

OUR BOAT *PROLIFIC*



PROLIFIC CAME INTO SERVICE FOR YOUTH VOYAGES WITH OCEAN YOUTH TRUST SOUTH IN APRIL 2017.

Prolific is a stunning vessel with real beauty and genuine character. She was built in 2005, as a tribute to the herring-fishing vessels in operation along the Norwegian coast during the 19th century.

She is a successor to the original *Prolific*, built in 1891 as a Grimsby sailing trawler. In 1898 she was sold to Sweden and spent the next half-century fishing in the North Sea. At the end of the second world war she was sold to Estonian refugees not wanting to be repatriated to Russia, and undertook a harrowing voyage across the Atlantic with 69 men and women and at least 10 children on board, eventually arriving in North Carolina.

Her crew had no papers and the story goes that they pleaded for one night's rest on board before being interviewed and possibly turned away. That night, *Prolific* sank in Wilmington Bay - people can speculate as to the cause but it did mean that the Americans had no choice but to let them stay! The crew were then taken to Ellis Island to be processed as immigrants.



“BEING ON THIS BOAT IS PROBABLY THE HAPPIEST I’VE BEEN IN MONTHS. I LOVE HOW EVERY ACTIVITY WE DO ON THE BOAT IS MADE INTO SOMETHING FUN.”

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Photo credit: Gregg Cashmore Photography

After working in Sweden and Norway for ten years, Prolific was bought by Ocean Youth Trust South in summer 2015.

She was then given a major refit to bring the vessel and her equipment up to date and to adapt her to OYT South's requirements for voyages with young people.

The current *Prolific* is a hybrid of historic design and modern-day construction. She is 32 metres long overall and generally sails with up to 12 young people plus eight adult staff and volunteers.

On deck, *Prolific* is a ketch, with a rig designed so that young people of different ages and with a wide range of abilities can safely take part in every aspect of sail handling and seamanship.

She has a spacious navigation area where young people can be actively involved both with traditional chartwork and modern electronic navigation.

Below deck, she has comfortable accommodation; a galley area where young people help to cook meals for the whole crew; and a huge saloon area. The saloon has a table big enough to seat the whole crew for meals, games, briefings and voyage planning.

OYT South is thrilled to have been able to bring this unique boat to the UK, where she can play a major part for many years to come in helping young people to develop the skills to succeed in life.

HYBRID OF HISTORIC DESIGN AND MODERN-DAY CONSTRUCTION



“IT’S A GREAT EXPERIENCE, ABSOLUTELY AMAZING! I ENJOYED IT BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY FUN BEING ON A BIG BOAT.”

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