

## **EAST LANCASHIRE MASONIC CHARITY – VOYAGE FEEDBACK**

**Miles (17):** “I was nervous and apprehensive to begin with, but after day one I quickly realised that this was going to be a lot of fun. I have learnt teamwork, patience, co-operation and tolerance. My communication skills have increased as well.”

**About Miles:** “Miles showed real growth during this week. Sailing on a Challenger yacht presents many new experiences that are quite unfamiliar, many of which were well outside Miles’ comfort zone. Despite this, he has clearly gone further than even he thought possible, in particular when he climbed the mast whilst in Yarmouth. Thank you for all your efforts.”



**Benjamin (22):** “I have improved my communication and team working skills. I jumped into the experience full on and got the most I could possibly get back! Thank you!!”

**About Benjamin:** “Ben has been an invaluable member of the crew this week. He has thrown himself into all areas of sailing life, leading teams during deck pack away as well as a sail drop. Keen to volunteer for any and everything he has soaked up as much knowledge as he can from the Tall Ships staff. I hope to see him sailing with us as a volunteer soon. Well done!”

**Louie (17):** “The voyage opened my eyes to the life of the water, and I gained a lot of information. I also enjoyed the team working experience.”

**About Louie:** “Louie has been a fantastic addition to the crew this week. He got involved in all aspects of boat life with much enthusiasm. Although he struggled with the knots during the knot race, his perseverance paid off, and his learning around the boat has been fantastic. Well done, top effort Louie.”

**Kevin (18):** “This was a fantastic opportunity for us all to take part in. I have learnt to be clearer in my communication skills whilst being part of a team and making that teamwork.”

**About Kevin:** “Kevin has been a valuable team member of the crew this week, keeping a positive attitude throughout, and helping his teammates. He is clearly a quick learner, despite having come on the trip with no prior knowledge of sailing. Thank you for all your efforts.”

**Leo (17):** “My voyage was an exhilarating, interest and challenging learning experience. I have learnt navigational skills, leadership and the ability to adapt to any situation.”

**About Leo:** “Leo was very enthusiastic and keen to learn new skills. He settled into boat life really easily and was always willing to help out when asked, it was a pleasure to sail with him. He would take charge and tell others how to do things and I would love to see him come back as a volunteer.”

**Sebastian (18):** “This was an unforgettable experience that has changed the way I see things. I have learnt that it is important to have teamwork in a pressurised environment.”

**About Sebastian:** “Seb is a real character and a pleasure to have on board. A valued member of the crew, he was always willing to help on deck and below. He enjoyed cooking and volunteered to cook most meals. I hope he will use the skills he learnt going forward. Thanks for all your efforts.”



**Lydia (19):** “It was an incredible experience that everyone should do at least once. I learnt that communication is vital to a good team and everyone chipping in to help, but also having good relationships with the group.”

**About Lydia:** “Lydia’s enthusiasm is outstanding; I’ve never seen anyone haul ropes for as long and she was very good at organising others to do the same. Her approach to learning was excellent and she clearly really enjoyed the voyage. Lydia should keep sailing and develop her skills further.”

**Eleanor (23):** “It has been a fun, engaging, educational trip. I have learnt to be clear in my communication and I have also learnt patience.”

**About Eleanor:** “Eleanor was very chatty, friendly, and got involved in all tasks both on deck and below. It was a pleasure to meet her; she enjoyed sweating the sails and was a valued member of the crew. Eleanor is a good communicator and used this to engage with the rest of the crew. Thanks for your efforts this week.”

**Alicia (12):** “I had a great time learning and trying out new things on the voyage. My teamwork and communication skills have improved.”

**About Alicia:** “Alicia was one of the quieter members of crew but has really grown in confidence over the week and has achieved things she never thought possible. She became more involved as the week went on and was always happy to take part in all duties both above and below decks.”

**Harry (12):** “I wanted to go on the voyage as it was an exciting opportunity to do something out of my comfort zone. I really enjoyed the experience. The things I have learnt are to have more confidence in talking and more confidence in teamwork skills.”

**About Harry:** “Harry was one of the youngest members of the crew and had to work hard to keep up with the older and bigger members. Despite this he held his own and gained much from being stretched on a long voyage which he has really enjoyed. It has been a pleasure sailing with you this week, Harry. You got stuck in and tried your best at all the tasks given to you. I hope you will sail with us again soon. Thanks for your efforts.”

**Cairon, Group Leader:** “Our Skipper was fantastic. He welcomed us and made sure everyone was included. He communicated well with me throughout the voyage to make sure the experience was as enjoyable as possible. We had a mix of guides, scouts, explorer scouts and network scouts on board, some of which were doing the voyage for their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residential. The aim was for everyone to work with and meet new people, enjoy the experience and learn new skills. The unexpected benefits of the voyage were the opportunity to do night sailing and a birthday card and cake for a young person who had their birthday whilst on board! It’s a fantastic experience.”

## **VOYAGE BLOG EXTRACTS**

**Day One:** I did not have high expectations for the trip. I had never been sailing before and assumed it would not be my type of adventure. But as soon as I stepped foot on deck, I have enjoyed every moment onboard. The members of Tall Ships Youth Trust are such welcoming people and have made every minute of this trip fun.

I have learnt so much already, I have finally started to adapt my geography skills. A day into my adventure and I have never underestimated a trip this much.

From Portsmouth we sailed along the Jurassic Coast to Cowes, we managed to set up one sail and get an idea what our week would entail. From Cowes we then travelled over to Weymouth and was fortunate to experience ideal winds for sailing, we have now settled in Weymouth and have settled down nicely to some fish and chips.



**Day Two:** We started the day around 07:00, minus a couple of crew members who were abruptly awoken by a blaring alarm at 05:00 and most were still tired due to the early start from the previous day. This meant certain members were rather grumpy, namely me (Sebastian) and Ellie!

Breakfast, prepared by the Port watch and Sharon (who is our boat's brilliantly helpful volunteer Watch Leader) consisted of pastries and cereals. We then set up for departure which was around 09:00.



Today's voyage was extremely eventful as we journeyed west along the Jurassic coast. The waters were very calm for the first leg of the journey, but quickly roughened up as we found ourselves merrily tacking through the channel.

This challenged some crew members' stomachs, and the choppy sea also attacked our Skipper, as the only large wave of the day soaked him through!

We then approached Weymouth and had a difficult time docking as the space was narrow. I took charge of the roving fender to protect the port side of the hull. I succeeded and we are still floating now. We enjoyed the rest of the day by spending the time exploring and some people even braved the water and went for a swim at the beach. We ate a delicious dinner and rested up!

**Day Three:** We had another great day. We started by waking up for 07:00 with no interruptions in the night. At about 08:00 we took on 1342 litres of fuel, while the crew had cereal for breakfast. The Starboard Watch then prepped the deck while the Port Watch cleaned.

We left Weymouth around 09:00 and soon after put the mainsail up. After a short hot chocolate break we then hoisted the Yankee and Staysail with no issues. We then had a calm but chilly voyage to the Needles.

During this we had lunch consisting of afternoon tea for the Jubilee. This was amazingly prepared by Cairon and Sharon while the ship was turned at a steep 30-degree angle. Shortly after lunch we put the front sails down, which meant a few of the crew got soaked by the waves as we had to fold the sails and make sure they did not go into the brink.

Soon after we reached the 'Hurst Narrows' where we saw a fleet of racing yachts, which the Skipper was not happy about because we had to give way to them. As time drew on, we neared the harbour but here we reached a dilemma, we still had the mainsail hoisted!

The Skipper skilfully stopped the ship, while the crew lowered the sail under the direction of Adam the Mate. This went smoothly overall as the crew worked together to fold the sail over the boom with help from Leo to pull the sail down as he had climbed the mast.

At around 17:00 we rafted with our fellow crew on Challenger 3, at the end of the marina as there was no space in the centre. After we covered the mainsail, the crew went into the town to try and get ice cream, very sadly this mission was unsuccessful, so we got brownies, cheesecake and J20 instead.

After a wonderful dinner, the Starboard Watch finished tidying the deck, we then lowered the ensign to some music and then watched the military band march past.

**Day Four:** Today was our fourth day on the boat. We started the day docked up in Yarmouth with some delicious bacon and egg butties. The crew then started the day with some very fun activities, which included mast climbing. The majority of the team climbed all the way to the top of the mast, while others were hesitant but offered lots of support from the deck.

After all the fun, we set off to our next destination, which was Osbourne Bay. We decided to dock up in the middle of the coast for lunch and some activities. The team split up and half helped out on deck, while the others prepared ravioli Bolognese. We ate together on deck and took in the beautiful view before us.

The Skipper then had another fun challenge planned for us. He had set up the Spinnaker pole and challenged us all to climb it. Many brave volunteers fought through the wind and conquered the pole.

We then split up to prepare tea of sausage and mash. We ate together while chatting about the fun things we had done this week.

During tea, a Pan Pan report came over the radio, a boat nearby had experienced an engine failure, this was a great opportunity for the Skipper to show us how he would respond to a report like this. Fortunately there was another boat close by and the issue was resolved.

It was then time for the night sail, everyone was really excited and curious to see how sailing may differ to sailing during the day. We dressed up in our waterproofs and headed out on deck. It was surprising to see how poor visibility was at night, even with the lights on. This opportunity allowed us to fully understand the importance of good communication in the team and a keen eye, in order to keep everyone safe. It was very enjoyable until the rain came and everyone got a little damp. Thankfully, it wasn't long until we docked for the night and were able to get a nice hot shower and get to bed.

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