

PRESS RELEASE

11/10/2022 – For immediate release

Granite Elite to provide Tall Ships security

Shetland Tall Ships Ltd has appointed Granite Elite to provide security services for next summer's four-day Tall Ships event in Lerwick.

Aberdeen-based company Granite Elite, which was founded in 2019, has provided security at events including the Scottish Traditional Boat Show in Portsoy, the Royal Deeside Motor Show, the Highland Games, various Pride events in the north east of Scotland and local music festivals.

The company will bring qualified and trained personnel to Shetland, and it is also aiming to set up training sessions in the islands over the next few months.

That will enable any interested locals to attain the SIA (Security Industry Authority) licence required to work as a security guard. That should mean that Shetland will have suitably qualified staff to ensure large-scale standing music concerts and other events can take place.

Granite Elite managing director Craig Fraser said his company was seeking to expand its portfolio and was excited to be branching out into Shetland for the first time.

"We are ecstatic to be doing business with Lerwick Tall Ships and we're looking forward to getting involved with the local community and helping make it a fantastic event," he said.

"We'll be coming into Shetland soon to do some training to get locals through their SIA qualification, with the aim of using a mixture of local staff and our contingency from the mainland."



Shetland Tall Ships Ltd project manager Emma Miller said: “We are very pleased to have appointed Granite Elite to look after our security needs during next year’s Tall Ships event.

“The company has a good background in event work, including the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in Portsoy, so has an understanding of maritime events and the specific considerations for this.

“Craig and the team are working closely with us to ensure our event is safe and secure for all participants, and I’m delighted that they are also looking at ways of training local staff to ensure our ongoing events industry is supported to be able to deliver larger standing concerts again.”

- Shetland Tall Ships Ltd is also looking to recruit individuals interested in becoming ship liaison officers or taking on other voluntary roles for next summer’s event. Anyone who wants to find out more can visit www.tallshipslerwick.com, email info@tallshipslerwick.com or phone (01595) 502110.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

The Tall Ships Races is Europe’s largest free, family festival, held every summer in European waters, offering an exciting racecourse for a magnificent fleet of participating vessels, crewed by thousands of young people. This prestigious event showcases Sail Training International’s values of fostering international friendships and providing life changing experiences for young people.

Lerwick has been appointed as a host port for the 2023 races and will host the fleet between 26th and 29th July following a Cruise in Company leg where ships will have the opportunity to visit a number of guest harbours on the route from the host port of Fredrikstad in Norway. Other host ports in 2023 are Den Helder in the Netherlands, Hartlepool in England and Arendal in Norway. This will be the third time Lerwick has hosted the fleet, with previous visits in 1999 and 2011.

The event is supported by grant funding from Shetland Islands Council and EventScotland, in addition to sponsorship from local companies. Lerwick Port Authority and Sail Training Shetland provide significant in-kind support for berthing, event sites and the recruitment of young trainees.





For more information on Tall Ships Races see <https://sailtraininginternational.org/> and for more information on the Tall Ships visit to Lerwick see <https://www.tallshipslerwick.com/> or contact **Project Manager, Emma Miller** on **01595 502110 / 07706 365020** or emma@tallshipslerwick.com.

EventScotland

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events by securing and supporting an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events. It provides funding opportunities and access to resources and information to develop the industry. EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation, alongside Business Events and Development teams. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit www.eventscotland.org or follow Twitter @EventScotNews and LinkedIn.

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TALL SHIPS
LERWICK 26-29 JULY 2023