

# LIGHTWAVES 2011



## 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*

Fellowship Afloat is blessed with a very full calendar for 2011 and we are expecting over 2000 young people to enjoy our unique hospitality on board *Trinity*.

During 2010, our trustees and staff worked on a plan to provide for the long term future of the fellowship, and now it is being implemented. David Hillyer (who is planning

his route to retirement over the next two years) has indicated his willingness to hand over leadership to Andrew Eastham, who was duly appointed acting chief executive on 1 January, 2011. Andrew has served a long apprenticeship for this role and he and his wife Laura together have made a huge commitment to our staff and visitors. I am sure that you will give them both your wholehearted support and prayers as Andrew leads Fellowship Afloat into the future.

In the meantime, David is working on ensuring that Fellowship Afloat has the investment and resources for its development over the next 20-plus years. He and I have much to do as we seek funding partners to assist us in the refurbishment and development of *Trinity*. We also seek support to install a high ropes course and to increase our bursary fund – which is so useful in providing for people who cannot afford our normal fees.\*

If you read on you will see that the vision we had many years ago for the work of Fellowship Afloat is even more relevant today. Together we can rejoice that, in 2011, many young lives will be changed for the better, and people of faith will be built up and strengthened in their love for God and their commitment to serve.

*Keith Moscrop*

Keith Moscrop, chair of directors  
Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust

\*You can obtain a copy of our document setting out FACT's objectives and investment plans from the FACT office or download it at <http://www.fact.org.uk/future.pdf>



## ACTIVITIES

We enjoyed a busy 2010, and (as at January 2011) are almost fully booked for 2011. *Trinity*, the staff and volunteers continue to provide guests with a bespoke experience in a supportive environment. We've received excellent feedback all year, together with many stories of young people who have been inspired and encouraged by gaining new skills, while living in a lively, inclusive Christian community. We continue to look at expanding our range with more activities, including high ropes.

In early 2011, we took delivery of two new outboard engines for the safety boats, an increased range of smaller bows for archery, new waterproofs and buoyancy aids ready for the start of the season. The boats are in good shape following winter refurbishment. We are looking for funding to add both another dinghy and powerboat to our fleet.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering with Fellowship Afloat isn't just baking cakes or going sailing. In 2010, volunteers also helped renovate our accommodation vessel *Plain Kate*, fund-raised for our Bursary Fund by sailing round Britain, and assisted with admin work in our office.

Volunteer numbers have grown, particularly with young people from the local area, often through existing volunteers bringing friends onboard and sharing with them what it means to be a volunteer. The volunteer base also improves in depth and development, many taking up the opportunity for an RYA training course in sailing and/or powerboating. Growing these individuals in faith and life skills is a key part of our ministry.



# STAFF

Pippa Nunns joined the team in the 2010 season: she focuses on delivery of activities and co-ordinating volunteers. Becky Cross, back from sailing around Britain, joined us in September. Anna White continues to head up the educational/youth programme.

Jon Salmon and Kevin Nash, part of the team for the last four and three years respectively, and Mark Woodyard, chef for the last four years, departed in 2010. We really miss them, but wish them well in their next steps. Our new chef, Mark Smith, joined us in February 2011. Ashore, in the office, Mary Hope and Lianne Woodyard help our customers find the courses they want and keep admin things ship-shape. Doug Bradley, who runs our yacht-berthing company (TSL), became seriously ill in August 2010. He's receiving treatment which is going well. David's and Andrew's new roles are covered on the front page.

# GAP-YEAR STAFF

In September 2010, another fantastic gap-year team moved on, and we trust that the skills they developed in teamwork and leadership will be a benefit to them, and those they live and work with in the future. With this year's team, we are again amazed at God's provision of such able and willing young people. We're sorry to report, however, that one of the team, Matt Knell, was diagnosed with leukaemia just before Christmas. He is now undergoing treatment in hospital and at home, and we're praying for him and his family.

The team has worked hard over the winter on boat refurbishment and on training, ready for the arrival of guests in February, and for sailing to start in March.

# FINANCES

Last year was tough financially, and 2011 might be even more so, as we make good the losses of previous years. Nevertheless, we have a balanced operating budget for 2011. Last year there was growth in giving by individuals (our committed supporters are so much appreciated), which helped offset a small drop in funds from grant-making trusts. We seek further funding for the Bursary Fund, and for the development of our facilities for the future.

We aim to be good stewards of the resources God has blessed us with, and continue to review our costs so that we can serve our guests in an efficient and effective manner. We feel encouraged by strong bookings, and are confident that our plans for development will strengthen customer loyalty, and attract new visitors.



# FACILITIES

Our floating centre, *Trinity*, has been in our service for 20 years and we are now forming a plan to develop her for the next 20: proposals include creating additional accommodation, converting the engine room to a social area, refurbishing the external decks, and exploring how we can use energy in a more sustainable way. If you're a user of *Trinity* (as guest or volunteer), we'd like to hear your thoughts on how she could be improved for our guests. We intend to re-paint the lightship externally this year as soon as the weather permits.

We continue to work on plans for a high ropes course: we have a design and are pursuing planning permission, while fund-raising for £65,000 has begun.

# STAY CONNECTED

We value so much your interest, support and prayers, and look forward to hearing from, or seeing you in the coming year (*Trinity* Open Day is on 29 May 2011). If you'd like to read more – now, or at any other time in the year – please go to our new Lightwaves blog. Here you'll find more detail and other articles covering our work and, as the year moves on, we'll post further news and info. Here's the link:

<http://lightwaves.posterous.com>

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