

NEIC Sail Training Voyages 2024











The fifth NEIC Sail Training project took place this Summer. Thirty people from the Northeast Inner City of Dublin took part in this year's Sail training voyages. In a departure from previous years the Over 18 group went on a number of different voyages rather than a single voyage. The Under 18s went on a weeklong voyage aboard the tall ship Pelican of London. As usual the participants had the fantastic opportunity to become part of the working crew of a tall ship as trainees.

In addition, this year the Under 18 group got to participate in Sail Training Ireland's Ocean Science programme while on their voyage. This innovative programme developed by scientist Dr Charlotte Braungardt from our partner Seas Your Future teaches STEM at Sea by means of onboard workshops and experiments.

The Under 18 voyage started and finished in Dun Laoghaire with the Over 18's starting and finishing in Dublin port. The participants were nominated for places by various youth and community groups from the NEIC.

This opportunity was made possible by funding support from Dublin City Council and the Northeast Inner City (NEIC) Programme Office, with trainee recruitment coordinated by Sail Training Ireland. The programme is also supported by the Department of Defence, Dublin Port Company, and Dublin City Council.





NEIC

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





RECRUITING THE TRAINEES

The participants were nominated by community and youth organisations in the NEIC. The following organisations submitted nominations:

- · Bradog Youth Services
- · Swan Youth Services
- North Strand Sea Scouts
- · East Wall Youth Club
- INOU Shaping Futures

- · INOU Building Futures
- Richmond Cottages Residents Community Group
- · The Cavan Centre
- The Talbot Centre



THE VOYAGES



Over 18's Voyage

The majority of the Over 18 group went out on the Tall Ship Maybe in June with the balance going out on voyages aboard Pelican of London in August.

The Maybe voyage ran from the 16th of June to 21st of June 2024 and included visits to Port St Mary and Douglas in the Isle of Man and Holyhead before returning to Dublin.



Under 18's Voyage

The Under 18s started and finished in Dun Laoghaire and ran from the 24th of September to the 29th of September and included stops on the Welsh coast.



AWARDS CEREMONY



Trainees and supporters at the Awards ceremony.

On October 16th, an awards ceremony was held in the National College of Ireland in the IFSC for all the participants. The trainees were awarded Sail Training Ireland certificates in front of family members, friends, and the supporters of the project.

As ever the highlight of the evening was hearing from the participants speak on how the voyages had impacted them. We heard fantastic stories from John Kane, Jacqueline (Jacko) Gorman and Shannon and Saoirse Fallon.



SOME COMMENTS ON THE EXPERIENCE.

"During this voyage I became more resilient and learned many skills like communications and working with others, all while having a great time aboard"

"The overall voyage experience was brilliant, I got to climb the mast and made loads of new friends"

"It was a fun experience and I don't regret anything, would just prefer if it lasted a small bit longer because eight days felt like three days".

"I can honestly say that I loved every single minute of my time on the TS Maybe. My sister sailed as a trainee on a tall ship when she was 16 and ended up pursuing a navy career as a result. I can only feel relieved for my mother that I was an adult before I experienced the magic of being on a tall ship - otherwise she could have lost a second daughter to the sea! I now completely understand how a trip with Sail Training Ireland can be life-changing. I will be eternally grateful to the NEIC for affording me this amazing opportunity which has created lifelong memories and lifelong learnings".

Sail Training Ireland

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