



SAIL TRAINING
IRELAND
SAIL, TRAIN, LEARN, LIVE ...

TALL SHIPS & FRIENDSHIPS

SAIL TRAINING IRELAND NEWSLETTER

Autumn
2023

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

This year we helped over 530 young people to participate on thirty voyages on seven different ships. We would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters who have continued to support us and make these voyages possible.

We are delighted to inform you that the first voyages of our 2024 Voyage Calendar are now available. Bookings can be made on our website at:

<https://www.sailtrainingireland.com/voyages/>

We recommend booking early to avoid disappointment as there will be a lot of demand.

More voyages will be added throughout the season, keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for details!

We Need Your Help!

You can make a difference by donating to Sail Training Ireland so that we can continue making this potentially life-changing opportunity available to all. You can donate securely on our website on the following link or by calling the office on 01 845 4773 to discuss other options.

<https://www.sailtrainingireland.com/donate/>

Donate to the Charity

Thank you for your support.

The STIRL Team

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Testimonials

Subject: Experience of a lifetime

A very big thank you to all the team in Sail Training Ireland for organising such amazing experiences for everyone, but as a post primary teacher living in landlocked Kildare, particularly for our teenagers.

To all the crew, volunteers, and mentors on the Pelican of London STEM voyage, you are all fantastic. My daughter has come home exhausted, but still full of chat some 7 hours later. She thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the trip from the, navigating, rope work, food, rigging (a favourite), and of course, the craic, (The "Empire" game seems to also be a big hit) And I have no doubt, there are more stories to come.

Many, many thanks to all on board Pelican and to the team in Sail Training Ireland, thank you all so very much. An experience she is likely never to forget. Already chatting about her next voyage.



Hi Sail Training Ireland,

I am finally getting around to writing a thank you message for the Sail Training trip back at Easter my son took part in.

He had a super time and really enjoyed it... even the 15 hour rough sailing day! He met some great friends and the crew and team were fantastic. He was delighted he did the trip and accomplished the journey.

Thank you again and appreciate all your last minute efforts to get another boat. It was impressive!

Kind regards,



Testimonials

Cillian's Story

"When I stepped onto the Pelican of London in August, I had no idea I'd disembark a week later having gained fast friends and invaluable skills.

I first heard of the voyage through scouting connections, more specifically, a group of Maltese scouts that were sailing as part of the Erasmus programme. As a scout myself, I thought this would be a fun opportunity, so I decided to join the voyage.

At first I thought it was going to be just me and the Maltese scouts on the voyage. However, when I arrived I quickly realised that there were a lot more people than just the scouts. The first thing that happened when we got on board was we were sorted into our watches and assigned a cabin. The cabins were cramped, to say the least. They held six people and a small bathroom in an area around the size of a parking space.

Unfortunately for the first night the weather was not in our favour for sailing, so we stayed moored in Dublin port. However, this gave us a lot of socialising opportunities, for example, playing icebreakers out on deck.

Fortunately, the next few days were a lot more productive. Over the course of the next 6 days we sailed north to Bangor; then across the Irish sea into Laxey bay; down into Douglas and then finally back across to Dublin.

While out at sea, mobile reception is spotty at best. For some amongst us, it was like going cold turkey.



I found it quite nice to get a break from social media and doomscrolling. The watch roster ensured that you were kept busy all week, and also made for good small talk (If there's one popular topic, it was the universal hatred of the midnight shift). Everyone looked forward to their galley days, where they could miss their watches for a day and help in the galley. We learnt a lot about cooking and maintenance of the ship over the voyage, but all of the chores were much easier done in calm weather rather than rough waves!

Sailing on the Pelican has to be one of the best weeks of my life. If I could do it all over again, I would, hands down. Not only have I learned practical skills such as navigation and rules of the sea, I've also gained some scientific knowledge courtesy of the on-board scientist: Sharkey Markey from the Shark Trust; I've also made some really good friends. I was half expecting to never see my crew-mates again after the voyage, but just recently me and a few friends met back up together and reminisced about the days of old (two months ago), and I have no intention of letting those friendships grow cold.

So, if you asked me if you should go on a voyage, I'd say yes. Absolutely. Hands down, do it. I won't need to tell you why afterwards."



Testimonials

Morgan's Story

"Sailing on the Pelican of London was one of the most: memorable, incredible, and stunning things I have ever experienced. I was privileged enough to gain a place on the voyage from Dublin along the Welsh coast and then returning to Rosslaire.



I had previously done some dinghy sailing but I had no experience with bigger boats, especially not a tall ship. Luckily the crew were amazing and always there to help if I had a question. They were so supportive and encouraging throughout the entire voyage. I remember climbing the rigging (one of my favourite activities) and I chose to climb to t'gallant-the second tallest sail on the mast. I was helping to take the sails down, but it was alot more difficult than I had anticipated. While it took me a while to get the hang of untying the ropes and then re-tying them in clove hitches without getting anything tangled or trapped the crew were patient and allowed me the time to figure out how to do it properly without rushing me.

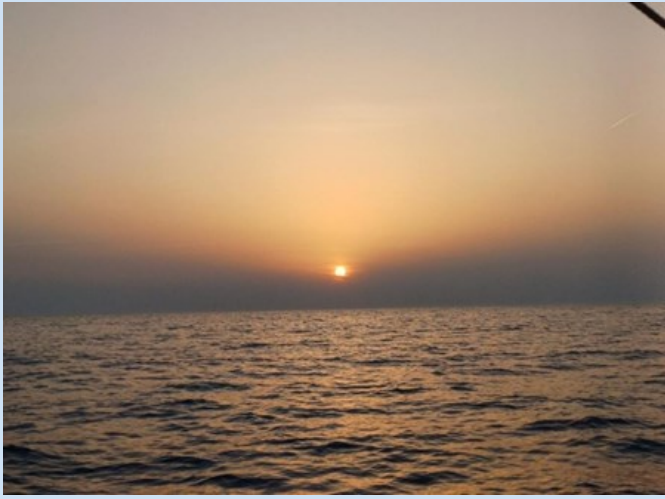
Apart from the wonderful staff everyone I met was so lovely. Not once did I feel anxious or worried about talking to people or making friends, as everybody on board made it such an easy thing to do. I had been very nervous before hand because I thought people might not like me, or that I wouldn't get on with the people I met. It turned out however, that lots of people were in the situation which made it easy to relate to them and we all became fast friends. Having people to talk to was crucial for helping me get through my morning watches at 4am, and my watch group were all genuinely lovely and I'm glad I got to meet them.

This voyage was honestly a life changing experience. The science we did on board broadened my knowledge of the sea and the creatures that live in our waters specifically. We got to do loads of sea surveys and I spotted so many dolphins it was unbelievable. All of the lessons were super interesting and fun, they never felt like work. I had such a fantastic time and would definitely recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity, I already loved sailing before but this experience has helped me realise that I want to continue sailing in the future and hopefully have the opportunity to work with ships. I loved the staff and I want to thank them all for providing such an incredible opportunity for me."

By Morgan Thomas (16)

Testimonials

Eabha's Story



"I got the opportunity to go with Sail Training Ireland on the Pelican of London for 7 days this August/September and it was an amazing experience. I was able to come out of my shell and meet new people. We went to different places and beaches in Wales, and it was so

nice to be able to hang out, have fun and

create bonds with new people. I loved all the amazing views on the boat. The sunsets, the sunrises, the stars, the clear blue sky and even seeing dolphins and seals. I really loved the view because they were



such unique sights that I wouldn't have many other opportunities to see. Just simply being on the boat and sailing was an experience itself and the people and places were an extra bonus. I am so happy I was chosen, and it was an experience of a lifetime. I would 100 percent recommend it, if I could I

would definitely go again."

Éabha



Voyage Feedback.

Name	Most Challenging Thing	Favourite Thing	Something I Learned
Yaroslav	Seasickness & Soup!	Ropework & hammock time	Knots – bowline, figure 8 & blood knot
Rostik	Waking up very early and cold swimming	Playing in dinghy	How to lift sails
Sonya (Sofia)	Seasickness & cold water swimming	All the time on the boat with new friends	Ropework & sails
Vadym	Seasickness, having to do a log book & veggie soup!	Helming & enjoyed the whole experience	Knots – bowline, figure 8 & blood knot
Viktoriia	Seasickness	Helping to cook	How to raise sails
Valerii	Seasickness and first impression of our cabin – dirty	Inspiration for cooking & helping to run the boat	How to give feedback to a team and communicate effectively.
Ariadna	Seasickness	Working in the galley	Cooking so well when her mum says she can't cook!!!!
Daria	Feeding the fishes – emptying heads when at sea!	Cooking meals and boating in the dinghy	Knots
Tymon	Seasickness & Soup	Helming & boating in the dinghy	Knots
Daniil	Early morning starts, cold swimming and fear of seals!	Rope work and all of the sailing	Lots about sailing and how to moor.
Peta	Berth & head accommodation	Spending an incredible 5 days with 10 amazing Trainees – an absolute pleasure from start to finish.	About the challenges facing young Ukrainian people living here. They are all very thankful for the help but there are some big challenges with finding jobs as well as accommodation issues.



Poetry

A poem from a trainee on the Energia Ocean Science Voyage onboard The Pelican of London.

ENERGIA IRELAND STEM 2023

June 14th, 2023, the Pelican crew and Trainees did meet,

On St John Rogerson Quay Sail Training Ireland Cindy did greet

One Day in Dublin for safety stuff

How did Tamsin Not run out of Puff?

Met Captain Ben and all the crew.

The Trainees All scared but for a few
27 trainees were on this trip.

To mention you all I'll for surely slip.

From Dublin, Galway & Louth and a few more,

The county the best was Wexford for sure,

Ella, Moya, Katie x 2, Alannah, Anwim, and Bunny there too,

William, Magic, Hamish, Noah, Andrew, Dylan, and Aodhan there to,

Shana, Shauna, Seanna, a name no one could pronounce,

Brogan, then Olivia looking a Chinese just by chance,

I'm sorry Eesam my spellings not great.

Odin, Fergus, Daniel they were as big as a gate,

Aaron, Elek, Shane, there to

I think have you all, let me now stew,

Oh the Bray boys Robert & Daniel the brothers Grim,

They helped Cindy with her computer Sim.

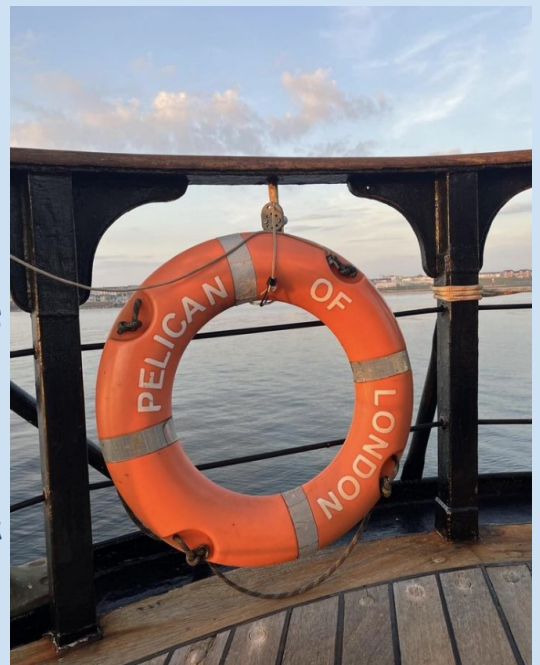
What can we say about Cindy the boss,

Without her Sail Training Ireland would be at a loss,

Then there's Anita now what can I say

Our Mother Hen at the end of the day

Then there was Dr Go pro, Sean now he was a pet,



Poetry

A poem from a trainee on the Energia Ocean Science Voyage, continued

He gave all pouches, so our phone didn't get wet,

To all the young people I met on this trip,

It was so short it was only a skip,

Before I now finish this rubbish of mine,

To thank one more person it's not a crime,

To Shell in the Galley, she is not thick.

To keep us all fed was no Magic trick,

To the Pelican crew we're sorry to part

We thank you all from bottom of our heart,

Sindy, Anita to Sail Training Ireland ABU

Energia Ireland we are so grateful to you,

Goodbye My new friends to you one and all.

Be Gora this Voyage be great we had a ball.

Uncle Bobbaaaaa`



Voyage Photos



Climbing the rigging of The Pelican of London.

North bank of the River Lee as seen from the deck of the Maybe.



Dolphins swimming alongside.

Black & White photo of the Pelican of London



Voyage Photos

The most important task of the day!

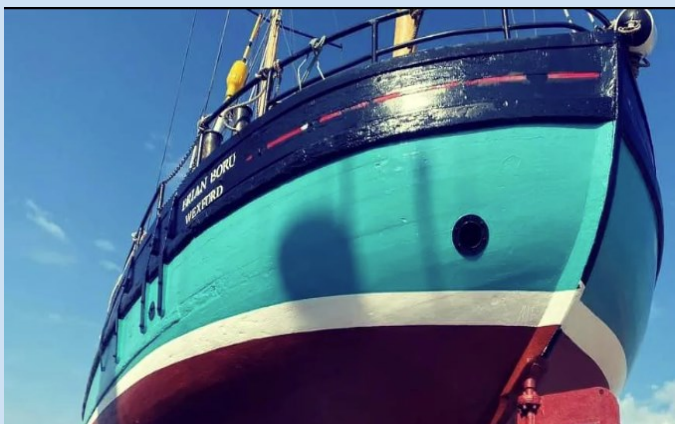


Some of our Erasmus Trainees from Malta prepare to board the Pelican of London for a week of adventure.



Voyage Photos

Some of our vessels!



Lord Mayor's Award

In 2023 Sail Training Ireland was the recipient of one of Dublin's Lord Mayor's Awards. These awards are presented to recipients honoured for their contribution to Dublin Society. We are delighted and humbled to receive this award, which has pride of place in our office.

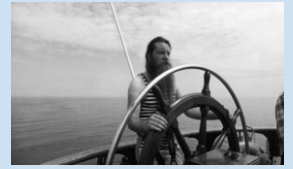


Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy presents the award certificate to Daragh Sheridan, CEO and Sindy Offer, Manager Trainee Programme.



Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and Daragh Sheridan, CEO, on the steps of Dublin's Mansion House.

Our Hero Mentors



We here at Sail Training Ireland would like to recognise the incredible work our volunteer mentors do, without whom we could not deliver the programmes that we do.

They give their personal time so generously to make sure there is always a helping hand and friendly ear available to all our trainees on all our voyages. All of our mentors undergo a rigorous training programme and Garda vetting before they can sail with us. This year we trained thirty two mentors with a further twenty five already signed up for the 2024 training.



In memory of some friends we lost this year.

We learned of the death of Sean Flood, who passed away recently at the age of 91. Sean had Sail Training in his blood. He was an International Goodwill Ambassador for Sail Training International; a former Council member of the Irish Dinghy Racing Association and the Irish Sailing Association; a former Director of Coiste an Asgard; former Country Representative Sail Training International; a founder Director of Sail Training Ireland; an International Irish Sailing representative; a retired Irish Naval Reserve Officer; the Founder, Chairman / Director / CEO of the Chubb Ireland Security Group.



You can read more about Sean and his long and interesting life in this comprehensive article on [Afloat](#).

We received the awful news recently that Mary Borland was killed in a tragic accident in Donegal. All here at STIrl were heartbroken to hear this news.

Mary was an amazing lady and we have been very fortunate to work closely with her over the years to make sail training opportunities available to young people in Donegal. She really embraced the sail training ethos, and her commitment and dedication to placing young people on voyages knew no bounds. Seeing the positive impact the experience had on her own sons Killian and Kai ,



she has motivated, and encouraged young people to avail of all the opportunities offered through Sail Training Ireland. She received our Outstanding Contribution Award in 2019 for all of her efforts to help young people.

Our thoughts are with Mark, Killian, and Kai at his time. Rest in Peace Mary.

OUR SPONSORS

To date, Sail Training Ireland with the support of our generous sponsors have placed over 3,462 young people from the island of Ireland on board tall ships



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