

***Irish Sea Exchange 2014***

***26<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June***

***Belfast – Dublin – Liverpool***

***TS Pelican***

***Who Knew It Could Be Sunny in Ireland?***



***Peli Peli Peli... Can Can Can!***

***Daniel White & Rachael McMillan***

My name is Daniel White, I am 17 years old and live in Girvan with my friend and his nan. I am studying Mechanics at Stranrear College. The sailing trip I am going on is the Irish Exchange Sailing trip on TS Pelican. On this trip I would like to learn how to sail, have a shot of driving the boat, meet new people and have fun.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, Rachael and I went on a sailing trip across the Irish Seas. We went away for 12 days. We set sail from Belfast on the 27<sup>th</sup> to the Isle of Man we got there on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. We were allowed to go ashore for a couple of hours but when we went on land we went with our watches and we had to buy a souvenir but it had to be cheap, tacky and useless. When we went back to the boat we had to present our souvenir to the other groups and the Captain and the crew picked the winner of it, it was my team who won I felt so happy.



Later on the night we set sail to Dublin, it took us two days to get there. When we were at sea for two days I bonded with other people on the ship and I made some friends. I showed them magic tricks that I knew and they loved it so I showed them more magic tricks that's how I introduced myself to other people. I was on Mess Duty quite a few times because I like working in the kitchen. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May we approached Dublin.

On the first day in Dublin we had an Open Ship, that meant people were allowed to come onto the ship and look about the place. The watches had shots of helping out on the ship. On that night most of the crew went out to the pub but me, myself and I went to McDonalds, it was good. On the second day at Dublin me, Rachael and some of the crew went kayaking, it was the best day so far because we all had a laugh and we were jumping in the water after kayaking, it was brilliant.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June me, Jeff and Connie went out to the pub, I went in and got a pint, I sat there staring at it then I gave it to Jeff because I don't drink, I only went out for a laugh, but that night we went back to McDonalds. Got a big Mac it was nice. We got the taxi back from McDonalds to the ship, so we didn't need to walk back because the ship was miles away from where we were.

The next day we left Dublin to go to Liverpool but we had plenty of time spare, so we sailed just up from Dublin to go to the Captains home town, Carlingford Loch, it took us a day to get there. When we were there we were allowed to jump off the ship into the sea, it was amazing but very cold at the same



time! After dinner we went on the beach to play football and tug-o-war. It was a good laugh, my watch was called Mizzen Watch, and we came second in tug-o-war and football. On that night we dropped anchor and slept the night there. The watches had to take turns to watch the ship overnight when we were at anchor so that nothing would happen to the ship when the permanent crew were sleeping.

On that morning when everyone got up, all of us helped to set the sails to sail to Liverpool. It was quite hard to set the sails but we got there in the end and before you knew it the sails were up and we were moving. On the 4th of June I was on Mess Duty again. I wasn't bothered because I like doing Mess because Connie was on Mess all the time and every time we had 5 minutes of spare time she always wanted me to show her more magic tricks and she wanted me to tell her how to do them as well. I showed her how they were done, and it was a really funny because she kept on getting it wrong.



On the 5th of June we approached Liverpool. When we got closer to the quay where we were docking I had to go on the rib to guide the ship to the bit we were docking. That night we all had to pack our bags it was the last night on the ship and we all were saying our goodbyes to everyone.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June Rachael and I were leaving to go home that morning, so we said our goodbyes again. We got the taxi at 10 o'clock. We managed to make the train in time with 2 minutes to spare. We got home by half past 4

at night.

On this trip, I have achieved all the stuff that I wanted to. It was better than I thought. I now know what you have to do to sail, drive and steer a ship.

The 12 days sailing was my first time, I would definitely do it again. It was amazing.

Thank you to the Royal Thames Yacht Club for giving us some funding for the trip and also thank you to Adventure Under Sail and Causeway for giving me this chance.

***Daniel White.***

My name is Rachael McMillan, I'm currently 20 years old and I am a Youth Worker with Girvan Youth Trust, a big part of my role is supporting young people on a one to one basis, working on personal development. Through this role I have taken part in various sailing voyages on the Challenger Yachts with Tall Ships Youth Trust and with the Jubilee Sailing Trust so I am aware how much someone, more specifically a young person can benefit from a sailing voyage. I came across the Irish Sea Exchange Voyage Adventure Under Sail were offering and jumped at the chance as I had an ideal young person in mind who would benefit greatly from this opportunity. Daniel White has been attending Z1 Youth Bar for a few years now, over that time I have got to know him and his life. It was clear to me he would benefit from this and luckily he agreed!!

Although Daniel hasn't said very much in his report, he is a man of little words after all, I definitely can see the impact this sailing voyage has had on Daniel. Daniel has learnt so much throughout the 12 days and has experienced so many new experiences – he had never even been on a ferry never mind a tall ship! 12 days away from home, in an unfamiliar environment surrounded by strangers is a challenge for most young people however with the correct amount of support Daniel coped very well and although he was very quiet to begin with his confidence grew as the voyage continued.



On the first day when we left, trainees were given the opportunity to climb aloft, straight away Daniel had his harness on and was keen to give it a go. Throughout the voyage when there was a call for Hands Aloft Daniel went up to help handle the sails without hesitation, later on we discovered that this had been his favourite part of the whole voyage. This came as a surprise as we all thought "getting fit lassies numbers" would have been his highlight!

Although Daniel may have been one of the quieter members of the voyage crew he still played a vital role, as he said he taught everyone magic tricks and this really brought him out of his shell. As did Mess Duty, his first shift in the galley transformed him into a new person, he was more upbeat, involved and worked hard. Daniel did a few extra shifts in the galley and he loved it! He got on well with everyone and was very attentive when it came to meal times as he made sure everyone was happy. A special mention has to be made here to the dinner call he made over the tannoy to tell everyone it was dinner time, no one could understand a word he said in his broad Scots accent (apart from me) it was hilarious!



Daniel has gained so many new skills and learnt so much about other countries and cultures. He has made new friends and had a fantastic experience. His tea making skills need a bit more work though...

I would definitely recommend the TS Pelican Youth Exchange voyage to young people and urge them to get involved, although I have sailed previously I learnt a lot more and built on my own knowledge, skills and confidence. The Youth Exchange voyage was a new thing for me as I have never sailed with as many young people (including young permanent crew!) and it is a fantastic way to bring young people together and allow them to learn together whilst having a huge amount of fun!

I'd also like to thank the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Adventure Under Sail and Causeway for this opportunity, both Daniel and myself have benefited from this experience and enjoyed it thoroughly.

P.S. I CAN FINALLY TIE A BOWLINE!!!



***Rachael McMillan***

# Girvan Youth Trust



**“Children are our future  
teach them well and let  
them lead the way”**

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GYT, a community owned and youth driven initiative would like to thank the Girvan public, surrounding communities and the various local and national trusts and grant awarding bodies for their valuable support in helping to make the difference in the quality of life for local young people...