

And now for something completely different.

After the pandemonium of the lead-up and eventual launch of Pellew at the end of February, work carried on as normal at the Working Sail yard. But not for long.

The media had been covering the terrible Coronavirus outbreak for weeks as it spread around the world. While this was always in the back of our minds, Brendan and I carried on with Agnes's refit, making good progress.

We spent a whole day below deck having a good tidy, washing down all of the surfaces and scrubbing the floor. Painting and oiling of the deck and interior woodwork continued, from the tiller to the toilet seat! Many items had been removed from the boat into the paint and varnish shed (blocks, cupboard doors, the saloon table etc.) As nice shiny items returned to the boat and the shed became emptier, there was a great sense of progress especially when coupled with the growing amount of jobs being crossed off the "To Do" list.



We refitted the bobstay bracket to the stempost, the saloon table was winched aboard through the cargo hatch and bolted in place. We wired up a new radar amplifier and cleaned up the boat's battery bank, replacing several terminals that looked "past their best". We did some troubleshooting too, a loose wire on the alternator, a leaky exhaust baffle box.

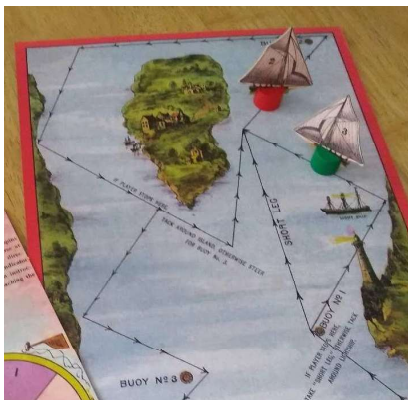


By the end of the first week of March I had developed a nasty chest/sinus infection and spent over a week bedbound. By the time I felt well enough to return to work the Government had implemented nationwide lockdown procedures and I was forced to self-isolate.

But I'm not one to sit around and I was determined to do *something*. The SHTP2 programme is too good an opportunity waste. I started to read through all of the literature I had acquired since the beginning of the Traineeship - the Historic Vessel Conservation book, my IBTC resources folder and notes, RYA First aid and VHF books. I've never read so much in my life, but it was useful to see how much I've learned and accomplished so far. Wanting more of a challenge, I renewed the RYA Day Skipper Theory course I had previously started and began working hard on that (I hope to have that completed by mid-April, come back next month to find out if I reach that goal!)



I looked through the tools I had received from Shipshape and family and at the projects I built at IBTC, resulting in me teaching my partner Jack how to use my handplane, try-square and bevel gauge. We had a lot of fun, Jack baked several cakes, we watched a lot of films (and an unhealthy amount of Unsolved True Crime Mysteries on Youtube) and worked on our sailing techniques in our patented "Storm Sailing Simulator" aka, the shower and via Yachting - The board Game, which we highly recommend! Windward please!



The lockdown had also meant that I hadn't encountered many dogs for this month's Pupdate. So I put out a request on Facebook for dogs to feature and I was soon inundated! Enjoy!

Be safe, be well, wash your hands x

Pupdate - Lockdown dogs, March.



Callie

Will dig you holes. Any size you want.

Loves running.

Cleans windows. With her tongue.

Budding carpenter.

Very good girl.



Herbie

7 months old.

Extensive shoes collection.

A real chatter-box.

Loves a root in the bathroom bin. Nice.

Very good boy.



Jess

Loving her forever home.

Salty sea dog.

Searching for buried treasure.

Yap yappedy yap!

Very good girl.



Millie

Loves long walks.

Gives the best cuddles.

Dog chocolates are life.

Will defend your garden from squirrels.

Very good girl.



Rolo

Watches Midsummer Murder.
Loves lazy days at the beach.
Enjoys cold tea.
Keen bird watcher.
Very good boy.



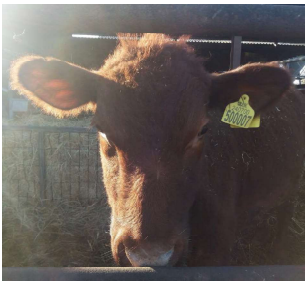
Pebbles

Sleeps all day.
Inner puppy comes out at the beach.
She's a total princess.
Loves a treat.
Very good girl.



Gelert

Prone to zoomies.
Loves to spend time with his tiny human, Eira.
Curls up impressively small on the sofa for a giant dog.
Loves a good nap.
Very good boy.



Susan

Enjoys a good scratch behind the ear.
Not ok with chickens in her barn.
Fashionable ear piercing.
Definitely a dog.
Very good girl.