

St Aubin's Boat – "TURBO" - September

It was only a few weeks ago that Dan Downey was musing over a possible: "next boat". Dan was confident that the used boat market on the island had a good chance of coming up with the sort of boat he was looking for at a very reasonable, end of season, price.

Searching for a boat is for many sailors a wonderful mixture of dreaming, scheming and imagining the potential fun times that would be possible. The thought of mending, personalising and kitting out a boat to his personal preferences and requirements fired Dan's imagination into overdrive. The search was on. Dan investigated every possible lead that might produce the ideal boat for his winter project and summer 2015 family adventures.

To Dan's delight a late season bargain of an Orkney Fastliner 19, the boat on his wish list, became available. Mindful not to miss the opportunity, Dan took immediate action and clinched a deal.

Following completion of the transfer of ownership documentation at the Harbour Office to Dan, the little boat has been renamed to "Turbo", after the racing snail in the Disney movie.

Despite the "Orkney" being of G.R.P. construction the twenty-plus years since its launch has resulted in the need for a little care and attention being required. Or in boat ownership terms, "a winter project".

Dan is confident that he will be able to undertake most of the required jobs, particularly as the two outboard engines have been well maintained by G.T. Marine, leaving the tasks to be completed within the scope of his D.I.Y. skills.

In Dan's own words he simply said, "A lot needs doing. I know the navigation lights don't work and the battery is wired and installed all wrong. So it looks like the whole electrical system will need overhauling/replacing."

The list of jobs is pretty exhausting but as with any experienced boat owner, Dan knows that the most important thing to ensure is that the boat is first and foremost seaworthy, everything else can be done as time permits.

Dan started to list some of the additional jobs, "The rubber window seals need replacing together with the windows themselves. The top part of the cuddy needs removing as it is impossible to see when standing up and the hatch is cracked so will also require some attention." He then said, "In fact, I could go on and on with the list of things that actually needs something doing to it."

Taking a deep breath, Dan summarised his feelings toward "Turbo" as, "All in all she's a fantastically safe, good all-round sea going boat that has been well looked after in the past."

When I asked him if it was worth all the hard work, he replied, "That's a tough

question. There is so much to enjoy about owning a boat. On the one side there is the pleasure that results from the satisfaction of mending and equipping a boat so that it is an extension of oneself. On the other side you just cant beat idling across the bay and greeting all you meet along the way.”

Dan is aware of the expectation placed on him by the rest of the family, Cindy, Sienna & Maxwell as they are all excited about getting out on the water next season.

Dan is following both the dream and the reality that many a father has done before him. Messing about in boats, building up wonderful family memories that will be treasured and preparing the next generation to continue the story.

