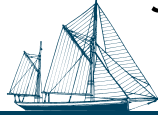


Trinity Sailing Trust



ANNUAL REPORT 2003

This past year was one in which the successes of 2002 were consolidated and built upon.

In terms of sail training, the demand for what the Trust does continues to grow, and the results we achieved have been extremely good, with very positive comments and reports from both the young people who have sailed with us, and their group leaders.

In 2003 we took 460 young people to sea, up 70 on the previous year. The prospects for

2004 are even better. With sailing programmes already almost full before the start of the season we had a total of 553 due to sail with us. That is an increase of more than 40% in two years, an encouraging trend.

We have come a long way since operations began in 1999. Trinity is now well established as one of the leading sea training organisations in the U.K., a position underpinned by full R.Y.A. recognition as a sail training establishment and membership of the Association of Sea Training Organisations (A.S.T.O.)

We rely greatly on feedback in judging the effectiveness of our work and in finding ways of adding to the experience and refining proven methods. That feedback comes partly from

who accompany them and the organisations from which they are drawn.

Some is in the form of letters written after the event; other comments are drawn from the logbooks we encourage people to compile during their time with us. We learn an enormous amount from these comments, and include a selection in the report as the best measure of the benefits that offshore sea training on our particular type of traditional vessel can bring. In order to respect the privacy of the young people their names have been changed.

Although we believe that sea training of any kind can be extremely beneficial to young people, and especially to the disadvantaged, we remain convinced that the environment on board our vessels 'Leader', 'Provident' and 'Golden Vanity' offers an extra dimension. Sailing them requires teamwork, and they are big enough to represent a real challenge, yet small enough to enable youngsters to participate in every aspect of the ship's life, and create an intimate atmosphere on board which helps engender a genuine affinity between young people, group leaders and our own crew.

It is often remarkable to see what can be



Golden Vanity



It is my sincere and genuine feeling that more can be achieved with our emotionally and behaviourally challenged children in a week on the boat than in months in school.

I wanted to let you know how very much we all enjoyed the experience. The children gained an enormous amount, not just in sailing but in living together at close quarters, and in what it means to work together to achieve a goal.

Some of our children are very volatile and find it difficult to tolerate each other, adults and the pressures of school work without showing what is euphemistically called challenging behaviour. None of this was apparent during the week, and this was very much due to the relaxed but businesslike way the boat is run. At no time did the kids feel threatened in any way, and even when uncomfortable and sometimes unpleasant work was required your blend of persuasion and expectation always seemed to do the trick. It is a great skill.

Alex Double, Assistant Head Teacher
Woodeaton Manor Residential School
(for children with emotional problems)

I learned a lot from all the things we did. I also got a chance to understand how some things can make you realise that you can change the way you think, and your life as well. I really can't explain how thankful I am.

Alan

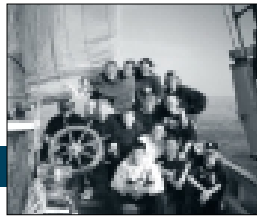
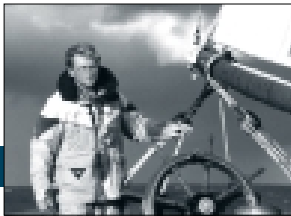
This has been an emotional and mind-changing trip. I've become more confident in myself, this being the way I act and the way I really want to portray myself. When I came on the boat I was depressed, with no sense of direction. Things were at an all-time low, with no way forward.

Within the space of a few days I feel I have a huge and wide future with so many opportunities ahead of me.

The best thing is, I forgot my anti-depressants when I came, and this has made me realise that I don't need them to make my life change. I am a strong person and I have learned that my problems aren't mountains, they are just molehills that only become mountains if I let them. So when I step off this boat I am going to be a new person with a completely different outlook. Thank you so much.

Susan

internal reports by ships' crews, but largely from the young people themselves, the adults



achieved in a week, and satisfying to learn afterwards that the benefits can be sustained in

the longer term.

Well, having to get up after three hours' sleep was tough, but I'm glad we did it. I think we are all still getting on really well. There haven't been any arguments. We worked so well as a team. It is good we can do this, and have kept it up. Loved every minute so far, and looking forward to each day as it comes. We have learned so much, which is great for us.

This is one of the best experiences I have ever had. You guys are the people that made it worthwhile and possible. You have not only been our crew but have treated us like friends as well. Thanks for making us so welcome.

Kate

Meeting the demand has not always been easy, but so far we have managed in terms of both funding the activities and finding the capacity to cope with the numbers.

We have undoubtedly reached a point at which there is a greater demand than can be satisfied by our three existing vessels. That has made it necessary to charter other vessels to supplement them. In 2003 we chartered a fourth vessel for eight weeks of the season, but in order to cope

with demand for 2004 we have had to charter two vessels for a total of 20 weeks, not far short of a full season of 26 to 28 weeks.

Finding suitable vessels is not easy; they are few and far between and their availability is uncertain. Chartering is also costly.

At the beginning of 2003 the Trustees reviewed progress since Trinity's inception and gave careful thought to the Trust's future development.

Three key areas emerged as being important.

These were to:

- 1. Develop our own fund-raising capabilities for sail training. At present we raise a modest but very useful amount each year in the form of grants and donations by our own efforts. However, most funding comes from third party sources. If it were to**

be withdrawn the demand for what we do would still exist, as would the vessels, but

the finance would be missing. So, we need to raise more money by our own efforts.

2. Plan to meet an anticipated increase in demand to 750 places a year within the near future

3. Raise funds with which to acquire a fourth and similar vessel, and to complete the restoration and fitting out of the existing ones.

All are basically in a very sound condition, but it is inevitable that from time to time major projects will need to be carried out. That puts a strain on resources if the money has to come out of what we earn. Our aim over the next 2-3 years is to 'get ahead of the game' - to do everything that needs doing, so there should be no need for major expense for a period of 10-20 years to come.

The Trustees recognised that we lack the expertise to tackle these challenges unaided, and decided to seek expert assistance. As a result we engaged Tony Bateson of The Community Guild as a part-time consultant. Tony specialises in helping newer charities put themselves on a sound footing.

A strategy for Trinity's future development was mapped out, the most important aspect of

Our population consists of children with moderate learning difficulties, plus some with physical disabilities, behavioural problems or autism. All participated in the voyages.

They have a longing for adventure that they often express in risky or anti-social activities. Sailing on Golden Vanity shows them adventure may be open to them in an acceptable way.

Almost universally they have a poor self-image and self-confidence. Beforehand, they are worried about a host of things, and about how they will cope. Afterwards they go on to tackle new experiences with confidence, knowing they have succeeded in a very challenging situation

Most impressive of all, they have to take responsibility for each other, to trust each other and earn respect. Things like keeping watch while others sleep brings it home that their efforts are essential to the well-being of all. This is a new experience; they have never been trusted with such responsibility.

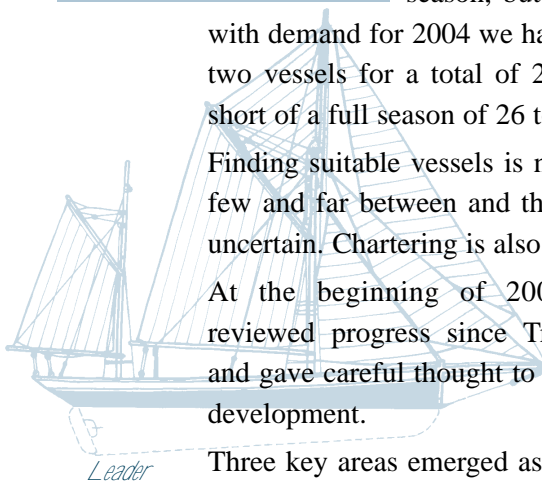
Martin Gresswell
Combe Pafford Special School

It's time to say goodbye now. I've had the most amazing time, thanks to all of you. I've finally learned the lesson about containing my feelings and bottling things up. Everybody has helped each other through this, and that's what has made it so enjoyable. I believe everybody has gained greatly out of this experience. Not what I expected at all.

Susie

Thank you for the amazing voyages our students have enjoyed. Our staff are sure the experience has been beneficial in all sorts of ways - boosting self-esteem, promoting teamwork, enhancing responsibility-taking skills - the list goes on. The feedback has been very positive.

Pat Bowrey
Tutorial Unit



Leader



All of the young people had an amazing experience sailing to Scotland. They really got the most out of it, helping run the boat, setting sails, steering, keeping watch. It has enabled us to widen their horizons of expectation. Some of the youngsters had never been out of their home area before. The trip opened up views of the possibilities they have for their futures.

Clancy Copley
Connexions Service

I'm really going to miss it when I leave. I didn't think I would get on with everyone the way have, because I never really got on with people at school so I tended not to join in even though I wanted to, because I was too scared. They wouldn't like me and I'd get picked on. Thanks to the crew I feel more confident with people again.

Karen

The whole week has been absolutely amazing! I've done so much stuff I didn't realise I was capable of, and seen two sunrises. It's been hard work, but the time's flown past and I don't really want to go home. This was definitely the best time of my life.

Beth

We are due back home tomorrow; I can't wait to tell everyone what an experience I have had. You would have to be here to understand the time and effort it takes, and teamwork is essential.

Nat

Everyone was at very close quarters on board the ship. There was no place to run or hide. This meant everyone had no choice but to get on, or resolve the issues concerned. This (not running away) was I think another new experience for some.

We saw the young people changing from day to day, and sometimes hour to hour, due to feeling more comfortable with others, or learning new skills. Some adapted quicker than others, but they all helped each other. The feedback afterwards confirmed the benefit and difference the experience had made to their lives this summer, and hopefully for the future. There was a feeling of achievement and learning. We do not think this is a trip anyone who took part will ever forget.

Leigh Arscott and Stephan Evans
Youth Leaders

I learned a lot about working as a team, how to be my own person, and how to accept criticism.

Fiona

A great week. When we got to Exeter Services on the return journey the entire group begged us to turn the clock back and start the week again. Whether it was what they learned about sailing, about teamwork, about themselves or about anger management in a confined living space, each of our young people gained a lot from the week.

Alex Ballard
Connexions Service

Being "thrown together" fostered a sense of teamwork, facilitated by the staff and youth workers. The experience compelled them to reflect on their behaviour as individuals and as a group. The process has continued since their return.

They had not anticipated the closed nature of the environment. However, this proved to be an important contributory factor to the success of the week. They have developed a respect for others' space and feelings. They now appreciate how much they gained from the experience.

They learned a great deal about having to understand and carry out instructions in a timely and cooperative manner.

This element had not been anticipated.

Youth worker



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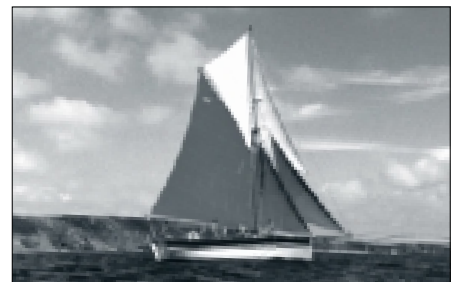
Leader

Brixham sailing trawler, built in 1892



Provident

Brixham sailing trawler, built in 1924



Golden Vanity

Gaff cutter, built in 1908

The Trinity Sailing Trust is a registered charity number 1076538

Trustees: Jean Border Struan Coupar Tony Knights Nick Walker Howard Young Secretary: Struan Coupar