



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER AND KAY RETURN TO THE TALL SHIPS



Kay Wilks, Chas Cowell & Mike Wilks on board the square-rigged brig Stavros S Niarchos

Following on from his recent visit, the Provincial Grand Master, Mike Wilks and his wife Kay returned to the Tall Ships Youth Trust anchorage at Gunwharf Marina to revisit the four boatloads of young people on their return from their week-long sailing training voyage.

Arriving on Mike's Kawasaki ZZR1400 motorbike and in leathers, their second visit was very well received by the young people who expressed gratitude to 'The Masons' for the support given to the Trust and were very keen to talk about their experiences. The PGM noted that all the participants wanted to return another time, had increased in confidence and bonded as teams within their respective crews. Some had cooked a meal for the first time and experienced its enthusiastic reception by their crewmates while others even talked excitedly about doing the washing up!

Mike and Kay were introduced to a young man who was a NEET, 'not in education, employment or training'. He first went on a Tall Ships adventure aged 19 and described himself as 'never worked, no prospects, no direction in life.' The experience given him by the Tall Ships Youth Trust changed his life and now, four years later, he is a permanent member of the Tall Ships crew, a lovely man and well respected by all.



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One of the yachts skippers very aptly said, “Freemasons are investing in the next generation”.

Mike Wilks said, “It was a great experience for Kay and me to see the impact of the MCF’s grant on these young lives”.

Mike and Kay were hosted by Chas Cowell, who is the Youth Development and Training Manager for the Tall Ships Youth Trust. Chas was initiated into Broadstone Lodge 8641 in the Province of Dorset in 2004 and took the chair in 2012. He is currently the Lodge ADC. He was a founder member of Football Lodge 9921 in our Province, which was consecrated in June 2016.

