, especially as they're not boat builders by trade, so watching them problem-solve has been one of my favourite parts.

[Acorn to Arabella - Youtube](#)



Smudo - Laura Kampf

Laura is a big inspiration for me. She is a designer and maker from Germany, turning her hand to a multitude of disciplines including wood and metal work and creating everything from furniture, tools and bicycles to tiny homes and items for her dog, Smudo!

[Laura Kampf - Youtube](#)



Pancho - Sampson Boat Co.

I've been following Leo for over 2 years as he rebuilds 1909 sailing yacht Tally Ho designed by Albert Strange. Tally Ho won the Fastnet in 1927. What started as a restoration has all but turned into a complete rebuild, overseen by the ever-present and mischievous Macaw, Pancho. Especially interesting was watching how Leo created Tally Ho's new sawn frames, compared to Arabella's steam bending process.

[Sampson Boat Co - Youtube](#)