

## An Uplifting Month.

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The monotony and isolation of full Lockdown seems like a strange and distant dream now, especially with the variety of projects and fun July had in store for me. And with the new month, came new boats and friends (and dogs!) as we lifted 4 vessels at the start of the month. One of the benefits of lifting so many at once was the repetition - I got to know the process and how to assist. By the time we lifted *Lizzy May*, I was able to fit and adjust the rear sling independently and once in the air, I guided her stern into place.

Pilot Cutter *Lizzy May* was built by Luke so it was great to have her in the yard for a refit following a change in ownership. Her new custodians, Sally and Dusty are a lovely couple who are as enthusiastic and eager to learn as me - it's been great to have people to bounce ideas and questions off and really interesting to see the similarities and differences between *Lizzy May*, *Agnes*, *Pellew* and *Amelie Rose* - all Luke Powell Pilot Cutters.

We also lifted *Stormy Petrel*, *Chamian* and *Penlena*. *Penlena* has come to have several planks replaced after a recent survey found them to be rotten. Nick, owner of *Penlena*, has been very generous with his time, showing me various steps in the replanking process, such as how to find the hidden screws and nails that hold the old planks on; how to remove them; how to check if a plank is "sound" by hitting it and actually listening to the sound it makes; how to use dowels to plug the holes in the frames - the list goes on. Nick's time and wisdom has been really valuable and very much appreciated.





With so many boats being worked on, we knew work surfaces and areas were going to be in high demand so I was tasked with building some new trestles. Ned showed me the basics and gave me a power/shop tool refresher. I used an existing trestle as a template, taking measurements and using my bevel gauge to find the angles. I made one as a prototype and then cut enough parts to build 3 more. I enjoyed this challenge and they've already been put to good use!



Next up was servicing all of *Lizzy May's* blocks. This involved removing them from the boat, checking them for wear and damage then sanding the moss(!) and neglected varnish back to wood. It's a very fiddly but satisfying job, getting into the nooks with sandpaper or a chisel. I was surprised at how long they took to do but the majority came up a treat. The next job will be to hang them up and apply several coats of oil.



It wasn't all boatyard work - I was able to blow the sawdust off with a couple of day trips on *Pellew* and also a lovely afternoon on my friend Mel's boat, *Orzel* - a Nordic Folkboat. I'm beginning to feel more confident at the helm - the tiller is easy; I have the same system on my Narrowboat back home. But gybing isn't much of a concern on a narrowboat! I'm still quite anxious of an accidental gybe while at the helm - something I will be working to overcome once my new dinghy, *Allen*, is in the water.

## Pupdate - Shipshape dogs, July.



### **Merlot**

Lizzy May's Mascot.

Doesn't act his age.

Loves a good rummage around the yard.

About to become a big brother!

"Is that food? I love food!"

Very good boy.