



NEIC Sail Training Voyages 2019



SAIL TRAINING
IRELAND
SAIL, TRAIN, LEARN, LIVE ...

This Summer 30 people from the North East Inner City of Dublin took part in the NEIC Sail Training Voyages aboard the tall ship Pelican of London and the Dublin based vessel Brian Boru. The participants were offered the amazing opportunity to become trainees on a tall ship to experience three exciting voyages visiting Belfast, Liverpool and Dublin. This opportunity was made possible by funding support from Dublin City Council and the North East Inner City (NEIC) Programme Office with trainee recruitment coordinated by Sail Training Ireland.

This is the second running of the NEIC Sail Training Voyages following on from the project in 2018. This year's project saw the addition of a voyage for 15-17-year olds to the one for the Over 18's group.



NEIC

The NEIC is a major Government initiative to oversee the long term social and economic regeneration of the area. This involves a huge range of projects, including this unique sail training project.



WHAT IS SAIL TRAINING

Sail Training is a self-development & non formal educational training programme, which is run on board tall ships. The experience provides an excellent environment for personal and social development. It is not so much learning to sail, as learning from sailing, from the vessel, the sea, fellow crew members and perhaps most importantly from the trainees themselves. Skills such as confidence, communication, leadership, teamwork, understanding of diversity, and resilience are learnt. The group start the voyage as a collection of strangers but end it as a tight knit crew. A trainee's first voyage can often prove to be a turning point in their lives.

Sail Training Ireland are the national Sail Training Organisation and were responsible for organising the trainee project, which involved the recruitment of 30 people from the NEIC area to take part and placing them on training programmes on three voyages aboard two ships.



RECRUITING THE TRAINEES

A process was put in place whereby community and youth organisations in the NEIC nominated people to participate in the project. The following organisations put forward nominations:

- East Wall Youth
- MOST Garda Diversion Project
- Bradóig
- Neighbourhood Youth Project - Foroige
- Swan Youth Centre
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOUE)
- Ballybough Youth Service
- Peter McVerry Trust
- Lourdes Youth and Community Service
- HSE

THE VOYAGES



Over 18's Voyage

The first group to set sail travelled from Dublin City Centre via coach to meet the ship Pelican of London at the Titanic Quarter in Belfast on the 26th of May. The participants were presented with NEIC Sail Training jackets, which were worn proudly during the voyage. The ship sailed around the Irish Sea including a visit to the Isle of Man before docking in Liverpool on the 31st of May. The participants travelled back via coach to Holyhead to catch the ferry to return home to Dublin.

Under 18's Voyage

The second group to set sail took the ferry to Holyhead on the 2nd of June and travelled to Liverpool via coach to meet the Pelican of London. The ship arrived into Dublin on the 7th of June 2019. RTÉ were there from a children's news programme (news2day) to film and interview the trainees on board about their experience.



Brian Boru Voyage



AWARDS CEREMONY



Photo Above: shows trainees having received their certificates.

On return to dry land an awards ceremony was held in St Agatha's Hall for all the participants. The trainees were awarded with Sail Training Ireland certificates along with special awards presented to those who made an exceptional contribution to the voyages. The awards were presented by Dublin football star Michael Darragh Macauley who kindly posed for photographs with the winners and fans.

Thanks, was given to Dublin City Council, North East Inner City Project and Dublin Port Company. In particular, STIRL extended their gratitude to Ursula Donnelan, Michael O'Riordan, Linda Roe, Bruce McDevitt and Michael Darragh Macauley.

The highlight of the evening was hearing four of the participants speak on how the voyages had impacted them. Erika Prendergast, Thomas McDonagh, Mark Harmon, and Lee Font all spoke brilliantly about their experiences.

The following participants were given awards for making a special contribution to their voyages:

Lee Font

Mark Harmon

Amy Goggin

Erika Prendergast

TRAINEE COMMENTS

A sample of trainee Feedback from NEIC participants:

“Had the best experience ever. I have come back a more grateful person. What I experienced was a life changer to me. I want to go and train more on the ship and go to college to learn more about sailing. I think I have found my career path now after this, my purpose in life is to be on a ship. Meet great people and I will cherish these memories for a lifetime”

“I have developed an understanding of the importance of social interaction with different people from various backgrounds with their incredible skills and friends I really enjoy”

“I think it was a very good experience I think I will definitely do it again. It turned me around completely I see life a lot different now”

“I had a phenomenal time, way better than expected, it brought me out of my comfort zone, and I gained some experience of sailing and new friends would definitely recommend to anyone”

“It was a brilliant experience best time I’ve ever had and hope to go back next year”

“It was one of the best experiences of my life so far. It’s so intense being out on a boat for a week with people you don’t know but I’m after making friendships that I know will last a long time. I’d do it again in a heartbeat”

“Was definitely an enlightening experience one that at times kind of tested patience but also brought me closer with a lot of people I never would’ve considered, really nice and humbling and fun I think...”

“What an experience, some journey. Hard work but worth it!”

OUTCOMES/BENEFITS

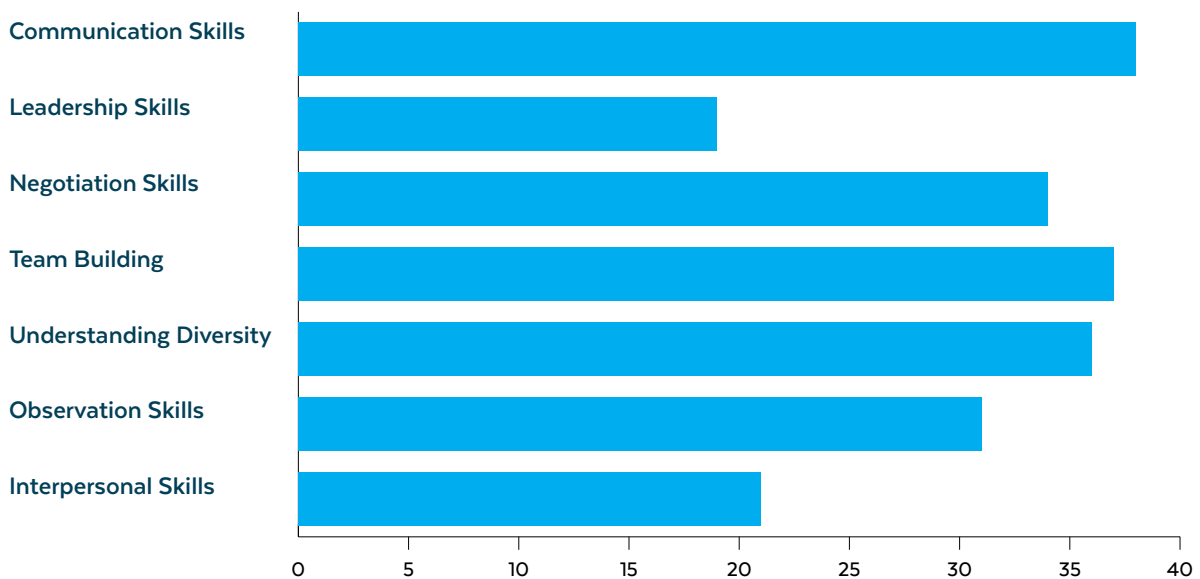
Several positive outcomes were achieved by the NEIC Sail Training Project:

- 30 people participated on potentially life changing voyages.
- Inclusion of people from all backgrounds and abilities regardless of financial, social, or other circumstances.
- Inclusion of people with a range of disabilities.
- Development of life skills and employability.
- Positive social impact in the local community.
- Improvement in essential skills (detailed below).

IMPROVEMENT IN SKILLS

The chart below shows the improvement in skill levels based on the trainees before and after feedback.


Average Improvement



KEY FIGURES

Here are a few key facts and figures from the project.

- A total of 30 trainees from the NEIC went on three voyages on two different vessels.
- There was a good gender mix of 20 male and 10 female trainees.
- They ranged in age from 15 – 60.
- The trainees were nominated by 10 local organisations. These were from diverse organisations such as Youth Clubs, Community Groups, Addiction Recovery services, HSE Social Workers, Homeless Charity, Unemployment Groups, and Garda Diversion Projects,
- Two trainees have expressed an interest in pursuing a maritime career and we will support them in this in every way we can.
- Three trainees have signed up to Sail Training Ireland's (STIRL) Mentor training.
- Three trainees are interested in joining the local Sailing Programme that is being set up.
- Three trainees took part in another voyage this Summer with STIRL.
- The voyage participants were made up of mixed abilities.



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