

SHTP2 Monthly Report 3 – March

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Intro

Another great month at the Scottish Fisheries Museum! A lot of new experiences this month so I will give fair warning that this report may be longer than the previous two!!

Curatorial

A lot of the curatorial stuff I have been doing this month has been a continuation of my efforts last month, with a lot of extra experiences thrown in. I am still following my timetable, however there has been a lot of adaptations and day-swapping for various reasons, all part of the experience!

I have made some progress to my Forbes drawings project. I can now see the light at the end of the tunnel! While the task has required a lot of focus from myself, it has been highly interesting. A lot of the boat plans I am dealing with date as far back as the 30's, with a high emphasis on fishing vessels. I feel that this has helped me gain an insight into the evolution of fishing vessels, something that will prove very useful for when I am doing guided tours! (I shadowed one of our tour-guides at the end of February, so a couple more of those and I should be giving some of my own!) I believe there has been a picture uploaded of me to the NHS Instagram looking pensively at some boat plans.



Looking at a 70ft Fishing Vessel

I have been dabbling with a little bit of volunteer management this month. I have a volunteer assisting me with the conservation project

for JUBILEE and soon another one of our vessel's at risk, JESSIE. This means I have been experiencing a taster of all things related to volunteer management, such as time-keeping, sign-in sheets, relationship building and delegation. I have been tasked with recruiting some volunteers for an Easter Workshop which I am currently preparing for.

As a sort of 'practice run' for the workshop, I, along with a volunteer, joined forces with Andrea (50th anniversary officer) as we went to a career's and development day at the local high school. Here, I took the helm and prepared a knot tying display where I welcomed students to join me in "Learning the Ropes." This was a massive confidence boost for me considering the little experience I had with knots and ropework at the start of SHTP2. Having to confidence to teach others is something that really resonates with me.

Another notable thing from this month is that I feel I am doing well with the museum's social media platforms. This may not be too related to heritage or shipkeeping, however it is extremely vital in my opinion that museums aim to keep an active online presence, through sticking to our own calendar and sharing posts from other organisations within the industry. Social media can be a pain, however I have really enjoyed playing my part in this and hope to keep the momentum up! This month I have created a quarterly report for Linda about how the social media platforms are doing.

Another great experience from the curatorial side of things is that I was invited along to an exhibition opening at the museum. This was a St Andrews Uni students exhibition called "a tale of tea cities" using some of the museums collection. Being able to attend these events feels great as it helps me to feel part of the museum as it grows and adapts.

Boatyard

We are still waiting for a new vessel to arrive in the boatyard. The lack of boat has allowed everyone (employees, volunteers & boats-club members) to all play our part in re-vamping the boatyard. It was went from a 'needle in a haystack' situation to an organised single unit. I feel this has been very valuable for me as it has allowed me an opportunity to ask many questions about items lying around the boatyard – "What is this?" – "What is it's use and why?" – "Where does it go?"

One exciting development in the boatyard is that it has allowed me to get close to a few of the volunteers, who have been taking time out of their work to teach me their methods of woodworking and caulking. Some advice may conflict with IBTC, however it's great to get their advice! I hope to add caulking to the Easter workshop I am organising. This alongside ropework and possibly net-mending I believe will be fantastic! One of the volunteers have entrusted me with their caulking display board. He is proving difficult to recruit for the workshop itself, however I haven't given up on asking as he is a great teacher. I am aiming for the second week in April for this, so there is a sense of urgency to get things arranged.



I have begun work on a half-hull model of an 8-metre yacht this month. A great opportunity to showcase the skills I learned at IBTC, as well as learning some new skills. I am using the 'bread & butter' technique. This involved scanning the plans, resizing them, creating templates from them, and finally preparing the timber. I have currently cut out all sections on to pieces of timber, and am ready to begin the glueing and then modelling stages.

Transferring the templates on to the timber!

Coursework

I have felt the momentum for coursework drop a little this month. This is partly to do with all of the new experiences I have been lucky to have this month, and also deliberately so that I can take things a little bit slower, and learn naturally, as opposed to forcing myself to learn in order to get through the course as quickly as possible. I have been doing a lot of work that relate to the stabilisation of vessels, and feel that I have some more to learn before being able to submit my report for unit 2. I have received marks/feedback from both Linda and the HVC markers for both of my Unit 1 submissions, and have been working through the suggestions trying to achieve as high a mark as possible.