



Voyage to Success 2012

A life-changing voyage around Britain
for young people



Harwich pupils join Cirdan Trust voyagers for RNLI Experience

Pupils from Harwich and Dovercourt High School were joined by the new Mayor of Harwich and the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Essex at Ha'penny Pier Harwich on 31st May to welcome young people from Barnardo's Lincolnshire to Essex and congratulate them on successfully completing Leg 1 of the Voyage to Success 2012.

The young people had sailed from London on the first leg of an 11 stage voyage around Britain (via the Caledonian Canal) which has been organised to mark the 100th birthday of the vessel Duet and the London 2012 Games. The young people are all on the point of leaving the care system and making an independent life for themselves. Before they left London, none of them had sailed before and the voyage was designed to help them develop the skills of self reliance they will need.



Handing Certificates of Achievement to the 5 young people and the Barnardo's Group Leaders who sailed with them George Courtauld, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Essex said *"I am here as a personal representative of the Queen which shows how important we believe you are and how impressed we are with what each one of you has achieved"*. The Mayor John Thurlow gave similar words of welcome to the young people and thanked the pupils from Harwich and Dovercourt High School for coming to greet the voyagers.

The pupils and the young people then went on to the RNLI Lifeboat Station for a tour of the station and some joint team-building games organised for them by the lifeboat crew.

Speaking on behalf of the Harwich Lifeboat crew Keith Churchman said *"We are sure that the young people will get a great deal out of this experience. The sea can be a very*

challenging environment and the young people needed to overcome challenge and work as a team in order to safely complete their voyage. We wish them every success in the future”

Duet is Britain’s longest serving sail training vessel. She will continue her voyage around Britain with another crew of young people from Barnardo’s Lincolnshire. In all 60 young people will benefit. Duet is carrying an Olympic Baton crafted from the timber of the Cutty Sark which is passed from crew to crew. She is sailing anti-clockwise via the Caledonian Canal arriving in Weymouth for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games and London for the closing ceremony.

Anyone can follow their progress at www.cirdantrust.org/v2s

Ends

Pictures and more info at <http://www.cirdantrust.org/blog/media-pack/>

Cirdan Sailing Trust enables young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged, to gain personal development through the challenge and adventure of life at sea on large sailing vessels. Since 1983, the Trust, which is based in Essex, has provided a unique and potentially life-changing experience to more than 30,000 young people.

Duet - Built in 1912, the 50ft yacht *Duet*, has provided adventurous sailing experiences for over 8,000 young people since she first became a ‘sail training’ vessel in 1960 and has since taken more than 8000 young people of sailing adventures. She is currently on long-term loan to the Cirdan Sailing Trust based in Essex from her owner Rev Christopher Courtauld who lives in Suffolk.

Voyage to Success 2012 has been awarded the London 2012 Inspire mark in recognition of its contribution to providing challenge and opportunity for young people during this Olympic year.

Ports of call on the voyage will include London, Harwich, Hartlepool, Eyemouth, Inverness, Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea, Falmouth, Weymouth, Eastbourne, London.

RNLI is a national voluntary organisation. Its volunteers put to sea in adverse weather conditions to save lives at sea. The organisation is funded entirely through voluntary donations.