SEOL-OILIÚINT

Ghlac an Roinn Airgeadais cúram *Asgard* uirthi féin sa bhliain 1968. Bunaíodh Coiste an *Asgard* agus cuireadh airgead i leataobh chun an chéad soitheach sibhialtach seol-oiliúna a dhéanamh de. Ag Bádchlós Mhullach Íde, baineadh teach deice agus poll stiúrtha an luaimh, agus ina n-áit cuireadh cábán stiúrach agus cóiríocht do chriú agus d'oiliúnaithe.

Sna sé bliana dá éis, faoi cheannas an Chaptaein Eric Healy, iomaitheoir rialta ab ea *Asgard* in imeachtaí seol-oiliúna agus i Rásaí Idirnáisiúnta na Long Ard. Máistir-mhairnéalach ab ea an Captaen Healy agus taithí fhairsing na mblianta aige. Ba é a chuaigh i gceannas ar *Asgard 2*, leis, an bruigintín maorga a ghabh áit *Asgard*, ó 1980 amach.

Faoi thús na 1970idí ba léir go raibh *Asgard* ag dul in aois. Cóiríocht nua a bhí inti ach ba é cabhail na bliana 1905 a bhí uirthi fós. Measadh, leis, nár oir sí a thuilleadh don seol-oiliúint idirnáisiúnta, toisc líon na mbad a bhí ag gabháil don oiliúint sin anois. Ag deireadh chlár oiliúna na bliana 1974 socraíodh gan aon agóid nach rachadh A*sgard* chun farraige arís.

Bhí sí ar taispeáint don phobal i Músaem Phríosún Chill Mhaighneann idir 1978 agus 2001. Aistríodh í sa bhliain 2005 go dtí Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann, Dún Uí Choileáin, lena caomhnú.

SAIL-TRAINING

In 1968, *Asgard* became the responsibility of the Department of Finance. 'Coiste an *Asgard*' ('The *Asgard* Committee') was established and funds were allocated to commission the yacht as Ireland's first civilian sail-training vessel. At Malahide Boatyard, the deckhouse and cockpit were removed, and a wheelhouse and accommodation for crew and trainees were installed.

Over the next six years, with Captain Eric Healy in command, *Asgard* became a regular competitor in sail-training events and the International Tall Ships Races. Captain Healy, who was an extremely experienced Master Mariner, would also captain *Asgard*'s eventual replacement, the magnificent brigantine *Asgard 2*, from 1980 onwards.

By the early 1970s, *Asgard* was beginning to show her age. While her accommodation was new, her hull was still the one built in 1905. She was also considered unsuitable for the changing world of international sail-training, which increasingly involved larger vessels. In 1974, at the end of that year's sailing programme, *Asgard* was quietly retired.

From 1978 to 2001, *Asgard* was on public display in Kilmainham Gaol Museum, Dublin, and in 2005 she was transported to The National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, for conservation.

Ar barr, ar chlé: *Asgard ag seoladh ó Dhún Laoghaire, lár na1960idí, le criú ón Slua Muirí (Cúltaca an Chabhlaigh Náisiúnta).*
Le caoinchead Ronald Lewis.

Ar bun, ar chlé *Asgard* ar thuras seol-oiliúna i mBá Bhaile Átha Cliath, 1969 nó 1970.
Le caoinchead W. M. (Winkie) Nixon.

Thuas: Seol-oiliúint do shibhialtaigh ar bord *Asgard*, ag deireadh na 1960idí. Ó chlé: Seán Flood (ina sheasamh), Con Lyons, Buddy Thomson, Benny Gallagher, Dick Larkin, John Hannan, Ollie Gawran, Gerry Derenzy. Fear neamhaitheanta ar dheis.
Le caoinchead Benny Gallagher.

Top Left: *Asgard* launching at Dún Laoghaire, mid-1960s, crewed by members of 'An Slua Muirí' (Naval Service Reserve)
Courtesy of Ronald Lewis.

Bottom Left: *Asgard* on a sail-training voyage in Dublin Bay, 1969 or 1970.
Courtesy of W. M. (Winkie) Nixon.

Above: Civilian sail-training aboard *Asgard*, late 1960s. L. to R.: Seán Flood (standing), Con Lyons, Buddy Thomson, Benny Gallagher, Dick Larkin, John Hannan, Ollie Gawran, Gerry Derenzy. Man standing on right is unidentified.
Courtesy of Benny Gallagher.