

GILES CHICHESTER MEP

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PRESS RELEASE

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MEP CHICHESTER VISIT TO FALMOUTH IN SUPPORT OF THE SAILADAY OK CHARITY FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

Giles Chichester, MEP for the South West and Gibraltar, is visiting Falmouth on Friday 2 October. He will be meeting Richard Lannowe Hall, the founder and manager of the Cornish charity Sailaday OK, at 4.00 pm outside the Harbour Office in Arwenack Street.

The MEP wishes to show his support for the Sailaday OK charity which helps those recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. The therapeutic work of the charity takes place on board a yacht which is crewed by recovering addicts and cruises the coasts of South West Cornwall. During the voyages which last between one and five days, Richard Lannowe Hall works to instil into participants the value of team work and personal awareness as well as helping to develop their self assertiveness and communication skills – attributes which are lost because their addictions disconnect them from themselves and have severe adverse effects on their ability to relate and communicate with others.

Giles Chichester knows well the beneficial effects that can be achieved through sailing on the personal development of those from deprived backgrounds. As a Trustee of the Sir Francis Chichester Trust, established to honour his father's global circumnavigation voyage in the yacht Gipsy Moth IV, he has arranged for many young people to experience the therapeutic effects of sailing. In 2006, the Trust worked with the UK Sailing Academy to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of his father's historic voyage by assisting them recruit young people to participate in stages as crew on a voyage in the restored Gipsy Moth IV. The yacht over a 22 month period followed a different route from the more arduous one taken by Sir Francis: in 2006/7 Gipsy Moth IV circumnavigated on the Trade Wind route via the Panama Canal.

Sir Francis Chichester made his historic voyage in 1966-67 on the yacht Gipsy Moth IV at the age of 65. He returned to Plymouth to a hero's welcome, having completed the first solo circumnavigation of the world with only one stop on the voyage. Sir Francis then sailed on to Greenwich where he was knighted by HM the Queen using the sword of Sir Francis Drake. Giles Chichester crewed for his father on many occasions and shared his love of sailing. He has several times sailed across the North Atlantic and also crossed the South Indian Ocean.

ENDS

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