

OYT South Sailing Trip!!

Wednesday 28th October

We arrived at the John Laing that was moored in Southampton Docks near Ocean Village so I had travelled across from Yarmouth that morning. The boat was quite big (72 ft) and looked really sturdy as she was made of steel! I raced below deck to get a good bunk, however I later found out that the top bunk was not the best place to be because it was a bit narrow and a bit wobbly!!! We then met the other members of the crew, the Skipper, 1st and 2nd mates and the Boatswain who fixes everything that we break!! Next we had to have a safety briefing about what to do in a fire situation, if someone fell overboard where we had to point and yell and what happened if there was a gas leak from the kitchen!! Then we had to pack away all our stuff so that it didn't become a DFO (Dangerous Flying Object)!!! Next we were kitted out with oilskins, consisting of a waterproof dungarees like thing and a large jacket to keep us warm(ish) and dry(ish) on deck, I got number 13 for BOTH of them =S! We then set sail to.....YARMOUTH!!!!!! (Home sweet home)! We never actually entered Yarmouth harbour but we tied up to a buoy outside the harbour for the night. It was Ruth, the Boatswains turn to cook dinner! We had sausage, mashed potatoes and peas, but because I'm a vegetarian and so is another member of the crew called Esra, we had veggie sausages =D!! After we had eaten we all helped to clear up and probably ended up making more mess than there was before! After we had cleaned up our wet, soapy mess we had Chart time! We chatted about charts (a map of the sea) and talked about where we had been, where we were now and where we were going and we worked out how far it was to Alderney, the channel island we would be sailing to! We might have been able to go to France but some members of the crew had forgotten to bring their passports!! Then we got into our pyjamas and got into our bunks, tied our lee cloths up (the pieces of cloth that stretched from the edge of our bunk to the bottom of the bunk above that stop you falling out of bed at night!!) and went to sleep!

Thursday 29th October

We dragged ourselves out of bed at 7am!!!!!! There were no showers (AAAAHHHHH!!!! =O !!!) so, we threw on our clothes and all went up for breakfast. It was cereal, porridge and toast, YUM! After filling our bellies


we pulled on our oilskins and jacket over our clothes and went up on deck to prepare the ship for sailing!! We hoisted the sails (MUCH harder than it sounds) and went below to make sure there was nothing loose that could be a DFO! Then we went into Yarmouth harbour to get some fuel and then it was off to Alderney. We had been split into 2 groups (watches) and each watch would spent 3 hours on deck sailing the boat and then 3 hours either below deck chilling or on deck chilling! The 3 hours did go by very quickly, even if you weren't on watch! There is a CD player with speakers all over the boat so we were singing along to whatever music was playing! We did our first watch and looked out for lobster pots that could get caught up on the underside of the boat! We then went down below deck and I found out the true meaning of seasickness!!! If you go below deck when the boat is rocking, if you suffer from seasickness you will feel sick!!! I went back up on deck because you fell less ill on deck but I was too late and spent the rest of the trip to Alderney with my new best friend (a yellow bucket =S) We finally arrived in Alderney at about 6 o'clock pm!!! I had been asleep for a lot of the time because the rocking of the boat puts you to sleep, like you rocking a baby to sleep, which is a nice break from my yellow bucket! I didn't feel like I could cope with eating anything so I chilled out on deck, feeling a lot better now we had stopped so I sat and admired Alderney in the dark!! I then found out that Scott had fallen out of his bunk (a bottom bunk!) and broken his foot! When we arrived in Alderney Scott and a few of the Crew went off to the doctors on Alderney and he had his foot put in a cast! We then got a bit of time to just hang around not doing much before we had another chart time about where we had been that day! We all then went to bed!

Friday 30th October

We had a lie in!!! We still had to drag ourselves out of bed though so we hauled ourselves up and pulled our clothes on and went for breakfast! After we had eaten we went in pairs or threes in a little rib, off the boat, onto Alderney! It was a very small boat and the water was splashing up all around it and me being me got my back and bum absolutely soaked!!! If you have been on a boat for two days and night you still feel as though you're rocking still when you get onto land! It looked like a large group of drunks had landed on Alderney!! We had to walk up a large hill to get to the shopping street in Alderney and we were pooped when we got there! In Alderney they have their

own currency, they take English money but your change will be in the Alderney currency! We didn't have much time so we went into a few souvenir shops and a bakery where I got a chocolate éclair and a hot chocolate with everything on top (YUM!)

We then had to walk down the hill to the little rib that would take us back to the John Laing and my bum was still wet!! Once back aboard the boat I got into some lovely warm(ish) dry(ish) clothes, everything on a boat somehow finds a way of getting ever so slightly damp =S! After eating lunch we took the little rib back onto Alderney and went for a long walk to a fort on the end of Alderney! We walked along a little beach where my shoes got full of sand and then we went up more hills to get to the fort only to find it was all closed up, there was an amazing view though! We then went down the other side of the hill to another beach and walked along that, then however had to walk all the way back to the harbour, via a little shop that sold Ben and Jerry's ice cream!!! Once we were back on the boat it was my turn to help cook dinner, along with my best friend Sarah who had come on the trip with me! We had potato and breaded fish =)! After eating and clearing up we had a chart time and looked at the route we would be taking back to the Isle of Wight and where we would be staying the next night, in Cowes harbour! After that we all had to go to bed because we would be setting off early because it was forecast bad weather. We had wanted a shower in Alderney but they were closed for the winter (NNNNNOOOOOOOO!!!! =S)

Saturday 31st October 

We were woken up at about 7am! We were told to get ready A.S.A.P because it was forecast very bad weather! We had a speedy breakfast and threw on our kit and were all up on deck preparing to set sail pretty quickly!! I decided to spent the vast majority of my time on deck just incase I started to feel ill again =S !! When we set off it looked a bit cloudy and grey! We were all singing along to a CD that Tatiana had brought along and I wasn't feeling ill! We had out three hour watch and were looking out for Lobster Pots and other boats! We caught a glimpse of the end of France just after we had left Alderney; it looked a lot like a big grey lump on the horizon! There were a lot of big shipping boats in the distance and we were told to keep our eyes on them but we kept loosing them because they were so far away and small. If we did see one though we had to use the points of a clock, so if there was a boat right ahead of us we would say boat at 12 o'clock! We saw a big boat that was

shipping bananas! I went below deck for a while and chatted to Luke and because it was Halloween I got out a fake spider that I had brought along and put it by Scott's head and he jumped half a mile he was so scared (Luke and I were laughing our heads off!! =P) I then went back up on deck and had a go at being on the helm (steering)! When helming a boat you have to have about 3 pairs of eyes so you can look at the sea and other boats, the compass and look ahead to see where we were going! It was fun though! Then my watch actually started and I went back to being a lookout! The sea was pretty rough the whole way back across the channel and we had to clip ourselves on with clips on our lifejackets to wires that were running all over the deck! There was the odd really large wave that made you grab onto the nearest stable thing to you because you felt like you were about to fall off! It was funny when that happened though! We had lunch but I didn't eat anything just incase I started to feel ill! I nibbled bread to stop myself feeling hungry! It was about mid afternoon when we first spotted the needles and could see where we were heading for, instead of the horizon on all sides! The weather had picked up and it was now sunny but quite chilly!! I took over the helm about an hour later but then the crew decided to give us a man overboard drill with a pink buoy with a face drawn on it, tied to a bucket, they called him Bob! They launched Bob over the side and we had to point and yell and keep our eyes on him which was harder than it sounds because he disappeared and reappeared with every wave, but getting smaller all the time! Ben, the first mate, took over the helm for a little while and we tacked (turned round) and went and picked up Bob! I then got to take over the helm and had to tack again so we were heading for the Isle of Wight again, however just as we were turning, a HUGE wave came up and broke over the front of the boat and EVERYONE got soaked (except me!! =D)!!! I got yelled at by pretty much everyone for that =S!! It was very funny though! I stayed at the helm until the end of our watch when we all went below deck to get warm and dry! We just chilled out below deck and I had a little snooze. I was woken up when we were about an hour from Cowes! We were all needed up on deck to help get the boat moored in Cowes! Whenever you tie or untie or bring in or let out a rope you have to coil it neatly back up which became very repetitive by the end of the week! I was in charge of the mooring line at the stern (back) of the boat! We moored into Cowes Harbour quite easily and tidied up all the ropes, got everything on deck cleared up and put away! Scott got off at Cowes and went with his family, who

met him in Cowes, to the hospital to have his foot properly examined and fixed up! Because it was Halloween the crew had organised some Halloween stuff to do! People who got to go below deck earlier than others got to carve Pumpkins!! I unfortunately, was up on deck! They got some face paint out and we all got all painted! Most people decided to be vampires or zombies but I decided to just put a lot of black eye liner on and put black eye liner on my lips and dressed all in black and looked very gothic!! =D We then all ate dinner, which was hard when I was trying to not get eyeliner all over my food when I ate it!! I managed to eat without having black food but then we did apple bobbing!! The crew got a washing up bowl and filled it with freezing cold water and there was a competition to see who could get an apple out in the quickest time! There was a variety of methods used but all involved people sticking their heads into the bottom of the bowl and getting everyone soaking wet! I decided I would not be very fast at all so I just watched! The fastest people had a final round to see who could get the most apples out in 30 seconds! Some people took them out one by one but others decided to simply head-but them out of the bowl, along with most of the water so the table, benches and everyone on them were soaked (except me because I was hiding in the kitchen! (hehe)) The winners all got a little bag of sweets! Then however we all had to help with cleaning up! After the drying of the saloon we had to remove all the freaky make-up and then got to go to bed!

Sunday 1st November

We had to get up quite early! We had to sail from Cowes, back to Southampton! The predicted bad weather had hit! It was raining cats and dogs and the wind was blowing a force 9 (VERY WINDY!!!)! We were glad of a hair rinse after not having had a shower since Wednesday, however after about 20 minutes of being pelted with freezing cold water the novelty wore off and we all just wanted to get warm and dry! We prepared the boat for sailing and sailed across the Solent with heavy sheets of rain obscuring our vision and soaking us as it dripped off our heads and hoods, down our faces and necks! We didn't put the mainsail (the big sail in the middle) up but just sailed with the jib (a smaller sail at the front) up and were going quite quickly! The rain died down a bit as we entered Southampton and stopped as we moored up at Ocean Village! We had to take down the jib and put away the sails and ropes and everything else we used! After spending about an hour

putting things away we finally got to go below deck and get dry and changed and warm! Then we had lunch and for pudding some flapjacks, given to us by Marion Hemming at the start of the trip (thank you!!)! We then had a final chart time and then had to go below deck and pack out bags and tidy everything away! We had to put our bags in the Skippers cabin as we needed to tidy the whole boat!!! Tatiana and I had to clean out the fridge, which was under the floor!! It was pretty revolting and smelled a bit funny! However we put on the rubber gloves and removed all the food from it (which involved me climbing into the fridge to get the bits out from the bottom!!)! Then we sprayed and scrubbed it and threw away all the out of date food and replaced all the good stuff! We then thoroughly cleaned the saloon and while everyone else got a little break on deck, I had to go round vacuuming, on my own =(!!!! It didn't take very long! =) It was getting very close to five o'clock and we all sat in the saloon and said about our best and worst bits of the trip! My best bits were the day in Alderney and the trip home and making new friends! The worst bit was feeling seasick and having to say goodbye to everyone =(!!

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Yarmouth Sailing Club for helping to finance my trip; it was an absolutely fantastic experience that I would recommend to everyone!! Also a big thank you to Tina for lending me her sailing wellies, a great help on Sunday morning! And Ocean Youth Trust and all the Crew who made it such a wonderful adventure! Also all the people I sailed with, I made some really great friends!!

I would love to go on another OYT trip, so will start saving up now!! =)

Jenny Gibbs!