

Cornwall City & Sea Exchange 2009 Report

17-27 August 2009



Project overview

Our third Cornwall City & Sea 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 careers routes. As well as the subject specific objective, the project met our organisational aim of promoting racial tolerance and good community relations.

Aim of the project

The project aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of the sea, the value of the wider maritime sector and to ensure the young people participate in a wide variety of quality educational activities to be able to make an informed decision on 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. With 95% of national imports done through shipping, the increased under water technological advancement and the employment of hundreds of thousands of people, it is an area that deserves recognition.

Who was involved?

We invited a group of young people from Cornwall and recruit young people from Tower Hamlets



who are genuinely 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 brought 9 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: London

The week commenced with the Cornish group arriving and settling in to their accommodation at Queen Mary University's student halls. The first structured activity involved the two groups meeting for the first time hosted by our partners at the Baltic Exchange. 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.

The group attended an exclusive guided tour at the Tate & Lyle sugar factory where unprocessed Sugars are unloaded from cargo ships at Silvertown. They then visited the Thames Barrier to learn about river management – specifically looking at the engineering behind it. The following day, the group spent an inspirational morning at Lloyds of London exploring maritime insurance and witnessing negotiations for a genuine deal between an underwriter and broker.

Other visits included the HMS Belfast, the National Maritime Museum, London Eye and the Sea Life centre which are all linked in different ways to the world of Maritime. The group also visited the primary hotspot for Maritime history at the London Docklands where they got to see the historic trade location developed in the 21st Century.

Days 6-10: Cornwall

On the return trip, the group stayed at the historic Lizard youth hostel. The first structured visit was to the RNLI Life Boat station where they met with volunteers who showed the group around the centre and spoke of their experiences.

A fantastic evening was organised with local fishermen who came in and spoke of their experiences of life out in the ocean. They showed how to prepare seafood for consumption such as crab, monk fish, sea bass etc. 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!

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

After a fantastic coastal walk with the National Trust to the Marconi Centre, the group received a presentation on the first wireless communication Trans-Atlantic. A visit to the Royal Navy Air Squadron was also eye-opener to many young aircraft enthusiast amongst the group. Participants were able to go into the planes and explore the facilities that the Royal Navy uses.



"...it was amazing, the trip to RNAS was great!!"
(Constance Pang, participant).

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' Tower Hamlets Summer University certificate of achievement:

- Attended a session at the Lloyd’s of London and gained an excellent insight into the insurance aspect of shipping
- 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 an interactive session with industry professionals, including The Baltic Exchange, Lloyd’s Register, International Transport Intermediaries Club Ltd, Clarksons, Holman Fenwick Willan (Solicitors) and the Merchant Navy Training Board.
- Visited the Thames Barrier and 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
- Learnt to interact, exchange ideas and work with students from very different cultural backgrounds and much more!



Conclusion

The Cornwall City & Sea Exchange was an inspiring and enjoyable programme for the young people who took part. Without the enormous contribution from our partners, it wouldn’t have been possible. It is very clear from the feedback that the programme has generated interest around the range of opportunities within the Maritime sector and young people have the choice to make informed decisions of career routes within the industry that has been uncovered for them “...the best thing about this course was meeting great people and gaining an appreciation for the Maritime industry” (*Shamima Ali, participant*).

The interaction between the two exchange groups was warm and friendly and young people played a large part in hosting in both regions: “The best thing about this course was travelling to Cornwall to experience a completely different lifestyle with different people”.

Learning Points

After analysing the feedback from the young people, the following recommendations have been drawn for 2010:

- Plan more social time with the Cornish group – with all the back to back activities in London, limited time was allocated for non project related sessions early on in the exchange (i.e. free time between the two groups);

- Arrange the programme outside of the Ramadan period – Many young people were exhausted while undertaking activities because of lack of food and water. The programme was sympathetic to cater for the young people who fasted, however there was a logistical impact. Next year Ramadan is over the summer holidays so this was a pilot which can help plan well in 2010;
- Increase physical activities in Cornwall – due to the amount of presentation style sessions in London, it was felt more a physical and recreational approach to learning was necessary in Cornwall. Due to poor weather, some Maritime related activity sessions were cancelled. It is important to have an alternative planned in these uncontrolled situations.

Action

1. Liaise more closely with staff in Cornwall to plan an interactive programme of events – include more ‘free time’ in London;
2. Arrange a programme in the beginning of Summer 2010 to avoid Ramadan dates;
3. Work out a strategy to increase take-up in Cornwall – by expanding the existing partnerships to include newer ones such as schools and colleges;
4. Encourage and develop the participants to be youth ambassadors to inform changes to be made to future programmes.

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></p> <p>The Baltic Exchange Lloyd’s Register International Transport Intermediaries Club Ltd Clarksons Holman Fenwick Willan (Solicitors) Merchant Navy Training Board Tate & Lyle Thames Barrier Lloyd’s of London HMS Belfast National Maritime Museum (Greenwich) Queen Mary, University of London</p>	<p><i>Cornwall</i></p> <p>Lizard Life Boat Station Landewednack Church Lizard Lighthouse, Trinity House National Trust, Cornwall Marconi Centre Royal Naval Air Station, Culdrose Youth Hostel Association Lizard</p>
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Funders:

The following funders made the project happen. Without their donation and generosity, the project could not have been possible: **The Baltic Exchange, The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, Trinity House and Merchant Navy Training Board.**

Thank you.

“...I think Summer Uni is great because it offers varied courses in subjects it might otherwise be difficult to get it into, making them easily accessible and free” (*Lucia Gray, participant*).