



Horizons has passed her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Started in 1991 by the Rev Bob Hill with the gift of a boat from a Parishioner, Horizons has gone from strength to strength, steadily increasing the number of boats and staff. This was celebrated by a great party organised by Annette and Lois at The Duke of Cornwall Hotel attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor. An unforgettable evening!

Originally this was to have been organised by the Royal and Ancient Order of the Buffaloes but they had to withdraw due to Bereavement – but they have continued to fundraise for us and will fund new life rafts for Friendship as well as other projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the ongoing commitment of Horizons volunteers both on and off the water, without all the support you offer Horizons would not have made it to this amazing milestone. We look forward to seeing you all this season, and are actively seeking more volunteers to join the team, so please spread the word!

2021 was another strange year on the operational side as Covid interfered with plans on a regular basis resulting in shorter season and the Staff having to adapt the programme to ensure when we could get on the water, it was done in a way that was as safe as possible for all involved whilst keeping in line with government guidelines.

Despite these challenges the yearly attendance figures were still good:

- 1,288 children got on the water in a total of 119 sessions that were delivered
  - 476 individual Children/vulnerable adults aged between 8 and 25 attended at least one session
  - 91 of these had a registered disability
  - As a comparison 1264 children took part in 244 sessions in 2019
- The full facts and figures can be found on our website under the Volunteer Information section.
- We had 53 volunteers register (8 of which are the trustees)

The Winter Project has still been active (all be it within the constraints of Covid) and Lois continues to manage a flexible programme which remains a key part of keeping the young people involved with Horizons over the winter period. It's great to see that there has been a good turnout of Cadets when activities have been able to run, with an average attendance of around 14 cadets per session.

Behind the scenes there have been some changes in the roles of the Staff.

Simon's role was changed to Chief Executive and he now has extra responsibility for the Administrative and Strategic planning aspects for Horizons.

After 10 years in her role as Business Manager, Annette will be retiring in December 2022, and has taken a part time fundraising role for her final year.

Lois remains as the Chief instructor and has taken on more administration and organisation of the on water programme as part of her role.

I have taken over as Chair of Trustees from Andrew Eccleston in the past year. Andrew has stood down as a trustee but remains involved with sailing and thankfully Sheila Eccleston remains our invaluable minute taker. We have appointed 2 new trustees in the past year - Tara Vassallo and Jennie Richardson who bring in new skills and experience into the organisation. Jennie will be supporting Simon with the Safeguarding responsibilities of Horizons and will be the Welfare Co-ordinator going forward.

Freindship has undergone a major refit over this winter due to rot setting in to the beams supporting the aft deck, and has had to have the whole deck, and much of the supporting structure replaced. She has also had to have new life rafts, and we



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aim to have an aft cover fitted by the end of the year. Friendship remains a key asset to Horizons and there will be a push to find more groups to use her.

Due to the evolving nature of our activities on the water and a successful fundraising effort will we see the addition of a third safety boat to the fleet in October 2022. This will be another 4.8M Ribcraft and it is in the early stages of build. We were hoping to have the boat sooner, but due to global supply issues coupled with Covid, the delivery date has had to be pushed back. This boat will be named "Skippy" in memory of Sue Carlyon, one of our long serving volunteers, whose memorial raised a significant amount towards the purchase of the boat. We thank the family for their continuing support and hope this is a fitting tribute to a wonderful volunteer who provided years of dedication in helping Horizons to get young people on the water.

Looking to the 2022 sailing season we are all hoping to run a full programme, and volunteer training starts in March to help us all blow away the cobwebs before the children arrive back. Details of this will be circulated by the staff.

The trustees are also very keen to take an active role in supporting the activity both on and off the water and we look forward to meeting you all throughout the year ahead, and to enjoy some much needed time on the water with the young people we are here to support.