

# Friends of the Boat Building Academy

## Newsletter - September 2021



*Hello, welcome to the first edition of the Friends of the Boat Building Academy Newsletter.*

*Here you can read about some of the exciting developments that have taken place over the past year.*

*Hope to see many of you for Launch Day on the 6th October!*

*Best Wishes,  
Will Reed,  
Principal/Trustee*

## What's Been Happening at the BBA?

- At the start of the first lockdown we launched a fundraising campaign to enable us to make the workshops safer for everyone. Having raised an impressive £72K, we were able to increase the size of the mezzanine and create a new furniture making workshop.
- The Class of February 2020 were only a few weeks into their course when the Academy had to close. They returned in August and are busy building their boats in the main workshop, ready for launch day on Wednesday 6th October.
- We have all benefitted from the enthusiasm and motivation of the first two BBA bursary students on the 12 week Furniture Making courses in March and June 2021.
- BBA tutor Matthew Law made a guest appearance on Channel 4's Sunday Brunch programme. He chatted with the presenters about the forthcoming boat race and demonstrated oar making.
- Commander Tim Gedge who started the BBA in 1997 has retired as a director and has been awarded the title of 'Honorary Life President'. The Academy has improved the lives of many hundreds of people over the years and we are all hugely grateful to Tim for establishing the Academy and spearheading our recent charity status.
- Renowned sailor and author Tom Cunliffe visited the Academy to make a short film for his YouTube channel. He chatted to the students and admired the boat building projects

## Upcoming Events

**Southampton Boat Show**  
10-19 September 2021

**Class of October 2020 Launch Day**  
0730 Wednesday 6 October 2021

**London Craft Week**  
4-8 October 2021

## Upcoming Courses

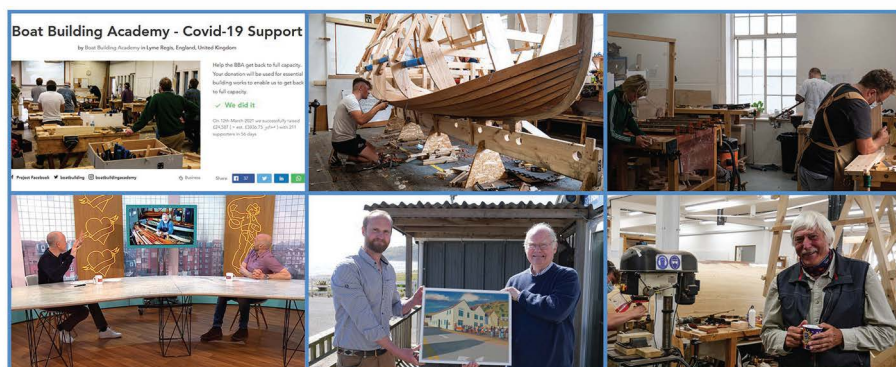
**40 week Boat Building**  
18 October 2021 - 11 July 2022  
14 March 2022 - 16 December 2022

**12 week Furniture Making**  
27 September - 17 December 2021  
16 May - 5 August 2022

**Advanced Furniture Making**  
17 Jan - 8 April 2022

**2022 Short Course Programme**  
Available on website

[www.boatbuildingacademy.com](http://www.boatbuildingacademy.com)  
[www.bbafurnitureschool.com](http://www.bbafurnitureschool.com)



## We Want Your Stories!

If you would like to feature in a future edition of the newsletter, contact [office@boatbuildingacademy.com](mailto:office@boatbuildingacademy.com)

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### ***What's Happening in the Main Workshop?***

The main workshop is buzzing with activity 7 days a week. In order to prepare them for the boat building industry, the 40 week students learn by building several boats from start to finish in the second half of the course.

11 of our students started in February 2020 and have endured several lockdowns – they have been incredibly patient however and are nearing the end of their course. In October last year they teamed up with 7 more students and are building 6 interesting and demanding boats.

#### **The boats:**

- 12' Gartside sailing dinghy: cold-moulded from western red cedar*
- 14'6" Vivier Ilur: glued clinker*
- 10' Morgan Giles launch - 1.5hp Stuart Turner: carvel - khaya mahogany on oak*
- 16'6" Gorran Haven spritsail yawl: carvel - larch on oak*
- 14' Gartside Skylark: trad clinker - khaya mahogany*
- 21' 3" Utility launch – 15hp diesel inboard: strip plank – yellow cedar*

#### **Please join us for the launch – Wednesday 6 October at 0800**

The boats are already looking fantastic and it promises to be a wonderful day.

The majority of the group are planning to work as boat builders after the course and have already lined up trials with fantastic boat builders. Students regularly find employment with the likes of Stirling and Sons, Spirit Yachts and Tommy Nielsen. If you want to know more – please visit the website – [www.boatbuildingacademy.com](http://www.boatbuildingacademy.com)



### ***What's Happening in the Woodworking Workshop?***



Over in the woodworking workshop, the June 12 week Furniture Making class are busy finishing off their final project pieces before the end-of-course exhibition on Friday 10th September.

The end of the June course also marks the departure of Furniture Making tutor Mark Ripley. Mark has been a real asset to the Academy over the last three years and has taken woodworking courses at the BBA from strength to strength – cementing his reputation as a master craftsman.



We are pleased to share the news that Dan Williams is our new Furniture Making tutor and will be teaching the 12 week course starting in September, as well as woodworking short courses. Dan trained at the prestigious Parnham College and has worked as a professional maker for the last four decades.

We look forward to welcoming him in September!