

15th September 2026

The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Grant Report

Moosk – Replacement Mizzen Sail

We would like to thank the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights for its generous grant of £1,250 towards the replacement of the mizzen sail on Moosk, one of The Island Trust's historic sailing vessels. The new mizzen sail will help keep Moosk sailing and enable her to continue providing valuable experiences and training opportunities for young people, volunteers and crew.

About Moosk

Moosk is 120 years old this year! She is a 1906 gaff-rigged yawl, built by W. H. Thomas in Falmouth, Cornwall as an auxiliary yacht. She was an early example of a vessel to be built with both a motor and electrical lighting ("sparks") for the cabin.

After providing pleasure for a succession of owners during her first forty years, much of her subsequent sailing history is unclear. By 1998 she had fallen into a very poor condition and was found abandoned and wrecked in Glasgow.

Moosk was rescued by the Eyemouth International Sailing Craft Association and transported to East Anglia, where she underwent a major rebuild by G. Brown & Son of Southwold, Suffolk. She was relaunched on 21 August 2001.

In January 2012, Moosk was purchased by The Island Trust. She is now registered on the National Historic Ships UK Register of Historic Vessels and continues to sail as a working historic vessel.

<https://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/register/2471/moosk>

The project

The Shipwrights grant enabled us to replace Moosk's ageing mizzen sail. The new sail was fitted on 21 August 2026, exactly 25 years after Moosk's relaunch following her major restoration.

The original sail had reached the point where replacement was necessary to maintain the vessel's sailing capability and reliability. The new mizzen provides Moosk with a dependable sail for her continued use by The Island Trust.

The final cost of the sail was £1,296, with the Shipwrights grant of £1,250 funding the vast majority of the project. The original invoice was subsequently revised upwards, meaning that the grant covered slightly less than the originally anticipated proportion, with The Island Trust meeting the balance.

Impact of the award

The award has had a direct and practical impact on our ability to keep Moosk sailing. As a historic vessel, regular maintenance and replacement of worn equipment is essential to her continued operation.



The new mizzen will be used during an adventure sailing week, as well as supporting Moosk's wider programme of sailing and training.

Your generous support has not only maintained the vessel but has helped ensure that Moosk remains an active working historic vessel, rather than simply an artefact preserved ashore.

Young People benefiting

By the end of 2026, approximately 24 young people will have sailed on Moosk since the new sail was fitted.

In addition, Moosk has delivered three RYA training courses involving 14 students, providing participants with an opportunity to develop recognised sailing skills and qualifications.

In 2027 and the subsequent years we expect at least 80-90 young people to sail on Moosk each year. Moosk is the smaller of our two vessels.

These activities form part of The Island Trust's wider charitable programme, which provides sailing opportunities for young people who may otherwise have limited access to the sea. Sailing on a historic vessel such as Moosk provides participants with practical experience, teamwork, responsibility and an opportunity to develop confidence and new skills.

The vessel also provides valuable opportunities for volunteers and crew to develop their own practical sailing and traditional seamanship skills.

Long-term value and viability

The Shipwrights grant represents a relatively small investment with a lasting benefit. The £1,250 award has enabled a £1,296 essential maintenance project, allowing Moosk to continue sailing and supporting young people and trainees.

Maintaining historic vessels like Moosk is an ongoing commitment, and we recognise that regular investment in sails, rigging, hull, machinery and other equipment is essential to their long-term survival. Every year she is raised out of water for important prevention and maintenance tasks.

Our aim is to keep Moosk actively sailing for many years to come, combining the preservation of a vessel with more than 120 years of history with meaningful charitable use. Her continued operation also helps pass on traditional sailing and seamanship skills to a new generation.

The Shipwrights support has therefore contributed directly to both maritime heritage preservation and youth development, helping ensure that Moosk continues to have a useful life at sea.

Thank you again for your generous support to help keep Moosk sailing which ensures we continue to meet our charitable objectives, which include:

- Young people living in inner cities and areas of deprivation
- Young people suffering financial hardship
- Young people with behavioural difficulties
- Young people with educational support needs, including: blindness/partial sight, deafness/hard of hearing, learning difficulties, and/or physical disability

