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Challenge Wales Returns Home After A Successful Summer Representing Wales



Challenge Wales | *Wales' Tall Ship* is set to return back to Cardiff with four trophies after one of her biggest adventures having sailed almost 4,000 miles this summer, crewed by mainly Welsh young people and having represented the UK and Wales in one of the largest cultural events in Europe.

Having been away from Cardiff for no fewer than 90 days, *Challenge Wales* is set to return to her home port on Friday 23rd August, just in time for being a feature boat at Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay over the August Bank Holiday weekend where she will welcome members of the public onboard.

Challenge Wales sailed around the top of the UK and across the North Sea before racing in the International Tall Ships Races. During her travels she was accompanied by dolphins and whales, welcomed 11 different nationalities onboard and encountered wind speeds from a frustrating 1 knot to an exhilarating 43 knots

Different people crewed on different legs of the voyage with adults helping to get the boat to the start line of the race, which was where the young people joined. Voyages lasted from 3 – 12 days and Challenge Wales volunteers donated over 7,200 hours of their time to sail the boat and mentor the young people on this epic adventure.

Challenge Wales was taking part in the 2019 International Tall Ships Races in Denmark and Norway which brought together no fewer than 76 vessels representing 19 countries.

Tall Ships racing has a focus on young people where a minimum of 50% of the crew must be aged 15 – 25 years and is an opportunity for young people to meet others from all over the world, share their experiences and develop their teamwork & communication



skills. All those onboard Challenge Wales worked as a team in 3 hour watches with many of those taking part never having sailed before.

Challenge Wales took line honours in both races (first boat home on corrected time). In Race 1 she took 3rd in Class, in Race 2 she took 2nd in Class & 2nd Overall and won the fastest boat in the Race series.

Rosie (aged 18) said *“I learned a huge amount, from learning to cook for 13 people to improving my communication. I learned that I enjoy a challenge and I like to be pushed outside my comfort zone which has inspired me to look for more adventures”*.

“I learned that the Tall Ships is a big community and it was a truly amazing experience of a lifetime. It has taught me independence and to have more confidence in myself, and helped me with my GCSE Geography!” said Harvey (aged 15)

Bursary funding from various trusts meant that the opportunity to sail on Challenge Wales was as accessible as possible.

Challenge Wales

The award-winning charity Challenge Wales is a predominantly volunteer run sail training charity which uses a 72-foot round-the-world racing yacht *Challenge Wales | Wales' Tall Ship* and 60-foot ocean-going yacht *Adventure Wales* to help young people aged 12 - 25 years develop social and personal skills, to improve their employment prospects, in a challenging, adventurous 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.

Voyages are evidenced to improve teamwork and communication skills as well as improve mental health and wellbeing.

For more information visit www.challengewales.org or email Vicky@challengewales.org

Tall Ships Races

Visit www.sailtraininginternational.org for full details or www.sailtraininginternational.org/sailtraining/media-centre/ for full details of facts and figures relating to this event.