

# Newsletter—December 2014

[www.cirdantrust.org](http://www.cirdantrust.org)



## 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a very busy season with all three vessels in operation throughout. We were sorry to see Clare Wincza, skipper of QG, hang up her oilskins in May for a land based career but we did welcome her back as relief skipper in August and hope to see her again next year. The vessels are now out of operation for their routine winter maintenance to ensure they are ready for 2015.

Cirdan's retired Chief Executive, Nick Back was honoured with an MBE at the start of the year for his service to young people. Nick who has dedicated over 20 years to Cirdan's work and is also on the board of ASTO (Association of Sail Training Organisations) received his MBE from HRH Prince William in March.



Both Queen Galadriel and Duet participated in the Sail Training International's Falmouth to Greenwich Tall Ships' Regatta. The race in early September was from Falmouth to St Catherine's Point on the Isle of Wight following which the international fleet of over 40 vessels, sailed in company up The Thames to Royal Greenwich. The force 4-5 westerly winds got the vessels off to a good start but the light airs in the final stages presented a challenge to many of the vessels with a number of them having to finish at sea (including QG). Not so for 102 year old Duet which, with some fantastic team work from the Enfield volunteer police cadets, crossed the line after 37 hours, coming first in her class and winning overall on corrected time by 13 minutes.

### *Duet crew with their well earned trophies*



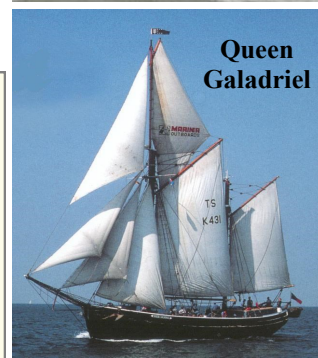
Following the race, Duet and Queen Galadriel, sailed to Royal Greenwich for a maritime festival and the prize giving which took place on the lawn of the Queen's House, close to the National Maritime Museum. HRH the Countess of Wessex attended the event and Duet's crew were among sailors and young trainees to be introduced to the royal visitor. The whole experience was one they will never forget.



*HRH Countess of Wessex with Duet crew*



**Duet**



**Queen Galadriel**



**Faramir**

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**It was an experience they will never forget. I've seen a huge positive difference in all who attended. They feel inspired to live life to the full and grasp any opportunity that comes their way. - Foyer leader**



Little Haven's trainees won QG's Meal of the Week competition for the second year running - this time with a tasty and well-dressed Mexican theme.



### *A tight squeeze for Faramir in the Crinan canal*

complete the race, they did return to school with the Bloodhound Trophy awarded by ASTO and the other competitors for spirit of the race.

In June, Faramir made her way to Glasgow to participate in the Clyde Small Ships' Race. Three separate youth organisations sailed the passages from Hartlepool to Oban via the Caledonian and Crinan canals and another three groups sailed back with a seventh, Mathew Moss School participating in the event itself. Their week's voyage included activities laid on by ASTO to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and of course the race itself. Whilst the group did not manage to

Cirdan supporters Sally and Rupert Faure-Walker boosted the Trust's funds by over £4,000 by hosting a fashion show in a marquee in their garden where guests were invited to stroll in the sunshine before being served a splendid lunch prepared by a small committee of supporters who worked tirelessly to ensure the guests were well looked after. Following the lunch a show of smart and casual clothes were modelled by volunteers whose make up and hair was expertly done by local students.



**It changes lives.....when you first start the voyage you're arrogant and think you know it all but after a week of growing up you're different." - Sharlie from Norfolk**

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Charity No: 1091598



## What We Do

A voyage with Cirdan encourages young people to accept personal responsibility whilst confronting the demands and challenges of life at sea. The on board experience boosts self-esteem, increases self-confidence, builds team spirit and promotes motivation. The professional crew work with the group leaders to gain the best from their young people so that they can build on the developments made once back on dry land. To ensure we can offer the experience to all those who wish to benefit, we operate the Voyage of Discovery Fund to subsidise the cost of voyage fees for those groups that can't raise sufficient funds through their own resources.

Contact us on 01621 776684 for details.



## Our 2015 Season Plans

**Queen Galadriel** - After leaving her mud berth in Maldon in April, QG will spend the spring sailing from Ipswich before heading down to the South Coast to sail from Gosport. Her voyages in general will be coastal but when the weather and sea conditions are favourable she might head across the Channel to France or the Channel Islands. We would also like QG to participate in the ASTO Small Ship Race in Cowes so call us now if you are interested.

**Faramir** - The first few months of Faramir's season will be on the East Coast from where she can easily sail to Holland or Belgium if the conditions allow. For those groups not wishing to travel so far, there will be plenty of voyages along the East and South East Coasts visiting the historic and commercial ports as well as the more isolated backwaters and bays.

**Duet** - This season Duet will be sailing mostly from the East Coast and the crew have already identified a number of Old Gaffer regattas that she could take part in as part of her normal sailing schedule for young people and any interested adult groups. She will also run her limited series of voyages suitable for students looking for an exciting residential for their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

**Voyage of Discovery Fund** - Most youth groups and special needs adult groups can access our Voyage of Discovery Fund to help cover the costs of their voyage. The level of support will depend upon the group's particular needs and our success at raising money for the scheme. Feedback from groups and young people who have been supported through the fund on previous voyages is vital to this success so we are always pleased to hear from anyone who feels their voyage with Cirdan has made a difference.



**Queen Galadriel Deck Replacement Project** - We had hoped to start QG's much needed deck replacement project this winter but we are still working hard at raising the funds—in the region of £160,000. We are about half way there and feel confident that our target will be reached in time to undertake the project next winter. If you would like to make a donation to this project or our work in general we would be pleased to hear from you or you can donate directly via the Cirdan website or our Justgiving page.

**Cirdan Ambassadors** play an important role in helping us to raise our profile and this year amongst those who have accepted our invitation to take on the role is TV & film actor Patrick Malahide. Patrick, who is often seen on the screen as a 'body', and recently played Balon Greyjoy in the popular series Game of Thrones, has been a keen supporter of the Trust for a number of years.



**Membership Scheme**— Anyone can apply for membership of our scheme to become an official Cirdan supporter. Members pay just £20 a year plus any additional contribution they may wish to give. All the proceeds from the scheme help to further our work with disadvantaged young people. In return, apart from our gratitude, members will receive our Newsletters, advance notice of any special adult voyages and the opportunity to help out with the occasional delivery voyage. For more information please contact us.



*Fun on the River Clyde*

*"It has been a very up and down emotional ride for me but it has helped me have time to reflect on what I need to start to move things forward or else I might as well be in the middle of the sea forever" - Thomas, YMCA*

**"I will honestly never forget it and I am sad to leave." – Alexandra, Colne Valley**

**General Fund Raising** — In addition to our ongoing fund raising strategy to raise money for the Voyage of Discovery Fund, & deck project we already have a number of fund raising initiatives and events in place thanks to our supporters and volunteer committees. Contact us for details

- The first of these is 'A Taste of Italy' - a cookery demonstration hosted by Ursula Ferringo. This event at £30 a head will be at the Blacwater Sailing Club, Essex on 12 March 2015 and includes coffee on arrival plus lunch with a glass of bubbles.
- Trustee, Charles Anderson has been accepted to run the London Marathon for us for the second time and is training hard.
- In June, Marconi Sailing Club will host the annual East Coast Piers Race from the River Blackwater in support of Cirdan and Essex Air Ambulance.
- On 19 July Cirdan's Summer Breeze Sportive and charity bike ride will take place starting in Heybridge, Essex. With the support of Athlon Sports we expect around 200 riders for this popular ride through the Essex countryside.
- The annual Little Britain Challenge Cup in Cowes will take place in September and we would encourage anyone connected with the construction industry to persuade their company to participate in this fantastic networking event.

We know supporter Keith Coleman is already planning his annual Garden Party on our behalf and would encourage more supporters to organise their own events such as coffee mornings & sponsored challenges to boost our funds. Every little helps.

**The Cirdan Sailing Trust**

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