

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

9 February 2026

Dear Colonel Cole-Mackintosh

On behalf of The Cirdan Sailing Trust, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights for the support of our work and the donation of £2,000 in 2025. The funds have been used for our Voyage of Discovery Fund scheme in support of young people who benefitted from the Cirdan experience in the 2025 season. Please find enclosed a full report showing allocation of the funds along with thank you letters and reports from the group you have helped this year.

#### **The 2025 season**

This year saw many young people from new groups and organisations enjoy the benefits of a voyage, as well as returning ones, with more than 50% of groups undertaking their first voyage with Cirdan. These included specialist education groups, those with learning difficulties, young people in care, YMCA units, sea cadets, refugee and asylum seekers, youth justice service, Early Intervention in Psychosis service users, high schools and others needing some guidance in life. Many of the young people are from low-income households and deprived areas of the UK.

Queen Galadriel started the season on the Essex and Suffolk coasts before spending the Summer on the South coast. She welcomed many young people with ranging needs and abilities including the more special needs groups. We ran an individual's voyage for 16-25 years old, some of which completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residential. These individual voyages are also an opportunity for us to include those from a disadvantaged background who cannot sail as part of a group but who may require additional funding.

Faramir completed another circumnavigation around the UK, stopping at various locations including Neyland, Glasgow and Hartlepool to run voyages from these locations for groups local to them. Various NHS Early Intervention in Psychosis services completed different legs of the circumnavigation as part of our Voyage to Recovery programme.

Duet completed several Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residential, as well as beginning a new project working alongside the Essex Outdoors Centre in Bradwell-on-Sea. This involved taking groups of primary school children on sailing trips on the River Blackwater. High school students experiencing mental health challenges and low self-esteem sailed onboard Duet. We visited yacht clubs in Essex and Suffolk during their cadet weeks.

Launched last year, the Cirdan Youth View forum is proving to be a productive working group for the Trust. We have 7 members that represent a wide range of our groups that sail with us,

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Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst  
Lord-Lieutenant of Essex

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including ADHD, autism, special educational needs, learning difficulties and medical challenges.

We welcomed the Youth View members to a fundraising event held in London in September. They spoke to guests about the impact voyages have had on them and continue to help promote our work, as well as provide advice and guidance on our voyages and marketing to young people. We encourage members of the Youth View to lend a hand during winter refit, so they get a full view of what goes into running the Trust.

Crew recruitment across the maritime industry continues to be problematic particularly in sail training. To help address a shortage of crew, we started a new apprenticeship scheme in 2024 and are pleased to say our first apprentice bosun Matt has completed his Yachtmaster and will be completing his apprenticeship shortly. We welcomed our third apprentice Emma in October, who's first introduction to Cirdan was as a young person on one of our voyages. Following that voyage she then volunteered several times.

### **Winter Refit and 2026 Season**

All three vessels are now laid up for the winter. Duet is in Fambridge and Faramir is in Ipswich. Queen Galadriel is in her regular winter mud berth in Maldon.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) winter surveys are currently being undertaken, which highlight maintenance work that must be undertaken for the MCA operating licences to be issued next year. As always, we are looking at a busy refit period to turn the boats around for next season and will need to prioritise the most essential work. We have several important capital projects to fundraise for including Queen Galadriel's transom and port aft bulwarks. New coding requirements from the MCA, due to shortly be introduced, will require some changes to the boats including increased safety equipment. Duet's chainplates also need replacing.

Reservations for our 2026 calendar are strong. We have many returning groups that have sailed this year already committed to voyages next season. As well as this, we are continuing our work with the Essex Outdoors Centre in Bradwell-on-Sea and working alongside several local sailing clubs to not only get their cadets onboard but also disadvantaged young people within the local community. This partnership will allow us to reach many more young people. We have many repeat bookings and new groups joining us, as well as several voyages for individuals to book places on across our fleet.

Duet will also complete a run of Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residentials and will be joined by Queen Galadriel on the East coast before she sails down to the South coast for the Summer. Faramir will continue her circumnavigation programme around the UK, working alongside nine NHS Early Intervention in Psychosis Trusts from various areas. She will also stop in Neyland, Glasgow and Hartlepool as part of her journey around the UK coastline.

### **Your Invaluable Support**

As with all small charities a challenging economic climate and fundraising landscape means we must constantly increase our fundraising efforts to meet the cost of providing our life changing adventure therapy voyages. We continue to experience an increase in costs across almost all areas of operation including marina costs, parts, equipment and fuel. As a result, the amount we need to operate our Voyage of Discovery Fund is also increasing every year. For the 2026 season, we anticipate we will need approximately £380,000 for the VOD scheme in addition to donations for vessel refit and general purposes.

We are very appreciative of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights' valuable support, and we would be enormously grateful if you could continue to support us in the future. Thank you once again for the generous donation made available to Cirdan in 2025 and for taking the time to consider this appeal.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humphries  
Chief Executive



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