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PRESS RELEASE

20 May 2009

MEP CHICHESTER SUPPORTS THE HORIZONS CHILDREN'S SAILING CHARITY IN PLYMOUTH

At the end of his visit to the Horizons Children's Sailing Charity in Plymouth, South West Conservative MEP, Giles Chichester, expressed great admiration for the work done by its volunteers in giving deprived and disabled young people a taste of life afloat.

MEP Chichester, who is the son of yachtsman circumnavigator Sir Francis Chichester, said

“Horizons offers children from broken homes, deprived communities and young victims of crime, alcohol and drug abuse, the chance to increase their self-confidence and improve social skills by experiencing the freedom of going afloat in Plymouth Sound. For many, it will be the first time they have enjoyed the trust and confidence of adults and been allowed to be just children. I am full of admiration for the splendid work of the Horizons Trust and the volunteers who freely give of their time to help young people. Horizons deserves our support.”

Horizons was founded in 1991 with the aim of providing water based activities for disadvantaged and disabled children, many of whom come from deprived communities. Through recreational sailing and voyages in Plymouth Sound, the Horizons Trust endeavours to bolster the self-confidence of young people and provide an opportunity for them to learn about their maritime history.

The Plymouth Horizons Centre, which is based at the Mayflower International Marina, offers activities to children from primary and secondary schools, youth organizations and disabled centres for young people through the provision of regular educational sessions, sailing courses and sailing holidays. Horizons is a Recognised Training Centre of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) for the teaching of both sailing and powerboating to young people; an RYA Foundation Centre offering approved facilities for the disabled and more recently has become an RYA 'On Board Centre' for its work in developing relationships between schools and young people's organizations.

ENDS

The attached photo shows –

Giles Chichester MEP (Right) with Craig Shore (left) of the Horizons Children's Sailing Trust on the quay at Mayflower International Marina, Plymouth

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