



## **Bradley Drinkwater, Apprentice Marine Engineer**

### **Cotswold Boat Hire, Buscot.**

### **Final progress report, August 2022**

**<https://www.cotswoldboat.co.uk/>**

Dear Worshipful Company of Shipwrights,

I am Bradley Drinkwater, Former Apprentice at Cotswold Boat Hire,  
I have now completed 20 months working for the above Company and am moving on.

As previously reported in my employment at Cotswold Boat Hire I was involved in every single aspect of the Boat yard work, and it meant the days were varied.

When I first started my apprenticeship, it was pre-season and a lot of my time was spent cleaning boats, this was fairly easy to learn.

We then went on to Antifouling which I really liked.

I have found the college work really difficult and having no tutor now for months has just made this impossible. I feel like I could never catch up.

I liked learning about the engineering and mechanical side of things, but the sheer volume of work that is constant and never ending I sometimes found daunting.

The company benefited greatly from my apprenticeship because they are a family run company with only limited staff, as I have learnt new things I have been able to take on responsibility for certain jobs and projects and one of my core strengths has been dealing with customers.

I have learnt:

How to clean Boats

How to paint Boats.

How to build pontoons and moorings.

How to landscape the yard, tree work, freeing up river navigation.

How to unsink a sunken boat.  
How to handle a callout for an emergency.  
How to Tow and how to recover a boat.  
How to remove an engine and Prop shaft.  
I have taken my forklift driving licence and banksman's exams.  
I know how to Crane out and relaunch boats.  
I have undertaken a first Aid Course.  
I have learnt how to deal with grumpy customers and colleagues.  
How to maintain and service the Hire fleet.  
How to unblock a toilet by reversing the Pump.  
How to fuel up different sorts of boats.

I've attended the Birmingham NEC Boat Show since my last report and helped to install new inboard and outboard prototype engines to some of the hire fleet and about battery management. The summer has primarily been boat hire work, running repairs and customer handovers.

I have very personal reasons for moving from this employment not least just the ever increasing costs of accommodation near to my employment, my electricity bill went up nearly 350% and a relationship breakdown. I have moved home back to live with my parents and the distance to travel and practicalities as well as other personal reasons has meant that I want to move on to something new. I have applied to join The Royal Marines and am starting training with that - I am hoping some of the experiences I have learnt over the last 20 months will come into play in the new role I will take on.

I thank you for your Sponsorship Support.

Brad

Bradley Drinkwater.