

Sails Tales

A Life in the week of...

Wisbech Explorer Scouts

Explorer Scouts, Philip Taylor, James Geddis and James Nott from Wisbech were plane sailing with a 15th place in their class and leg of the International Tall Ships Race across the Baltic Sea from Turku, Finland to Klaipeda, Lithuania. Their boat, Offshore Scout was also placed 27th out of 103 entrants overall. This is the best performance by Offshore Scout in any Tall Ships Race and the crew were clapped and cheered as they moored up in Lithuania.

For Philip Taylor, aged 18, this was a fantastic adventure:

"If I had to pick the best bit it would be sitting on the front of the boat as we were finding our place to moor up in Klaipeda, Lithuania and the people lining the bank, clapping and cheer-

ing for us. It was a fantastic welcome and it gave me a great sense of achievement.

The greatest challenge for me was navigating passed all the tiny islands and privately owned boats between Turku and anchorage near the start of the race in Noto, Finland. The Skipper said that it was the best the boat had ever done in a Tall Ship Race, which meant we were doing something good to get those positions. I have improved my sailing technique, learning how to tell when the sails need adjusting, how to tack and change sails efficiently. Above all the Tall Ships experience has taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to."

For James Nott, aged 17, an experience not to be missed:

"I most enjoyed the different experiences we had in port either side of the race. The sailing was great because of the beautiful weather and perfect wind conditions. The greatest challenge for me was staying optimistic even when things weren't going right, for example when the wind

died. I learnt quite a bit: what different buoys and lights mean, how to recognise a ship at night and what the different types of rigs are called on the big square riggers"

Overall I'm most proud of how we performed as a team and how well we did in general during the race."



James Geddis, aged 16 wants to join the race again next year:

"I truly enjoyed this year's Tall Ships Race and will undoubtedly take part again next year. The most enjoyable aspect was the sailing, the reason for this is that the weather was good and, as the Baltic Sea is only partially tidal, it is a great deal calmer than the North Sea. For me the greatest challenge was overcoming my fear of steering the boat dur-

ing the hours of darkness helped by perfect conditions and the limited hours of darkness in the Baltic. The achievement I am most proud of is our placing in this year's races, beaten only by extremely expensive, built-for-purpose racing yachts and with a massive handicap because they are a fraction of

the weight of our boat, also our use of sails and perfectly timed direction changes, coupled with our high wind speed to boat speed ratios lead to a very satisfying final position. I learnt a huge amount about the countries I visited and lots about sailing. I am looking forward to next year, where I hope to gain my RYA Competent Crew Qualification."

A Word From The Helm

Twelve grants were made in 2010 which enabled 128 young people from Norfolk and the surrounding area to experience the challenge of sailing at sea.

Princes Trust XL, North Walsham.

This group is part of the North Walsham Children's Services and is a work related course within the school. The young people took part in the voyage to build their confidence and self-esteem and develop team working within the group. The chance to get involved with budgeting and planning menus for the trip helped with the learning independent life element of their course. The group of 15 sailed with The Cirdan Trust in Queen Galadriel for five days in August.

Fresh Start, a continually developing project which

has been run as a joint venture by Children's Services youth work team and Norfolk Constabulary for the past 10 years. The aim of the project is to raise self esteem

have grown up, they are less argumentative and they are prepared to sit down and talk through their issues calmly. Fresh Start has sailed with Norfolk Boat on several oc-

The project is about raising the young people's confidence, giving them a voice in local politics and participating in decision making that affects their lives and that of their com-



and provide alternative education for young people. This is done through the provision of diversionary and challenging activities and one to one mentoring. The parents of the young people have reported that since returning from the voyage they

casions and last season a group of 18 sailed with The Cirdan Trust in Queen Galadriel for seven days in June.

Children's Services Northern Youth Work Team (NNYV).

The group includes young people with wide ranging needs.

munity. The voyage opened their eyes to new opportunities; it showed them that they can achieve incredible things; it enabled the group to bond and rewarded them for their volunteering work. A group of 14 sailed in Faramir for a week in October.

"To inspire and develop the spirit of Norfolk youth"

Sewell Park College brought a mixed group of 13-16 year olds. The voyage

huge sense of achievement from their voyage. A group of 15 sailed



was undertaken to learn new skills and develop knowledge of sailing. The outcomes of the voyage were many: they improved team building and self discipline by undertaking tasks without constant supervision and by completing these tasks successfully this increased their self esteem and confidence. They also improved their sense of responsibility by understanding how their actions impact on other members of the group. Overall they gained a

with The Cirdan Trust in Faramir in June.

Shaw Trust.

This is the first time the Lowestoft group has sailed with us. The Shaw Trust provides a prevention programme for young people aged 14-16 years who need support and encouragement to engage in education. The organisation offers an accredited learning package and helps to build young people's confidence, develop employability skills and empowers them to make informed

choices. The voyage greatly improved their self esteem and confidence, increased their tolerance towards each other, helped them develop a greater sense of responsibility and as a group they became a stronger team. The voyage was seen by all as a huge success and this group has already booked for next year. A group of nine sailed with The Cirdan Trust in Queen Galadriel in May.

Taverham High School.

The School has sailed with us on several occasions. The group, which was mixed ability, had no direct access to funds apart from The Norfolk Boat, so made substantial fundraising efforts themselves. This taught the young people how to plan, implement and evaluate their individual journeys. Sixteen sailed in Queen Galadriel for seven days in June.



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Wisbech Explorers Scouts.

Four scouts from the Fenland Explorers sailed for a week in August with Adventures Offshore as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition (see front page of newsletter).

Sir John Leman School, Beccles.

Eight students sailed with Adventures Offshore in April for three days and two further students took part in the Tall Ships Race in July.

Thetford Fire Service.

The fire service runs a project called XLER8 which delivers educational and life skill opportunities to young people

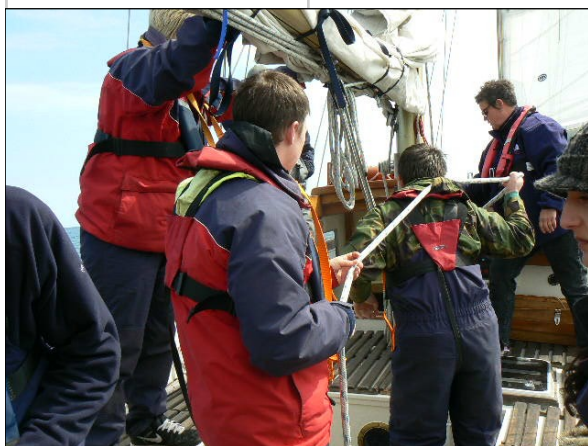
who, for various reasons, have problems engaging in mainstream school. The aim of the voyage was to teach life skills such as budgeting, planning, cooking and cleaning and to provide an opportunity to engage in a sporting activity. The group of nine sailed with The Cirdan Trust in Faramir in May for a weekend.

Flagship Foyer.

The Foyer Group provide accommodation and housing support to homeless 16-24 year olds. The group participated in the voyage to gain the social and life skills required to live independently in readi-

ness for moving on and living in the wider community. The group also gained RYA Competent Crew accreditation which is a

positive addition to their CVs. A group of 14 sailed with The Cirdan Trust in Faramir in April and another group of 16 sailed in July.



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