

# Support for the next generation...

**N**ext month we are launching a bursary scheme for young adults pursuing their maritime dreams.

**The IMT Young Mariners Fund** is being created to provide financial support for young people needing help, for example, to start training in a maritime trade, or to start competing at a high level, or for a life-changing voyage or other nautical project.

Applications will be invited from young people who live or were raised in the area, usually with a letter of support from the applicant's collaborating institution (the training college, sailing club, school, etc).

The number of bursaries this year is quite small - we are aiming to make three or four awards - but the

aim is for the impact of the scheme to be quite wide. For one thing, in promoting the bursary opportunity we shall be contacting a wide range of institutions, which gives us an opportunity to publicise the project more generally. For another, we will be expecting successful awardees to share their stories, via in-person talks and on social media, as role models for other young people and to raise their awareness of maritime opportunities.

## .... with fantastic help from the last

The bulk of the funding for this year's bursaries will come from our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant and IMT's own resources. However, we are already starting to diversify this

funding base: we are very grateful to Spirit Yachts and to Felixstowe Master Mariners Club for their support for this year's bursaries.

The donation from the Felixstowe group is in honour of their past president, Captain David Ingham, who sadly died in May this year. Captain Ingham worked for many years as a Trinity House pilot for the Orwell and Haven ports, and was on the team running the construction ferry *St Antonius* during the building of the Orwell Bridge.

Furthermore, given his intimate knowledge of the Port of Ipswich, his family has very generously decided that a fitting legacy would be to make a contribution from his



The bursary scheme will continue an IMT tradition of supporting young people's maritime ambitions. Last year we supported Alex Wyatt (above) to study traditional boatbuilding.

estate which will enable us to award a Captain David Ingham Bursary for several years to come.

Our aim is to make IMT's Young Mariners Fund a permanent feature of the local maritime economy, helping young people for the long term. We are extremely grateful to the Inghams for their help in making that a reality.

**Ben Good**