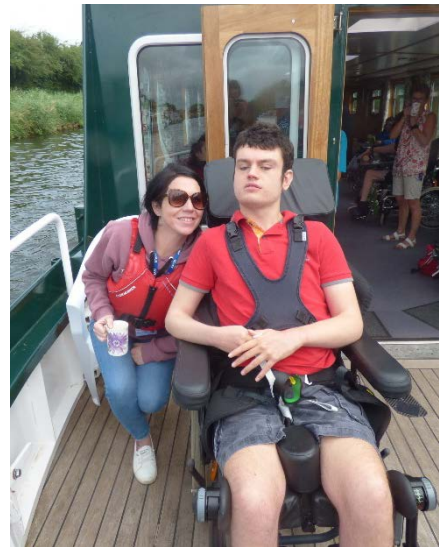
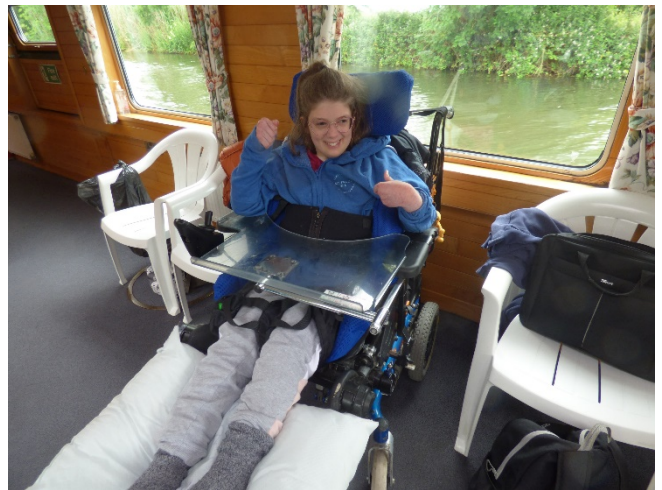




Willow Trust News

Freedom for disabled people on the water



THE WILLOW TRUST

Fun and Freedom Afloat for children and adults with disabilities and serious illnesses

Each year up to 7,000 disabled and seriously ill children and adults with their carers spend a day on board our two fully wheelchair accessible broad beamed boats on the beautiful Gloucester – Sharpness Canal.

Both boats were purpose built for the Willow Trust and give disabled children and adults a day of freedom they never dreamt possible. The days bring inspiration and help build confidence, proving the joy and benefits of boating are available to everyone.

Our guests come from all over Gloucestershire and beyond.

The days are completely free of charge.

The Willow Trust is totally self-funding, dependent on the kindness of people like you to make this possible. Could you help us or maybe sponsor a day for a guest?



Registered Charity No 328386

Our 33rd Season

Our 33rd Season started on the 17th of April and Spirit of Freedom II and Leonard Matchan are filled, once again, with the buzz of laughter and conversation as they cruise along the beautiful Gloucester-Sharpness Canal every day of the week.

After a slightly soggy start to the season, the sun is finally shining and our guests can spend more time outside enjoying the views and the 50 something swans and cygnets on the 7-mile stretch between our mooring at Saul Junction and our picnic site at Purton.



We are delighted to have seen many familiar faces this season and equally as thrilled to be meeting many new guests enjoying the therapeutic and calming benefits of a day on the water.

The days out are proving to be as popular as ever and we are so pleased to be operating at pre-pandemic capacity with 30 guests on board each of our boats every day of the week.

Our team of volunteers continues to grow, and we are very lucky to have welcomed 17 more people to the team this year. Without the dedication and care of our wonderful volunteers, the Willow Trust could quite simply not operate.

Mike Johnson has joined Keith Hadley and Carl Merry as a volunteer skipper, all of them playing a vital role at the Willow Trust and allowing Buzz & John the occasional day off!



What our Guests say about their day out

We had our trip today and I just wanted to pass on my thanks to all your volunteers on the boat today, they were fantastic with both the kids and the staff.

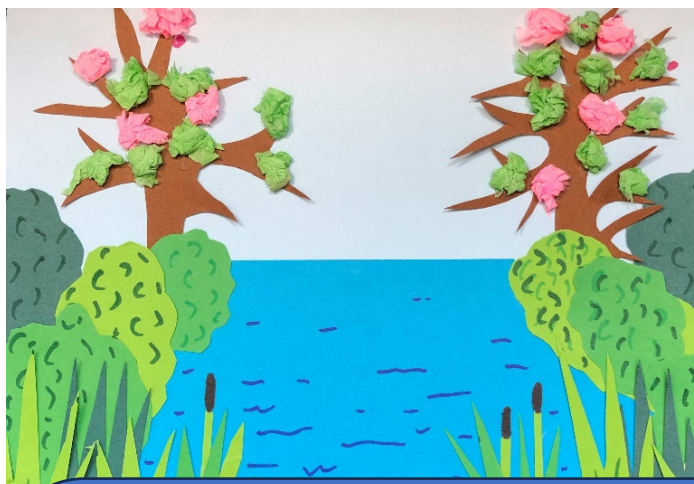
Thank you once more, we are all amazed that such a facility as yours exists, providing new experiences for those who have limited opportunities.

A huge thank you from all of us for a truly wonderful day out on the boat today. The crew were all so welcoming and lovely and both guests and volunteers had a fabulous day.

Thanks for an amazing day. My class absolutely loved their time on the boat and Buzz, the Captain, and crew were so helpful and kind to us - please pass my thanks on to them.

Just wanted to say thank you from everyone for a great day out yesterday. All of our guys, and the staff, really enjoyed it and found it beneficial. All the volunteers were great, really polite and helpful and could see how enthusiastic they were about the willow trust and boating in general.

Again, thank you very much for the wonderful time our residents spent last Tuesday on the Boat trip! As always, they had so much fun and what a glorious day it was. Please extend our warmest thanks to all the boat staff.



I would just like to say a very big thank you for such a wonderful visit today. We couldn't have been treated better from everyone on board who looked after us. Please pass on our thanks to the skipper and his team, we all enjoyed the beautiful relaxing journey down the river and the children had such a lovely experience.

I just wanted to pass on a massive thank you for the beautiful outing we had with The Willow Trust on Friday. What an amazing charity The Willow Trust is. We were beyond impressed- staff/volunteers on board were all very kind and attentive and ensured the residents could each have a turn at steering the boat or sit out in the fresh air. It really was a dream come true for Denise (as well as all of the residents and staff who got to be a part of this special day). We were so lucky with the weather and it felt as if we were all on holiday. We can't recommend The Willow Trust enough. Thanks so much for organising a wonderful day for the residents who all came back smiling and with a story to tell, some of whom hadn't been out for some time.



What our volunteers say about their day out

They were a lovely group, very appreciative & seemed to be having such fun! A perfect start to the season.

It was a memorable day aboard the wonderful Willow Trust boat. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a fantastic team of volunteers.

They were a lovely group and we all had a great day. This is what being with the Willow Trust is all about.

It was a very rewarding day and the staff and children were lovely. It's days like Thursday that make you realise why you volunteer.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU

Every single penny required to keep the Willow Trust afloat is raised by you. We could not do this without the help and generosity of Rotary and Lions Clubs, Inner Wheel Clubs, the Friends of the Willow Trust, churches, schools, businesses, individuals, Charitable Trusts, legacies, donations from our guests along with events organised throughout the year by you and by us to raise money.



Clockwise from top left: The Harry Browns of Bristol; Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue; Andersons Waste Mngmt; Stewart Allen & Tomos; Rotary Club of Newent & District; Nick Brown, Captain of Cirencester Golf Club.

Willow Trust Events



The Willow Trust 2023 Tandem Skydive

12 intrepid skydivers were all set to take to the skies on Sunday 2 July but bad weather postponed the jump. If you'd like to join us, we are now jumping on Sunday 20 August 2023.

Sunday 24 September 2023 – NB Date Change

We will set out on our annual Sponsored Walk from the car park at our moorings at Saul Junction at 10am. It is a pleasant, mainly flat walk around 4 miles long finishing with a boat ride back to our moorings. Sponsorship forms are available on our website.

FRIENDS OF THE WILLOW TRUST

*Please help us to continue to provide a therapeutic day out,
free of charge, for thousands of children and adults with
disabilities and serious illnesses*

You will also receive a yearly Newsletter and details of forthcoming events

Simply complete the following form and send it to:
The Willow Trust, 11A Whiteway Court, Cirencester GL7 7BA
or email it to: rory@willowtrust.org

✂-----

**I/We wish to become a Friend of the Willow Trust with a
subscription of a minimum of £5, £10, £15 or £20 per month**

Gift Aid ☐ Please tick if you would like us to receive Gift Aid on all your
donations. If you are a UK taxpayer we can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate.
This is at NO extra cost to you. Please fill in your details below:

Name: Date:

Address:

.....

Email: Tel No:

**Please return this form to The Willow Trust (address above) & we will send it to
your Bank/Building Society. Please date 1st payment at least 3 weeks after signing**

To:

..... (Your bank name and address)

Please pay CAF Bank (Sort Code 40-52-40) **the sum of £** to be credited to

The Willow Trust (Account Number 00002721) at **monthly/yearly*** intervals,

commencing until further notice

Your Account#: Your Sort Code:

Signature: Date:

PLEASE SUPPORT THE WILLOW TRUST

☐

GIFT AID: please tick if you would like us to receive Gift Aid on all your donations.
If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim 25p for every £1 you donate. This is at **NO**
extra cost to you.

I wish to make a donation of £

(Please make your cheque payable to The Willow Trust)

Name: Date:

Address:
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Email: Tel:



**Alternatively, please donate via our QR code and
let us know by email if you would like to Gift Aid
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Freedom for disabled people on the water