



# NEIC Sail Training Voyages 2018



SAIL TRAINING  
IRELAND

Earlier this Summer 48 people from the North East Inner City of Dublin took part in the Tall Ships Regatta 2018. The participants were offered the amazing opportunity to become trainees on a Tall Ship to experience an exciting voyage from Liverpool and Dublin. This opportunity was made available by the NEIC, Dublin City Council and Dublin Port Company and was coordinated by Sail Training Ireland.

## THE THREE CITIES TALL SHIP REGATTA



The Three Cities Tall Ships regatta saw a fleet of 17 tall ships with over 400 crew and trainees race from Liverpool and arriving in to Dublin for the June Bank holiday weekend. The event was organised by Sail Training International and supported by Dublin City Council, Dublin Port Company and Waterways Ireland. As part of their role of being a host port Dublin City Council committed to providing the opportunity for 50 people to go onboard as trainees. Dublin City Council approached the NEIC about getting involved to help provide this chance to the people of the North East Inner City which they were happy to do.



## NEIC

The NEIC is a major Government initiative to oversee the long term social and economic regeneration of the area. This involves a huge range of projects, the latest of which was this sail training project.



## WHAT IS SAIL TRAINING

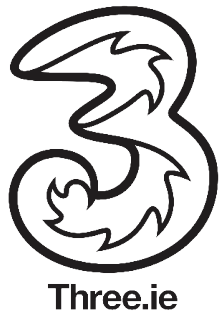
Sail Training is a self-development & educational training programme, which is run on board tall ships. The experience provides an excellent environment for personal and social development. It is not so much learning to sail, as learning from sailing, from the vessel, the sea, fellow crew members and perhaps most importantly from the trainees themselves. Skills such as confidence, communication, leadership, teamwork, understanding of diversity, and resilience are learnt. The group start the voyage as a collection of strangers but end it as a tight knit crew. A trainee's first voyage can often prove to be a turning point in their lives.

Sail Training Ireland are the national Sail Training Organisation and were responsible for organising the trainee project, which involved the recruitment of 50 people from the NEIC area to take part and placing them on training programmes aboard seven ships.



## SPONSORS

A project like this could not take place without financial support. Fortunately, the NEIC were able to secure sponsorship from ten major businesses in the area. This insured that the opportunity would be made available to all regardless of their financial situation. This was facilitated by Feargal O'Rourke of PWC, who was the key link between the NEIC and the companies. A huge debt of thanks goes to the following companies.



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## RECRUITING THE TRAINEES

A process was put in place whereby community and youth organisations in the NEIC nominated people to participate in the project. The following organisations put forward nominations:

Swan Youth Service

Garda Store Street

Mud Island Community Garden

After Care Recovery Group

YR Sherrard Street

Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed

Lourdes Youth & Community Service

HSE

Welfare.ie

Sherrif Street YC

NEIC

East Wall Youth

Local employment Service

Crinnian Youth project



An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe at the launch of the NEIC Sail Training Voyages

There was a fantastic air of anticipation at the first information meeting as the trainees were allocated to seven different ships. The excitement was increased when they realised it was a race and that they would be competing against one another. This amazing atmosphere was to continue right through the project.

## THE VOYAGE



The trainees travelled by ferry and coach to Liverpool on Sunday 27th May to participate in the Merseyside Maritime Festival before the start of the race the following morning. The participants were presented with NEIC Sail Training team jerseys, which were worn proudly throughout the week. The course took the ships North of the Isle of Man and on into Dublin to finish on Friday in Dublin.



## AWARDS CEREMONY



Photo Above: shows Bernadette O'Neill receiving her certificate and on the right Shane Cormican receiving the Outstanding Contribution Award.



On return to dry land an awards ceremony was held in St Agatha's Hall for all the participants. The trainees were awarded with Sail Training Ireland certificates along with a number of special awards presented to those who made an exceptional contribution to the voyages. The highlight of the evening was hearing three of the participants speak on how the experience had impacted them.

Overcoming Adversity – Siobhan Hind

Outstanding Contribution – Shane Cormican



## TRAINEE COMMENTS

A sample of trainee Feedback from NEIC participants:

“I learned what I really want to do in life”

“It has given me the confidence & understanding to go on and pursue my passion”

“It has helped restore my confidence”

“I have improved my communication skills as well as becoming more responsible”

“I realised that I am very employable”

“I gained things I will never experience from a textbook”

“I learned tolerance, patience, teamwork & diversity”

“I enjoyed helping others to focus on their strengths”

“The experience of a lifetime. It gives you a fresh perspective on everything”

## OUTCOMES/BENEFITS

Several positive outcomes were achieved by the NEIC Sail Training Project:

- 48 people participated on potentially life changing voyages.
- Inclusion of people from all backgrounds and abilities regardless of financial, social, or other circumstances.
- Inclusion of people with a range of disabilities.
- Development of life skills and employability.
- Positive social impact in the local community.



## KEY FIGURES

Here are a few key facts and figures from the project.

- A total of 48 trainees from the NEIC went on 7 ships from 68 initial applications received. (Fifty trainees were due to take part but 2 had to withdraw on the morning of departure).
- There was a balanced gender mix of 25 male and 23 female trainees.
- They ranged in age from 18 – 71!
- The trainees were nominated by 14 local organisations. These were from diverse organisations such as Youth Clubs, Community Groups, Addiction Recovery services, HSE Social Workers, Homeless Charity, Unemployment Groups, Garda Diversion Projects, Community Garden Group.
- Two trainees have expressed an interest in pursuing a maritime career and we will support them in this in every way we can.
- One trainee attended the Sail Training Ireland (STIRL) Mentor training and is now an STIRL approved Mentor and a second wishes to become a Mentor with us.
- The voyage participants were made up of mixed abilities.
- In addition to the NEIC trainees, three Wheelchair users participated in the regatta onboard the fully accessible Tall Ship Lord Nelson.



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