



The crew starts its four-month voyage. CONTRIBUTED

# Youngsters set sail

THE first youngsters to take part in the Ellen MacArthur Trust's Skandia Round-Britain Voyage set sail from Cowes on Sunday.

Hundreds of people gathered to wave off the crew, which includes five youngsters, who are all recovering from cancer and leukaemia.

Ellen, who was on board, will be present on a number of legs during the four-month voyage.

"I'm absolutely over the moon to be off and sharing this moment with the five young people," she said.

"Their enjoyment is the most important element. The work and generosity that has gone into this project is second to none. A big thanks to everyone who has helped."

The voyage involves 85 young peo-

ple sailing the 48ft yacht Scarlet Oyster 2,000 nautical miles around Britain, stopping at 17 ports before finishing in Cowes on September 13.

Throughout the voyage, the young people will be returning to the paediatric oncology wards of the hospitals they were treated in to talk to those currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

Piers Rowlandson, medical consultant to the trust and consultant paediatrician at St Mary's Hospital, Newport, said: "Each young person sailing on this voyage faced huge challenges at an early age and for others undergoing treatment for cancer to hear such positive stories will be very special."

● Follow the progress of this inspirational voyage at [www.roundbritain.org](http://www.roundbritain.org).