

### AllAboard! Watersports

Despite the night's drawing in and temperature dropping, AllAboard continues to be a busy hub. We still have good interest for group sessions and individual courses throughout the winter.

### AllAboard!'s Top Ten Best Bits of 2016

#### 1. Large Number of attendances to our centre

*3759 individuals came to our centre in 8424 attendances, approximately half being individuals with additional needs and 542 being individuals aged over 55 years old.*



#### 2. Authorisation to Instruct Course



*AllAboard! became the first centre to pilot the new RYA instructor course, enabling disabled sailors to become certified sailing instructors.*



#### 3. Thriving Race Squad

*Our Race Squad is thriving and currently has 12 members attending regularly – the highest number yet!*

#### 4. AllAboard's Skiffie rowers coming 26<sup>th</sup> out of 41 at the Skiffie Worlds.



#### 5. Largest Turnout for 'Bart's Bash' yet

*40 Participants raised £140.13 for the Andrew Simpson Foundation*



#### 6. AllAboard! is in the process of becoming a Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Centre



*Warmley Park will be the first school to complete their Paddlesport DOE Expedition with AllAboard! in 2017.*



## 7. Try it, Live it, Love it 2016 Award Runner-up

*AllAboard! came runner-up for their work in the 'School Games' enabling 13 schools to learn and compete against each other in Watersports.*



## 8. Over 100 people attended Cerebral Palsy Plus Party Day



*This year was the largest number of families affected by Cerebral Palsy who visited AllAboard! to enjoy a day of accessible watersports.*

## 9. Celebration of Volunteers Night

*Access Summit held an evening of entertainment and celebration for our volunteers due to their dedication and hard work*



## 10. Ian Clements Work Experience



*Ian joined in with many sessions (one day a week for 5 weeks), performing certain tasks and experiencing work life at AllAboard!*

### Note from the Chair of Trustees

**By Tim Stevenson**

What a great year!

All our activities have been at full stretch and even the winter period is busier than ever. The appointment of seasonal instructors has been a great success and they together with all instructors have done a wonderful job.

The year has seen a strong growth in the number of volunteers which is so pleasing. Our volunteers are vital to our operation and we are so lucky to enjoy their support.

As the year comes to an end we are about to appoint our Centre Business Manager. You will hear more about this very shortly.

On a sad note, Geof Lane has stood down as a Trustee after many years of dedicated service to the charity. He will be sorely missed and we wish him all the best in the future.

Thank you all for making 2016 such a success.

## Before AllAboard!

**By Pete Farmer**

From the mid-1800s on timber was one of Bristol's major imports. Newly lopped timber needed to 'season' for several months before it could be used (otherwise it tends to shrink, twist and split after being sawn into planks). Seasoning requires lots of storage space, under cover from the rain, but otherwise well-ventilated, and ideally alongside the place where it is unloaded from importing vessels (this was the age of the horse-and-cart!). From before 1845 the area was starting to be used for timber importation and storage. Eventually timber-yards stretched from the Underfall Yard to where the Marina is now. 'The Barn', adjoining the All Aboard premises, is the last survivor of those timber-sheds.

The adjacent river / harbour bank was never developed into the usual stone quayside with cranes etc. Instead, wooden pontoons were run along the bank, ships moored up alongside the pontoons, and the timber cargos were simply man-handled off the ships, over the pontoons, up the grass banks and into the sheds. What we now know as Baltic Wharf was originally six separate wharfs - Baltic, Onega, Cumberland, Canada, Gefle and Chatham. The construction of proper timber wharfs, and improved railway access was seriously considered by the BDC in 1895, but plans were shelved. When the area was eventually re-developed for recreation an inspired Council simply concreted over the grass banks, hence the sloping surfaces which are both ugly to look at and impossible to sit on!

## Santa on the Run

Two of our Instructors, Tilly Parry and Hannah Hood, took part in a 5 Km Santa Run. This is what Tilly had to say about the charitable run;

*"On December 3rd Hannah and I ran in the Old Down Santa race. We ran as part of Cerebral Palsy Plus team. In total the team raised £1632.00 to provide activities for children and adults with Cerebral Palsy. It was a tough 5k route made more difficult due to a full Santa suit."*



*Tilly Parry and Hannah Hood before the 5 km run*

## Top 2016 Photos

We received lots of great photos for our 2016 collage. The photo which best represented AllAboard and showed the work we do was taken by Tilly Parry. Her photo (see below) was taken on the day of the Cerebral Palsy Plus Party, where over 100 individuals who were affected by Cerebral Palsy attended AllAboard! as a family to enjoy accessible Watersports and the sunshine. We also had the Race Squad and some courses running that day - showing the wide range of clients we work with.



### **A Final Thought ...**

AllAboard would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication this year. We have continued working with schools, groups and individuals from ethnic minority, socially disadvantaged and disengaged backgrounds, as well as individuals with disabilities or medical issues, refugees and young carers. These are just some of the people we have worked with this year – all which would not be possible without our dedicated staff and volunteers. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2017!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **RYA First Aid Course, 15th January, 9.30 – 5.00pm**

If you would like to book please phone the office on 0117 929 0801 or book online via our website <http://allaboardwatersports.co.uk/events/rya-first-aid/> . This course is free for our volunteers, however they will need to book through the office.

#### **RYA Disability Awareness Course, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00-4.00pm**

This is a formal RYA course which is designed to support those who work with disabled sailors and will include various skills, techniques and communication methods required when working during sailability sessions. As AllAboard is a fully accessible centre, we have made it compulsory for all staff, trustees, instructors & volunteers to attend this Disability Awareness Course. If you have not attended this course previously or wish to make a private booking please contact the office on **01179290801** to book or see our website <http://allaboardwatersports.co.uk/events/rya-disability-awareness-training/>.

#### **Staff and Volunteer Training 2017**

As in previous years, AllAboard will be offering training/refreshers on all of the activities that we offer throughout February to Easter. Dates will be sent out in the new year and will include weekdays and weekends.

