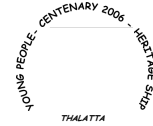


East Coast Sail Trust – Sailing Barge Thalatta



Sailing Barge Thalatta in her glory

February 2009

Thalatta Centenary

We are seeking your support for the East Coast Sail Trust whose purpose is to run the sailing barge **Thalatta** for the benefit of young people, some of whom are disadvantaged or have special needs, and to conserve a vital maritime vessel.

Thalatta is 100 years old and retired from commercial service in 1967 to undertake her present role of providing 5-day voyages for youngsters aged between 9 and 14. During this second phase of her career, Thalatta has benefited over 10,000 children who have learnt many life-changing lessons from teamwork to self-reliance, responsibility to understanding true values. We are proud that many of the early crews now bring their own children to Open Days to explain their experiences, and we are able to provide copies of the actual logs of those cruises.



End of the Norwich School group's voyage

In her 100th year, the Trust has undertaken a major refurbishment of Thalatta so that she will be able to resume her educational role, as well as preserve the vessel for future generations. The estimated cost of this work is £1.1 million and we are supremely grateful that the Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to provide 66% of the total, leaving the Trust to 'match funds' for the remainder. The Trust has been highly successful to date and only now needs to find £100,000 to ensure completion of the project which is progressing on schedule and within budget.

We are pleased to be able to report excellent progress on the project to date. The early part of

East Coast Sail Trust – Sailing Barge Thalatta

2006 was somewhat dispiriting because this stage involved dismantling our lovely old vessel in order to get to the root of the rot problems, and this clearly meant removing a great deal of the old timbers to get back to a sound base. Having done that, however, and taken stock of the additional work which was revealed in the process beyond our original estimation by professionals, the shipwright has made astonishing progress in restoring the massive frames, stem, sternpost and deadwood and we are very happy with how the work is progressing. The pictures below illustrate how matters have moved on:



The refubished central keelson and complex frames at the bow

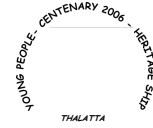
A sailing barge does not have a conventional external keel as the vessel needs to be able to dry out on hards between tides for loading/unloading, but a huge central girder runs the entire length. Here Thalatta's central keelson has been refubished and re-fixed to the new and very complex shaped frames in the bow.



Exceptional craftsmanship

As in the bow area, the stern frames are very complex in shape and 'grown bends' have been used extensively for maximum strength.

East Coast Sail Trust – Sailing Barge Thalatta



Hull planking nearing completion

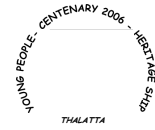


Substantial deck beams installed

The Trust is pleased with progress to date achieved with the greatly valued support of many sponsors who recognise how important it is that Thalatta continues in her current role. Additional work has been revealed during the dismantling process beyond the original estimate and we have successfully approached the Lottery for a supplement to its award but the Trust needs to 'match funds' as indicated earlier since now the challenge is even greater. We are delighted that the Lottery has reaffirmed its commitment to the Project, whose total cost is now of the order of £1.1m of which the Trust has to find approximately £370,000 from gifts and donations, and good progress has been made **but we still need to find £100,000 to complete the Trust's commitment to match funds.**

The well known marine artist, Anthony Osler, has had a long-term association with the Trust and has very kindly donated a superb painting of Thalatta off the East Coast to support the fund-raising challenge and prints, individually signed by Anthony, are available for sale as shown below:

East Coast Sail Trust – Sailing Barge Thalatta



Signed print of Thalatta off the East Coast (size 12" x 8" print on a 16" x 12" surround)

Should you be interested in a copy of the signed print, please contact me; the cost is £12 plus any p&p required.

We also have brass plaques for sale, rather similar to those in Brandeston Village Hall, measuring 6" x 2" and costing £65 for up to 70 letters.

Nick Hayward

01728 685465