



Motivating Disadvantaged Young People Through Sailing

# the Island Trust

Registered Charity no. 1049722

Trustees: CJ Macdonald-Brown, JM Lloyd, SCL Dobson, SW Arnold, CE Cleaves

## **The Island Trust Addresses Fleet and Staffing Changes to Secure its Future**

Plymouth, 31st August 2023 - The Island Trust is a sail training charity dedicated to providing sailing opportunities for young people with special needs, disabilities and those experiencing hardship and deprivation. This year is the Trust's 50th Anniversary and we are proud to have come so far but the costs of maintaining traditional sailing boats, which are so well suited to what we do, have risen sharply and in the last year or so we have found it increasingly difficult to generate enough income to sustain our three boats. We are determined to ensure the Trust's long-term sustainability, hopefully for the next 50 years. We have therefore initiated a thorough review of our fundraising and expenditure and will introduce a series of strategic measures to ensure our long-term sustainability.

In the immediate term, to safeguard the future of the Trust, we have, very reluctantly, decided to reduce our active fleet from three boats to one. We will continue to operate Johanna Lucretia, a very fine 96ft topsail schooner, which will enable us to take the most beneficiaries while operating with one boat. We are considering the options of sale or mothballing for the other two boats, Pegasus and Moosk.

These changes will lead to a reduction in staffing. Conversations have already started with the affected staff members to navigate this transition in a manner that is both fair and supportive.

The trustees, who know our staff and our boats well, have made these decisions with great sadness but with the Trust's longevity and core charitable objectives at heart. The paramount goal remains to provide disadvantaged young people with the opportunity to widen their horizons and to develop their skills and capabilities through the joy and challenges of learning to sail.

The trustees know the immense importance of the Trust's supporters and donors in the continuing fulfilment of its charitable objectives, and we ask for everyone's continued dedication and assistance during this period of change. Contributions, whether through participation, engagement, or financial assistance, will play a crucial role in shaping the future of The Island Trust.

The Trust remains committed to the values that have defined it for years – social inclusion and equality of opportunity. We provide the opportunity, financial and moral support, and sailing training expertise for those who cannot otherwise contemplate taking part in activities of this kind. Through these strategic adjustments the Trust aims to navigate the present challenges and emerge stronger and better equipped to inspire and educate young people for many years to come.

For more information, please contact:

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