

CAMBRIA  TRUST

CAMBRIA

THE CAMBRIA

Using heritage to help...

A unique sailing barge fully restored to provide opportunities for:

- **SAIL TRAINING AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT**
- **SCHOOL VISITS AND INSTRUCTION**
- **CORPORATE AND PRIVATE HIRE AT SEA - OR IN HARBOUR**



HISTORY

Built on the Thames at Greenhithe (Kent) in 1906, CAMBRIA traded between ports up and down the east coast as well as to and from the near Continent. Her cargoes were varied and included grain, coal, bricks, and cattle feed.

Renowned as the last UK registered vessel to trade cargo under sail alone, she is a unique component of our maritime and industrial heritage. CAMBRIA made her last commercial voyage in 1970

The ultimate example of carbon-free transportation, she could carry the contents of 17 old railway trucks, and did so with no pollution and a crew comprising a man, a boy and sometimes a dog.

Sadly neglected and left rotting for many years, a group of enthusiasts took ownership of the wreck in 1996 and formed a Charitable Trust.



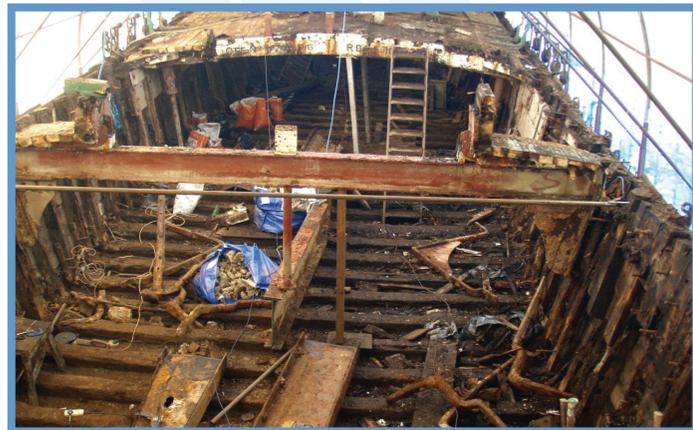
Thanks to their hard work, dedication and ingenuity over ten years, the relentless deterioration was arrested, and the condition of the vessel was stabilised, such that the option of restoring the hull to its former glory became a viable, albeit expensive possibility.

And then in 2007, after much detailed and careful planning the Cambria Trust was awarded a grant of £990,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, thereby recognising the national importance of the proposed restoration and CAMBRIA's place in British maritime history.

RESTORATION

With the appointment of Master Shipwright Tim Goldsack, CAMBRIA started her three year re-build in November 2007. Now located in Faversham, and secure from the weather in a covered dry dock, the process of stripping out the rotten timber began.

By keeping the original planking as a template, new frames were progressively secured in place.



By September 2008 all the main frames had been shaped and fitted using sustainable oak from Somerset.

By mid-2009 with the bow and stern framing complete, the hull planking had started, and by 2010 the main deck had taken shape. Six months later, the side rails and hatch coamings were in place.



Progress over the following winter was delayed due to the exceptionally harsh weather, but by March of the following year, and after 41 years, the famous Sailing Barge CAMBRIA once again took to the water.

With sea trials programmed for July 2011, there remained much to do: installing the diesel generator and hot water boiler; constructing cabin accommodation for 12; installing comfortable domestic and washroom facilities; fitting out the galley and seating area; converting the main hold into an education and interpretation centre; re-installing the original skipper's cabin and rigging the masts and spars.



On 17 July 2011, CAMBRIA set out for her first charter, during which she participated in the prestigious Thames Barge Match, finishing some two miles ahead of her nearest rival. The CAMBRIA, now fully restored, is once again out in front.



SAIL TRAINING

Sail training is an exciting, well-established and proven method by which young people can develop confidence, character, and self-esteem. The need to work as a team often, in challenging circumstances, to rely on others and importantly to have others rely on oneself, builds friendships, encourages respect,



and for some can be a life-changing experience.

The Cambria Trust is committed to providing such opportunities for as many young people as possible. Working with Rotary in the south east, we are providing as a priority “young carers” with a stimulating break from their often daunting responsibilities. The associated sailing programme is rewardingly popular and busy. Moreover the results achieved, and the enthusiastic feedback from the young carers, brings enormous reward to all involved with the project.

But sail training is not just for youngsters. It is also great for team building and CAMBRIA is often chartered by both individuals and local based companies and organisations for such purposes. In particular, the many barge races held each year in and around the Thames make an ideal occasion for such corporate or privately arranged “away days”.



As part of her first charter in July 2011, CAMBRIA swept the field in that year’s Thames Barge Match, picking up 7 trophies. Building on this reputation, bookings during CAMBRIA’s operational programme (early April to mid-October) are keenly sought.

Her availability for sailing charter and other events can be found on the Cambria Trust website (www.cambriatrust.org.uk). Meanwhile, all enquiries and further information about sail training opportunities may be obtained from the Operations Manager (cambriaopsmanager@gmail.com)



EDUCATION

One of the long-standing objectives of the Cambria Trust has been to use this famous barge in support of local schools. To this end, CAMBRIA has had its main hold converted into an Education and Interpretation Centre, which can accommodate up to 36 children. Equipped with full audio/visual facilities, graphics, information boards and a wide range of original artefacts, a visit to the barge will bring alive how and where these craft operated; the skills and professionalism of the men and boys who crewed them and the conditions in which they lived and worked: social history, relevant aspects of geography, history, science, navigation and mathematics can all be addressed.

CAMBRIA will be programmed to spend approximately six weeks of each sailing season visiting selected ports and harbours around the



south east, thereby facilitating easy access by schools within the local areas.

An exciting and motivating out-of-classroom environment, CAMBRIA can provide tailored-made instruction and hands-on fun activities that will inspire children and inform them about the maritime heritage of these iconic vessels and the vital role they played in the historical and geographical development of commerce in London and the south east.

Primarily focussing on the national curriculum Key Skills Stages 2 and 3, the Cambria Trust will liaise with schools wishing to take advantage of these opportunities in order to develop a programme, which best supports the school's teaching objectives and programme. Enquires are invited by e-mail to cambriatrustsecretary@live.co.uk, or by phone on 01634 710721.



CORPORATE & PRIVATE HIRE

When in harbour, CAMBRIA is ideally suited as a venue in which to hold social, club and corporate functions. The main hold can accommodate up to 50 people seated and is fully fitted with audio/visual projection facilities. Centrally heated, and with an adjacent galley and appropriate washroom facilities, the barge can accommodate meetings, briefings and parties in comfort.

Each year the barge will be programmed to visit a number of ports around the south east coast, during which time she will be available for private functions in addition to the visits arranged for schools. She can also be made available for hire during the winter whilst in Faversham. Details can be found on the CAMBRIA web site (www.cambriatrust.org.uk). Enquiries about availability are welcomed and should be made to the Operations Manager (cambriaopsmanager@gmail.com)



Finally, as an engineless barge making little noise, CAMBRIA is ideally suited for exploring the many nature reserves and other protected locations bordering the Thames Estuary. Renowned for their rich bird life, particularly during the spring and autumn migration, these areas approached from seaward, can provide the keen bird-watcher with unique access. Enquiries should again be addressed to the Programme Manager. Given suitable notice, it is sometimes possible to arrange for a knowledgeable ornithologist to accompany such charters.

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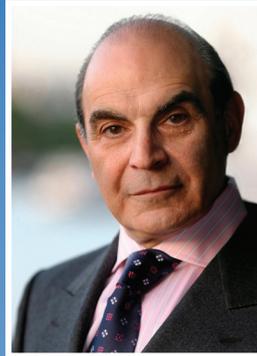
Formed in 1996, The Cambria Trust set itself four objectives. They are;

- To restore and preserve a unique element of British maritime heritage.
- To initiate a certified Shipwright Apprenticeship scheme.
- To provide a motivating teaching environment in support of schools and communities.
- To support local authority social outreach programmes through sail-training activities.

With objectives 1 and 2 now successfully achieved, the Trust is actively focused in working with sponsoring organisations and schools in delivering Objectives 3 and 4.

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