



Voyage to Success 2012

A life-changing voyage around Britain
for young people



Cutty Sark sails again aboard iconic sail training yacht for London 2012

Thanks to a remarkable family link, the iconic sail training yacht *Duet* will sail round Britain this summer with an original piece of the *Cutty Sark* on board. The cousin of *Duet*'s owner was once instrumental in saving the famous tea clipper for the nation and the Cutty Sark Trust donated some original timber from the ship to be crafted into a baton that can be passed between the groups of the disadvantaged young people who will crew each leg of *Duet*'s circumnavigation.

Organised by the Cirdan Sailing Trust charity and consisting of eleven legs each with a different group of youngsters on board, *Duet*'s circumnavigation, called *Voyage to Success 2012*, will provide a life-changing experience for around 60 young people. The project will be launched on 27 May with a reception on board the *Cutty Sark*, made possible by the extraordinary family link.

A baton has been designed and crafted by pupils from the Royal Hospital School in Suffolk which has a strong maritime tradition.

The *Cutty Sark* was purchased in 1922 by Captain Dowman and his wife Catharine, (nee Courtauld), and was used for a time as a sail training ship. It was ultimately Catharine's generous philanthropy which saved the *Cutty Sark* for the nation.

The 50ft Edwardian yacht *Duet* is owned by the Reverend Christopher Courtauld, a distant cousin to Catharine. The yacht first came into Courtauld ownership under Christopher's father, the explorer Augustine Courtauld, cousin to Catharine. Augustine was renowned for having been trapped alone under ice in 1931 in Greenland for six weeks at the end of a sojourn of five months with no communication with the outside world while taking meteorological readings to test the feasibility of an arctic air route. He kept himself alive during his entrapment by occupying his mind with designing a dream yacht - he then found and purchased *Duet* after his rescue and return to the UK. Following Augustine's death in 1959, the yacht passed to son Christopher who wanted the yacht to be used for the benefit of young people.

Duet became iconic in the development of the post-war sail training movement. In this context, 'sail training' means a challenging personal adventure for young people on board sailing vessels. *Duet* first took young people to sea in 1960 and is now Britain's longest serving sail training vessel having

been continuously used for this purpose for 52 years. During this time she has taken over 8,000 young people to sea. She has been operated by the Cirdan Sailing Trust since 1996.

The daughter of *Cutty Sark* saviour Catharine Courtauld and her cousin Christopher will both attend the reception on board in May and present the baton to the first group of youngsters to crew *Duet* for the *Voyage to Success*. The baton will then travel round the UK on board the yacht with each successive group.

Anyone can follow the Voyage to Success by visiting www.cirdantrust.org/v2s

Ends.

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Notes for editors:

- *Duet* was built in 1912 and is operated by the Cirdan Sailing Trust. For more information about *Voyage to Success 2012* and the Cirdan Sailing Trust, please visit www.cirdansailing.com.
- The Cirdan Sailing Trust is a registered charity, number 1091598, established in 1983 to provide young people, in particular those who are disadvantaged, with the opportunity to develop life skills through the challenge and adventure of life at sea, living and working on large sailing vessels. The service is aimed mainly at groups of disadvantaged young people who come on board the vessels together with their youth leaders.

A voyage with The Cirdan Sailing Trust encourages young people to accept personal responsibility whilst confronting the demands and challenges of life at sea. The experience itself promotes acceptance of others, no matter what their social or cultural background and the experience as a whole boosts self-belief, develops confidence, promotes a willingness to

face new challenges and take controlled risks.

Cirdan's work is carried out aboard a small fleet of large traditional style sailing vessels, some of which have an historic value. Together the vessels have the capacity for up to 1,000 young people each season to experience an off-shore sailing voyage of between 3 and 14 days from various ports around the UK.

- **Sail Training** is a fun and challenging adventure. Sailing offshore as part of a team that is responsible for the running of the vessel opens a whole new world of challenges, skills and discovery. No previous sailing experience is required as the sea-staff on board guide and instruct everyone as necessary. Participants meet new people and work together to set sails, steer, keep watch and even cook. Together they meet the challenge of the sea.
- London 2012 Inspire Programme includes 2500 non-commercial projects from around the UK that draw on the inspiration of London 2012 to work in the fields of sustainability, education, volunteering, business, sport or culture.

Latest schedule

London	27 May	Liverpool	6 July
Harwich	31 May	Swansea	13 July
Hartlepool	7 June	Falmouth	21 July
Eyemouth	14 June	Weymouth	27 July
Inverness	21 June	Eastbourne	5 Aug
Glasgow	28 June	London	12 Aug