



**MAC**  
MARITIME ARTS & CRAFT

# MARITIME ARTS & CRAFT

**MAC** is a social enterprise founded pre Covid by timber boat lovers - myself Christopher Craig and it's main customer David Espey. It's primary purpose is to restore as many of the 11.5 m long Dublin Bay 24 classic boats as we can. I originally purchased the entire fleet as part of an ambitious French property project that stalled in the financial crash of 2008, which unfortunately prevented I and my initial partners completing the project back then.

Building the classic fleet way back - on the Isle of Bute in Scotland - was as protracted then as this restoration is now, with World War two delaying it for over six years. Eventually in the late 1940s the original eight were completed. Periwinkle stayed in Scotland while Zephra, Arandora, Adastra, Fenestra, Euphranzel, Vandra and Harmony came to Dublin for members of the illustrious Royal Alfred Yacht Club of 1864, hence the RA in the names.

Periwinkle, now in Dublin, I had reconstructed by French boat building school Skol Ar Mor in Brittany and Zephra is about to be launched for David at Lance Lee's famous Apprentice Shop in Rockland Maine USA, who are ready & willing to take on another. Arandora is over half way complete at Skol Ar Mor's new center in St. Nazaire - part of a huge tourism upgrade of the old submarine base there - and when she finally comes back home will make a mini fleet of three finished DB 24s to sail and race alongside their little sisters the three Dublin Bay 21s - more of them to follow also - making Dublin Bay a new center for restored classic boats.



BUILDING,  
SAILING, &  
MAINTAINING  
WOODEN  
BOATS.

I'm madly (mad being the operative word!) passionate about wooden boats. Plastic boats are an environmental nightmare with no effective end-of-life strategy for them. There are new modern ways of making modern timber boats. They don't emit Co2, they store it and like us eventually rot away naturally after about 90 years.

Veteran ship wright John Brennan restored my classic day sailor, Annette – built in 1930 at Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Both John, and Annette, are 90 now so this elegant lady is now looked after by Bill Trafford at the wonderfully equipped Alchemy Marine in Doneraile, County Cork.



1930 Annette



Proud apprentices who rebuilt Dublin Bay 24 Perriwinkle in Brittany, France.



Proud apprentices finishing off Dublin Bay 24 Zephra in Maine, USA.

I first visited the French boat building school Skol Ar Mor in Brittany France in 2010. Since then they have produced a Periwinkle, a SOD, a couple of Water Wags, a Howth 17 two gorgeous rowing boats and a Beetle Cat, eight boats in all now from Skol Ar Mor for Irish customers. And our Spanish and USA School friends are now building more Water Wags for Ireland.



**Dublin Bay 24**



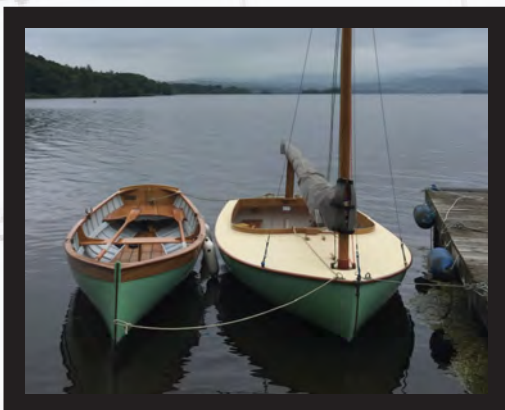
**French School Water Wag**



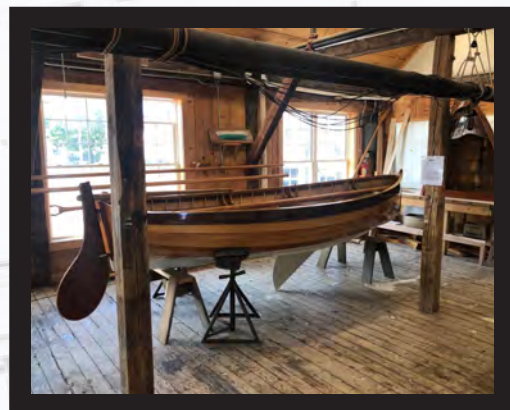
**Howth 17**



**Shannon One Design**



**Row Boat and Beetle Cat**



**USA School Water Wag**



More recently I've bought into a very tired Eithne, sister ship to the wonderfully restored Marguerite, both gorgeous Dublin Bay gaff riggers from elegant Edwardian times. The line plan and general arrangement is being drawn by Prolines in Waterford & I'll be inviting one of our MAC associated schools to re-construct her off her original keel, subject to cost.

I get great pleasure in watching and working with ship wright trainees in the international marine maker schools we work with, listed below, and hope one day to work with them to establish a Dublin version as part of a new initiative to promote Dublin's rich Maritime heritage.



Eithne c. 1975

See Dublin Docks Proposal at [www.hibernicus.ie](http://www.hibernicus.ie)

THE JOINERY







A CRAFTS PERSON WHO CAN BUILD OR RESTORE A CLASSIC YACHT CAN BUILD OR RESTORE ANYTHING.



1 **Skol Are Mor's** new Center International de Transmission des Savoir-faire Traditionnels Maritime St Nazaire, France will be superb.



2 **Les Atelier de l'Enfer Doarnenez, France;** Built a Howth 17 for an Irish customer Président Paul Robert, is President of the French Classic Boat Federation.



3 **Albaola, San Sebastian, Spain;** Built a Wag which MAC commissioned and another one for Ireland since then.



4 **Apprentice Shop, Maine, USA;** Built a Dublin Bay 24 and Wag for MAC, both coming soon. Skol Ar Mor and Albaola directors trained at AP.



5 **Skeppsholmens Folkhogskola, Stockholm, Sweden;** Also trains classical musicians! It's and the other schools' students do regular exchanges to increase their knowledge, contacts, and skill base.



6 **IYRS Newport School of Technology & Trades** has up to 65 students and also trains technicians heading for the re-newable energy sector. Wind and wave turbine design is related to naval architecture and the broad high tech IYRS syllabus is an interesting model for an Irish school interested in producing modern timber vessels rather than heritage boats, for which there is only a limited customer base.



# VISIT OUR SCHOOL FRIENDS

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[www.apprenticeshop.org](http://www.apprenticeshop.org)

[www.albaola.com](http://www.albaola.com)

[www.skolarmor.fr](http://www.skolarmor.fr)

[www.skeppsholmensfolkhogskola.se](http://www.skeppsholmensfolkhogskola.se)

[www.lesateliersdelenfer.fr](http://www.lesateliersdelenfer.fr)

[www.iyrs.edu](http://www.iyrs.edu)

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*“In a digital age, the pride and job satisfaction of traditional craftsmanship is a joy. A technician who can build or restore a boat can build or restore anything.”*

**Christopher Craig** - April 2023.  
MAC Founder





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