



The Worshipful
Company of
Shipwrights

Case Study – Simon Styles-Burgess – Apprentice Boatbuilder (funded 2019 -20)

Northshore Shipyard, Chichester.

<https://www.northshore.co.uk>



Simon joined Northshore Shipyard mid-way through the year, to replace the existing apprentice. Previously he was employed in the automotive sector as an apprentice car mechanic. Having spent a year in that role, he decided he wanted to pursue a career in the marine sector which was always of greater interest to him.

Skills and Knowledge

“Since joining Northshore Shipyard last summer, I have developed my skills in a range of different tasks. My skill set has expanded to cover a various number of tasks around all aspects of boat building and engineering. Such as rigging, boat movements, joinery, and other areas of boat yard work. My main task was to assist with a GRP keel box repair. This consisted of removing the keel box liner, repairing the crack, adding an aluminium reinforcement plate and reassembling the keel box liner.”



I have also been involved with a GRP repair on a transom. This was made up off filling the holes that were previously drilled out, apply glass fibre, then adding gel coat, sanding then applying a cutting and polishing compound.



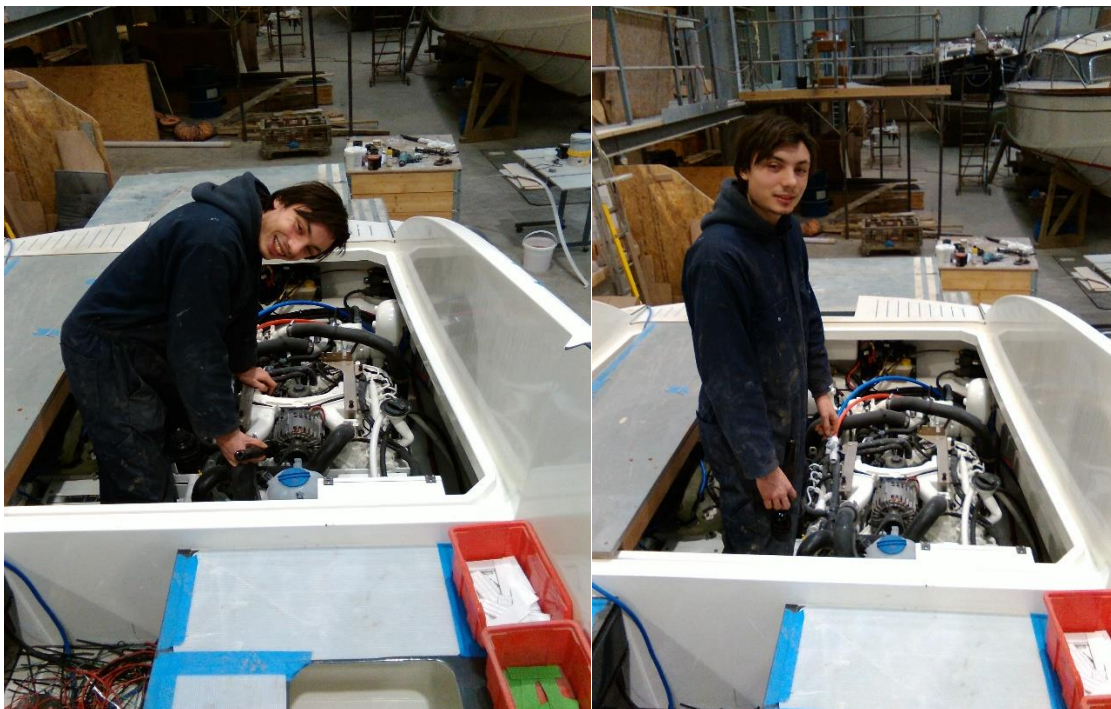
There was a coppercoat job which consisted of sanding down to old coppercoat and applying 5 new coats then burnishing.



Due to COVID-19 I have only started college a month ago, although I have learnt a massive amount from college there hasn't been enough to show my knowledge in the workplace at the moment. I have found working alongside knowledgeable craftsman very enjoyable and interesting, I have found trying to get up to their standards a challenge as I'm still gaining the experience. Working in a full-time environment with a smaller workforce and learning to work as a team. I now feel that I have gained a vast amount of knowledge in a small space of time by working with the team and understanding how they work. I think the company has benefited because I have learnt new skills to allow the company to trust me to complete a job which means another worker can complete other work, in doing this having my apprenticeship keeps this specialized industry running.

And what about the future?

I want to keep learning as much as I can and to complete my apprenticeship. Once qualified I want to continue to work in the trade and expand my knowledge further."



Simon Styles-Burgess – Northshore Shipyard