



**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**



**Date of release: 06 September 2020**

## **BRIGANTINE ZEBU BECOMES THE WORLD'S FIRST TALL SHIP WITH AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.**

**TALL SHIP ZEBU of Liverpool is the world's first historic tall ship to have an electric auxiliary propulsion system.**

The historic brigantine Baltic Trader, built in 1938 and berthed in Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool has become the first tall ship in the world to swap her engine for a state-of-the-art electric flux motor which is lightweight and compact, and is powered by environmentally friendly rechargeable batteries.

The community Interest Company (CIC) run by volunteers, took over the custodianship of the historic vessel in January 2017.

*"This is a major personal and technical achievement – helped by funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund - which has been 2 ½ years of constant research and development, stubborn self-belief and working through a wall of doubters, but, I can say that we continue our journey to achieve our aim of completely restoring and keeping this beautiful iconic ship afloat and now with the electric motor installed and running, this is a huge leap on the way to being 100% powered by renewable clean energy" said the ship's Captain, Gerrith Borrett.*

The CIC's short-term goal is to complete the restoration of Zebu so that she can be used as a benchmark heritage educational platform showcasing how traditional sailing vessels were built, sailed and how they were vital in developing the UK's coastal trade and commerce. The CIC also wants to use Historic Tall Ship Zebu once again as a sail training vessel, providing training opportunities for volunteers to learn new and heritage maritime skills, as well as to offer activities and workshops to a broad range of educational specialist interest groups and coastal communities.

### **Notes to editors**

Tall Ship Zebu CIC was founded by the ship's owner, Captain Gerrith Borrett in April 2017. The Historic Tall Ship Zebu is presently moored in Royal Albert Dock, at the heart of the UNESCO designated World Heritage site in Liverpool. Since the beginning of Zebu's new journey from January 2017, she has been a great success as a static heritage and historical tourist and educational attraction in Liverpool and has attracted over 30,000 visitors since January 2017. She has also recently been named as National Historic Ships **North West Regional National Historic Flag Ship 2020.**

The CIC's short-term goal is to completely restore Zebu so that she can be used as a benchmark heritage educational museum and culture platform showcasing how traditional sailing vessels were built, sailed and how they were used as coastal trade vessels. The CIC also



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



wants to use Historic Tall Ship Zebu once again as a sail training vessel, providing training opportunities for volunteers to learn new and heritage maritime skills, as well as to offer activities and workshops to a broad range of educational specialist interest groups and coastal communities. The ship will continue to be open to the public, take part in festivals and events, and will be engaging educational groups and volunteers to encourage learning and appreciation of the heritage of the days of sail as well as discovering Zebu's own rich history of voyages, adventures and stories of the hundreds of young people who sailed on her during the Operation Raleigh circumnavigation in the 80's. Tall Ship Zebu CIC is aiming for the ship to be fully operational for sail training and UK voyages by early 2021.

Tall Ship Zebu's Honorary Patron is Colonel John Blashford-Snell C.B.E.

### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

"Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future." [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)

### About the National Historic Ships

National Historic Ships UK is a government funded, independent organisation which gives objective advice to UK governments and local authorities, funding bodies, and the historic ships sector on all matters relating to historic vessels in the UK, addressing questions relating to the support infrastructure for historic ships, their potential for contributing in the wider economic, social and community context. [www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk](http://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk)

### Further information

Website: [www.tallshipzebu.org](http://www.tallshipzebu.org)

Tall Ship Zebu CIC Media enquiries: 07793078909

Facebook: [@tallshipzebu](https://www.facebook.com/tallshipzebu)

Instagram: [tall\\_ship\\_zebu](https://www.instagram.com/tall_ship_zebu)

Twitter: [@Tall\\_Ship\\_Zebu](https://twitter.com/Tall_Ship_Zebu)

Email: [info@tallshipzebu.org](mailto:info@tallshipzebu.org)