

I must go down to the seas again...

Two years ago today (at time of writing) I was aboard the Dutch Brig *Morgenster*. It was my first ever sailing trip and I had no idea then how much my life was going to change over the next couple of years. Jack and I had been aboard for nearly a week, taking part in the Tall Ships Race to Dublin from Liverpool, via the Isle of Man. It was also the first day of the trip with a decent breeze, having dropped anchor the previous day to stop us from drifting backwards! *Morgenster* was heeled over nearly 20°, we were terribly seasick, along with most of the other guests.

This time last year I was aboard *Pilgrim* having just completed a somewhat hair-raising King George V Regatta - *but **that** is a tale for another day...*



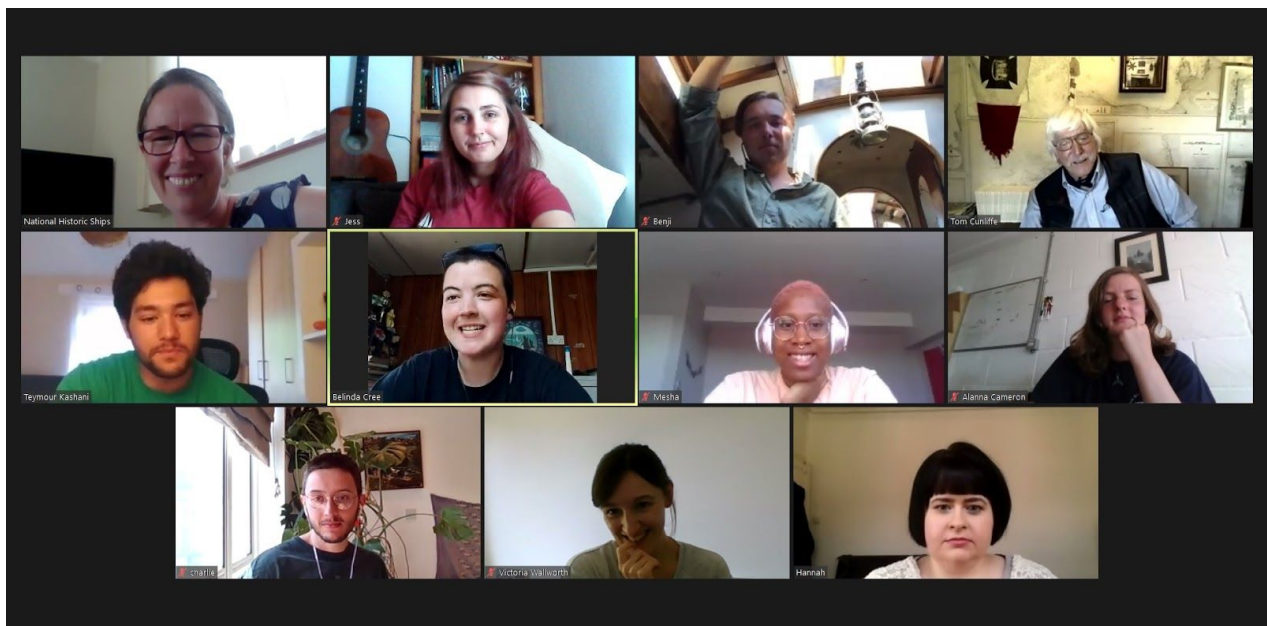


I had been back at the Working Sail yard part time for most of May, getting on with the jobs I could do alone such as painting Agnes's bunks, oiling Pellew's brightwork and making sail ties - LOTS of sail ties, which was excellent splicing and whipping practice. I took home Agnes's Parel beads (which help to keep the boom and gaff attached to the mast) and gave them a good scrub, sand and oil - they came out really well!

By the end of the month, Pellew was ready for sea trials to test her systems and see how she handles. I was invited to go along (photos below) and I can report that she is a really handy and graceful ship! We took notes on adjustments to make such as where different ropes should be made off to. Lots of other boats joined us in the bay - it was great to be back on the water and a really fun and interesting day - and another adventure to add to the list!



I also managed to fit in two excellent online sessions, kindly organised by Becky. A Tom Cunliffe Masterclass and a talk with Felicity from Pioneer about vessel operations management - big thank you to both for your time.





Pupdate - Lockdown dogs, May.

Another month dog-less. Sad times. My friends have once again come to the rescue and sent me photos of their beautiful pets to tide me over!



Marley and Olly

Love chasing shadows and reflections.

Love a good roll in a cow pat - especially straight after going to groomers...

Olly loves cuddles.

Marley tries hard, bless him.

Very good boys.



Poppy

Loves cucumber.

Purrs like a cat when you stroke her.

Barks like a dog at anything that moves.

Loves to sunbathe.

Very good girl.



Jaffa

Six years old.

Bit of a lady's man.

Very happy at home but enjoys a wander.

Likes to sleep in weird places and positions.

Definitely a dog...

Very Good Boy.