



HERITAGE SAILING & LEARNING

Full Sail

Charting The Next Chapter

Step aboard history - Sail into the future.

Excelsior is more than a ship — she's a living, breathing classroom, a symbol of resilience, and a platform for possibility. Built in 1921 and lovingly restored, she's taken over 11,000 people to sea, changing lives one voyage at a time. The Excelsior Trust connects past and present to empower the next generation. Whether you're a young person finding your place, a partner investing in legacy, or a supporter seeking purpose — welcome aboard.

The journey ahead is extraordinary.

**THE
EXCELSIOR
TRUST**



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“This was never about creating a museum piece. From the outset, Excelsior was to be alive—sailing not just as a relic, but as a platform for education, adventure, and inclusion.

In 1982, The Excelsior Trust was formed, and since then, over 11,000 people have experienced the unique and often life-changing impact of going to sea aboard her.”

John Wylson - Founder & Vice President
The Excelsior Trust

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WELCOME ABOARD

**"Sailing forward while
honouring the past is not
just a mission—it's a
moral duty."**

Jamie Campbell, Chairman, The
Excelsior Trust

For over a century, the Excelsior has defied time and tide. Built in 1921 as a working Lowestoft fishing smack, she has weathered wars, changes of nation, and obsolescence—only to return home, restored not just in timber and rigging, but in spirit.

Today, The Excelsior Trust is proud to carry that spirit forward—not merely as caretakers of a historic vessel, but as stewards of opportunity, resilience, and renewal.

Since 1982, over 11,000 young people and adults have stepped aboard Excelsior and stepped off changed—more confident, more connected, and more inspired. That is the power of heritage when it is not locked behind glass, but alive in your hands.

Yet the world is changing. Heritage is not just about preservation—it must be about participation. It must equip new generations with new skills, offer pathways to inclusion, and ignite curiosity in the past to shape a better future. That is why we now set our sights not just on sailing, but on training, on storytelling, and on rebuilding the infrastructure that supports this national asset and the community it serves.

Our plan is called "Full Sail": Charting the Next Chapter— It is our invitation. To funders, to friends, to policy-makers and partners: we ask you to join us in anchoring Excelsior in the hearts and minds of future generations. Our ship may be 100 years old, but our course is modern, ambitious, and full of purpose.

We are not restoring a boat. We are empowering people through heritage.

Welcome aboard.

Jamie Campbell
Trust Chairman

**EMPOWERING THE NEXT
GENERATION THROUGH HERITAGE
SKILLS AND THE SEA**



OUR STORY

A CENTURY OF PURPOSE



A BOAT BUILT TO WORK THE SEA BECAME A VESSEL TO SHAPE LIVES

Excelsior LT472 was launched from Lowestoft in 1921, a proud product of the region's storied boatbuilding heritage.

Designed for hard work, she is a sailing smack—part of the backbone of East Anglia's fishing economy. For over a decade, she trawled the southern North Sea, a workhorse of wind, wood, and will.

But her life, like the tides, would change course. As the Great Depression swept across Europe, Excelsior was sold to Norwegian owners. Her masts came down, her sails were replaced by a motor, and she became a coastal cargo vessel—transporting goods along the rugged Scandinavian coastlines. Renamed Svinør, she even survived a near-miss bombing during World War II, beaching to save lives and remain afloat.

OUR MISSION

"To use Excelsior, our Heritage Shipyard, and our evolving Heritage Hub to provide meaningful opportunities that connect people — especially young and disadvantaged individuals — to skills, history, community, and the confidence to shape their own futures."

Gerry Skews - CEO / Trustee



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

SETTING A COURSE



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

CHALLENGING LIVES

We deliver challenging, rewarding, and sometimes life-changing experiences at sea. Whether it's a school student finding their voice on deck or a trainee stepping into a heritage skill for the first time, we provide structured, supported routes to confidence, teamwork, and ambition.

"We don't just sail — we teach resilience, responsibility and belonging."



MARITIME HERITAGE

LIVING HISTORY

Excelsior is not just a historic ship — she is a living classroom and cultural icon.

Through our work, we ensure that traditional seafaring knowledge, shipwrighting, and maritime history remain accessible, relevant, and celebrated.

"Our heritage isn't in glass cases — it's under sail, under tools, and passed hand to hand."



SKILLS & TRAINING

PLOTTING OUR FUTURE

From traditional rigging and woodworking to digital archiving and 3D mapping, we offer high-quality learning experiences. Our new Heritage Skills Digital Hub bridges the gap between the physical and digital, offering new routes into employment, volunteering, and professional growth.

"We equip people with tools — sometimes hammers, sometimes hard drives — to build their future."

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We are rooted in Lowestoft but open to all. Through our Yard, Studio, and online outreach, we provide spaces where artists, families, historians, volunteers and visitors can connect, contribute and co-create.

"Excelsior belongs to all of us — a floating stage for shared history and collective imagination."

BUILDING VALUE & PURPOSE

Together, these values guide every sail we set, every story we record, and every person we welcome aboard.

Our vision is not to preserve the past — it is to carry it forward with purpose.



WHAT WE OFFER

ONBOARD

EXCELSIOR



HARBOURING POTENTIAL

Our flagship youth development programme, targeting young people aged 16–25. Thinking about "A Life Offshore". Combines personal growth, skills training, and sea-based challenges.

EXPERIENCE VOYAGES

2–5 day immersive sailing experiences focused on seamanship, teamwork, and personal development — perfect for schools, youth groups, and charities.

DAY SAILS

Short coastal trips (typically 1 day) ideal for individuals, small groups, schools, businesses, and community partners wanting a taste of traditional sailing.

TALL SHIPS RACES

Multi-day international voyages as part of official Tall Ships Races or regattas, sailing with a purpose as part of a historic fleet.

AMBASSADOR VOYAGES

Specially curated sailings for patrons, funders, or VIPs showcasing Excelsior's mission, history and community value.

SAILING WITH A PURPOSE PARTNERSHIP VOYAGES

Custom-built collaborations with charities, funders, educational institutions or environmental groups for thematic voyages (e.g., climate, inclusion, heritage).

ARTISTS RESIDENCIES

A creative sailing programme offering artists the chance to live and work aboard Excelsior, drawing inspiration from the sea, the crew, and the ship.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Take your DofE Gold Residential on board a historic wooden ship. During your voyage, you'll meet new people, learn the skills needed to sail this wonderful vessel, take a night watch and learn to cook resourcefully in the ship's galley.



WHAT WE OFFER AT OUR HERITAGE YARD



YARD SERVICES

From historic vessel refits to custom fabrication, the Excelsior Yard offers a wide range of marine and heritage services to private owners, commercial operators, and traditional craft enthusiasts.

BERTHS & DRY STORAGE

Dry and afloat storage options for vessels of various sizes, masts and heritage materials, with on-site security and access to support services.

TENANCIES

Tenancies for short and long term purposes are available - preference is given to those that can demonstrate heritage services and commitment to preserving skills for the future.

WELDING & FABRICATION

We welcome skilled welders and fabricators to join our working yard community. With flexible workshop spaces, access to heritage vessels, and opportunities for collaborative restoration projects, the Excelsior Yard is an ideal base for traditional and modern metalwork

SHIPWRIGHTS & ENGINEERS

Our historic yard offers a unique working environment for shipwrights and marine engineers passionate about preserving and working on traditional vessels

SAILMAKING & MAINTENANCE

The Excelsior Yard welcomes sailmakers and rigging specialists seeking a dedicated space to practise and preserve the art of traditional sailmaking. With a strong heritage connection and regular demand for sail repair and maintenance, this is an ideal location for artisans to work alongside historic vessels and contribute to their ongoing preservation.

SLIPPAGE

Secure, professional vessel slipping and lifting for maintenance, refit, or inspection needs.

Current capacity.

80 Tonnes displacement (Slipway 1)

200 Tonnes displacement (Slipway 2)

Enquire here for current availability & prices

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Skilled traditional shipwrights and marine engineers offering repair, structural work, and consultancy.



WHAT WE OFFER AT OUR HERITAGE HUB



LEARN IT - LIVE IT - PASS IT ON

Heritage Craft Training - Digital Heritage Skills - Youth & Community - Professional Skills Workshops - Apprenticeships & Internships - Volunteer Education Pathways

PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE

Memories fade, materials perish - but stories endure. We preserve the vessels, voices and visuals that shaped our coastal community.

CREATE

Whether you're restoring a hull, recording a podcast, or shaping a sculpture — CREATE gives you the tools, space, and purpose to make history matter.

EXPLORE

Discover the past - Understand the Present - Plan for the Future

CONNECT

The strength of heritage lies not only in what we preserve, but in who we connect. At the Heritage Hub, CONNECT is about uniting generations, communities, and disciplines

SHARE

Heritage is most powerful when it's shared. In this programme, we celebrate the passing on of skills, stories, experiences and archives — from generation to generation, and from coast to coast.

Whether through exhibitions, publications, digital storytelling or public programming, we make maritime heritage accessible, inclusive, and alive.

DEVELOP

"From Experience to Evidence — Fueling Heritage Innovation."

The Excelsior Heritage Hub is more than a keeper of tradition — it's a springboard for innovation. In the DEVELOP programme, we invite researchers, designers, policy makers, and educators to partner with us in unlocking the value of maritime heritage data.

From offshore familiarisation and sail training analytics to archival datasets and digitised ship drawings, we provide access to real-world insight for those shaping the future of maritime design, safety, training, and culture.

Whether you're building an AI training set, analysing vessel performance, or reconstructing maritime narratives, we offer deep access to historic data, observational knowledge, and lived experience.



OUR BUSINESS IS STATISTICS

HOW DO WE MEASURE WHAT WE DO?

Yes - we measure statistics but how do we measure growth in confidence, the understanding of teamwork, the development of purpose and the meaning of hope?

We don't measure it, we see it every day on the faces of the volunteers, trainees and instructors on the boat, on the yard and in the classroom.

Excelsior is more than a boat, more than a yard, more than a building — it is a catalyst. A century-old vessel reborn to steer lives in new directions. A place where confidence is rebuilt with every knot tied, every plank laid, every moment at sea. For young people, stepping aboard Excelsior is often their first encounter with independence, teamwork, responsibility — and possibility.

**These aren't statistics.
They are turning points.**



> 11,000

Individuals taken to sea aboard Excelsior since 1983, providing unmatched human experience data for behavioural and safety analysis.

1,200

Artefacts in storage covering tools, textiles, instruments, and equipment used aboard Excelsior and sister vessels over a century.

9,000

Historic records including logs, crew lists, cargo manifests, and voyage documentation, fully catalogued and partially digitised.

700 +

Original design drawings and rebuild schematics of Excelsior, offering a complete structural and design evolution across decades.

Excelsior - Available to all.

For communities, it's a living reminder of resilience, of craft, of heritage with purpose.

For everyone who walks through our yard or learns in our hub, it's a chance to find direction, rediscover pride, and shape a future with skills, stories, and connection.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WHATS IN IT FOR YOU ?

FOR PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PROGRAMMES

If you're looking for something real — something that pushes you, inspires you, and gives you stories no classroom ever could — then climbing aboard Excelsior is your next great adventure.

You'll sail a century-old ship, work as part of a tight crew, and discover what you're capable of when you're trusted with real responsibility. Whether it's building confidence, learning hands-on skills, or simply finding your voice, Excelsior helps you grow in ways that matter.

So don't wait for someone else to open the door — ask your teacher, carer, youth worker or organisation to help you get onboard. **You** deserve the chance to discover what you can do — and who you can become.

FOR COMMERCIAL SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Partnering with the Excelsior Trust offers far more than traditional sponsorship — it's a chance to align your brand with authenticity, resilience, and life-changing impact. Excelsior is a working symbol of maritime heritage, community purpose, and youth transformation.

Whether your business is in energy, marine services, logistics, or coastal infrastructure, our work connects directly with the future of seafaring, sustainability, and skills. By supporting Excelsior, you demonstrate ESG commitment, engage meaningfully with local communities, and access powerful storytelling and visibility opportunities. From crew training to digital archiving, from sail-training bursaries to heritage innovation — this is sponsorship with soul, and real-world return



GRANT GIVING ORGANISATIONS

EXCELSIOR - A PROVEN PLATFORM FIT FOR PURPOSE

The Excelsior Trust is not just preserving a vessel — it is safeguarding a living legacy and transforming it into a platform of purpose.

With over four decades of successful engagement, Excelsior LT472 has empowered more than 11,000 young people through life-changing maritime experiences.

Operating at the intersection of heritage, education, and social inclusion, the Trust combines the power of challenge-based learning, immersive history, and practical training to unlock potential in those most at risk of being left behind.

We offer grant makers a reliable, results-oriented delivery partner that knows how to engage, mentor, and inspire — with safety, structure, and soul.

DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR THE REAL WORLD

ROOTED IN HERITAGE

OUR PROGRAMMES MAY NOT BE ALL THEORETICAL

Whether at sea, in the yard, or in our Heritage Hub, every participant learns through doing. From rigging to coding, charting to digitising, we deliver accredited and experiential learning that builds real-world skills in leadership, teamwork, resilience, and technical capability.

For funders looking to support skills development, youth pathways, and cultural equity, Excelsior offers an authentic, multi-disciplinary delivery model grounded in traditional craft, digital innovation, and community service.

We provide the kind of early intervention that not only teaches — it transforms.



Based in Lowestoft — one of the UK's most disadvantaged coastal communities — we are deeply embedded in local partnerships with schools, councils, training providers, and community organisations. Yet our reach goes beyond geography. Excelsior is a vessel of national significance, a member of the National Historic Fleet, and a beacon for best practice in heritage-led regeneration.

We are ready and able to deliver impact at scale — with a fully developed business plan, a new digital heritage hub in development, and a committed, experienced team. For funders seeking legacy, visibility, and accountability, the Excelsior Trust offers a uniquely integrated, mission-driven delivery partner with both heart and operational capability.

**ANCHORED
IN PLACE,
SCALED FOR
IMPACT**

Supported in purpose



We are honoured to have HRH The Princess Royal as Patron of The Excelsior Trust. A steadfast supporter of maritime heritage and youth development, Her Royal Highness officially recommissioned Excelsior in 1988 following her extensive restoration. Her continued patronage reflects the national importance of Excelsior as one of the UK's last surviving Lowestoft fishing smacks and as a living symbol of purpose, education, and tradition under sail.



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