



# LIGHTWAVES 2012

NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIP AFLOAT CHARITABLE TRUST

**At Fellowship Afloat young people experience a unique blend of fun, adventure and inspiration, in the midst of a caring, waterside community.**



*Dear Friends*

Welcome to Lightwaves 2012, our review of Fellowship Afloat over the last year, during which time we welcomed over 2000 guests to our centre – receiving very positive feedback from them. We are preparing to welcome a full calendar of groups in the coming months, with over 85% being return bookings. We feel privileged and encouraged to have built up strong relationships with all our visitors over the years. It is particularly from these regulars that we hear encouraging stories of the many young people for whom a stay at FACT is important in their personal development – and exploration of their faith.

Recently, David Hillyer, FACT's director, has been making preparations for his retirement and, consequently, I have the privilege of trying to "fill his shoes". The centre has benefited hugely from his leadership and commitment over many years, so we are pleased to announce that he will continue to be involved part-time in a new role (see back page).

My wife Laura, the family and I love being part of the FACT community and are committed to seeing it continue to prosper over the coming years. FACT has been blessed by our setting in Tollesbury and in having a wonderful team of staff and volunteers. They deliver a fantastic service and hold so much potential for the future. We are working on plans to develop and grow our work in Tollesbury, to ensure that our guests receive the best possible experience.

Many adults, youth groups and schools were again able to enjoy the unique Christian community and experience of adventure that is Fellowship Afloat. Do take a few minutes to read our news.

*Andrew Eastham*

Andrew Eastham, CEO  
Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust

## ACTIVITIES

We are into the planning consent process for the new High Ropes Course, and our neighbours' initial response is supportive. We received approval from the Adventure Activity Licensing Authority to use sit-on-top-canoes in Tollesbury's salt pool, a simple but valuable addition to our activities.

In the autumn we expanded our climbing wall area in the old boatshed, creating a much larger space, allowing for indoor archery and other activities.

We still seek funding to replace the Pico fleet and purchase a new Wayfarer, but our priority has been upgrading our safety boats. In an answer to prayer, we were able to replace three outboard engines, followed by a new engine for *Sanderling*, our mother ship. Used almost every day, these craft must be very dependable. The team spent the winter months on refurbishment of the centre and kit, helping to ensure that all activities during the season run reliably and safely.

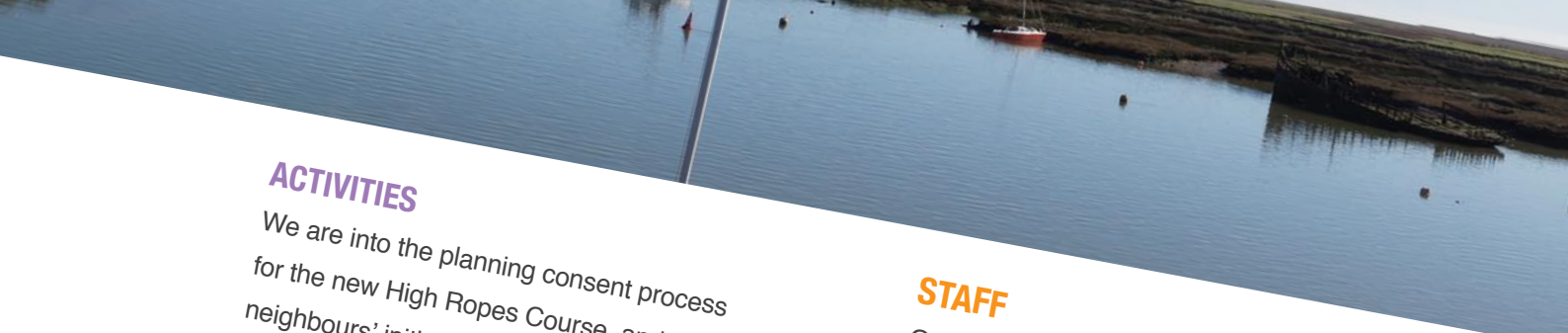
## STAFF

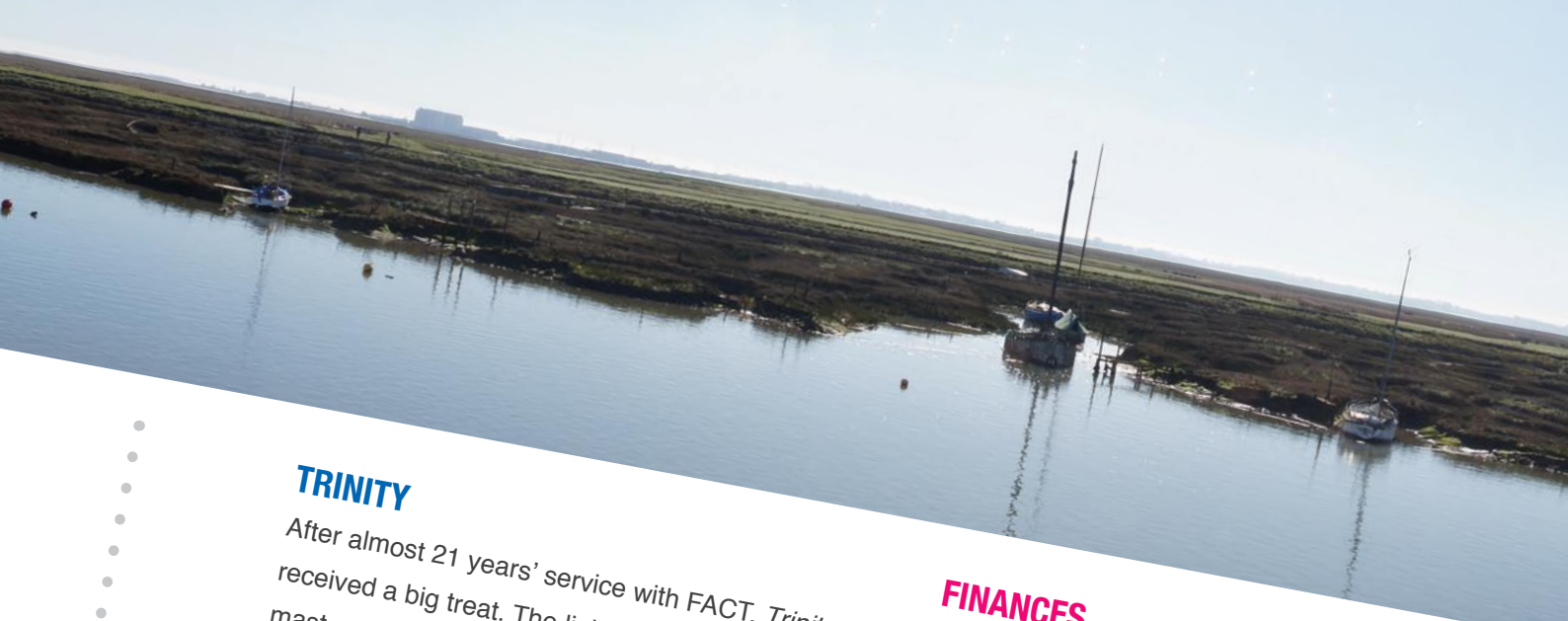
Our team, with the volunteers, are the best resource we have, and they work like a big family. Most visiting groups comment on their high level of commitment, care, enthusiasm, energy and professionalism.

Mark Smith joined us at the beginning of 2011 to head up the catering. In February 2012, we say goodbye to Becky Cross, who's getting married – we'll miss her greatly! We're looking for a right-hand person for Andrew in managing the ship, caring for guests and delivery of activities. This new post will also support Anna White and Pippa Nunns in leading the group work. Mary Hope runs the office, supported by volunteers during the week. Lianne Woodyard, on maternity leave, is soon to return. Out on the saltings, it's great to have Doug Bradley back at TSL (our yacht berthing company) after a serious illness. He serves the customers well and is a great help to the FACT team. Many thanks to Paul Blyth, who managed TSL in Doug's absence.

## GAP YEAR STAFF

We welcomed another great gap-year team in September. They settled in really well, and are enjoying serving the groups and delivering the activities. They are ChoHye Lee, Katie McLeish, Keagan Barr, James Cresswell and Ed Ireson. Over the autumn, Chris Cotterill joined the team and will stay on in a trainee SI role; and it's great that Tom Johnston stays for a second year. A gap year at FACT is a life-changing experience: it not only disciplines and matures young people but provides them with a whole range of transferrable skills in leadership, service and communication – also preparing them for the employment market. We are looking for our next team for September 2012 onwards – could one of that team be you?





## TRINITY

After almost 21 years' service with FACT, *Trinity* received a big treat. The light tower and forward mast were repaired and painted, and the latter re-rigged. On the upper decks, steelwork was repaired, redundant fittings removed and the asphalt surface replaced. We replaced the curved saloon windows and also moved the pontoon ramp from *Trinity* to the timber staging alongside, so *Trinity* is more comfortable in her berth, and maintenance of the ramp will be much easier.

It's been an epic project, not just in the provision of the funding, but also in the months of dogged volunteer support – for which we are so grateful. In 2012, as soon as the weather allows, we will repaint *Trinity's* hull. Bright shiny red!



## FINANCES

FACT worked hard and successfully in 2011 to recover earlier losses. We have a balanced budget for 2012 but the economic times remain very challenging. The restricted funds have been very important over the past 12 months. The *Trinity* Refurbishment Fund was used to do the work mentioned previously, and we are thankful to the many people who contribute to it regularly. The Bursary Fund supported 121 guests (to the tune of £12,916). This is an important fund, without which it would be impossible to bless so many needy young people. We expect demand to rise, so plan to expand the fund in 2012. Our continuing vision is to develop FACT further as it serves guests, volunteers and the community, and we've developed a new a funding strategy to help achieve this. A leaflet providing details is now available – see David Hillyer's column on the back page.





## FROM DAVID HILLYER

“My new task started in January, making the way clear for Andrew to step fully into the leadership of the Trust – and I am so delighted. I’m focusing on funding support and development. Over the years, we have been hugely blessed by God’s provision, so much of which has come through the faithfulness of friends. A new leaflet, *Funding Fellowship Afloat*, describing our plans and aspirations for the coming years, is available. It speaks of exciting developments, but also stresses the importance of our Bursary Fund, and the need to replace equipment regularly – order your copy from the office now!

I am reducing my working week to four days, and will also take a three-month sabbatical later in the year, for which I am very grateful. Thank you for the support and encouragement that so many of you have given in recent times. This new journey is both exciting and challenging – my prayer is that we all remain securely in God’s plan for Fellowship Afloat.”

## STAY CONNECTED

We hope that reading about our ministry has inspired you. Fellowship Afloat needs your interest, support and prayers over the coming year, and as it makes plans for the future. Feel free to get in touch with us any time, and to see *Trinity* after the recent refurbishment work: come to our Open Day on Sunday 6 May 2012, to a Sailaway Day, or any one of the other opportunities in 2012.

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