





2023 Season

We enjoyed a good season of sailing across all three vessels during 2023, with Duet experiencing her busiest season for a number of years. We provided residentials for a wide range of youth groups including special needs schools, young carers, youth justice services, homeless organisations, air cadets, sea cadets, Early Intervention in Psychosis service users and those needing some added direction in life. In total, we completed 54 residentials across our three vessels in 2023.

Queen Galadriel relished sailing from the East and South coasts, working with a variety of different needs and abilities. We were pleased to welcome our charity's founder Bill Broad onboard Queen Galadriel in May for a special celebration for Cirdan's 40th Anniversary. All three vessels sailed into London mid-September where we celebrated the work of the Trust over so many years. A special thanks goes to Hermitage Community Moorings for their support and generosity over the weekend. We hosted a wonderful celebration, inviting people that have been connected to Cirdan over the last four decades, from shipwrights and engineers to past crew and staff members.

Duet continued her run of Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residentials across seven weeks during the school holidays. The majority of these participants apply for financial support towards the cost of their place, many of whom are facing their own challenges such as autism, ADHD, low self-esteem, anxiety and from low-income families. Duet also enjoyed taking part in the exhilarating Round the Island Race in July.

Faramir continued her 10-week circumnavigation programme around the UK, working with NHS Early Intervention in Psychosis service users. Faramir came second in a very challenging Tall Ships Race from Den Helder to Hartlepool in July, facing gusts of 35 knots and a sea state that can only be described as 'uncomfortable'.

We faced a few challenges last year, most notably trouble with recruiting crew and some mechanical issues with Queen Galadriel's steering, but these were fixed and she could continue sailing for the rest of the season.

Following 22 years with the Trust, CEO Leonie Back retired at the end of March to spend more time with the family. Leonie provided a steady hand to the Trust particularly through some difficult times and her expertise and experience is not something that can be easily replaced.

We are pleased to welcome two new trustees to our board. Previous Queen Galadriel Skipper Louis Abbott, and Gemma Telford who sailed on Queen Galadriel in the 90s as part of a youth group and has never forgotten how much she took away from her voyage.

It was a shock to us all to learn of Bill's passing late on in the year. I first met Bill a number of years ago when we went sailing together on Faramir out of Newcastle. His detailed knowledge of the boats and the passion for the Trust's work shone brightly that day. There are so many of us that will have long lasting memories, new friendships and a change of direction in life due to Bill's foresight and generosity.

Ed Humphries
Chief Executive



"I learnt it's a beautiful world and life is worth living."

Bill Broad 1940 - 2023

It is with great sadness that Bill Broad, Cirdan's founder passed away in December.

Bill was convinced that sailing in groups was a sure way of encouraging the development and motivation of young people and in 1983 purchased Queen Galadriel and started the Trust.



"It is easy for the well-off and reasonably educated to choose their occupation and gain the good things in life. But for the unfortunate and disadvantaged this is often impossible. Sailing on well equipped and well managed historic vessels gives them a new vision in life."



40 years later, Bill continued to support the work he started. He joined us onboard Queen Galadriel in May surrounded by family and friends to celebrate 40 years of Cirdan. Bill also joined us in London in September to celebrate the countless young people his hard work, dedication and generosity helped over such a long period.

He travelled to Fullbridge in Essex to watch Queen Galadriel finish her last voyage of the season in October and enjoyed visiting his beloved Queen Galadriel and chatting to the crew. We enjoyed hearing his sailing stories and memories from years gone by.

Partly for his services to helping young people, Bill was made a Canon of Durham Cathedral in 1994 and was awarded the Beacon Fellowship Prize for Family Philanthropy in 2006.

We will forever be indebted to Bill and his legacy will continue through the Trust's work.

Sail Trainee of the Year – Joe

Joe joined their first voyage in April 2023, taking part in a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residential onboard Duet. They caught the sailing bug and was keen to come back. They took part in the Tall Ships Race sailing from Ipswich to Den Helder, then jumped back onboard Faramir to help us sail her from Ipswich to London for our 40th Anniversary celebrations. Joe topped off the season gaining their hattrick and helping sail Queen Galadriel from Ipswich to Maldon for winter refit.

Joe was a pleasure to have onboard, always keen to learn and get involved. They proved themselves a worthy cook and saved the day during the Tall Ships Race by cooking a meal when everyone else was sea sick.

“On Duet, with a smaller crew, there are many more things to do whilst underway. You learn more about the few people that you’re with than on the other vessels where groups are over 15 or so on board. However, my highlight of the year had to be the Tall Ships Race aboard Faramir. It was possibly one of the hardest things I’ve ever done, both physically and mentally, but by pushing my limits I found amazement and the awe of completing something I would have never even thought of before I found Cirdan. In such a world as this, you are not often exposed first hand to the power of nature, and witnessing a glimpse of what the sea is capable of is truly humbling.

“The other trips I have been on this year have not been nearly as difficult, but nonetheless have only stoked the fire of my growing love for sailing. Taking Faramir up the Thames and then Queen Galadriel into dry mooring were both amazing experiences, and I made good friends on both trips. During the Tall Ships Race, most of the crew were very seasick, including myself, and keeping water and food down was a losing battle. Whilst my sense of time on the trip is pretty blurry, I do vividly remember haphazardly chopping vegetables with a pair of scissors and trying to cook something hot in the hopes that it would boost morale. I think cooking on board is a great way to bond with the crew, as at the end of a tough day, any sailor is happy with a hearty warm meal. I’ve had my own personal struggles with food, and after three years of being very unwell, my first trip with Cirdan gave me a small look into how things could be - when sailing, there is little time to worry about what food you are eating.

“I still have my anxieties, but over the year I’ve worked on myself and have started to find a bit more peace. At the end of my trip on Queen Galadriel, I was awarded the ‘Sail Trainee of the Year’. I was very surprised, to be honest, but definitely very grateful. The Cirdan Trust has positively changed my life, and it’s a great feeling to know that I’ve also made a difference somewhere, no matter how small. To anyone who is apprehensive about going on a voyage, because of anxieties or things you think are holding you back - always push your limits. And when things do get tough, remember that it will never be forever; the wind will pick up, you will see the shoreline, the waves will break. Always push your limits, because the new skills, friends, stories and sense of achievement you will find is worth the initial spike of apprehension.”

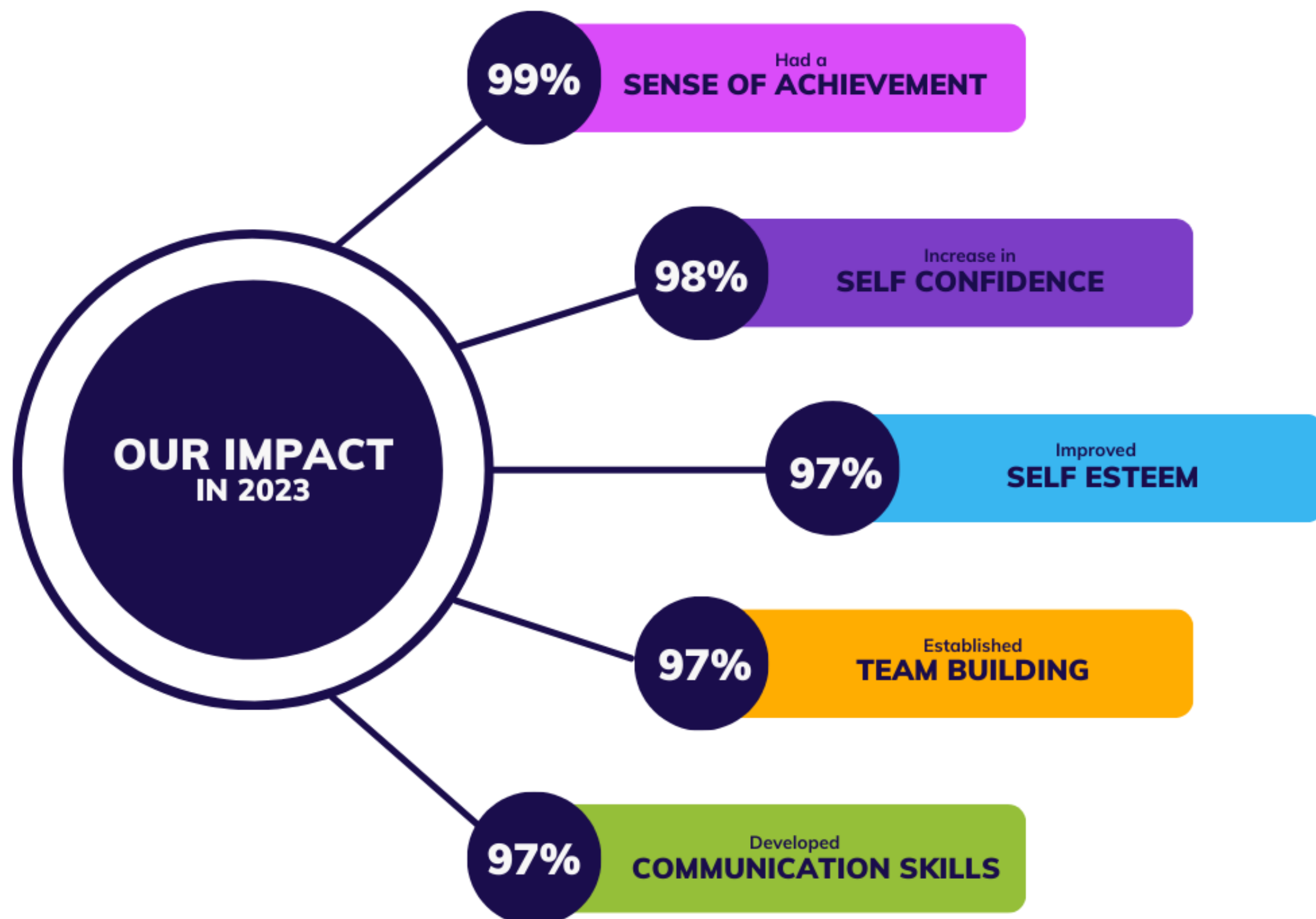
Joe was awarded a £50 voucher donated by Aurora Sea School to use towards a training course.



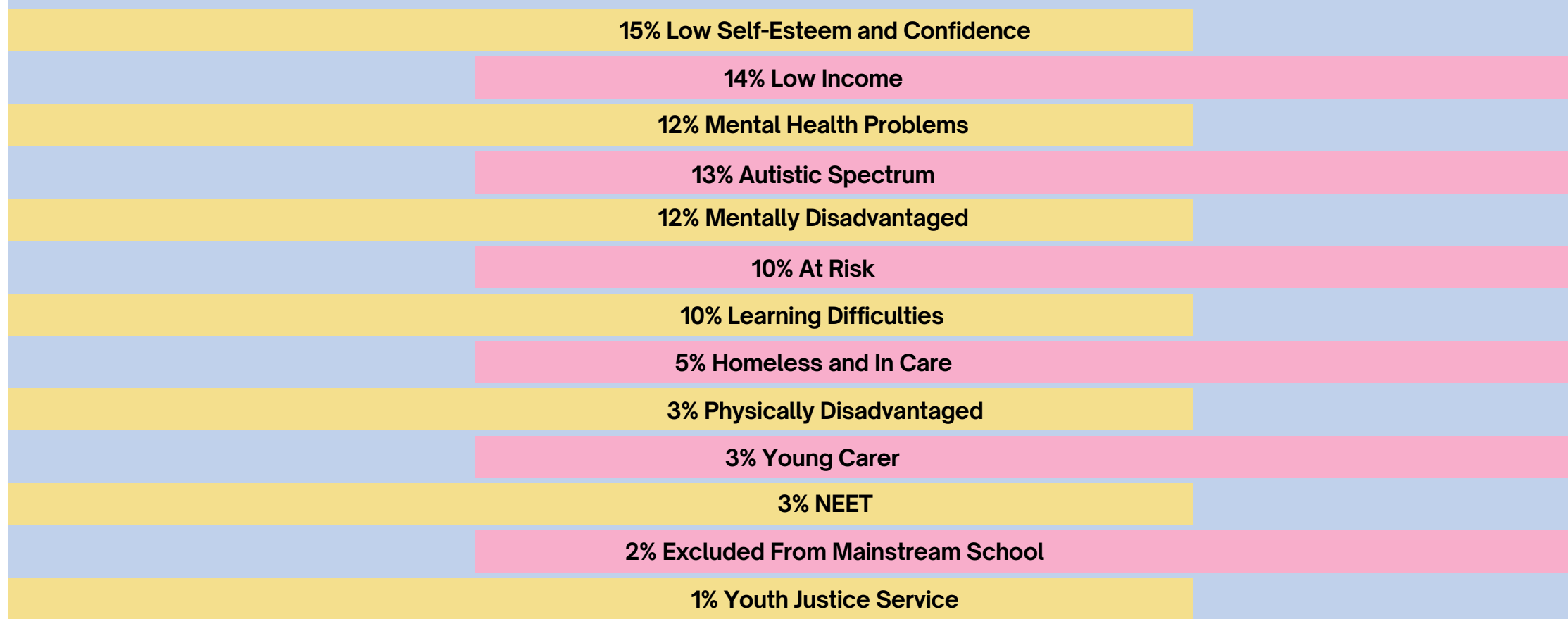
2023 Performance

The main focus of Cirdan has always been to work with young people who are disadvantaged in some way. These people are from a diverse variety of backgrounds and experience a wide range of challenges as shown on the right. We also offer several Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residentials, which are open to any young person wishing to experience a voyage. These voyages are supported by a specific legacy separate from our standard Voyage of Discovery Fund. Occasionally, we are asked to work with special needs adult groups, and in 2023 we welcomed a homeless charity, and as with all our voyages these can be adapted to suit the needs of the group. The few adult voyages during the season are either for promotional purposes or are sold at a premium to help raise much needed funds.

During 2023, the gender spread was male 58%, female 39% and non-binary/other 3%. From the information we gathered in 2023, the ethnic origins of our trainees was 65% British or European, 9% African, 7% mixed race, 7% Asian, 4% Caribbean, 2% Chinese and 6% other.



In 2023 the young people that sailed with us were from the following categories:



To ensure we maintain a high standard of service that meets the expected outcomes of our group leaders, we ask participants to complete evaluations. The outcomes gained from the experience we offer continue to show that the challenge and disciplines of life at sea is an extremely effective way to help young people develop essential life skills.

Amongst 14 outcomes, the five most desired by the leaders in 2023 were sense of achievement, self confidence, self esteem, team building and communication skills. Our evaluation shows that we are meeting their expectations at a moderate or significant level of at least 97%.

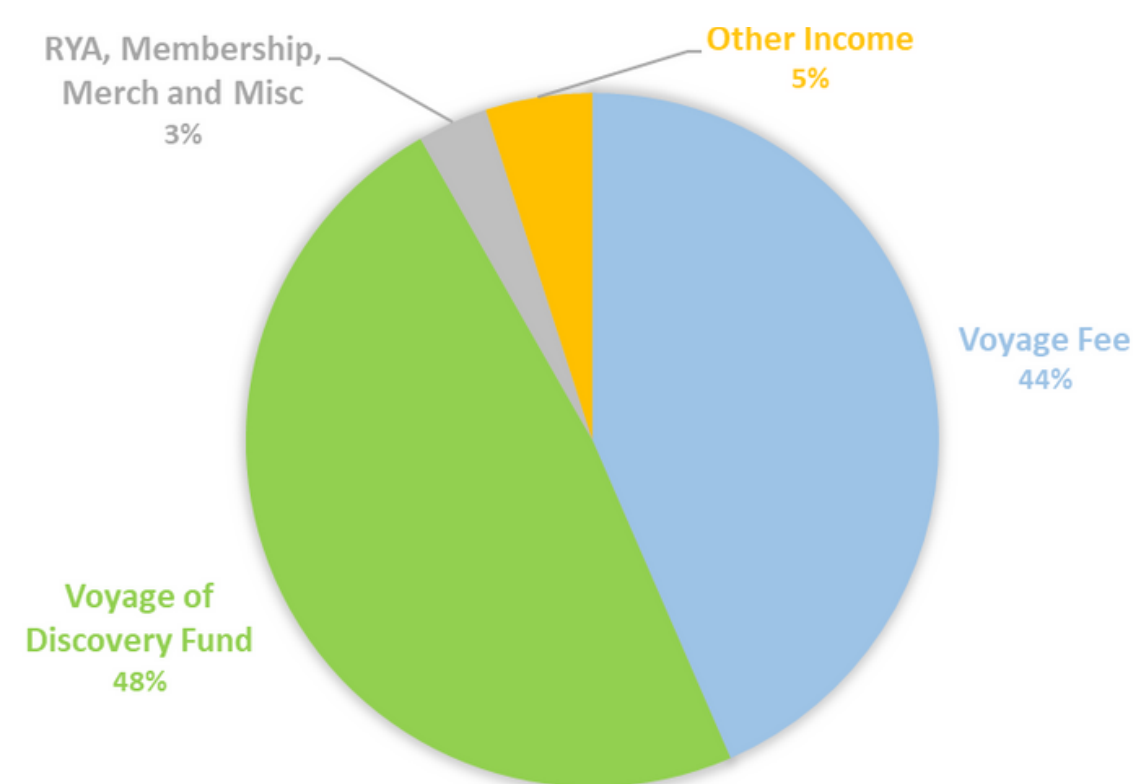
Income & expenditure

With a focus on working with groups whose young people face disadvantages in their lives and to ensure our service is widely available, fundraising is an essential aspect of Cirdan's work.

With the exception of just two youth voyages in 2023, every group that sailed with us required support from our Voyage of Discovery Fund scheme to enable them to participate.

In 2023, on average across the fleet, the voyages were funded at a level of 52% of the full voyage fee which is needed for our successful operation.

We continue to work with the groups coming on board to aid them with their own fundraising efforts.



Income sources 2023

It is not surprising that we continue to experience an increase in costs across almost all areas of operation. These include marina costs, parts, equipment and fuel.

Through careful management of these increases however a small surplus of income was achieved during 2023.

The Trust continues to be financially stable with sufficient reserves for three months operation.

At the time of publication our 2023 accounts have not been formalised.



Thank you!

The Cirdan Sailing Trust is partly self-financed through the contribution made by the groups towards their voyage. In 2023, almost every group and young person that sailed with us required financial assistance through our Voyage of Discovery Fund scheme to enable them to participate. Thanks to the generosity and support of all the grant making trusts and individuals who recognise the value of our work, we were once again able to offer this much needed helping hand.

We are also grateful for the support and cooperation of the marinas and suppliers. We would particularly like to thank the following regular donors and supporters:

ASTO
Augustine Courtauld Trust
Baronets Trust
Bradwell Marina
Christopher Aston Memorial Fund
David Milledge
Duet Fund
Fambridge Yacht Haven
Fox's Marina
Girdlers Company Charity
Haslar Marina
Hermitage Community Moorings
Ipswich Beacon Marina

John Lamb
John Tudor Baker
Keith Coleman
Kevin Finch Shipwright Ltd
Little Britain Challenge Cup
Marconi Sailing Club
Michael Clark
Patrick Malahide
Platt Davies Family
Practical Marine Solutions
RYA
Sam West
Sir Julian Berney



info@cirdantrust.org
01621 776684

Charity Number: 1091595

Looking ahead

We have an exciting year ahead for 2024! We have introduced the Cirdan Year of Challenge, encouraging all our staff, crew and young people who sail with us to challenge themselves to complete something out of their comfort zones. It doesn't have to be a physical challenge, for example, it could be facing a fear. Our CEO Ed and Skipper Charlotte kicked off the season taking part in a 4km rowing race. Trustee Charles will be taking part in the Brighton Marathon in April to raise funds for a new minibus. Keep an eye on our social media for various challenges throughout the year.



We have more voyages this year where individuals can book a place, and these will be across all three vessels from various locations around the UK including Ipswich, Portsmouth and Hartlepool.

Duet will continue her run of Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residentials. She will also be taking part in the Round the Island Race in June as well as the ASTO Small Ships Race alongside Faramir in October.

Faramir will once again be completing a circumnavigation around the UK, taking a number of Early Intervention in Psychosis service users on residentials, and will be stopping at various locations along the way for a few weeks including Portsmouth, Glasgow and Hartlepool. Faramir will also host a birdwatching weekend on the River Crouch.

Queen Galadriel will spend the Summer on the South Coast, and will make her regular stop-off at the Little Britain Challenge Cup in Cowes in September.