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**Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust**

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Outdoor activities centre  
RYA training centre

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15th October 2020

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole-Mackintosh  
The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights  
Ironmongers' Hall  
Shaftesbury Place  
London  
EC2Y 8AA

27 OCT 2020

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Cole-Mackintosh,

With the autumn term now well underway, I just wanted to take the opportunity to write and update you on all that is happening at Fellowship Afloat.

**This year...**

... has not been the year any of us were expecting here. Our 2020 calendar was one of the busiest ever and we were excitedly looking forward to welcoming thousands of guests onboard, as well as working alongside our wonderful volunteers.

After a busy start to the season, lockdown caused a sudden end to the adventures and fun onboard and like many, initially, we expected to be welcoming groups back by the summer. As guidance changed it became clear that our offering would be limited and many of the groups who had booked opted to cancel or move their bookings to 2021. We are pleased that we have been able to refund all those who did not have insurance. Our new activity team has just arrived and we have lots of training planned before the November bookings, our hope is that at least some of these will still feel able to come.

**Trinity3**

Our project, to improve and transform our lightvessel, *Trinity*, for the next 30 years of service, has been progressing well over the last few years and this time a year ago we were ambitiously hoping to merge phase 4 & 5 into one. As it happened, our contractors were juggling other commitments, and it became clear that we would not be able to achieve that. We were able to do all the structural & background work to prepare for the new accommodation, so it could be fitted out later in the year.

Covid-19 inadvertently provided an opportunity to do that work onboard earlier than expected. So, since the start of the summer we have handed over the ship to our contractors to complete the six extra ensuite cabins (one with greater accessibility) so they will be completed later this autumn. This will not only increase our capacity – to 48 beds – but also provide more comfort and greater flexibility in how we serve our guests during and after this pandemic. We have the majority of the funds in place and are working hard to secure the remaining £65k of the £300k part of the project.

The final phase of the project has been costed at just over £150k and we hope that the work can start in November 2021, subject to funding. The programme of work includes updating the galley kitchen and wash-up area, refurbishing the saloon as well as installing a new entrance to the lightship.

### **Looking Ahead**

Obviously, the pandemic has resulted in a significant loss of expected income but we have worked hard to limit the impact on our finances. We have reduced costs where we can without disabling us for the return of groups. We have made good use of earmarked Covid grants and are working on contingency plans if 2021 bookings can't go ahead. This is a long-haul situation and it is vital we are there, able to help grow & invest in young people when it ends. So, we are determined to see this pandemic through with our staff and resources intact, as far as possible, and are confident that with good planning, careful stewardship of our resources and support from Grant Making Trusts we can continue to provide life-giving adventures for many years to come.

We are so thankful for all we have been able to achieve this year despite the disruption of Covid. We will update you again in Lightwaves when it comes out in the New Year.

Thank you for taking the time to read our news – the FACT team are all delighted to be part of an extended family, which includes the Grant Making Trusts that have supported us. We celebrate your support and encouragement.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew".

**Andrew Eastham**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust