



Shipshape Heritage Training Partnership Project

Impact & Outcomes

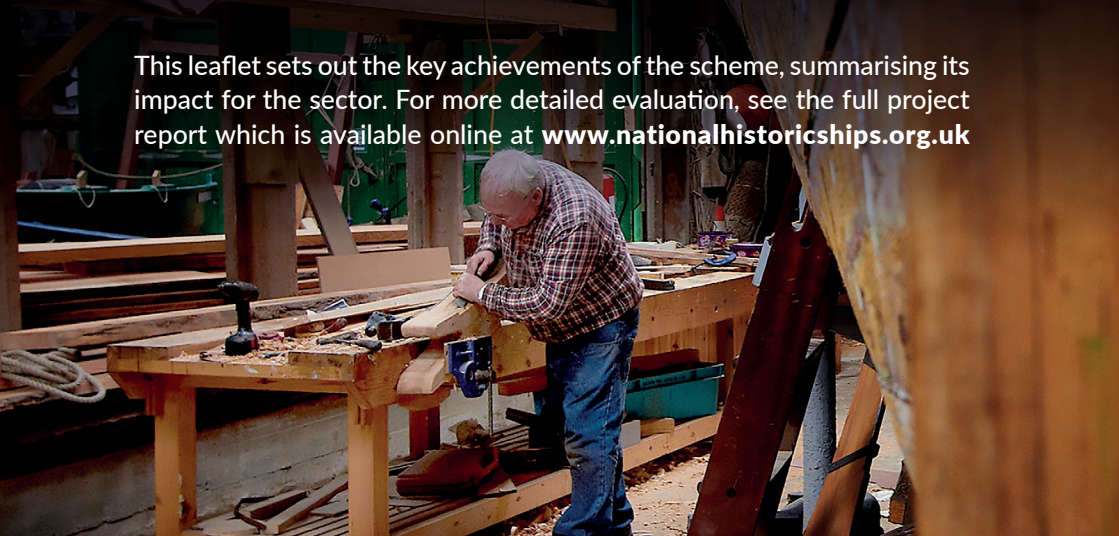


About the Project

The Shipshape Heritage Training Partnership (SHTP) Project was delivered by National Historic Ships UK (NHS-UK) in partnership with the Trinity Sailing Foundation, Excelsior Trust, Scottish Fisheries Museum, Sea-Change Sailing Trust and Dauntsey's School. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to the sum of £261,100 as part of its Skills for the Future programme and ran from 2014-2016. It aimed to help arrest the decline in the traditional seamanship skills that are integral to the future of the UK's operational historic sailing vessels, focussing on handling, maintaining and conserving these craft. Ten trainees were offered a 12-month placement (5 each year for 2 years) comprising:

- Induction: training sessions on the purpose of the course, personnel issues, logistics of host placements etc.
- Specialist Historic Vessel Maintenance course at the International Boatbuilding Training College (IBTC) Lowestoft.
- Time sailing with host organisation during the summer season and additional maintenance work during the winter.
- Rotations: short placements allowing trainees to move around the different vessels within the partner fleet.
- Conservation placement at the Scottish Fisheries Museum.
- Additional professional qualifications for personal development.

This leaflet sets out the key achievements of the scheme, summarising its impact for the sector. For more detailed evaluation, see the full project report which is available online at www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS & LEGACIES

- A unique training programme has been devised and delivered at maritime sites and historic vessel organisations across the UK.
- 10 trainees have completed the SHTP course learning the core skills of caring for and operating historic vessels.
- A group sail was held for all Year 2 trainees allowing them to work as a team and benefit from specialist tuition.
- 9 trainees are now in paid and voluntary employment in the maritime heritage sector with experience of working for 5 leading maritime organisations in the UK.
- A new course in Historic Vessel Maintenance has been delivered by the International Boatbuilding Training College, Lowestoft.
- Masterclasses in sailmaking and specialist rigging were completed by the trainees and members of staff from IBTC and partner vessels were up-skilled.
- A Skills Passport has been developed to record the achievements of the trainees during the 12-month programme.
- A short film 'Learning the Ropes' was produced by the Maritime Foundation to promote the skills being learned by the trainees and the achievements of the project.
- A set of Competency Units has been produced and these are available online providing an assessment framework for future training.
- An alumni association has been set up to encourage future contact and networking with the trainees from this and other NHS-UK managed schemes.
- New 'Crew' pages have been established online at www.shipshapenetwork.org.uk to allow professional crew on traditional vessels to post details of their experience, advertise work opportunities or set up crew swap opportunities.
- Strong partnerships have developed between 4 leading historic vessel operators, the Scottish Fisheries Museum and NHS-UK.
- Over 60 organisations and individuals came together at the SHTP Networking Day to share ideas and examples of best practice.
- Conservation work has been carried out on 5 craft from the National Register of Historic Vessels as a result of match funding received from the PRISM Fund.



© Gabriel Clarke, SHTP trainee.

TRAINEE CASE STUDY

Catherine Holt joined the programme in Year 1 with a maritime archaeology background and was placed with the Scottish Fisheries Museum.

“I was looking for maritime skills and the opportunity to get hands on training – intense experience quickly. I have a Museum Studies MA and wanted to stand out as a candidate at interview ... the experience of SHTP, the dedication taken and the skills acquired in such a short time have been invaluable and definitely boosted my own self confidence.”

As a result of practical experience gained on the SHTP project Catherine secured the post of Project Officer at Chatham Historic Dockyard and has now moved on to become Assistant Curator at the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment Museum, Dover.

10 TRAINEES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE 12-MONTH PROGRAMME

PARTNER CASE STUDY

Richard Titchener is a Yachtmaster Instructor and Bargemaster. He spent most of his formative years in Brightlingsea sailing on engineless Essex smacks and developing a fascination for Thames barges. Richard became a barge mate in 1994 and in 2007 established the Sea-Change Sailing Trust to engage young people in traditional sailing. Hosting two SHTP trainees over the course of the project, he said:

“This was a bold experiment and the first time it has been attempted – to have no dropout rate and almost all trainees in employment at the end is an enormous tribute. The sector now has a pool of knowledgeable people in the next generation who can actively network as individuals and expand their connections with each other. We have benefitted from a raised profile being part of the project and would be very interested to help shape and take part in another programme like this.”

53 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN YEAR 1 FOR TRAINEE POSITIONS

SHTP trainee, Helen Denning, at IBTC Lowestoft.





SHTP trainees during the group sail.

NHS-UK : Lead Partner

As an independent advisory body for the sector, NHS-UK saw its role as lead partner and used the Skills for the Future funding as a way to bring together five organisations who might not otherwise have had the capacity to organise and administer a training project of this kind.

“The project had enormous value for NHS-UK in terms of raised profile, developing key relationships with partners and other leading bodies, the skills mapping exercise which was an integral part of the scheme and in allowing NHS-UK to take the first steps in addressing the identified skills gap. NHS-UK also benefited from the experience of managing a project on this scale for the first time in terms of learning and evolving best practise.”

Hannah Cunliffe – PROJECT MANAGER

9 TRAINEES NOW IN PAID OR VOLUNTARY EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE SECTOR

TRAINEE CASE STUDY

Hugh Langworthy joined the project in Year 1 having previously worked alongside shipwright Will Stirling and therefore having some knowledge of the skills needed to conserve historic vessels. His placement was with Trinity Sailing Foundation.

“When I saw this opportunity I jumped at the chance. I wanted to learn something new – I wanted more experience of sailing and SHTP helped me to learn what it was I wanted to do.”

Hugh now works as an apprentice rigger for Tommi Neilsen & Co in Gloucester on a two year term.

“I have learnt a lot of transferable skills I can use in the sector. I am now doing an apprenticeship to be a rigger – I see all parts of the work in the yard – there is variety in my work. They were aware of the course when I applied which showed them what range of experience I had.”

12 LEARNING UNITS PUBLISHED AS PART OF NEW COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

SHTP trainee, Hugh Langworthy, learns traditional wire splicing.



CONCLUSION

- The SHTP project has transferred heritage skills to younger entrants in the historic vessel sector who are now using these skills in their career and will be able to keep promoting and passing on their knowledge within the sector.
- The success of the programme has energised the sector to continue addressing the skills gap with partners having experienced the benefits of working across organisations for mutual and sector gain.
- NHS-UK now has a competency framework with a set of learning units to offer associations and providers seeking to develop further training in this field.
- The potential for running future schemes of this kind is being explored, with interest from other organisations across the sector in becoming new partners.
- The SHTP project can be used as an advocacy tool for traditional skills, indicating the value of the historic vessel industry and the potential for what can be achieved through increased partnership work and innovative approaches to revitalising the sector.

To find out more or get involved in future projects of this kind, contact:

National Historic Ships UK
Park Row, Greenwich
London SE10 9NF

Telephone: 0208 312 8558
info@nationalhistoricships.org.uk

www.shipshapenetwork.org.uk

www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Photo credits for the front page are all © NHS-UK, with the exception of: clockwise from top left – image four: © Dauntseys School; image six: © Gabriel Clarke; image seven: © Scottish Fisheries Museum; image eight: © Paul Brown.