First ship signs up for the 2014 Falmouth to Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Regatta

The Dutch gaff rigged ketch TECLA is the first vessel to sign up for the Falmouth to Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Regatta next year.

There has been a great deal of interest from ships about the 2014 Regatta, since event organisers sent out an invitation to ships to take part. With just over twelve months until the start of the Regatta, ships are planning their itineraries for the 2014 racing season.

“We are very much looking forward to welcoming Tecla back to Falmouth for this exciting event. Interest from the ships is now building; we hope to have at least 30 ships take part in the Regatta and have been working hard to promote Falmouth’s long established commitment to sail training and hosting Tall Ships to ships Captains across the world” confirmed Sam Groom, Festivals & Events Manager at Visit Cornwall, Cornwall Development Company’s tourism service. “The ships are also attracted by the number trainees taking part in the race, the crew entertainment and activities that are organised whilst they are in port and the corporate hospitality opportunities we can offer.”

Ships will arrive in Falmouth for three days of preparation, celebrations and festivities from Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th August before the race start on Sunday 31st. The tall ships will race to the finish line off the Isle of Wight, before making their way to Royal Greenwich for a further 5 days of celebrations on the Tames.

Originally Tecla was built in Vlaardingen in 1915, in the south of Holland, as a fishing boat for herrings. Launched under the name of Graaf van Limburg Stirum she fished the Doggersbank for over 10 years. As the fishing fleet shrunk she was sold to Denmark to become a freighter under the name of TECLA. She returned to Holland in the 1980's to be re-fitted as a sail
training vessel.

She is now owned by a family of four and she is one of the most original and beautiful sail training vessels in Europe. On board trainees from all over the world learn how to sail a vessel with a gaff rig and learn how to navigate near land and on open waters. Tecla has competed in the Tall Ships Races in 2008 and the Funchal 500 Tall Ships Races, when she was last in Falmouth, she went on to come 1st in her Class from Ilhavo, Portugal to Funchal, Madeira.

With a hull length of 28 metres, capable of taking 22 crew and trainees, Tecla will be moored in Falmouth, where the public will be able to see the ship at close quarters. Further details about Tecla, her logbook and image gallery can be seen at www.tecla.nl.

There will be opportunities for individuals to take part in the race as trainees on board ships. Cornwall Marine Network will be coordinating signing up for trainees, for further information contact mark.beckett@cornwallmarine.net.

For all essential information about the Regatta in Falmouth see www.falmouthtallships.co.uk, join us on Facebook ‘Tall Ships Falmouth 2014’ or Twitter @tallships_2014 #tallships

Image: Tall Ship Tecla under full sail

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Further Information

For further information and images or please contact:
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The Falmouth Event Organisers for the Falmouth to Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Regatta are the Festivals & Events Team at Visit Cornwall, a service of the Cornwall Development Company, in conjunction with Official Partners and Sponsors:

- Cornwall Council
- Falmouth Town Council and Falmouth Town Management
- Falmouth Tall Ships Association
- A&P Falmouth
- Falmouth Harbour Commissioners
- Port Pendennis Marina
- Cornwall Marine Network
- National Maritime Museum Cornwall
- Volunteer Cornwall
- Falmouth Business Improvement District

About Visit Cornwall / Cornwall Development Company

- Visit Cornwall is a service of the Cornwall Development Company, Cornwall Council’s arms length economic development company.
- Visit Cornwall undertakes destination marketing aimed at attracting first time visitors to Cornwall through appropriate promotions including targeted PR and through its award winning digital marketing.
- Visit Cornwall coordinates, supports and promotes festivals and events across the county, providing advice to enhance the visitor experience, promote Cornwall and ensure the long term sustainability of events and is also responsible for the delivery of certain major events.

About Sail Training International (STI)

STI is the race directorate, responsible for the technical management of races for sail training Tall Ships.

Website: www.sailtraininginternational.org