



TALL SHIPS & FRIENDSHIPS

SAIL TRAINING IRELAND NEWSLETTER



WELCOME NOTE

*Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter
“Tall Ships & Friendships”.*

We plan to publish it a couple of times a year to keep you up to date on what’s happening in the Sail Training world. We would like to see this become a forum for everything Sail Training and as such we welcome input from all. So, if you are a trainee, Mentor, crew, Skipper, sponsor, nominating organisation, ship operator or just a general observer and supporter we would love to hear from you. Please email anything you would like to include to info@sailtrainingireland.com.

We have just completed a fantastic 2019 season here in Sail Training Ireland (STIRL). This year saw 421 people from all backgrounds and abilities participate in 28 voyages on five different ships. The highlights were:

- Asgard Armada involving three ships and 50 trainees sailing in convoy.
- NEIC Voyages involving 30 young people from Dublin’s North East inner city.
- The third edition of the Three Cities “The Voyage” involving trainees from Dublin, Belfast and Liverpool.
- Inclusion voyages.
- Local bursary voyages in Cork, Drogheda, Dublin, Arklow, West Cork Islands, Waterford and Belfast

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and supporters who made it all possible. In particular, I would like to thank The Government of Ireland (Dept of Defence), Dublin City Council and Dublin Port Company.

I would also like to congratulate all those who took part and to thank our STIRL mentors who gave of their time to support you all onboard.

We look forward to an exciting 2020. Please come and join us.

All the best,
Daragh,

P.S. Keep an eye on our website in early January for our 2020 calendar of voyages

“Many thanks for the opportunity to be part of what is a fantastic programme.

One of the most enjoyable events I’ve attended since I joined the Port.

Conor Mowlds
*Chief Commercial Officer,
Port of Cork Company*

KEEP IN TOUCH


Sail Training Ireland
13 Mayne River Street,
Northern Cross, Malahide Road,
D17 VK54


01 871 1745

info@sailtrainingireland.com

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SAIL TRAINING 2019 IN REVIEW



A CREW MEMBER'S POEM

What a powerful reflection of a trainee experience on our recent Under 18s Erasmus Three Cities Voyage.

In every room of our time together, there is a box.

A box of memories we shared. Now is the time to pack away with sadness.

And with care I'll open my box and share my thoughts with you lot, as my loves have meant a lot.

Riann, the memories of you are engraved in my heart. Supporting me when times get hard. We watched the stars all night long, this is why I am writing this song.

Katie I will always love you will always have a piece of my heart, but now its time to do my art.
You cheer me up when I'm feeling down and tell me not to start.

Tamsin now if there is one thing I'm going to miss on this boat, is your warm tight hugs, as they keep me afloat. I hope you know I love you the most.

Elle I'll miss you and all the great times we shared.
The crazy thing is now I know you cared.
Setting the sails, hoping I'll see whales or dolphin tales.

As for the rest of you. We will no longer fit like a glove, we will no longer build our love, will I forget to care? Nothing ever seems to be fair
Your beautiful faces, I will never forget. But what I want to know is, will I forget?

So please close your boxes and cover it with unicorns and sparkling glitter and remember, please don't let our happiness and love become bitter.

To all the crew at the Pelican of London Voyage.
By Kaitlin Fendwick (Liverpool)

A 16-year-old boy from Drogheda in county Louth has been reunited with his childhood toys during his visit with the Sail Training Ireland vessel Brian Ború to Clogherhead RNLI



Click here for the full story on the RNLI website.

SUPPORT US BY BECOMING A FRIEND OF SAIL TRAINING IRELAND

Sail Training Ireland is the National Sail Training Organisation. The charity supports the development and education of young people via Sail Training programmes onboard tall ships and other vessels. While, Sail Training is open to people of all ages, the charity's focuses on providing the opportunity to those from a disadvantaged/under-privileged background and those with disabilities. [Read More.....](#)



Crew Passing Wicklow Lighthouse

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www.sailtrainingireland.com/giftvoucher

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TRANSITION YEAR SAIL TRAINING VOYAGES 2020

Tall Ship Maybe

4th-10th April 2020

Cost: €550 - Cork to Dublin

11th-17th April 2020

Cost: €550 - Dublin to Belfast

18th-23rd April 2020

Cost: €500 - Belfast to Dublin

Apply at

www.sailtrainingireland.com/voyages

Call: 01 871 1745

During the Transition Year Voyage trainees will have the opportunity to undertake either RYA Start Yacht or Competent Crew Training and Assessment. Certification additional: €45

If you are participating in the Gaisce Awards you may also achieve the New Skills and/or the Adventure Award



ERICA'S STORY - A VOYAGE OF SELF DISCOVERY

Two years ago, I was in the depth of addiction. I was addicted to cannabis and spent every single euro I had on it. To me, I never had a problem but for anyone who knew me I was falling deeper and deeper into the depths of addiction. My mental health was suffering badly, paranoid, no confidence whatsoever. Stuck at home all the time not wanting to talk to people and isolating myself from everyone. All I cared about is when I would get my next bag of weed.



I began to see that I had a problem with substance abuse and decided to go to treatment in a place in Dublin called Coolmine TC. This was to be a year and a half programme to work on my substance abuse and my behaviour.

So, in May 2018 I packed my stuff and went to Coolmine. I worked hard in myself and dealt with a lot of issues from my past. It wasn't easy but I knew I had to do it as there was no going back to where I started. I finished phase 1 of the treatment and was let home to Tullamore. Phase two began and I would go to Dublin each weekday to learn about how to live on the outside. Then I entered phase three. I have to go to Dublin each Monday for group and give a urine sample to them.

During this time in after care three of the ex-clients in Coolmine where to go on a voyage with Sail Training Ireland through their college. One of them dropped out and they rang Coolmine to see would anyone go. I got the phone call from my key worker to ask would I go and of course I jumped at the chance to go on a tall ship. This was on a Thursday evening and I was to travel on a Sunday.

So I packed my stuff and off I went to meet up with the rest of the crew in Dublin. I was nervous but I knew two of the girls already so that helped me a little. So we got the bus to Belfast to join the Tall ship Pelican of London. Wow what a sight when I saw the ship. We soon learned about the Pelican and before long we were leaving to start our voyage. We went to Liverpool. I was full of gratitude for the chance to have this experience. I saw dolphins for the first time and cried and the most glorious sunset. The voyage came to an end I knew then that I wanted to do this in life.

I wanted a career out of this and I was going to get it no matter what I had to do. I looked up voluntary work on Tall ships and got a placement on Tall ship Pelican of London and went to Bristol to meet her, stayed on her for a week and was asked to stay another week, of course, I jumped at the chance to do this. Also, I was told about another voyage on the Tall ship Maybe so I put my name down for that too. So on Tuesday the 13th Aug I stepped off one ship after been on it for 13 days to join the crew of another tall ship for nine days.

To say I am living the dream is an understatement. I love my life at present. Since I started sailing with Sail Training Ireland lots of things are happening for me. I have my self-worth back, self-confidence, a purpose in life. I can work as a team member, diversity, learned new skills. I'm also eager to learn about the ships. I have made good friends on the voyages and have memories I can cherish for life. I now have a purpose in life which before I never had. Addiction brought me to a dark deep place but sailing Tall ships have brought me to a place I never thought was possible. I now have a new addiction but its healthy and that's the way to have it. So thank you Sail Training Ireland for everything you have done for me the last few months. You gave me back my life.

Kind regards, Erica Prendergast



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD

POWERFUL TRAINEE REFLECTION

Very profound reflection of the voyage from a Liverpool trainee



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to sail on the Pelican of London tall ship, I had an amazing experience! I loved climbing out on the bowsprit setting the sails and watching dolphins at 4am, it was so beautiful while the sun came up. I would love to do it again next year especially with the same people and the same voyage and staff!

If it's possible I would like to take the opportunity to become a mentor and do training in August, I am influenced to do my best and I really want to help people find their full potential and get them out of their comfort zone and experience amazing things like I have. I have been inspired to do this by John Corry, he was one of the mentors I met on the sailing trip and he found the inner me and made me realise I can do anything I really want to. During the early week I wanted to climb the mast to set the sails, I was worried and quite scared of heights, John stuck by me through the process and waited for me at the top of the mast as I climbed up, he talked me through what I had to do and made me feel calmer, he reassured me and the day after I done it again even higher on my own. John shown me what it's like to experience the best things in life and reach my full potential, I want to do that in other young adults and support them.

The things I found really incredible was learning how to stir the boat and learning about port side and starboard side and how to measure and inform the captain that something is ahead, that was really interesting. Another experience I found absolutely wonderful was looking at the stars on night watch and seeing shooting stars, everything was so magical, and I learnt about how to find the North Star and saw planets. I have learnt a variety of new skills such as being more confident and making new friends, before the voyage one thing that was holding me back was the fact I didn't know anyone who was going, I was worried in case people didn't like me or I didn't have anyone to talk to, the truth is most of them were in the same position I was in and I found it easy to be me and make friends quickly. Another skill I have improved on is house work and making the most of my days, I will continue to have "happy hour" in my house where I will clean up and tidy most days, I will also wake up earlier than usual to make the most of my day get things done and become more healthier.

Things I found hard was waking up at 4am for watch without hardly any sleep and staying awake for the rest of the day and continue to do activities, this was tiring and hard to focus but you have mentors

and friends around that will keep you busy and keep you company which is really warming and friendly. Another thing I found hard was dealing with my sea sickness, most days I would feel sick and want to go home and cry, but I had lovely mentors that would give you a reassuring hug and bring water and biscuits to you, I would admire to help someone who is in this position to as I know what it feels like. I have shown my talent on board which is writing poems, I wrote a poem about how I am thankful and happy I met people on the voyage and I had a wonderful experience, people were so positive and touched by my poem and I will inspire people to open their hearts and not be afraid on doing their best and pleasing themselves and others.

Being on this voyage has changed my life massively, I have took a wider look at the world and fell in love with the ocean and sea creatures that live in it, I will continue to change the world slowly but surely by saving the planet, recycling, picking litter up when I see it and not using many plastic things, I would like to promote and will honestly tell people to save our seas and stop littering and buying plastics that they will only throw away as many can't be recycled. I have seen dolphins and seals and fish and deeply think that these are beautiful creatures that need to be cared for and looked after just like us.

I have fell in love with this trip and will remember it. I have shared many memories with amazing people and now have friends from Ireland. I love the staff and thank you them very much for the support and opportunity. I hope I can do this again next year and be on the same voyage with same staff or even part of the crew myself as a mentor.

Thank you.



Cork Awards Ceremony With the Lord Mayor of Cork and Mayor of Cork County



N.E.I.C. Crew on board the Pelican

OVERVIEW OF THE VOYAGE

(compiled by the STIRL Mentor onboard under 18s voyage)

We joined the Tall ship Pelican of London on a quiet Sunday. After safety drills and getting to understand the systems onboard, we headed out of the Mersey on Monday in light winds. I tried to teach the trainees about the navigation markers and how the chart worked as we left the river heading out into the very busy bay. There are over 200 wind generators in the shallow waters of the bay and some interesting platforms left over from the second world war. It would be a daunting place to sail in the dark.



The Pelican

We motored up the east side of the Isle of Man, passing its northernmost point, Point of Ayre, in the dark. By morning we had Scotland and the Isle of Man visible as we headed for Belfast. We tied up in the commercial basin in the morning and after lunch had some time to do a trip to HMS Caroline in the Titanic Quarter. Trainees were tired by now as some of them had not managed their sleep well the previous night, and a valuable lesson was learnt so once lights were out, they were eager to get their head down.

The next morning it was sunny as we motored down Belfast Lough to anchor west of Bangor Harbour. The main reason for the stop was to allow for the Trainees to go up the mast and work the yards, meaning preparing the large square sails for use later. This was intimidating for many, me included, to work at height but it was a great learning experience and you could see from their smiles how much they had learnt about themselves in the experience.

After lunch, we prepared the boat for the long passage south in light winds, aiming for west Wales. The destination wasn't decided yet, winds and tide would dictate. By now the trainees were settled into the watch routine and after dinner some headed to bed in preparation for being called for watch later in the night. The rest enjoyed the views and the craic onboard as the Trainees got to know each other and "characters" emerged. I was on the 4am shift as we saw dawn off the West coast of the Isle of Man. We had little wind and were motor sailing slowly 5 miles offshore accompanied by dolphins for a while. As we left the Island astern, the Trainees could see the tidal races off Chicken Rock and began to understand about tidal currents and their effects on a vessel.

The wind began to fill in as forecast and soon the engine was off, and we were sailing south towards the Anglesey peninsula. My watch over, I headed to bed for a few hours. When I rose, the winds were gusting to 30 knots and waves were splashing occasionally over the main deck of Pelican. Some of the Trainees were not feeling well but then everyone looked out for each other and made sure they stayed hydrated and got some fresh air.

At this stage the Captain decided to put into Holyhead to anchor for a few hours to let the wind pass and help Trainees recover. After an hour rest, they were ready for dinner and the night sail around Anglesey and south to Aberystwyth. Our night watch was relaxed with little wind as we followed the lights of the coast, aiming for the red-light beacon on Bardsey Island 20 miles away. We passed it

around dawn and made course into Cardigan Bay in fresh Easterly winds. As we got further into the bay the waves eased, but it was gusting 30 knots+ as we anchored outside the harbour in bright sunshine. The Captain made the decision to secure the sails, which means the Trainees were needed to go up the mast and out onto the yards again. The initial fears were gone for many and there were lots of volunteers to head up, returning with big smiles once the task was over. Their reward was a few hours ashore to visit the town and for some, to go for a swim on the beach beside the harbour.



3 Tall Ships sail into Cork Harbour During the Asgard Armada

After dinner, we raised anchor and set off in light easterlies towards Rosslare. We had a good passage with pleasant seas and Trainees got lots of rest, off watch before approaching the Irish coast after dawn. We managed to get a berth in the harbour and after another magnificent lunch from Abby, the group had a few hours ashore again. Some even celebrated their voyage by visiting the barbers!!! Again, some went for a swim beside the harbour before returning for dinner and setting off for an overnight sail to Dublin. We had some favourable breeze this time and good weather for the sail north up the Irish coast. As we approached Dublin, we got caught in the rope from a lobster pot. After stopping to check it out, we were lucky to find out that it had not fouled the propeller. It was still caught on an underwater anode, so we secured it for now to sort out once we were in calmer water and had the rib to help. We anchored south of the Bull Wall to have lunch and go up the yards again to secure the sails. By now the Trainees were getting more confident at it and we had it finished in no time. Some of them even got to climb to the top of the mainmast to prove their true seafaring credentials.

Once stowed, we went in the river, past the ferries and commercial ships. We had a date with a bridge to keep and we didn't want to be late.... The East Link bridge had to be raised for us so that we could moor beside the 3 Arena in the heart of the city. The trainees time on board was coming to an end but you could see that they had gelled well as a team and many had developed skills, they never knew they had during their time onboard. We had a final night's festivities with games, awards and music. The crew were thanked for their incredible patience and hard work in making the trip such an incredible experience for the talented young people we had onboard. Well done to all.



Pelican crew in the rigging during the Asgard Armada 2019

CORK TO SANTANDER VOYAGE

I recently took part in my fourth voyage on board TS Pelican of London. However this was like no trip I had done before. Not only was I leaving Irish waters and heading south through the Bay of Biscay, but I was sailing as a watch leader for the first time.

Boarding the ship in Cork, I felt uneasy, a feeling I recognized from the first time I stepped foot on Pelican two years ago. However, like always, I was greeted by a kind and competent crew who quickly eased my anxieties. My first evening in port was spent familiarising myself with the layout of the ropes on the pinrails, reviewing tacking and wearing procedures and getting to know the permanent crew.

Over the next 24 hours the voyage crew boarded and became acquainted with the ship and each other. It became apparent that it was an extremely diverse crew in terms of age and nationality and for a second I questioned how this would affect the dynamic on board. However, I quickly learned that this would only add to my experience!

Our final few hours in port were spent touring the ship, fitting harnesses, beginning our sail training and carrying out emergency drills. And before we knew it we had left the confines of Cork Harbour and had hit the open sea.

The next few days travelling towards Biscay were magical. We had calm seas and the winds behind us bringing us exactly where we wanted to go. Most mornings began with a breathtaking sunrise and most days finished watching dolphins surf the waves on our bow.



Eve Brennan & Odhran Doherty at the Tall Ships Races

I learned so much about navigation and setting sails but most importantly I met some really incredible people. Successful sailing requires a great deal of teamwork and communication and I've come to learn that this is an amazing foundation on which to build friendships.

And these newly formed friendships were certainly put to the test on one particular night watch in the middle of the Bay of Biscay. The seas were wild and the winds were howling, the rain was torrential and people had begun to get sea sick. It would be quite easy to feel miserable in those moments, to just give up and sit out watch activities. But it was the new friends we had made that kept the morale up and everyone out on deck participating. That's what sail training is really all about.

So on Wednesday 11th September, we reached Santander safe and sound after 5 days at sea. The rest of the week was spent exploring the hidden gems in the city (karaoke nights!) and sharing our stories with the locals during open ship.

It is safe to say that this was the best experience of my life so far. I'm so thankful to have all these opportunities at only 18 years old, to have made such incredible friends and to know that it won't be long until I'm back on board!



Teamwork

OUR SPONSORS

To date, Sail Training Ireland with the support of our generous sponsors have placed 2386 young people from the island of Ireland on board tall ships



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SAIL TRAINING IRELAND

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