

Morning Star

5th April – 9th April 2016

Chatham – Stangate Creek – Queensborough –
Stangate Creek – Chatham

106 Nautical Miles



Day 1

After arriving at the marina, our first task was to get all of our stuff on board. And then before we were ready to leave, as a group, we planned our menu and went for a shopping trip to Asda, it was nice having control of what we ate while on board, and we had to try to budget the food we were buying. Once we had returned and loaded all of the food onto the boat, which took some time as there was a lot of it, we then had our life jackets and waterproofs given to us and were shown around the ship.

Before we set off, we were shown useful knots that we would be using throughout the trip, such as how to do an "OXO" and how to use mooring lines. Then we decided we were ready to set off, but the engine had other ideas, as something wasn't quite right, so we stayed in the marina until it was sorted, there was some seaweed and plastic blocking some pipes. So when we finally set off, it was quite late, so we enjoyed a sail in the dark, and the lookouts didn't see a buoy until we were just about to hit it, however, Sam who was on the helm at the time did a very good job of avoiding it. We finished our journey for the day at Stangate creek where we dropped our anchor. After dinner, we played a game, this involved us eating a chocolate mousse without our hands. We discovered this was very difficult until our captain Alex showed us what to do, PUSH and SUCK!



Day 2

The first task of the morning, was for a watch to cook breakfast, which is a rather massive task for 14 hungry people. After breakfast, we were introduced to "Happy Hour Cleaning". We had an hour to clean the inside of the ship to keep it clean, it became quite an enjoyable task because we had music playing and singing.

We left Stangate Creek and decided it was very windy, so we wouldn't be able to go on our original course to Essex, so we went to Queensborough instead. Here we were given shore leave, so we wandered up a road, looking for a CO-OP and KFC (even though we were going to have dinner in an hour), but we didn't find them and went in a different shop, turns out we walked the wrong way.

After dinner, we played another game, this time it was much less messy than the day before as it was a memory game. Jared gave us a sentence, and then we each had to repeat it, and after everyone had had a go, he gave us another, eventually we had 10 longer sentences, and we did surprisingly well at it.

- 1 fat hen
- A couple of ducks
- 3 furry bears
- 4 running hares
- 5 fat pigeons fixing for a fight
- 6 Sicilian sailors, sailing the seven seas
- 7 sheet slitters, happily slitting sheets
- 8 flip flap flying boats floating
- 9 nifty naughty neighbours, nicely knocking next door
- 10 two tonne, two tone, transcontinental trucks, travelling from Tallahassee to Texas, on a tank of Texaco fuel.



Day 3

We sailed from Queensborough to Ramsgate, the weather was good, so we put 4 of the sails up. However, while we were sailing, several people started to feel ill, and three were actually sea sick (George, William and Lewis), George even went into shock. We went past some very large wind farms, and Andy convinced a few people that the boats going there collect the electric in buckets to bring to shore.

We moored up at Ramsgate and we went for a quick wonder around the harbour. One of the yachts in the harbour was called Fish tickler, which caused a lot of giggles from many several, for many many days.

After dinner, we played another game, also quite messy, which required us to put chocolate buttons on our forehead and get it into our mouth without hands. Emily managed to get hers stuck on her eyebrow which looked very funny, and caused a nice smear of melted chocolate on her face.



Day 4

In the morning, we had a wonder round in Ramsgate, where we spent most of our time in the arcade. Emily and Lewis also decided to ask a fish monger if he had any fish they could tickle, having been inspired by the boat in the harbour.

Once we got back to the harbour, we decided we wanted to do a night sail, so we decided to stay in the harbour for a bit. During our time in the harbour, we got the inflatable powerboat out and drove round the harbour in it and Sam and William climbed the mast.

Once we had left the harbour, our captain had decided that some of the other sea staff needed to be assessed on their ability to do a man overboard manoeuvre. This meant Alex chucked a buoy overboard, and we had to drop the sails in order for David (First mate) to use the engine to manoeuvre to get the buoy. We then did another man overboard so that Alex can show how he thinks it should be done in the quickest and safest way. The man overboard drills were fun to do as we were put under pressure to lower the sails quickly and it was as if we were in a real situation and was interesting.

In the evening, we split into our watch system and each covered 3 hours of the night, so that the other watches could sleep ready for their watch. During the watches, most people got much more confident at helping the ship and the jobs that need doing. We anchored up at Stangate Creek for the night.



Day 5

We decided that one of our aims for our trip would be to sail the ship with all the sails up, so being our last day, we decided that we would do that on day 5, so we planned to leave Stangate Creek at the correct time to get us to Chatham for the correct time for the tide. So when we are ready to set off, and start to lift the anchor, we realise that it seemed much more difficult than it should and took a long time. Once we could finally see the anchor out of the water, we could see that another chain was wrapped around it. After a fair amount of time and effort, the chain was removed, which was good because if we couldn't remove it, we would have needed to cut our anchor and leave it behind. Because of the amount of time spent dealing with the anchor, we didn't have time to reach Chatham sailing so we had to motor sail back.

We had to pack our stuff and clean the ship. Much of this was done while on our way, so once we got to Chatham, we didn't have too much cleaning left to do. Alex made homemade pizza for our lunch, which was delicious, like all the other food we had throughout the week. The week finished off by completing our logbooks with different skills we have learnt, what we enjoyed and didn't enjoy, and how we think we did. And then our trip had come to an end, and it was time to say goodbye, but not before we posed for a few "Titanic" photos on the bowsprit, and a good group photo on the boom.



George's Thoughts

The thing I enjoyed the most about Morning Star was being able to travel on a ship for the first ever time and it was just amazing but also a challenge, I got to steer the ship at the helm (I felt like captain Jack sparrow). It was an experience to haul the sails and learn different parts of the ship and the navigation part too, I got to admit there was a part I did not enjoy and that was being sea sick but I had Jade and Abby to look after me (thanks Jade and Abby)



I really enjoyed being on board Morning Star of Revelation because I felt like a pirate matey



Jade's thoughts

For the Morning Star my favourite bits were definitely Fish Tickler, the dingy, the land trips and going on the bowsprit for the first time. However the worst bits were the night sail because it was so cold and we were all really tired but I'm still glad I done it. Another bad bit was the cleaning routine in the mornings but at least we had some good music to do some karaoke too and it was nice to be on a clean ship.

Sam's Thoughts

I really enjoyed most of the stuff we did on the Morning star but the bits I enjoyed the most were climbing the mast, the man overboard drills and games we played, especially the chocolate mousse game. I didn't enjoy hitting my head on things because of the low ceiling in the aft cabin which I kept forgetting about.





Lewis' Thoughts

My best bits was when I when on the bowsprit to put the sail up, I liked doing this as it made me feel scared that I might fell in the freezing cold water and that I was doing something to get the boat moving.

My worst bit was that I was sick after eating mac and cheese, so I went down to sleep but it made me feel worse and I as sick so I joined George at the side of that boat to feel better

Overall I really enjoyed going on the Morning Star for the experiance as I learnt to sail and how to moor up and how to tie the boat up with an oxo and how to coil the rope. So I would do it again to get better at the basic skill that I have learnt.

Abby's Thoughts

If I was to describe my experiance on the Morning Star in three words, they would be fun, challenging and exiting. I am extremely grateful for the oppourtunity of taking part in the voyage as it has helped me accomplish so much and made me take a giant leap in controlling my anxiety.

Before the sail I was extremely nervous as it was significantly out of my comfort zone. I struggle trying new things, eating in social situations and being away from home for a considerable amount of time.

However, after the voyage, I felt a lot more confident and able to cope within certain situations. I now look forward to taking part in adventures and challenges to come.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to Chatham Maritime Trust for allowing me to go on this journey and everyone involved, including the crew who made me feel welcome and were very understanding of anxiety.



Stuart's Thoughts

I have experianced and learned so much from the trip on The Morning Star. The best bits was cooking and having a laugh with all the crew and everyone, getting off the boat at Ramsgate, walking around and going in the arcade. The bad apart was not having my phone with me... I wish I had it but I managed to cope without it.



Emily's Thoughts

On the trip of the Morning Star, I had many new experiences, the main one being sailing for a long amount of time. In my opinion, I think that my favourite part was the challenges that we did, for example the moose challenge where we had to "PUSH AND SUCK", this was really fun because it was really different from the whole day and helped us to lighten everything that had happened during the day. However, I think the worst part of the trip was the weather, this is because some of it was really bad and I felt really sick from the rough seas. Overall the Morning Star trip helped me out massively as my confidence was extravagantly improved and my friendship bonds got much stronger.



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Jenny's Thoughts

I really enjoyed our week on the Morning Star. I enjoyed learning to helm the boat and how to put up the sails and I learnt a bit about navigation. I enjoyed cooking for the whole group, but the washing up was not so nice, as it took forever. My least favourite part of the trip was during the rougher, as I was feeling rather unwell, but luckily I wasn't actually sick, unlike some. The trip as a whole was very fun, and the sea staff were very friendly and made the trip extra enjoyable.

William's Thoughts

The morning star voyage was fun. The best part was when I got to climb the mast and the night sail. Throughout the trip, I learnt useful knots and got to know the people I was with better.



The sea staff were excellent on our voyage, and they made the trip as great as it was, so thank you Alex, David, Rachael and Jared.



We would also like to thank Chatham Maritime Trust, because without their funding, this hugely beneficial trip would not have been possible for us.