



2021: A YEAR OF KINDNESS

As we end the year with the pandemic still hanging around our necks like a dead albatross, I'm struck by how much hope can be generated by acts of kindness.

This has been a milestone year for the Trust: on Thursday 16th September we celebrated our 1000th new sailor introduced to the water when Tyler from Foxhole had his first lesson. Like those of the 999 sailors before him, that lesson was made possible by your kind support.



Tyler's headteacher, Tania Findlay MBE, said: "As well as getting children out in the fresh air having fun on the water, learning to sail brings a sense of achievement which helps build a child's independence and self-esteem, outcomes which are very important to us at Foxhole Learning Academy. Thanks to the Trust, we're able to offer sailing courses to all our children in Years 5 and 6."

Tyler, our 1000th new sailor.

As you know, the Trust is the only resource available to schools in the Roseland and in the Clay Country wishing to teach their children to sail. Children from poorer families would have no hope of taking to the water without your support.

This sailing season has been shot through with acts of kindness, giving us hope amidst the doom and gloom. This is a longer newsletter than usual, because so much has happened, but hopefully you'll find it inspiring. Or you can just look at the pictures!

We've had generous support from businesses and charities for the Schools Programme and for Project *Maybe*, our first major venture into post-school provision. We've had local organisations raising funds for us at their events and VIPs participating in ours. And we've had capital grants to build capacity for one of our delivery partners.

All this at zero cost to the Trust, so we can stand by our promise to you that 100% of your donation goes to getting children on the water.

Support for the Schools Programme

It all began in April, with good news for pupils at Restormel Academy, for whom **Rodda's** kindly agreed to fund lessons. Thank you Rodda's (thanks also for your jolly nice cream).



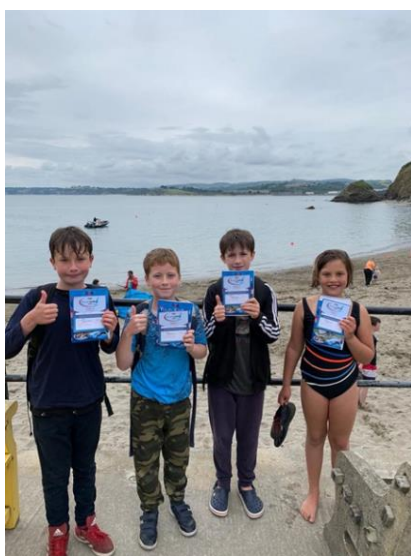
St Mawes schoolchildren at Percuil.

Good news also for St Mawes School, whom **Classic Cottages** kindly adopted for lessons this year. Managing Director Anthony Skitt said: "Our business and our visitors benefit from all that Cornwall has to offer and we are delighted to put something back into the community. Enabling Cornish children to learn to sail is a perfect way of doing that."

In May, **Superyacht Charities** told us they wanted to fund a year's sailing for a whole class. The Ospreys at Foxhole Learning Academy were the beneficiaries of that award. Chairman Derek Munro said: "Learning to sail teaches attitudes and skills of real value to children in their growth into confident young people. And with so many Cornish people working in the superyacht industry, getting RYA qualifications may one day help the children into quality jobs."



Foxhole Learning Academy Ospreys at Polkerris.



Reuben, Fin, Louie and Chloe proudly display their RYA Stage 2 certificates.

Throughout the season, children in six Clay Country schools took part in a pilot project focused on accelerating progress towards RYA Stages 1, 2 and 3 by learning in small groups of up to four children per instructor. Small-group instruction obviously costs more per child than whole-class tuition, so we sought special funding for that from two charities. **TK Foundation** is named for J. Torben Karlshoej, who founded the Teekay Shipping Company. Their mission is to enable disadvantaged youth to succeed. TK's kindness lives on. Since 2003 **Cornwall Community Foundation** have awarded £11 million of grants to 5,000 community projects. It started in 1998, when a small group of people got together to create funding for community self-help. An act of kindness which continues to generate hope 24 years later.

Getting children onto the water has been especially valuable during the pandemic. As Colum Taylor of Cornwall Community Foundation put it: “We know that children – especially those from disadvantaged families – have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, so getting physically and socially active again is important for their health and well-being.”

Of the 60 children targeted, 40 have so far participated (poor sailing weather in the autumn term didn't help) of whom 35 have achieved Stages 1, 2 or 3. The programme will continue in 2022.

So, huge thanks to Rodda's, Classic Cottages, Superyacht Charities, TK Foundation and Cornwall Community Foundation. Their contribution has added to the generous support we receive every year from donors like you.

Project *Maybe*

As you're aware, we'd set ourselves the goal of enabling continuity of provision into the 16-18 age group, to help young people get the attitudes, experience and skills needed for quality jobs in maritime and other industries. We took our first big step towards that this year.



24 metre gaff ketch 'Maybe' took part in the first International Tall Ships race in 1956.

When we heard that the Tall Ships were coming to Falmouth, we booked places aboard Tall Ship *Maybe* for 11 young people to take part in the race from Falmouth to Spain and sought sponsors for each place.

A big thank you to **CAD Architects, H Tiddy Estate Agents, Rotary Club of St Austell, St Just in Roseland Parish Council, St Mawes Pier & Harbour Company** and **St Mawes Sailing Club**, who each sponsored a place for one of the voyagers.

Thank you twice over to St Austell-based accountants **Phillips Frith** and to **Superyacht Charities**, who each sponsored places for two voyagers. Thanks to **Donal O'Halloran**, who covered the costs of photography and to photographer **Hamish Mitchell** for supplying his professional services at a reduced rate, to **Imerys** for paying other project costs and to **Classic Sailing** for waiving their fee in securing Tall Ship *Maybe*.

When the Tall Ships Race fell victim to the pandemic for the second year running, *Maybe* offered to take our venturers on a 10-day voyage instead. Despite the change of plan, our sponsors kindly confirmed their continued support so the expedition could go ahead. And

when afterwards we offered to return unspent funds (the original budget had included return travel from Spain), they generously told us to hang onto it to pay for more sailing lessons. Yet more kindness!



'The best 10 days of my life.'

The voyage was a huge success. On 18th August, *Maybe* sailed west from Falmouth to Scilly, then east to Hope Cove and back to Falmouth on 27th August. Our venturers covered 236 miles, working as a team day and night to hoist sails by hand, stand watch, cook meals, and clean the boat from stem to stern. They watched dolphins play, made new friends, learned new skills, and discovered new things about themselves. And when they got back, wanted to do it all over again.

The voyage was described by venturer Emily Stethridge as 'the best 10 days of my life', a sentiment that appeared to be shared by many of her shipmates. Venturer Charlie Bray said the experience had taught her 'you can do anything you put your mind to'.

It has given us renewed hope that young lives can be changed through sailing, that organizations in Cornwall are willing to support this kind of project and that there are likely to be many more young people eager to embrace the challenge of adventure at sea if we can provide the opportunity. It encourages us to do more in 2022 and beyond.



The two Joshes at the finish of their 200-mile ride.

Although places aboard *Maybe* were covered by sponsors, venturers were invited to do their bit to raise funds for the Trust, as a mark of appreciation and to help ensure that others have similar opportunities to experience sailing and adventure. Four venturers between them raised a staggering £3,000. **Bea Hetherington** gave up ice cream. **Oliver Pearson** took part in the 11 Tors Challenge on Dartmoor. And **Josh Kendle**

and **Josh Lewis** cycled round all 20 sailing clubs in Cornwall – a journey of 200 miles with 19,000 ft of climb. Acts of determination – and of kindness. Now Josh and Josh want the funds they raised to go to supporting another 16+ project in 2022, while Bea intends to spend a season on *Maybe* as volunteer crew.

Events

In June, the Tresanton Classics kindly chose to donate any profits from the event to RYST, raising £500. Thank you to **Lady Torpy** and to the good people of the **Rustler 24/Piper Association** for once again thinking of us.



Joy for visitors. Hard work for exhibitors.

In August, the **Port of Falmouth Sailing Association (PoFSA)** named RYST as their official charity for Falmouth Sailing Week, raising £710. Thanks to competitors and volunteers who donated and to **Coastland at Mylor** who auctioned a sail and stay experience.

In July, the **St Mawes and District Garden Society** Open Day created joy for visitors - and hard work for exhibitors. Throwing one's garden open to the public is not for the faint-hearted, requiring deep, deep wells of kindness. We thank exhibitors and organisers for their effort, which raised £1500 for the Trust.



Nigel Sharp of PoFSA (L) with Trustees Dina Wheatcroft and Mark Osborn. Picture credit: Jane Wright.



Children at Polkerris in G7 week.

Of course, the biggest event in Cornwall this year was the G7 Summit at Carbis Bay in June. That week, we took all 100 Foxhole Academy schoolchildren to Polkerris for a splash on the water and lessons in marine conservation. They learned about 'nurdles' (plastic detritus) and 'ghost nets' (discarded fishing gear) which pose threats to marine life. And they wrote a welcome message on the beach to world leaders: '*Dear G7 - welcome to Cornwall - please clean our oceans*'.



Steve Double MP at Polkerris.

Many thanks to **Steve and Anne Double** for taking time out of their busy diaries to join us at Polkerris. Steve Double is not only MP for St Austell but also has a national role as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ocean Conservation, so his participation was especially welcome. He said: "It was a wonderful morning and we both thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. I managed to get into the sea with the

children and Anne did some beach art. We also appreciated the opportunity of seeing what Susie and the team at Polkerris are seeking to achieve. A fantastic facility."

Capacity building

Sailing schools are our delivery partners in getting children onto the water and it's in the Trust's interest to help them grow, so far as we're able to, so that they can cater for more children as new schools join our programme (we now serve 20 schools). Bob Warren at Roseland Paddle & Sail only has so much resource he can put at our disposal in terms of instructors and kit. So, we were delighted when **Cornwall Community Foundation** invited us to apply for, not one, but two grants to purchase capital equipment. Look out for two brand-new Picos this summer at Percuil. We're grateful to Charles Campion of **Sailandsport.co.uk** for sourcing them for us at a discount. They were paid for by Cornwall Community Foundation in partnership with charity **Made by Sport** as part of their Clubs in Crisis initiative. Made by Sport raises awareness of the power of sport to change lives and raises funds for organizations doing that. We thank them.



We're also hoping to grow our support for the keenest sailors to progress beyond Stage 3. St Mawes Sailing Club offers the best weekend Junior Racing programme in the southwest and we'd like to enable young people in the Clay Country to participate. The challenge for the Trust is to find a way of getting them from the St Austell area to St Mawes and back again at weekends:

parents tend to be either reluctant or unable to provide transport. Any suggestions for how we might resolve that would be most welcome.

And finally...

...a message of hope from our ambassador **Jack Hawkins** of the British Sailing Team, who is kindly promoting the Trust, drawing on his personal experience of the transformational power of sailing.



Jack with Bea and Dina at St Just Church.

Jack joined *Maybe* venturers Bea Hetherington, Ben Harvey and Benjy Marsden when they gave presentations about the voyage at **St Just's Feast** in October and at **Rotary Club of St Austell** in November.

In preparation for his talk to the Rotary Club, considering what he would say about why he supports the work of the Trust, Jack had taken time to interview several fellow Olympic hopefuls after a meeting attended by all 60. He asked them about their journeys and discovered that nearly all had failed to complete their education. That

many, like Jack himself, had been challenged with issues such as ADHD, dyspraxia, or dyslexia. That for them, too, what had been a disadvantage at school became an advantage on the water. And that being part of one of the most successful Olympic sailing sports programmes of all time had, for each of them, begun with an opportunity when they were very young.

Every year your support creates new opportunities, and your kindness creates new hope.

Thank you and Happy Christmas!

Dina Wheatcroft

Chairman, Roseland Youth Sailing Trust

PS If you'd like to donate, you can do so easily and securely at www.ryst.org.uk/donate, where you can also add 25% more to your donation at no cost to you, simply by ticking the Gift Aid box.