

ARTHUR BEALE

London's Yacht Chandler- Established 400 years

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We're always open online at www.arthurbeale.co.uk

November 2020

It's all inside!

FEATURE: Jane Percival, commodore of the Thames Vintage boat club, talks **Sailing and Boating on the Thames**

Winter Offers and Must-haves

FEATURE: 'And Now The Shipping Forecast' by Felicity Hazell

FROM THE ARCHIVE... how we treated shoplifters in the 1800's!

New treasure at Beales!

FEATURE: 'What will happen to Arthur Beale?' by Alasdair Flint

Zoom Events (back again?)!

Thanks to the success of our first Zoom talk with Will Stirling, we have mustered up the courage to host a second! It will come at the perfect time for those of us in England who will be twiddling our thumbs in the midst of the national lockdown! So here it is...

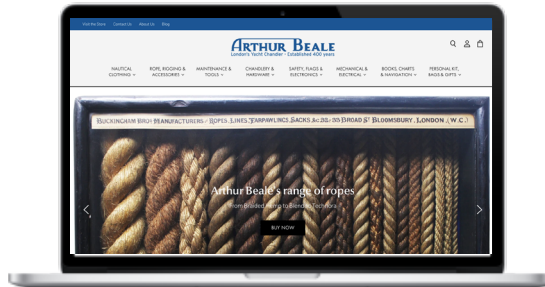
"The History of Arthur Beale"
19th November 2020 at 19:00



This is sure to be a fascinating look into the history of our shop, which has been in the same spot for 500 years! But alongside that, it should give you an interesting insight into the history of boating and rope making in London as a whole. We have a vast archive of material to draw from, but we won't bore you to death! This will be a 60 minute talk looking at the most exciting and important parts of our 500 year history, and how we are adapting to survive in the current world of Amazon and Ebay (whilst still retaining our famous charm) There will be time for questions afterwards.

This event invite will be sent via email and is free to attend!

Arthur Beale have made it into the 21st Century!



Blimey, the Twenty First Century already - what happened to the last one! Over the past year we have been secretly beaver away on a "Moonshot" IT project - our sparkly new website! You might have already seen it... if you are one of our more dedicated fans (thank you)!

What with the dire state of the High Street in Central London (more on that later), we found ourselves in a bit of sticky situation once lockdown hit, our only source of income now coming from a very outdated website where it was very hard to keep track of stock and run updates from outside the building! With most of the staff now working from home, we decided to migrate to a cloud-based system with all the bells and whistles included, so now we can add updates and process your order from the middle of the ocean if we so wish! Our new system already has some great advantages over the old steam powered website. For example:

- ✓ Our old website only had about half our stock loaded online but our new system has everything we sell, offering you **LOADS MORE CHOICE!**
- ✓ Live stock levels (baa!) so you can check the stock before you visit the shop or place your order. You can see how long delivery will take on all items on the website (most are available next day) and reserve items in stock to pick up in store quickly!
- ✓ Custom **discounts** for associated club members (members of the **Cruising Association**, **St. Kats RA**, **Greenwich Yacht Club** and the **Little Ship Club** all get 10% off across the store)
- ✓ **Trade Discounts** are available for any customers who wish to buy large quantities of products - simply get in touch to see if you are eligible.
- ✓ Find items easier using our **intuitive search** function
- ✓ Set up an account to **save items** for later!
- ✓ Shop our rope range much easier and see all **quantity discounts** in one place!
- ✓ Oooh... nice **new pictures** of all your favourite products taken by us in house!
- ✓ You should be able to browse through all our products, download the **data sheets**, check the sizes and find out if we have it in stock, all with your feet up.

Upgrade your face covering this Winter!

Since it looks like face coverings are here to stay, why not invest in one of our brilliant Devold Merino Wool Headovers.

They are great for all sorts of outdoor activities including cycling, skiing and sailing, but we are finding them particularly useful at the moment as snood face coverings. They are light enough to be worn around the neck all day comfortably and can easily be pulled up snug over the nose when you pop into Sainsbury's! Stay warm and safe at the same time. *Devold Headovers are reduced from £35.60 to £28.*



20% off across all Devold thermals!

Arthur Beale

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sales@arthurbeale.co.uk

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Sailing & Boating on the River Thames



Jane has worked on the restoration of many important boats including 'Fixitor' a Motor-boat used in the 1908 Olympics (left) and 'Mimosa' a Dunkirk Little Ship (right) - Images courtesy of Jane Percival

We're often asked here at Arthur Beale's "what's a Yacht Chandler doing in the West End"? - probably as much by Londoners as by visiting sailors and tourists. And of course, the history of Arthur Beale's could be a subject for a book in its own right...

But the Port of London and the non-tidal Thames has always been and happily, still is - an epicentre for Rowing, Sailing and Cruising.

There are numerous Clubs and Associations the length and breadth of the 'Royal River' catering for every interest, passion and level of experience - from the budding beginner to competitive sailing at National level.

My own particular passion is the thriving Vintage & Classic Boat scene, centred around the middle Thames between the famous Rowing Regatta reach of Henley-on-Thames, downstream to Teddington, which over the past 25 years has introduced me to everything from Skiffs & Punts to Dunkirk Little Ships - but more on that later...

The good news is - you don't have to own a boat to experience all the benefits of getting out on the water, with all its associated social & leisure activities and in beautiful surroundings. And many Clubs offer 'taster days' and Associate Membership to be enjoyed, along with their stunning waterside clubhouses in which to relax and make new acquaintances.

Many of the Sailing Clubs are accredited as RYA Sailing Centres and offer those 'bitten by

the bug' the opportunity to train and acquire the necessary skills to take their hobby to the next level by competing and sailing much further afield with likeminded fellows who inevitably become firm friends.

A few examples of which are the Upper Thames Sailing Club, The Little Ship Club and the Greenwich Yacht Club, whose members are all regular visitors to Arthur Beale's for their yachting clothing and supplies. (we even offer discounts to members)

All sectors of the boating community are catered for on the Thames, from the young and not so young, able bodied and disabled sailors and more prevalent now, are the Narrow Boat & Dutch Barge enthusiast.

One of the most encouraging developments on the Thames has been the revival of Restoration and Preservation of traditionally built craft, both Thames and non Thames and in the late seventies the River Thames Society was instrumental in this process together with the late Boatbuilder, Peter Freebody of Hurley, who were aware that the popularity of fibre glass construction was threatening the very existence of wooden boats and the traditional skills associated with them.

That instigated the formation of the Thames Traditional Boat Rally, which in its 42nd year next year, celebrates and promotes the Restoration of everything made from traditional materials from a coracle to a Victorian steam driven passenger boat. And

if you would like to experience what the Thames Boatbuilders and their passionate boat owners are achieving - make a date for next year's 'Trad Boat Festival' at Henley on Thames 17th - 19th of July.

The Thames Vintage Boat Club is another organisation which was founded to pursue those aims and I have been fortunate enough to have been a Flag Officer for many years and to have discovered and restored a 'missing' Dunkirk Little Ship as well as worked in a Thames Yard specialising in the Restoration of rare classic boats - which comes in rather handy when a customer presents at the counter of Arthur Beale's saying "I don't know what it's called, but I can draw it on the doodle sheet"...

Every day at Arthur Beale's Chandlery presents something new, whether that's meeting famous faces, solving a problem or just bumping into someone from the boating community you haven't seen in years - so if you haven't visited us in Shaftesbury Avenue, I strongly recommend you should do so and I challenge you to leave without buying something from this very special shop, we look forward to meeting you...

Jane Percival
Thames Vintage Boat Club

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Winter Must-haves

Taylor's Cookers

With its gleaming brass trim and polished stainless steel body, a Taylors cooker will compliment either a modern or a classic galley. Paraffin cookers are the ideal solution for the boat owner who chooses not to carry gas on board. Don't miss out on home comforts when at sea, Taylor's cookers are perfect for a rustling up a Winter's roast with all the trimmings!



Cooker Prices start at £2199

Guy Cotten Gear



Guy Cotten offer a brilliant range of **oilskin jackets, trousers and everything else** you could possibly need for a rough day at sea! They are guaranteed to keep you dry. Due to their highly **traditional and practical** nature, Guy Cotten's yellow oilskin jackets are often seen sported down Covent Garden on a rainy day, and are apparently rather stylish! We think they are the perfect wet weather gear, whether you're sailing the North Sea or getting splashed by a passing bus...

Get the full kit for less than £100

Oil Lamps!

Now the cold Autumn nights are drawing in, what better way to add some cosiness and dappled light to your evening a traditional oil lamp! Arthur Beale stock a fantastic range of oil lamps for all cabins, budgets and tastes!



Great Gift!

Prices start from only £24.63

Arthur Beale Thermal Mugs



Now in Aqua Blue!

Feel at home with a cuppa anywhere, whether you're sailing the Arctic, hiking in the Brecon Beacons or rushing on your commute to work. Our Arthur Beale thermal mug will keep hot drinks toasty warm and cold drinks ice cool, and with a **screw on lid** you don't need to worry about any spillages when it is stowed away. Available in **matte black, matte blue and gloss aqua**.

300 ml capacity: £15.00 each

Coat pocket essentials

Don't be caught in the cold without these winter essentials. They also make great stocking fillers... if you're already thinking about Christmas... but more of that in our next newsletter!



Devold Nansen Mittens £40.06

The warmest gloves and so soft! 100% wool.



Arthur Beale Beanie Hat £19.95

Natural warmth from oiled wool!



Whitby & Co Hand Warmer £17.95

Portable heat on the go!



Brass Ships Bell Key Ring £5.99

It'll help you find your keys!

For outdoor socialising this winter...

Devold Expedition Thermals

20% off thermals!



~~WAS £75.64~~
NOW £60

Womens & mens styles: long johns, hoodies, zip necks, plain shirts and accessoires available

Devold was the choice of Arctic explorers like Amundsen and Nansen for their Polar expeditions. These thermals are **soft, breathable, warmest by weight, won't hold odour and they are even warm when wet**. Although they are the explorers favourite choice they are also a great choice for ski touring, climbing, winter sailing, hill walking, cycling or just keeping super koselig whilst meeting friends this winter!

Don't waste your money on cheap rubbish throwaway thermals, invest in some high quality Devold which will last year after year!

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And Now The Shipping Forecast...

Four times a day, for over 150 years, The Shipping Forecast has echoed over radio waves to all reaches of the United Kingdom. "Low North-West Malin one thousand and two losing it's identity by one eight double oh Tuesday." The cryptic script of The Shipping Forecast has a firm following of sailors, fanatics and insomniacs alike, the poetic lullaby of the repetitive code finds its function as much in Britain's cultural realm as in its meteorological.

The nightly forecast at 0048 draws in restless listeners across the British Isles, the soothing prose of 'Forties, Cromarty, Forth, Tyne, Dogger' has become a collective bedtime story for the nation. The 0048 broadcast offers particular eccentricity, described by many as utterly British, helped by the fact it is always followed by the National Anthem and preceded by 'Sailing By' an orchestral piece by Ronald Binge which is used to help sailors locate the right station on the Long Wave band when out at sea. Jarvis Cocker went so far as to name 'Sailing By' as one of his eight tracks on Desert Island Discs feeling it might give him hope on a desert island, for a ship to sail by and rescue him. The Shipping Forecast has found its way into popular culture under many guises, inspiring songs by Jethro Tull, Blur, Radiohead, Tears for Fears and many more. Perhaps its widest reach came when it was played at the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, celebrating Britain's maritime heritage on the world stage, a reminder that at heart we are a seafaring nation.

Acting as a constant reminder of our place in the world, a small island surrounded on all sides by 'good, occasionally poor' visibility and 'becoming cyclonic' winds, our isolation is wrapped up in a 370 word weather bulletin. Many people find comfort in this fact, listening nightly, safe at home, imagining seemingly mystical places in the North Sea where sailors are tuning in to take heed of the tide's temperament. Zeb Soanes, a regular shipping forecast reader, notes:

To the non-nautical, it is a nightly litany of the sea. It reinforces a sense of being

islanders with a proud seafaring past. Whilst the listener is safely tucked-up in their bed, they can imagine small fishing-boats bobbing about at Plymouth or 170ft waves crashing against Rockall.



Image: Rockall Islet, Atlantic Ocean

Rockall, one in a long list of sea areas emitted across the Long Wave band, is named after an uninhabitable granite islet (unless you're a seagull or mad man) which sits in the North Atlantic inside Rockall sea zone. To many listeners, Rockall, along with Faroos, Malin, Fitzroy and all the other whimsical places which make up The Shipping Forecast are as outlandish as Atlantis or Treasure Island. However, these divided lines in the sea have very real implications on political and economic landscapes. Rockall Islet was claimed as British in 1955 by the British Crown, the last territorial expansion of the British Empire. The incentive was due to the concern that the Soviet Union may use the islet to spy on British nuclear weapons tests. The islet since has had a very interesting history, with the Dangerous Sports Club hosting a cocktail party there in 1978, to Greenpeace laying claim to it and renaming it Waveland in 1997 to protest against oil exploration. People have even tried to live on the wind battered rock, the longest occupation lasting 45 days. But these idiosyncrasies would never make it into The Shipping Forecast. The details and irregularities of life at sea are stripped back to mere data, the listener left to their own imaginations of these wild lands off our coastline, and that is what makes the broadcast so popular.

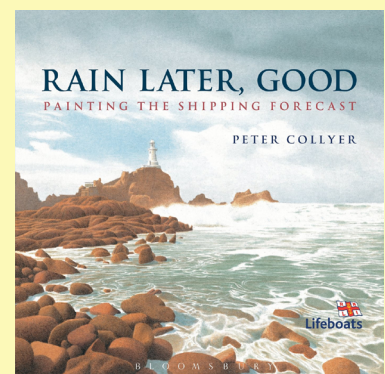
The rendering of the tumultuous nature of

BRUSH UP YOUR KNOWLEDGE AT ARTHUR BEALE



The Shipping Forecast by Nic Compton
Learn more about the history of the shipping forecast and the impact it has had on popular culture. Published with Radio 4 and the Met Office, it is the official miscellany for sailors and armchair adventurers.

£12.99 at Arthur Beale



Rain Later, Good by Peter Collyer
Rain Later, Good is the award winning story of Peter Collyer's extraordinary journey around the Shipping Forecast areas. His brilliant and detailed paintings help conjure up the most mythical locations, whilst his delightful idiosyncratic text provides a wealth of fascinating insights. He introduces us to the people who live and work in these areas, and passes on snippets of tantalising information to give a powerful impression of the place.

£18.99 at Arthur Beale

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November 2020

And Now The Shipping Forecast...

the weather into a coded language and set glossary makes every sea state a rhythmic repetition of the last, and our connection to it as islanders reflects this. The constancy of the sea, just like the constancy of the shipping forecast, remains of utmost importance to many of the public who rely on it for a feeling of calm, isolation and reflection.

The Shipping Forecast's primary role as an information bulletin may be irrelevant to many listeners, however many fishermen and sailors still prioritise the forecast over more modern methods using satellite internet connections. There is even rumour that if UK submarines do not get the shipping forecast, they launch a nuclear attack, using the broadcast as a means of reassurance the nation is still standing, however when the broadcast failed to air on time in 2014 due to a technical error, world peace still remained (despite the throngs of committed listeners taking to social media to claim armageddon).

This Shipping Forecast has become an emblem of British tradition, slightly mundane and understated whilst also rather bizarre and peculiar, it sums up the British stereotype quite well. Let's not forget how often we are mocked for our uncanny ability to always talk about the weather. Arthur Beale itself seems to reflect this juxtaposition; At heart it is a practical shop which has supplied sailors and adventurers with ropes, shackles, ice axes and so on for almost 500 years, and it hasn't really changed all that much, despite the odd telephone here and there these days. But it has also become a shop which attracts hordes of 'landlubbers', tourists and city folk enthralled with the authenticity of it all- a small, innocuous shop in the heart of London which reminds even the most sensible among us that there are adventures to be had and places to explore. We even write the shipping forecast for the Thames every morning on our weather board, just in case your radio breaks, and you're sailing off to Greenland that day... There is certainly good reason for our collective obsession with the sea, and where better to satiate it in Central London than in an (almost) 500 year old yacht chandlery.

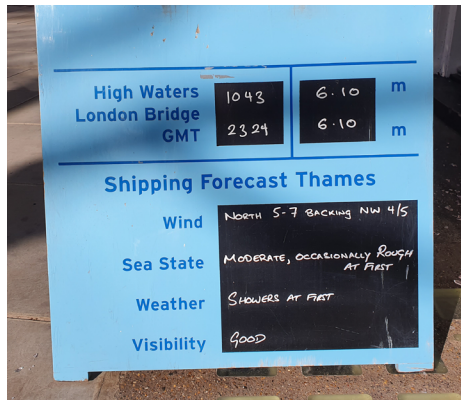
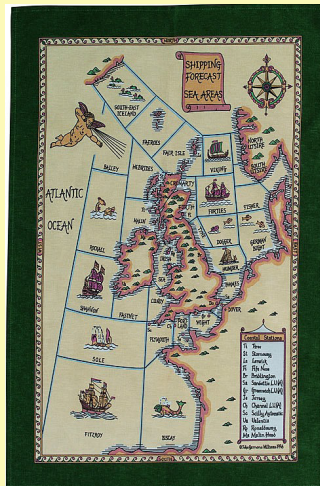


Image: Shipping Forecast Sign Outside Arthur Beale

FAIR WEATHER GIFTS



Shipping Forecast Galley Cloth

A great way to have a slight clue what they're going on about...Malin... Faeroes...Fitzroy? If it's too nice for the galley, many hang them on the wall!

£7.99 at Arthur Beale



QuickTide™ 2020/2021 Tidal Predictions

These nifty A5 colourful cards will tell you the tide times for all of the UK, Ireland and Belgium to Gibraltar for two years! The perfect gift for boaters and sea lovers!

£7.99 at Arthur Beale

METEOROLOGICAL WONDERS AT ARTHUR BEALE



Brass Storm Glass and Suspension

Arthur Beale stock a very satisfyingly heavy and well-polished brass object of desire, known as a Storm Glass. It is an alchemist's method of predicting the weather, can you crack its mystery?

£133.04 at Arthur Beale



Wempe Brass Barometer - Cup Series

Don't just rely on the shipping forecast for your weather updates, take them yourself with one of our beautiful barometers! Leisure sailors worldwide rely on the quality and precision of Wempe instruments and many famous cruise liners, mega yachts and German and international cargo, research and navy vessels are equipped with Wempe clock systems. The perfect gift for sailors, magpies and people who always talk about the weather!

£390 at Arthur Beale

We also sell other Barometers from £103

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November 2020

From The Archives...

THORP, Mayor.

on the 16th of September, 6lbs. of hemp, value 2s., the goods of Edward Buckingham.

JOHN BUCKINGHAM. I assist my brother Edward, who is a ropemaker, and lives in White Conduit-fields. The prisoner lived four years on the premises to take care of the property.

JOHN ALLEN. I am a dismantled patrol. I was on the look out on Sunday morning, the 16th of September, between five and six o'clock, with Charlesworth, and met the prisoner coming down White Lion-street with a basket on his back covered with parsley; I asked what he had in his basket, he said "Parsley"—my partner found thirteen hanks of hemp under it; he at last said he found it; I found he lived in the rope-walk, White Conduit-fields.

(Property produced and sworn to.)

Prisoner's Defence. I came across the fields and saw this parcel tied in brown paper. I was going out afterwards, met a person in distress, and said I had got this hemp if he could make a shilling of it, and appointed to meet him at the Angel Inn with it.

GUILTY. Aged 32.

Transported for Seven Years.

First Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Recorder.

5 We take shop lifting at Arthur Beale very seriously! Back in 1821 William Eaton was transported to Australia for stealing 6 lbs of hemp concealed in a basket of parsley from Buckingham's ropemakers (later to become Arthur Beale!)

Although we might not take such drastic measures these days, we definitely cast a *sage* look to anyone who brings parsley into the shop... and we aren't opposed to *herbing* them out the door in quick *thyme*! Shoplifters, although not too frequent, do occasionally stumble upon our store and think they can take their fancy to a bronze shackle or two. Our wonderful late rope master Steve was quite the poet in his spare time, and wrote a fitting warning for any who take us for granted...

ESPRESSO WARNING!!

This notice is for those who think
Self service is the way
But after they have helped themselves
Don't feel inclined to pay.
Some convoluted reasoning or strange philosophy
Allows them all to justify
Their taking goods for free.
It probably goes a bit like this,
"The stuff's insured and so,
Some greedy profiteer will pay
So does it matter? - NO!"
But look - we're only little
Just five staff and the bosses
We only have one branch
And it cannot afford these losses.
Think first before you take more things
With no intent to pay
Or there might well be a Starbucks here
When you return some day.

Steve Harvey

From The Modern World

arthurbealeltd
Arthur Beale Ltd



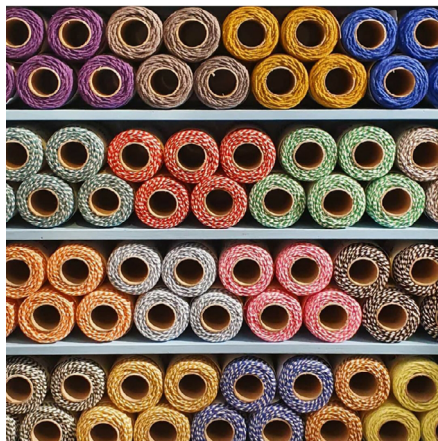
105 likes

arthurbealeltd One from the Archives. Here's Mr Syms pictured in the Evening Standard, splicing downstairs in our Rigging Room.

Arthur Beale was staffed by ex-sailors, including the talented Mr Syms, who did the splicing/rigging and wire-rope strops. In 1937, Mr Syms installed the flag post on Buckingham Palace under Arthur Beale's supervision and Arthur Beale himself helped out with the breaking of the flag at the coronation of George VI! The rigging room itself hasn't changed much since this picture was taken... the desk in the background is still in the same spot. Sadly the staff these days don't fashion such smart suits to work. They wear Beerenbergs instead! #arthurbeale #westend #historyoflondon #heritageshops #shoplocal #ropesandsplices

If you like hearing the occasional titbits and tattle from one of London's oldest businesses, then why not follow us on Instagram or Facebook @arthurbealeltd. We might be older than your great-grandmother, but we've taken like a duck to water with this new fad, plus it helps us keep in contact with all our customers off on wild expeditions across the world. We talk about everything from old tales of Arthur Beale, to the latest new tools on the market, not to mention some unique projects we get tied up in. Be the first to hear about long awaited Arthur Beale clothing launches, sales and funny anecdotes from our shop.

arthurbealeltd
Arthur Beale Ltd



Thief proofing!

Our **wire rope rigging service** is the perfect solution for holding things down, whether its used in your shop against sticky fingers, or your garden against Storm Ciara or Brendan or whatever their name is! Wire ropes look very smart, are surprisingly inexpensive and are very customizable. We can often turn them around very quickly! Pop in with any idea or problem and we will try our best to find a solution.



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New Treasures at Beales!

Our New Favourite Tool(s)



7" Needlenose Auto Adjust Pliers £26.07



6" Curved Jaw Auto Adjust Vice Grips £26.08
10" Curved Jaw Auto Adjust Vice Grips £35.23

We sell a pair of these Auto Adjust pliers to pretty much everyone we show them to! Unlike usual locking pliers where you have to manually change the width of the jaws to suit the size of the object you are gripping, these vice grips have a simple set screw which sets the tension in the spring - and then they grip any size of object without any further adjustment! So you can grip an M6, an M8 and an M10 nut in succession, then some copper pipe, then a shackle pin, without changing anything at all! The needle nosed pliers are good for gripping fiddly things like split pins or jubilee clips too. The Curved Jaw versions are great for holding more bulky items such as pipes, and large bolts.

Everyone in the shop loves them - stop reading this and buy (at least) a pair!

If you still aren't sure, go to our youtube channel or Instagram @arthurbealeltd to view our demonstration video. They are selling like hot cakes!

Arthur Beale Arctic Seaboot Socks!

- ✓ **Proven in the Arctic** by the Swedish Army
- ✓ **72% British Wool** with 28% polyamide for long lasting strength
- ✓ **Extra thick terry knit** - provides **maximum warmth, stretch and softness** ensuring the foot remains sweat free
- ✓ Ideal for seaboots and any other cold weather activities
- ✓ **NATO Approved Clothing**
- ✓ The perfect match with our ecru Beerenberg pullover and ecru beanie hats

Arthur Beale Arctic Seaboot Socks are £19.50



Rechargeable Electronic Stove Lighter



Rechargeable Lighter: £12.00

This is a very impressive piece of kit. It doesn't require one of those nasty gas cylinders to fill it, it will just recharge in a USB socket! The five small LEDs act as a charge indicator. Just press the button and a continuous arc will light pretty much anything. We didn't think it would work on a piece of paper, but it certainly did and we almost burnt the shop down (if you are from the Prudential then please ignore that last comment, the shop is very safe in our hands).

It looks well made so we are hoping they will last a good time. I think they are ideal for the galley, especially when trying to light a Taylors oven while rolling downwind.

All natural Ditty Bags!

In the interest of sustainability we have started making our Ditty Bags using natural flax hemp rope made in Chatham Historic Dockyards. Our Ditty Bags used to be hand spliced with polypropylene rope, also known as 'artificial hemp', but we have decided that it's much better to use natural ropes, especially since the bag itself is made from natural and biodegradable cotton! What do you use your ditty bag for?



Arthur Beale Ditty Bags are £21.50 for a long handle, £19.50 for a short handle and £15.00 with no handle.

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to Buy!



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What will happen to Arthur Beale? - With the new lockdown it's all in the balance

But it's not all bad news. On the really positive side we have a brilliant **BRAND NEW WEBSITE!** Once Google finds us, we hope it will bring in loads more trade from all around the world and other planets. Please have a look, you are bound to find something that you never knew you needed - what about those ingenious wire twisting pliers!

The website was made partly possible with the help of the Government backed Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), so credit where credit is due - thanks for that, just the ticket!

We were able to hang on to most of our staff thanks to the furlough scheme. Great news that it is being reinstated for November's lockdown.

So, all would trundle along reasonably well if people didn't keep throwing things at us!

The vultures are circling.

Let's take a look at insurance. We always thought insurance is meant to be there to help during exceptional circumstances. We stupidly thought we were covered for the pandemic but I obviously need help with my English because I always thought:

"The Insurers shall indemnify You in respect of interruption of or interference with the Business during the Indemnity Period following any occurrence of a Notifiable Disease within a radius of 25 miles of the Premises"
...meant that we were insured against business interruption following any "occurrence of a notifiable disease within a radius of 25 miles of the premises."

What a stupid idiot I must be because the insurers assure me we are **NOT** insured following any "occurrence of a notifiable disease within a radius of 25 miles of the premises", despite lapping up our £6,000 annual premium!

Luckily, the High Court agrees with my interpretation, so what is going on?

The insurers think that because it is going to be very expensive for them to pay out, they will just ignore the plain English wording and the High Court verdict and hold on to their dosh. They obviously hope that the prolonged delay will cause as many companies as possible to go to the wall. That way they will not have to pay up to all the poor sods who needed the money urgently to survive - what a brilliant wheeze.

To add insult to injury, the insurers want to put up our new premium on the basis that a claim is on file - even though they are refusing to pay it. What a cheek!

Their problem is, Arthur Beale, the old sea dog is not going to give up on this one. We have got our teeth into it and will fight it all the way. Watch this space!

Then there are the Landlords about to swoop.

Arthur Beale have been trading from this area for about 500 years. We have been in the current building since it was built in the 19th century. On 19th May we wrote to the Landlords asking for some concession in the rent to take into account of a 90% drop in footfall and a total lack of tourists. We never even received a reply from them! Instead on 8th October - four and a half months later - a Real Estate company specializing in Property Development contacted us saying they were acting on behalf of the Landlords. In the meantime, we are still forking out the full rent, which we can barely afford, and there has been no inkling of any assistance - instead, it looks like they too are hoping we go under, so they can develop the building!

And then there is the Council.

Probably best not to go there but last year's totally inconsiderate timing to dig up all the paving outside the shop during November and December, operate deafening pneumatic drills all day long and cause general mayhem, didn't exactly help our Christmas sales. The work then over ran by about 10 months and now that it is almost finished rumours are going around that the gas main needs replacing so it will all be dug up again!

It is a miracle that we are still trading, but sadly the future ahead looks rocky.

Our only chance is to survive online and we really need every sale we can get to pull through this difficult time. As you now can't make it to the shop to browse, please do try our **BRAND NEW WEBSITE** and buy just a little something - even if its just a bar of our wonderful wool fat soap. Who knows, you might be tempted to do all your Christmas Shopping there too and save one of Britain's oldest companies?

