

## When the long trick's over.

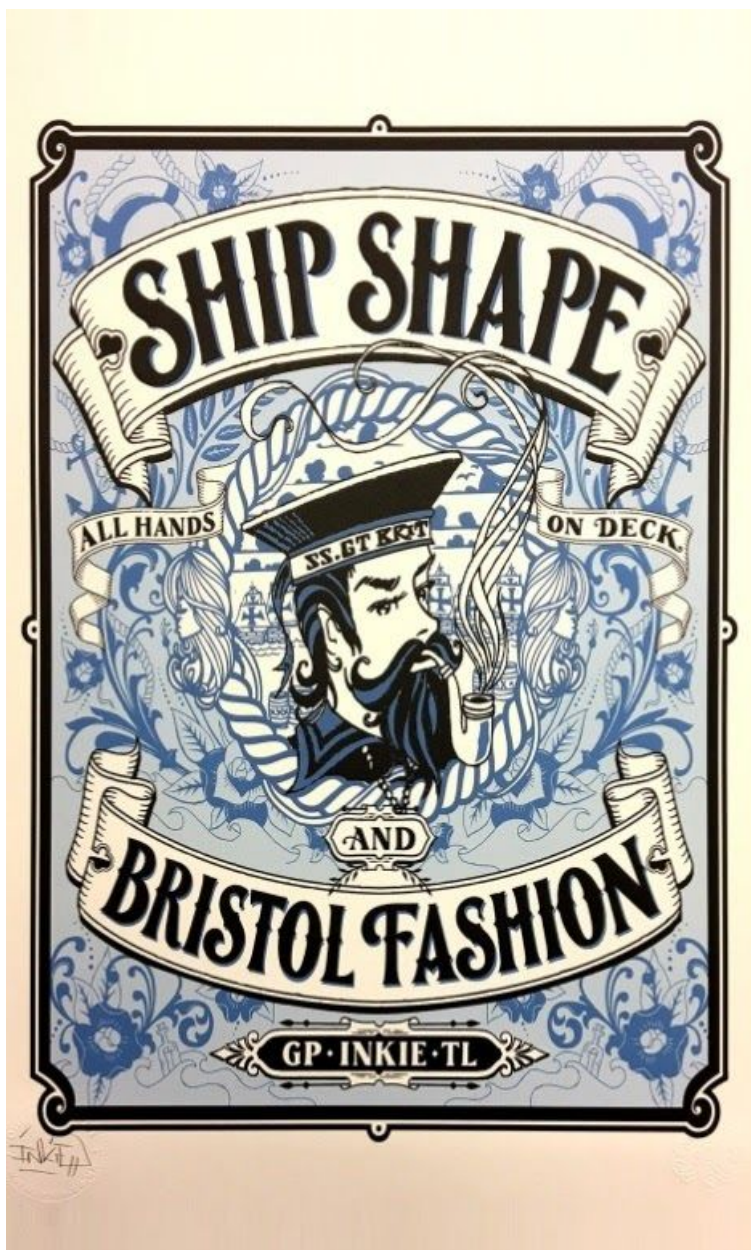
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After an incredible month aboard Bessie Ellen, it was time to prepare for the end of the Shipshape Heritage Training Partnership. Well, sort of...

The pandemic had resulted in a lack of sailing time for us Seafarers and access to museums for the Shipkeepers, meaning many of the objectives of SHTP2 could not be met. National Historic Ships UK discussed the possibility of extending the programme and successfully applied for additional funding from Lottery Heritage Fund.

Depending on individual circumstances, some of us will be continuing with SHTP2 next year. Personally, I have paused my traineeship at this point and aim to complete the 2021 sailing season with *Pellew*, though what that season will look like? Who knows with the Covid situation far from over for the foreseeable.

For some time a group trip to Bristol had been planned; originally as one of the Masterclass sessions but now as a chance to get together, wrap up the programme and discuss the next steps. It was fantastic to see everyone and share stories of the trials and tribulations of the last 8 months. I think a sign of a great friendship is the ability to pick straight back up from where you left off and it really felt like we'd seen each other just yesterday, cemented more so by the strange coincidental print on living room wall of our shared accommodation - a big Shipshape and Bristol Fashion poster!





In Bristol we visited *The Matthew*, a replica of the ship John Cabot sailed in 1497 to find a trade route to Asia, but instead “discovered” North America. *The Matthew* was really interesting with a square-ligger-lateen looking rig and a vertical pole where you’d expect a ship’s wheel to be, attached to a tiller below.



We had an excellent morning at M Shed, where the team there had organised activities for us. From a presentation about the conservation of their 3 museum ships, to a guided tour of the artifact and exhibition stores and workshops. We were even able to visit the 3 ships; tugs *Mayflower* (1861) and *James King* (1935) and fire service boat, *Pyronaught*, who had served Bristol Harbour from 1934 until 1973.



We also visited *SS Great Britain* and the Brunell museum where we had a talk with museum staff about the ship, the efforts involved in bringing her back to Bristol from the Falklands and the clever technology that keeps her fragile hull from rusting away. She’s a really impressive ship and the exhibitions on board are brilliant.

On our final day in Bristol, we had a meeting with Nicola from Heritage Lottery fund, discussing the year and really celebrating all of the incredible experiences and skills we had gained before saying goodbye for maybe the last time to our Shipshape family as a whole group and also to our Coordinator and friend Becky who will be leaving to pursue her new and exciting career!

Thank you for everything Becky x

Soon after returning from Bristol, I set off again with Jack, this time for Brixham to spend a weekend of maintenance and crew training aboard our lovely *Pilgrim*. It felt like such a long time since we'd seen her and the gang, she looked strangely unfamiliar to begin with. A couple of changes had been made to enable operations to continue while complying to social distance guidelines and she was also fitted with a new windlass.



As is now tradition (being the smallest, lightest and most agile of *Grim's* volunteers) I was sent straight up the mast; this time to inspect the rig and to replace some the headsail blocks for newly serviced ones. It was a busy day but I managed to find time for a customary "aloft selfie"!



On Sunday we let slip the lines and headed out into the bay. After an intensive month sailing *Bessie*, I felt unusually confident on *Pilgrim*, both running deck tasks and at the helm. It was funny to think that a year ago we had been aboard with the SHTP2 trainees at the very start of the Traineeship, luckily the sea state was substantially less lumpy this time!





The following week I returned to Working Sail for the day. It was nice to see everyone and how bustling the yard was. In addition to the usual crew, Nick and Janie Lane were there working on their boat *Penlena* and two work experience students had recently started too.

After tea break I had a wander around the yard to see what progress had been made. *Charmian's* aft planking had been almost completely removed as John and Dan unearthed more and more dry rot, whereas *Penlena* was now fully re-planked; Ned preparing the oakum ahead of caulking her. *Lizzy May* looked like a new boat with her stunning turquoise paint scheme and Clyde supervised the work experience students as they added cotton caulking to little *Dorris*. Luke was securing supports around *Stormy Petrel* in preparation of lifting her off her keel. *Agnes* and *Pellew* sat quietly in the mud of the river, sail covers on and laid up for the winter. They were joined by Clyde's boat *Peggy* who was due to be lifted along with *Agnes* once *Lizzy May* is craned back in later in the month.



I intend on visiting the yard from time to time to help out and to work on a set of oars I'm making for *Allan*, our Enterprise dinghy. Mid way through October I started two new roles; a Communications Internship with EcoClipper, who are building a new sail cargo clipper ship and I'm also assisting IBTC Lowestoft with their social media pages and website. I'm really excited about these roles and secretly pleased to have cosy, indoor work to do in my warm home office over the winter!

Pupdate - Shipshape dogs, October.



### **Gracie**

Nick and Jane Lane's doggo.

One of the oldest big dogs I've ever met!  
15 years old, I think.

Blind and deaf but absolutely living life to  
the fullest.

A little unsteady, but has an all-terrain  
buggy for beach exploration!

Very good girl.