

Cornwall City & Sea Exchange 2010 Report

26 July - 6 August 2010



Project overview

This year we ran our fourth City & Sea Exchange programme. The exchange brought together a group of young people from London and Cornwall to explore the Maritime industry and learn about the importance of the sea in the world economy. Participants took part in exciting activities and trips to increase their understanding of the sea and find out about potential career routes.

Aim of the project

The project aimed to raise awareness and increase understanding of the sea, the value of the wider maritime sector and to ensure young people participate in a wide variety of quality educational activities to be able to make an informed decision about whether it is an industry they would consider perusing a career. The UK has a great maritime history and today boasts the largest maritime sector in Europe. Despite 95% of national imports done through shipping, increased underwater technological advancement and the employment of thousands of people, it is an area that isn't usually promoted to young people in schools or colleges. The project also aimed to meet our organisational vision where all young people are valued by promoting racial tolerance and good community relations.

Who was involved?

We invited a group of young people from Cornwall and recruited young people from Tower Hamlets who were interested in learning about the Maritime sector and pursuing a career in a related field. In partnership with Lizard Outreach Trust (LOT) in Cornwall, the City and Sea Exchange project bought 11 young people from Cornwall and 12 young people from Tower Hamlets to get together and learn from each other. It was important to carry out collaborative delivery of sessions where possible and make links with companies and organisations. This was done so that young people could take advantage of the vast array of expertise the sector offers.



Summary of the programme

The programme consisted of 10 days of intense educational activities – 5 days in London and 5 days in Cornwall.

Days 1-5: Cornwall

The week commenced with the group staying at the historic Lizard youth hostel. This was next door to Trinity House's Lizard Lighthouse - a coastal mark giving a guide to vessels in passage along the English Channel and warning of the hazardous waters off Lizard Point. It was a remarkable place



seeing the actual light that brings the night alight in the region and safety to thousands of sailors year on year.

The first structured activity was a 'speed networking' session with local fishermen & craftsmen who came in and spoke of their experiences of life at sea. They showed the young people how to prepare seafood such as crab, monk fish and sea bass. They learnt the history of the serpentine – formed 600 million years ago in the earth's crust and emerging to form the powerful cliffs of the Lizard peninsula!

Next day, they went for a walk on the coastal footpath where they saw the breathtaking scenic views and stopped at a local business to see the creation of one of West Country's traditional food – Cornish pasties. They visited a local farm to see yoghurt production to further their experience of local life. In the afternoon, they headed to Coverack to do some windsurfing, kayaking and fishing – to get a true picture and enjoy coastal activities so different to the city.



The next day coincided with a fantastic RAF air show - offering a display of air crafts that primarily reside on super-sized ships. The group were lucky to attend this exclusive day put on by the royal navy at the renowned Royal Navy Air Squadron (RNAS) Culdrose. It was an eye-opener to many young aircraft enthusiasts amongst the group. Participants were able to go into the planes and explore the facilities that the Royal Navy uses.

Towards the evening, they headed to St Michaels Mount to explore the castle which overlooks the once-thriving port for the booming tin industry. Around two thousand years ago, trading ships sailed into the Mount's harbour and exported Cornish tin to the rest of Europe. The evening came to an end with a visit to St. Ives – a thriving tourist town where the group had some dinner.

The penultimate day included a visit to The National Trust on the Lizard where they had a short programme in Bushcraft, Green Woodworking and Mega-Scrub Bash. It was designed to improve the group's understanding of the local environment. This also included eating in survival circumstances. In the afternoon, they took part in kayaking and surfing to show off their skills in some more water sports activities.

Days 6-10: London

On the return trip, the Cornish group arrived and settled into their accommodation at Queen Mary University's student halls. The first structured activity on the second day involved the two groups meeting at the National Maritime Museum – the world's largest - set in the beautiful surroundings of the Greenwich World Heritage Site. They experienced fun activities on the historic Thames including a guided river cruise looking at the converted warehouses that used to link London to

the rest of the world, a London Eye flight and Sea Life Aquarium in Waterloo. At the museum, they explored the meridian line and experienced history of the maritime industry.

Our partner, the Baltic Exchange, hosted the third day at their offices in the City of London. There, they explored the role The Baltic Exchange plays in the industry and received various presentations from different partners about topics around the Maritime industry. They explored the role of the Lloyd's Register of Shipping, insurance of shipping, the role of a shipbroker, explored scenarios such as "when shipping goes wrong" from a legal perspective and finally looked at careers in the Merchant Navy which was delivered by the Merchant Navy Training Board. In the afternoon, the group attended an exclusive guided tour at the Tate & Lyle sugar factory where unprocessed sugar is unloaded from cargo ships at Silvertown.

The penultimate day was given to the London group to host and take around the Cornish young people at a place of their choice. In the afternoon, they visited the HMS Belfast - one of the most powerful large light cruisers ever built - and now the only surviving vessel of its type to have seen active service during the Second World War. In the evening, the group headed to London Docklands – one of the primary hotspots for Maritime history where they saw the historic trade locations in a night walk.

Learning outcomes

It is always important to establish clear learning outcomes and let young people know about their achievements. The following points sum-up their experience and these Learning Outcomes are on the students' Futureversity certificate of achievement. The students:

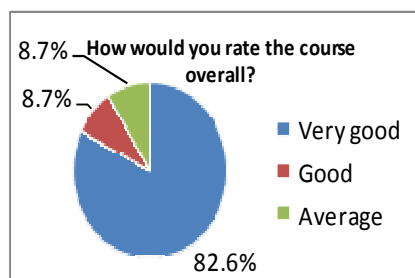
- Learned about the human impact of pollution and its effects on the conservation and habitats within the sea by meeting with Environmentalists and making a visit to the Maritime Museum in Greenwich
- Met with a wide range of people and took part in interactive sessions with industry professionals, including The Baltic Exchange, Lloyd's Register, Clarksons, Holman Fenwick Willan (Solicitors) and the Merchant Navy Training Board
- Visited the Tate & Lyle factory, the world's largest sugar processing factory, gaining knowledge and understanding of the Import and Export aspect of the Maritime Industry including commercial shipping and a real insight into the extensive availability of job opportunities and entry routes in the Maritime Sector
- Attended a residential expedition in Cornwall and participated in a range of educational and adventure activities in the Maritime leisure industry including visits to RNAS Culdrose air/sea rescue, Marconi Centre, Lizard Lighthouse & Lifeboat Station and Kynance Cove
- Demonstrated the ability to interact, exchange ideas and work with students from a very different cultural background

Statistics

Futureversity conducted a post course extended evaluation form during the summer and received valuable precise feedback from students. Students were asked to answer questions and to give their opinion on various statements. All 23 young people completed the questionnaire. These are just some of the extracts from the collated data which is very useful:

Question 2a. How would you rate the course overall?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very good	19	82.6 %
Good	2	8.7 %
Average	2	8.7 %



Statement 3a. I enjoyed the course.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Strongly agree	17	73.9 %
Agree	4	17.4 %
Not sure	2	8.7 %

Question 7b. Has the course...helped you feel more positive about your future?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	17	73.9 %
not really	5	21.7 %
Unspecified	1	4.3 %

Question 10d. Has the course...helped you understand work, education and training opportunities available to you?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	18	78.3 %
Not really	5	21.7 %

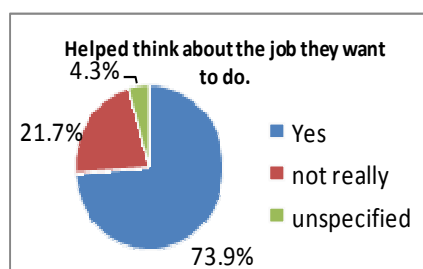


Question 10e. Has the course...helped you develop your skills?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	19	82.6 %
not really	3	13.0 %
Unspecified	1	4.3 %

Question 10i. Has the course...helped you think about the job you want to do?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	17	73.9 %
not really	5	21.7 %
Unspecified	1	4.3 %



Question 9. Did the course make you feel more positive about people from different backgrounds and cultures?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	17	73.9 %
Already did	5	21.7 %
No	1	4.3 %

Conclusion

The fourth year was a true success. The programme offered an inspiring and enjoyable menu of activities for the young people who took part. The contributions from our partners were immense. It is very clear from the feedback that the programme has increased young people thinking about the job they want. The activities generated interest around the range of opportunities within the

Maritime sector "...the best thing about this course was having an opportunity to see another side to trade and industry in the UK and the world" (*Ridwan Al-Jabir, participant*).

The interaction between the two exchange groups was another positive outcome. It was warm, friendly and welcoming. Young people played a large part in playing hosts in both regions. The cultural breakdown was a good mix and 73.9% of the participants said they felt more positive about people from other backgrounds as a result of taking part in the programme.

Learning Points

After analysing the feedback from the young people and staff, the following recommendations have been drawn for 2011:

- To ensure a visit is made to the Lloyds of London building to experience shipping insurance first hand
- Thames barrier would be a good place to visit to see the flood management of London
- The Marconi Centre was a good place to visit in previous years, hence needs to be re-instated as an activity in the Cornwall itinerary
- Stick to the beginning of the summer as attendance was better than in previous years
- Try to do more theory based activities towards the beginning of the programme to help put things into perspective

Action

1. Contact Lloyds of London and Thames Barrier in the spring (well in advance) to ensure a visit can be made there
2. London representatives to make a visit to the Lizard in Spring to ensure suitability of the range of programmes in Cornwall and London and to ensure the project meets its objectives even better

Delivery Partners

Many partners were involved in the delivery of the project. Many of these provided support in kind, and many thanks to them for their efforts in making the experience worthwhile.

<p><i>London</i> The Baltic Exchange Lloyd's Register Clarksons Holman Fenwick Willan (Solicitors) Merchant Navy Training Board Tate & Lyle HMS Belfast National Maritime Museum (Greenwich) Queen Mary, University of London</p>	<p><i>Cornwall</i> Lizard Lighthouse, Trinity House National Trust, Cornwall Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS), Culdrose Youth Hostel Association (YHA) Lizard Coverack wind surfing school St Michaels Mount</p>
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Funders:

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Thank you.

