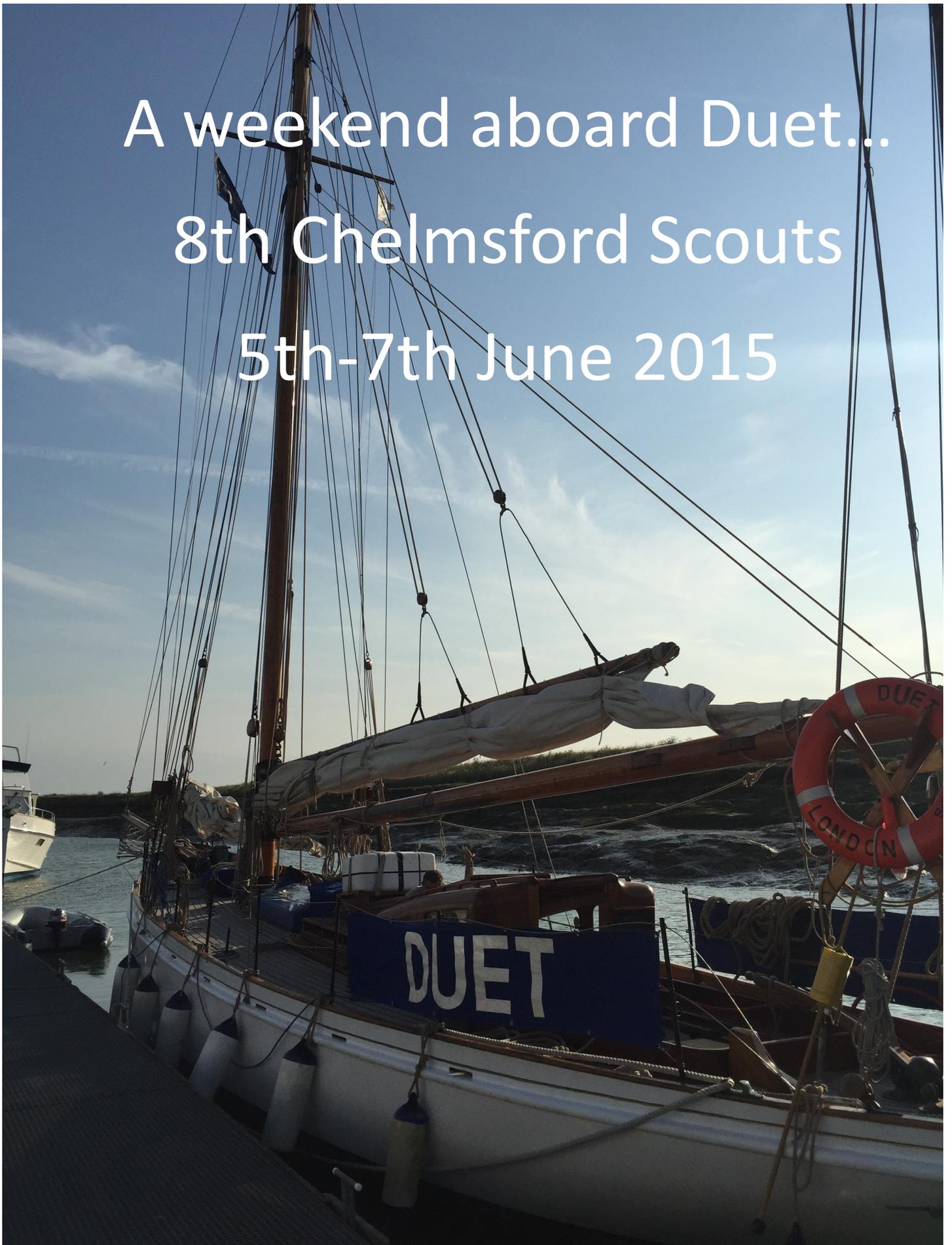


A weekend aboard Duet...
8th Chelmsford Scouts
5th-7th June 2015



Thank you.....

First and foremost I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the Scouts and leaders from 8th Chelmsford Scout Troop who were given the opportunity to join the crew aboard Duet for a weekend.

Sailing is something that we could not normally offer to the Scouts due to the cost. We really appreciate all the donations and the effort of the Cirdan Sailing Trust who have given the Scouts a fantastic experience. Initially there was a lot of uncertainty when I first told the Scouts about what we had been offered. After some discussion and Youtube videos the Scouts had a better idea of what to expect and jumped at the chance.

Having myself been part of Scouting since I was six, I have been given many opportunities to try new activities and adventures. Your kind donation have given these young people the opportunities that they would not normally be given. Like myself has kept me in Scouting and one of the reason I have become a Scout Leader 14 years ago. Working with the young people we help to develop their future into pleasant, confident individuals who mature and flourish. We then hope they will continue their Scouting for many years passing their knowledge and experiences on to many more Scouts and young people.

Once again we can not 'Thank You' enough for your kind generosity. The reports from the young people and pictures enclosed are our a small way of showing our appreciation to you all.

Stuart Collett

8th Chelmsford Scout Leader.





On the very first day when we first got on that beautiful boat DUET we came on board and started the preparation of the boat for the weekend. We got all of the food and put it all in cupboards. I can't believe it all fitted!

Then we got our rooms sorted. I was in the bottom bunk at the front of the boat, right underneath Cameron. To the left of me was Lewis, and near the middle of the boat was Chris and Tom on top bunks, and Mike and Stuart on bottom bunks.

Once we had settled in to our new rooms for the weekend, we had a tour around the boat done by Tom the skipper and Alex the mate. They said that the toilet was probably the most technical device when we weren't sailing. All of the taps on the boat had to be pushed up and down a few times to work.

For supper that evening, we had bacon and Lewis and I cooked it, the whole crew said it was delicious!!! Just after dinner we had a look at the map of where we were going to and an app that showed when the tide in that area was high enough to get out of the harbour.

The very next day we woke up to my alarm at 7:30 in the morning, before having breakfast of sausages and bacon in buns and Coco pops. Then we went up on deck to set sail - we opened up two of the sails, hoping to turn around, as it slowly did.

Once we were in the right position, we headed out of the harbour and started putting up the main sail – it was gigantic. Then finally we put up the two back sails and we were on our way. When we had settled in, we asked if we could go on the bow strip – the net at the front of the boat – Lewis and his brother, Tom, went on first, followed then by Cameron and Chris, then finally Lewis and I.

Being on the bow strip was my most favourite time because whenever you went over a wave at the right timing, the whole of the front of the boat came flying out of the water and splashing just next to us. Also, for some unusual reason, I didn't feel sick on it. Just after being on the bow strip I did feel sick, but it didn't bother me too much because I was too bothered about where we were going.

At lunchtime I didn't eat anything but there was pizza and salad going!!!!!! Then finally we had tea which I had never tried before - it was chilli bolognaise and rice. The good thing was that the food wasn't that hot after all.

On the Sunday morning, I woke up to hear Lewis's alarm which said "Hello wake up or I kill you," in a really creepy voice. Then we ate once again, sausages and cereal. The night before I had the greatest sleep, after falling asleep straight away.

Luckily I didn't feel sick on the Sunday in the pouring rain and had lunch without a problem, as well as even going downstairs when we were sailing. When we got back, we washed off the dinghy and got our stuff together to head home.

Thank you Mike for donating this sailing trip, we REALLY appreciated it!!!

From

Thomas McHale







Sailing over the weekend on Duet

By Lewis Playford

On Friday 3rd July 2015 7 people from the 8th Chelmsford Scout Group including myself, Tom P, Tom, Chris, Cameron, Stuart and Mike went sailing on the Duet a 103 year old sailing ship moored at Bradwell –on-Sea. There were two other people on board, The Skipper was called Tom and the Mate was called Alex. That same evening we were told where we were sleeping, where we would eat and the food.

We had all had our dinner before we went but we still had a snack of Bacon Sandwiches which I helped to cook. We then had a chat which was randomly about cabbage, and got ready for bed.

On Saturday 4th July 2015 we woke up had our breakfast, cleaned up and got ready to set sail. As we came out of the dock's we went through the safety check again and the main rule was about falling overboard...DON'T FALL OF THE BOAT! Once we were in the deeper part of the Sea we could put up the main sail and we finally got moving.

Once everything was set up we got to go on the Bowsprit which is a long wooden pole at the front of the ship with a net underneath it. I laid on this with Tom P. After a few hours of sailing we got to a wind farm where everyone felt seasick. We then turned around suddenly and headed to West Mersea where we were going to dock, we put the anchor down and made the boat safe so we could then use the Dingy to get to the beach to play with the football.

On Sunday 5th July 2015 it was the final day, it was actually annoying because I REALLY enjoyed it and we had lots of work to do in the rain, IN THE RAIN! But it was still fun as we got to find out how sailors had to work in different weathers.

Finally as we got nearer to the docks again in the marina the weather got better which was really annoying! Our parents arrived to collect us which they could do after we had finished tidying everything away. (At the end 2 of us got to row the Dingy to the ramp!)

I had an awesome time and would love to have the opportunity to do it again! Thank you to Stuart for organising it and to the person who donated the gift's that made it possible.



Thank you so much for the two days sailing aboard Duet. We all learnt so much I am sure the memories will never be forgotten and nor will your kindness.

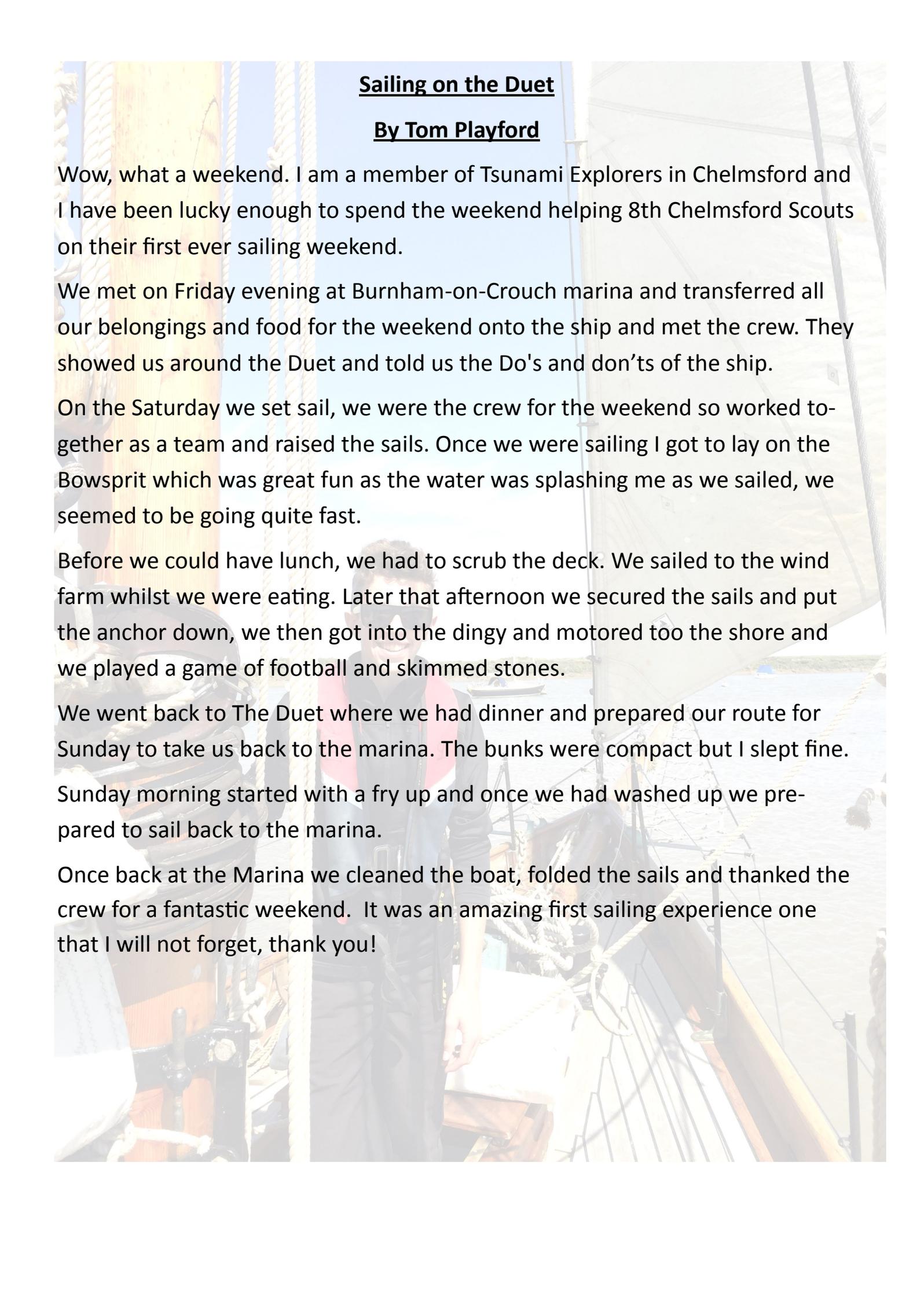
On board Duet we learnt many useful knots, learnt to set the main sail, topsail and other sails. The most fun part was when we went onto the bowsprit net where I nearly went to sleep! You really felt the movement of the boat and felt the water spray on you.

We were all quite sad when the trip ended but it is nice to be back in a normal sized bed. Thank you we were very privileged to have had this opportunity.

Cameron





A young man with dark hair, wearing a red life vest over a dark jacket, stands on the deck of a sailboat. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the rigging, ropes, and sails of the boat, with a glimpse of the sea and sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangular area.

Sailing on the Duet

By Tom Playford

Wow, what a weekend. I am a member of Tsunami Explorers in Chelmsford and I have been lucky enough to spend the weekend helping 8th Chelmsford Scouts on their first ever sailing weekend.

We met on Friday evening at Burnham-on-Crouch marina and transferred all our belongings and food for the weekend onto the ship and met the crew. They showed us around the Duet and told us the Do's and don'ts of the ship.

On the Saturday we set sail, we were the crew for the weekend so worked together as a team and raised the sails. Once we were sailing I got to lay on the Bowsprit which was great fun as the water was splashing me as we sailed, we seemed to be going quite fast.

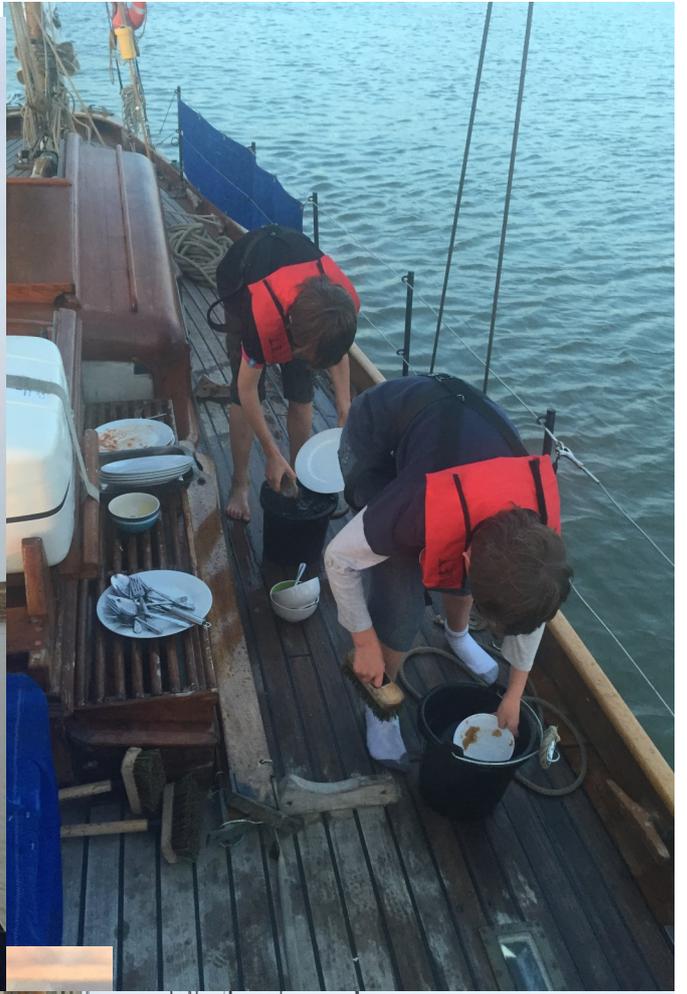
Before we could have lunch, we had to scrub the deck. We sailed to the wind farm whilst we were eating. Later that afternoon we secured the sails and put the anchor down, we then got into the dingy and motored too the shore and we played a game of football and skimmed stones.

We went back to The Duet where we had dinner and prepared our route for Sunday to take us back to the marina. The bunks were compact but I slept fine.

Sunday morning started with a fry up and once we had washed up we prepared to sail back to the marina.

Once back at the Marina we cleaned the boat, folded the sails and thanked the crew for a fantastic weekend. It was an amazing first sailing experience one that I will not forget, thank you!







Firstly we unpacked and put all of our food and equipment on Duet, that took about 2-3 hours but then we sat down and had a bacon sandwich. There were 9 of us Tom, Lewis, Cameron and myself (Scouts), Tom; Lewis' brother who is an Explorer, Tom the captain, Alex the mate and Stuart & Mike our leaders.

On Saturday we woke up at 7am. Cameron and me made breakfast for everyone, we had sausages and bacon rolls and cereal. We left the marina around 10am due to the tide, at first we weren't moving very fast but after an hour the wind picked up and we started going much faster. All the Scouts had a chance to steer the boat, I was the first one and steered us to a wind farm, we then headed to East Mersea. Once we had moored, we went to the beach and played there for a while, whilst dinner was cooking.

On Sunday we were heading back to the marina, we weren't going very fast because there was not much wind, it was also raining. We got back at the marina by 3pm, had lunch and got all our things together; we then cleaned the boat and went home. We all also got a certificate. Just before we went home. Lewis and I went out on their dingy and paddled in the marina.

The best part was on the bowsprit, the funniest part was Saturday night and the worst part was when I was sick on Saturday.

Thank You,
Christopher.

