



Adventure Afloat



Explore Ashore

Voyages Courses

Articles Vessels

## Special Edition – Our Week at the BBA!



Hi, Jess here,

Hopefully I wasn't too conspicuous by my absence from Classic Sailing HQ last week! With my CS hat on, and my partner, Jack, by my side, we left the county behind for a few days to visit our friends and partners over at the Boat Building Academy in beautiful Lyme Regis (BBA).

While it's always a pleasure to visit our partner organisations, be they ships or training centres, Jack and I were also booked on to the BBA's excellent Traditional Sail Making course, with tutor and all-round, top chap, [Mark Matthews](#).

It was also a great opportunity to meet up with Belinda Joslin, founder of [Women in Boat Building CIC](#) (WIBB). Together, the BBA and WIBB have created a Diversity and Inclusivity policy, and another great result from their partnership is the BBA's Bursary for Women. As you can see from the picture above, the BBA is a inclusive and happy place to be!

So join me as I share my experience at the BBA in this week's special edition of the newsletter, but don't worry – you'll still find the usual great deals and exciting new voyages & courses too!



As ever, if you want to get in touch and raise an issue or give your point of view, you can write a letter to the editor. If we feature your letter we'll send you a suitably salty book to say thank you. You can submit your letter [HERE](#).

Fair winds, **Jess**

# "A Lovely Place To Be"

*"One of my favourite things about the the BBA, is the atmosphere - The final product is almost a by-product! Everyone is so friendly and eager to see what you're working on, and share what they're up to! It's a lovely place to be." - Alex, BBA Staff*



I can vouch for that! At tea break on the first day, I went to grab a table while Jack got the drinks. Within a minute of sitting down, I was joined by a lovely lady from the **40-Week Boat Building course**. After introductions, we got chatting about our respective courses.

She is coming to the end of her course, and with Launch Day fast approaching, she said there is a real buzz of excitement (and a bit of healthy stress!) in the boat shed! I told her about the Sail Making course and she later popped by to see how it was all going.

As a newcomer to the BBA, I really did feel so welcome by both students and staff. Even with the pressures of a deadline looming, people had time for you, people cared and they were really rooting for you! Along with the adorable little Gaff sails we made on the course, we have also brought home lots of happy memories and a phone book full of new friends and professional contacts, and that's worth its weight in gold.



SALE  
SALE  
SALE  
SALE

Classic Sailing's Spring Sale!

## SAIL SUNBEAM

IN THE STUNNING STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO!

NOW ONLY £1099.00 ~~£1299.00~~

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS & TO BOOK](#)



# Sail Making & Other Skills Courses

*"It was a fantastic primer to sail repair and traditional handwork skills. Fitting in some sewing machine work was a great addition to the introduction. While I'm no professional sail maker, I do feel confident to make a repair at sea now."* – **Jack, Sail Making Student (and partner!)**

Jack and I completed the Traditional Sail Making course – 3 glorious days of canvas, hand stitching, machine sewing, grommets, rope and leather work.

For Jack, this was a brilliant introduction to these skills. He hasn't used a sewing machine since high school home economics and has only had an occasional go at rope work; a bit while volunteering on Pilgrim and he also helped me make a big batch of eye-spliced sail ties during the first lockdown! I have had to mend sails in the wild, even by torchlight!



And I've enjoyed teaching my trainees & Deckhands the basics too – the course was a reminder that there is always something new to learn and actually taking time out to practice these skills (dare I say, for fun, rather than for necessity!) is really enjoyable and rewarding.

Our fellow Sail Makers also came at it from different perspectives. There were two gentlemen who had previously completed the 40-Week course; one is involved with the Old Gaffers Association and wanted to learn more about the how's and why's of traditional Gaff Sails, and the other is in the process of building his own boat; having already made the spars and oars, sails were the next step. And there was also a lovely lady looking to start a career in Sail Making, who at the time of writing, has just been accepted as a Sail Makers Apprentice in Falmouth! (Go Bryony!)

We all had a brilliant time, it really is a special place and if you're thinking of trying your hand at carpentry, woodwork, GRP, ropework and of course boatbuilding – I genuinely can't rate the BBA highly enough. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions – even if you just want to know where the best place to grab lunch is during your time at the BBA!

...It's 'Kiosk', over on the promenade, try their toasties and thank me later.

– Jess :)





While the Traditional Sail Making course is now finished for the year, the BBA still has a variety of courses on offer to suite many interests. They also have a range of bursaries, so if finance is a barrier to you achieving your skills or career goals, get in touch - We may be able to help you on your way!



### Modern Sail Making

Learn how to cut sails to put 3D shape into them. Create strengthening panels on the load bearing corners. Add reefing points, edge tapes, leechlines and how to put in eyelets and grommets.

[COURSE DATES](#)



### Introduction to woodworking

The Boat Building Academy has a 5 day course for women only. Learn woodworking in an inclusive and relaxed environment with boat builder Amy Stringfellow.

[COURSE DATES](#)



### Introduction to Ropework

Learn ropework techniques using three strand, double and single braid ropes. Learn whipping, splicing and how to make rope grommets. There is a lot more to it than you think!

[COURSE DATES](#)

SALE  
SALE  
SALE  
SALE

Classic Sailing's Spring Sale!

## SAIL GRAYHOUND

CROSS BISCAVY TO GLOUCESTER TALL SHIPS!

NOW ONLY €2040 ~~€2550~~

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS & TO BOOK](#)

