

May 2021, Jess Clay.

SHTP2 Blog

Everyday's a School Day, Part 2!



I reckon one of the best ways to gauge your own skills and knowledge is to try and teach someone else and May has presented me with lots of opportunities for both teaching and learning.

Following a week of Day Skipper prep and Dinghy sailing lessons with Dom, we welcomed over 100 children aboard *Lynher* for various activities, starting with a week of day-sails for the 'Mayflower 400 Anniversary' celebrations! For 4 days, *Lynher* and 5 other local, traditional boats (*Johanna Lucrecia*, *Pegasus*, *Moosk*, *Olga* and *Bounty*) sailed around the Sound with groups of children from local schools. It was great to work with children again (previously I worked in the education sector) and they made brilliant crews!



After a quick chat about *Lynher* and the history of Plymouth Sound, we split into groups. We had a tour around the deck and played "What's that?" - A game I made where I'd tell them the names and uses of different parts of the boat (mast, boom, tiller, bowsprit, staysail etc.) then they sat on the middle of the boat and I would point to different things in quick succession, the children would shout out the name of the part of the boat: "What's that?" "MAST!" "What's that?" "MAIN SAIL!" etc. I was really impressed at how effective (and fun!) it was and how quickly the children



learned. And it was really useful too; I could say to my group "Ok, let's get ready to tack the Staysail!" and the children would automatically head towards the bow. We had a knot tying session, "Boson's Show and Tell" and sang sea songs. The children also raised the sails in the morning, steered the boat throughout the day and when it was time to head back to the marina, they stowed the mainsail and prepared the fenders (all guided and assisted by the crew and teachers)!

Next we welcomed two more schools, this time for "Lynher's Voyage of Discovery!" - a day of science; looking at ways to harness the power of the tide (wind and sun) to create and store clean, renewable energy and also a tide-line exploration, looking at the interesting things the tide washes up on the beach. We had a model of a flour mill water wheel the children could operate by pouring seawater down a pipe and we explained how replacing the mill stones with turbines could produce electricity. We got the children to assemble a model catamaran with a hydro-generator, they then ran up the beach pulling it through the water to spin the propeller, lighting up an LED. And of course, there was time for a game or two!



Each group was a credit to their school and hopefully their time with us lit the seafaring spark in some of them!

For my final few days with Lynher I got to dodge the wet weather by helping out at *Lynher's* workshop and office. During this time I was happy to help out with some admin and helped to dress their exhibition space ready for an upcoming event. We even had a special visitor, good friend and former Shipshaper' Hannah Hurford who popped by during her visit to Cornwall.



I absolutely adored my time with Dom and Barbara, their kindness and hospitality was amazing and I was quite emotional when it was time to go. I've learned so much from them and I'm very much looking forward to joining *Lynher* again sometime in the future.



But as always the next adventure was calling, and this time it was a big one! Across the Tamar to Plymton for my very long awaited and much anticipated Day Skipper course aboard beautiful little *Moosk*! It was such an incredible and intense week that it'll get a blog of its own (coming soon!).



With the ink still wet on my newly signed-off Day Skipper qualification, I jumped in the van and headed for Brixham to join *Pilgrim* again, with crew training on the agenda in preparation for the following days King George V Heritage Regatta! Having lost to *Vigilance* during the (rather eventful) last one, we were determined to take home the Brixham Trawler's cup this time. It was a strange course and close race, having to sail straight through the middle of a fleet of sailing dinghies and around the anchored cruise liners that have called Brixham their lock-down home. But a premature tack by *Vigilance* (and incredible teamwork by us) saw us not only take home the Trawler's cup but also come second in class! After the race I helped out fellow sailor, Vic, replace his snapped jib halyard, climbing 'Grims ratlines to reach top of Vic's mast, a good deed done and a fantastic day all round!

