

March 2021, Jess Clay.

SHTP2 Blog

A time ashore



Unbelievably it's been nearly 6 months since I last wrote a Shipshape blog. While there has been no great seafaring adventures to share or yarns to spin, it has been a very busy and productive time.

The new roles with [EcoClipper](#) and [IBTC Lowestoft](#) I wrote about last October have each evolved into really enjoyable mini-careers and I've spent the vast majority of the winter either putting my existing marketing talents to good use or soaking up knowledge and up-skilling. Everything from Social Media analytics to Wordpress CEO to the coriolis effect and windmill terminology! All while interacting with thousands of people online on behalf of both companies.

I have thoroughly loved working with both teams and will be staying in touch with them throughout the year. I have found it very rewarding to bring my graphics and media background and my new maritime world together, from the comfort of the sofa!



In early January I wrote a blog for EcoClipper called [‘A Green New Year’](#) containing a few easy New Year resolutions that we’re good for you, others and the environment. Among them was “Recycle Your Postage Stamps” which are collected and resold to generate funds for charity. In the post I suggested getting friends and neighbours involved and wanting to practice what I preach, I organised several local community stamp collections in aid of the RNLI. Between us we have collected thousands of stamps - a brilliant group effort! After each collection I spent several hours (days!) trimming, sorting and processing them all. Yesterday I dropped them off at RNLI Penlee Lifeboat Station, who were very grateful for the donation. I posted the update on Instagram and had a really lovely message back:

“As one of the crew at Penlee, well done on your effort. Outstanding and much appreciated. Without the help of people like you we wouldn’t be able to do what we do. Team effort!! Thank you.”

I have no idea how much a heavy carrier bag of stamps is worth, but I figure it’s at least enough to restock the Penlee LBS’s tea/coffee and cake stash! As I start my sailing season I’m so very grateful to know that the RNLI are never too far away.



Speaking of...! The whole point of the SHTP2 extension was to catch up on all of last year's lost sailing time due to Covid. However returning to Working Sail full time wasn't a viable option so the hunt was on to find a boat. I managed to narrow it down to 9...

It looks like I will have an extraordinary season as a roaming jolly sailor, which is very exciting, though if the last 12 months has taught us anything it's to expect the unexpected. At the start of April, I'm heading over to Brixham for 3 days of maintenance work on *Pilgrim*, followed by 3 weeks with *Jolie Brise* and several more



with Dom and Barbara on the *Lynher Barge* in Plymouth! While in Plymouth I'll complete my RYA Day Skipper practical on *Moosk*, operated by The Island Trust. Following that there are plans to join the brilliant team, and at Charlestown Harbour (a new Shipshape partner), sailing with *Mascotte*, *Anny of Charlestown* and *Irene*. *Pellew* and *Pioneer* are on the schedule towards the end of the traineeship. So wave if you see me out on the water!

Hopefully there will be time to attend the many maritime events here in Falmouth. As well as Falmouth Classics, the town will be welcoming the Tall Ship fleet as a host port and starting line for the Tall Ships Races Magellan-elcano 500 Series 2021!

It might sound like a lot to fit in during a single season, but I'm ready and very determined to make up for last year. While I learned a lot so far, my skills and experience as a sailor are not at the level I wanted them to be by this point so I



want to grasp as many opportunities as I can this season. I have some very achievable goals such as completing the Day Skipper Practical and I know I need to improve in navigation and wind awareness - something the incredible network of professional seafarers I have built up during my time as a trainee and beyond have graciously offered to help me with this season.

So! Ditty bag and foulies packed (including a beautiful new smock kindly gifted to me by [Yarmouth Oilskins!](#)), charts and almanac at the ready and plenty of ginger sweets in every pocket! Let's go sailing!