

Getting involved in the sail cargo world – My time after the SHTP2 project

It seems like a long time ago since I was working at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth as a part of my SHTP2 traineeship; helping the riggers, shipwrights, conservators and archivists preserve historic ships like HMS *Victory* and HMS *Warrior*. It seems even longer that myself and the rest of the group were trekking around the Southwest, learning about different boats and traditional boatbuilders down that way, before heading over to Lowestoft to do our boatbuilding course at the International Boatbuilding College.

The SHTP2 traineeship opened my eyes to the beauty and depth of the UK maritime heritage world. There's so much going on, so many people passionate about these vessels, eager to share the stories and continue the skills needed to preserve the heritage. For many, it's like National Trust properties - a brief visit during the school holidays, a leaflet taken home. But there's something also about the ways in which museums and ships are placing themselves firmly in the future.

I realised this when I got involved in the sail cargo world. I now work for a shipping company called EcoClipper. The company will build emission-free clipper ships purpose-built to transport cargo and passengers on four shipping lines around the world. This seems like a far cry from my maritime museum days. But my role as Chief Communications Officer has allowed me to continue delving into archives to tell the stories of clipper and cargo ships of days gone by. It's been an interesting learning curve (online, at home, social media and all that) but I've met some amazing people and got involved in an industry that represents all the values I believe in; maritime history and a sustainable world built on communities.

I also have managed to get out on the water too. This summer I helped out on the Lynher Barge down on the Tamar. It was wonderful to get back to sailing again especially with a traditional vessel. We had some great guests on board and explored the rivers in that area. Barbara and Dom, owners of the Lynher, are just the most wonderful, welcoming and down-to-earth people I've ever met. I would highly recommend booking a trip on the Lynher Barge!