

The Voyage of Discovery Funder Report 2025

The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Total Donation – £2,000

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for your support of our work and the donation of £2,000 in 2025. Your funds have been used for our Voyage of Discovery Fund scheme in support of the following group of young people who have benefitted from the Cirdan experience in the 2025 season.

East District Sea Cadets – £2,000



The East District Sea Cadets was a group made up of young people from the east of England who attend Norwich, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wisbech, Leicester and Boston (Lincolnshire) sea cadets.

The Sea Cadets aim to inspire young people to achieve their potential through challenge and nautical adventure guided by the customs and traditions of today's Royal Navy. The voyage contributes towards their ongoing learning and experience, enhancing self-confidence and self-reliance, whilst encouraging team work and promoting leadership plus a chance to gain RYA (Royal Yachting Association) accreditation.

The majority of the cadets on this voyage are from low-income families who would struggle to be able to find the means to cover the cost of their voyage. Amongst the group were young people who are experiencing mental health challenges, are Neurodiverse, physically disadvantaged, have special educational difficulties or generally have low self-esteem and confidence.

For most cadets this is the only chance they will have to experience an offshore voyage. This is an invaluable experience for them of not only the technical aspects of sailing, but also the skills of being away from home, including keeping things tidy, cooking/cleaning, living in close proximity to a number of others for a week and dealing with the challenges that brings. Most importantly though, as sea cadets it is also a chance for them to have fun and the enjoyment of the experience of sailing which will allow them to gain boating hours which then count towards progression to their next rank.

"If all young people had access to these opportunities, then the country would be a better place." – Group Leader

"The crew gave me so much courage and trust, now I can look at the world in a much more positive way. The best experience I have ever had in my life."

Jessica



Although the group were split across two of our vessels, all the young people got to spend time and experience sailing on both of the very different boats. It was a special experience being able to have both vessels sailing alongside each other during the week and the competitive side came out in the cadets as they wanted to hoist the sails and race against each other.

Opportunities to climb the rigging and get out on the bow sprit were well received and one young person who has a physical disability did not let this stop him being one of the first to the top.

Most of the meal preparation and dinner times were spent on Queen Galadriel which is able to accommodate the large group around the galley table. This was a chance for everyone to talk about the highlights from their day and to form friendships.

A large group of 31 people (plus 5 leaders) aged 11 to 17 sailed aboard Faramir and Queen Galadriel for 7 days in October from Ipswich Marina.



"The group really developed in their friendships and a feeling of belonging. It also gave them somewhere to aspire to in their careers." – Group Leader