



NEWS RELEASE

5th December 2016

Challenge Wales Thanks Volunteers For An Amazing 2016

Challenge Wales volunteers were thanked for their continued amazing efforts at a special festive volunteers evening held at Santa's Post Office in Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay.

In 2016 Challenge Wales volunteers donated almost 14,000 hours of their time to Wales' Tall Ship helping young people develop their employability skills through sailing Challenge Wales and helping adults on fundraising adult voyages.

During the evening Vicky Williams, Trustee of Challenge Wales, shared one of the many success stories from 2016 when a young unemployed man from Merthyr, who hadn't spoken for two years, joined Challenge Wales for a 5-day sail training voyage. During the voyage he started to talk and after the voyage his youth worker attributed his ability to now communicate and being successful in getting a job down to the impact of sail training on Challenge Wales and the crew.

Although many of the Challenge Wales volunteers crew onboard the boat, shore-side volunteers help with fundraising and raising awareness of the local Penarth charity and the evening enabled the Challenge Wales Trustees to thank everyone.

Challenge Wales has one more voyage before the end of the year, specifically for adults to experience big boat sailing. With no sailing experience needed to take part, Challenge Wales' Festive Sail and Curry Fundraiser, on Bank Holiday Tuesday 27th December, is open to individuals, couples of small groups aged 18 – 70 and gives an opportunity to jump onboard and try something new, have one last sailing adventure of the year or an opportunity to brush up sailing skills and is a great way to support a local charity in a fun way!

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Picture caption: Some of the Challenge Wales volunteers celebrating a successful 2016

Challenge Wales

Challenge Wales is a 72-foot round-the-world yacht that sailed twice around the world and is now based in Penarth, Cardiff Bay as Wales' largest sail training vessel and Wales' Tall Ship.

Sail
young



prospects, in a

training activities onboard Challenge Wales help people aged 12 - 25 years develop social and personal skills, to improve their employment

challenging and positive environment. Those onboard get involved in all aspects of sailing the boat, from helming and navigating, hoisting the sails to preparing meals and no sailing experience is required to take part.

Challenge Wales operates a bursary scheme which all Welsh residents aged 12 – 25 years can apply for to help subsidise their sail training voyages, regardless of background, social or economic situation.

More information on Challenge Wales can be found at www.challengewales.org or 029 20 704 657.