

Heritage vessels to be welcomed at Classics regatta

» ORGANISERS of the Falmouth Classics regatta are preparing to welcome several heritage vessels that have not previously participated in the event or are returning after several years.

Tall ship Anny of Charlestown, a topsail schooner built in Denmark in 1930, will provide guests with a view of the racing as well as an opportunity to sail in Falmouth Bay.

Mascotte, a Bristol Channel pilot cutter, built by Thomas Cox in 1904, is returning to the Classics after a break of several years. She is currently in Charlestown in the process of starting a new life in sail training and charter under the Richard Clapham Sailing Trust, recently founded in memory of her long-term skipper.

Another Bristol pilot cutter entry is Olga, built by John Bowden, of Porthleven, in 1909 and now leased by Sailing Tectona CIC, which aims to inspire change in people's lives by providing sail training experiences.

Fresh from her launch on to the water on Saturday, replica Falmouth pilot cutter Pellew will be making her debut in the Classics.

Falmouth Classics Association chairman Keith Tullett said: "We are very excited to welcome all these boats to the event."

Vessels for the festival will arrive in the port on June 11, ready to race on the Friday and Saturday and parade on the Sunday. For more details, see falmouthclassics.org.uk



» Max Campbell and friends are on a round-the-world trip on board Elixir which they restored themselves

Cockwells

Max restores Elixir to set sail on magical adventure

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A YACHTSMAN with a passion for the environment and how our oceans are changing is taking on the biggest challenge of his life – a round-the-world trip in a restored Cornish boat.

Max Campbell, Classic Boat magazine's 2018 Yachtsman of the Year, has already sailed solo across the Atlantic in a 22ft wooden sloop.

As soon as he returned home to Cornwall from that adventure in 2016 he went looking for a new boat that would take him and his friends around the world.

He settled on Elixir, a boat which had been gathering dust in a Cornish creek for years.

Elixir had once sailed the Atlantic circuit and rounded Cape Horn but needed serious restoration.

Max said: "There was certainly a lot of work to be done, but as soon as

I saw Elixir I knew instantly she was the boat that would take me and my friends around the world."

Learning from shipwrights at his stepfather Dave Cockwell's boatyard in Mylor Creek, Max and his friends rebuilt Elixir piece by piece, making her ready to endure everything from tropical climes to polar seas. "If you are really passionate about a dream, you will do completely irrational things to make it happen," said Max.

Elixir has now been restored to her original condition with some modern-day touches.

"One of the most rewarding things is how me and my friends, who are photographers, environmentalists and outdoorsy-types, have worked with Cockwells' apprentices and traditional craftsmen to breathe life back into Elixir and prepare her for an adventure of a lifetime," said Max.

The team, under the banner Untide, left Falmouth in late January. Follow their progress at un-tide.com

Boatyard seeks votes for awards

» COCKWELLS Modern and Classic Boatbuilding, in Mylor Bridge, has been shortlisted in two categories in the 2020 Classic Boat Awards, which are decided by a public vote that closes at midnight on Monday, March 9.

The latest model in Cockwells' Duchy Motor Launch series – the Twin Cabin Duchy 35 – has been nominated in the Powered Vessels category, while historic Falmouth working boat Bessie, which has been restored by Cockwells' apprentices, has been listed in the Restoration of the Year (under 40ft) class.

Vote at awards.classicboat.co.uk

Replica of pilot cutter ready to take to the water

» A REPLICA 19th-century Falmouth pilot cutter will emerge from its yard on Saturday ahead of its first sea voyage.

The Pellew has been a £1 million labour of love for Luke Powell, master shipwright at the Rhoda Mary Trust heritage shipyard in the Newham Industrial Estate on the Truro River.

For the last three years the boat has been taking shape almost hidden from view.

The next phase is for the Pellew, named after Falmouth resident and frigate captain Edward Pellew – who would sail out to attack French ships, capturing and bringing home enemy frigates as prizes – to come out of the yard.

On Saturday, a huge crane will lift the 50-tonne solid oak boat out of the yard and on to the water where its mast and riggings will be fitted.

Luke's wife, Joanna, said: "It's been exciting and exhausting but it will be nice to see the Pellew go from a static object to coming alive on the water."

Cornish cutters like the Pellew would have sailed west in search of ships coming in from the Atlantic to guide them into port along the dangerous rocky coast.

The Pellew will go on its first charter journey around the Cornish coast in May, when it will join its sister the Agnes, another 46ft wooden Cornish cutter.

"There hasn't been a boat like this in Cornwall for many years," said Joanna. "It's very exciting."



» Luke Powell at the Pellew's yard



» Anny will be at Falmouth Classics

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