**CHAIRS REPORT FOR AGM 2024**

2023 has been an eventful year for Horizons.

Our main fundraising event, The Eddystone Pursuit, had to be abandoned mid event due to lack of wind, in contrast to the previous year when the Hawks were pushed to their limits. No boats completed the course but we still raised about £11,500

We have had a full schedule and taken out 950 young people provided by 230 sessions on water and land with the winter project being more popular than ever.

Simon stood down from his role as Chief Executive at the end of the Season to move on to a new Career in the Maritime Industry. We are very grateful for his contribution to Horizons over the years. Lois has stepped up to cover many of his roles and is the new Operations Manager.

Kathy has continued her role as Partnerrship and Funding Coordinator and has had some success with grant applications - however along with many other Charities, Horizons has found it difficult to achieve the same levels of grant Income as in previous years though there have been some significant successes in recent weeks.

One of the casualties of this is the Schools project, the funding for which has been from a generous grant from the Peter Harrison foundation for the last 3 years. We have charged the primary schools £500 for the week, which they could afford but the real costs to Horizons is £5000 or more. Clearly this is not sustainable for us or the schools so the Trustees have reluctantly decided we cannot continue the project this year.

Our financial position has meant we have had to use some of our reserve investments and will have to sell some boats in order to pay staff and rents this year. The treasurers report will expand on this.

A further problem, again affecting many Charities, is the lack of new volunteers. Horizons requires volunteers with skills and qualifications in order to get the boats on the water and we are increasingly relying on a diminishing pool of established volunteers to run the club sessions.

There will be some changes in the Trustees this year which will require a formal vote from the members – Stuart Jones and Robert Fletcher have agreed to join us. Rory Anderson is resigning as Treasurer and Trustee, and no replacement has come forward yet. I am stepping down as Chair but will remain as Trustee and Principal. Pete Bone has agreed to take over the role of Chair for 1 year.