

# RCYC Friday Talk

## 15 February 2019



### Luke Powell

#### Author of *Working Sail*

## A life in Wooden Boats

Luke Powell has pioneered a revival of pilot cutters and as a shipwright has made a considerable impact in keeping alive traditional boatbuilding skills. His pilot cutter, *Agnes*, regularly sails from Falmouth and is offered for charter around the Cornish coast, Southern Ireland and Brittany. Luke has built no less than eight pilot cutters and his latest and biggest project, *Pellew*, is a 68' pilot cutter; a faithful recreation of the famous *Vincent*, of St Mawes, built in 1852. She is being built at the Rhoda Mary Heritage Yard by Luke and his young team ensuring that the skills of traditional boat building are transferred to a new generation of wooden boat builders. His talk will focus on his life in building traditional wooden boats.

*"One's life becomes entwined in the very fabric of a boat, you live through it and it lives through you. Her balance of form, her line, the weight of all her constituent parts, the detail in the shaping of each piece of wood, all tell of our collective knowledge. As does the way in which she is conceived from the half model to the lofting floor. From the forest come her bones and through the adding of piece upon piece she slowly comes to life. When at sea, she is in harmony with the elements and those on board will be nourished by their surroundings."*

**Luke Powell, *Working sail - a life in wooden boats***