

Dear Janet

My name is Martyn Priest and I received some money in August from your fund to go on the Tall Ships races 2011.

I would like to thank you very much for helping me to go on this trip as, if it was not for you I would not have been able to go.

I started my journey in Taunton, where I live. I had a 12 hour minibus drive up to Aberdeen which was very boring. When I got there I then had another 12 hour journey on a ferry to Lerwick In the Shetland islands, where I boarded my boat, Moosk which I was going to help sail with my fellow crew members over the North Sea to Stavanger in Norway.

The race was delayed 24 hours because of bad weather which meant spending another day In Lerwick looking around, and seeing all the other boats which was amazing.

We were all very keen to set sail but after a long wait we got the great news that we were setting sail, over 100 boats started one of the biggest races of the year. It was amazing to be part of such an important event in the sailing calendar. The North Sea was great at first the waves were reaching up to about 14 to 15 meters but I was told by the skipper of the boat that "The waves were dropping all the time".

On the boat we worked a 3 hour on and 4 hour off rota, it was very hard to get to sleep at first but by the end of the first day I had cracked it! It took 2 days to get to Norway but was truly worth every minute to be able to see the wonderful sights.

Going across the North Sea on a 17.3 meter boat was truly an experience never to be forgotten. I enjoyed it more than anything I have ever done before.

The Tall Ships Races has also given me the confidence to give a talk to my old primary School about the races and what is involved in sailing in it, which is something that a year ago I would never done.

Your trust is one of a few amazing trusts that make people's dreams become a reality and with your help I have now completed something I thought I could have never of done.

Thank you once again for all your help.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Priest

