



# 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 32<sup>nd</sup> Season

Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Season drew to a close in late October this year. We are delighted to have been able to welcome around 5,000 guests on board during the seven months that Spirit of Freedom II and Leonard Matchan were on the water. We started the season in April with smaller groups on board to minimise the risk posed by COVID. On 1 August both boats set sail at full capacity, with 30 guests on board, allowing us to offer as many people as possible the chance to spend a day out on the water and all the benefits that such a tranquil experience brings to them.

Spirit of Freedom II and Leonard Matchan are resplendent in their green and red livery. They hum with the noise of laughter and conversation as they cruise along the beautiful Gloucester-Sharpsness Canal each day of the week.



We have received some wonderful thank you letters – here are just a few:

I want to give a big thank you to everyone involved in making such a lovely day out for Richard and me. It's good in this world today to know there is still kindness to be found. Everyone was so pleasant and helpful. Thank you so much.



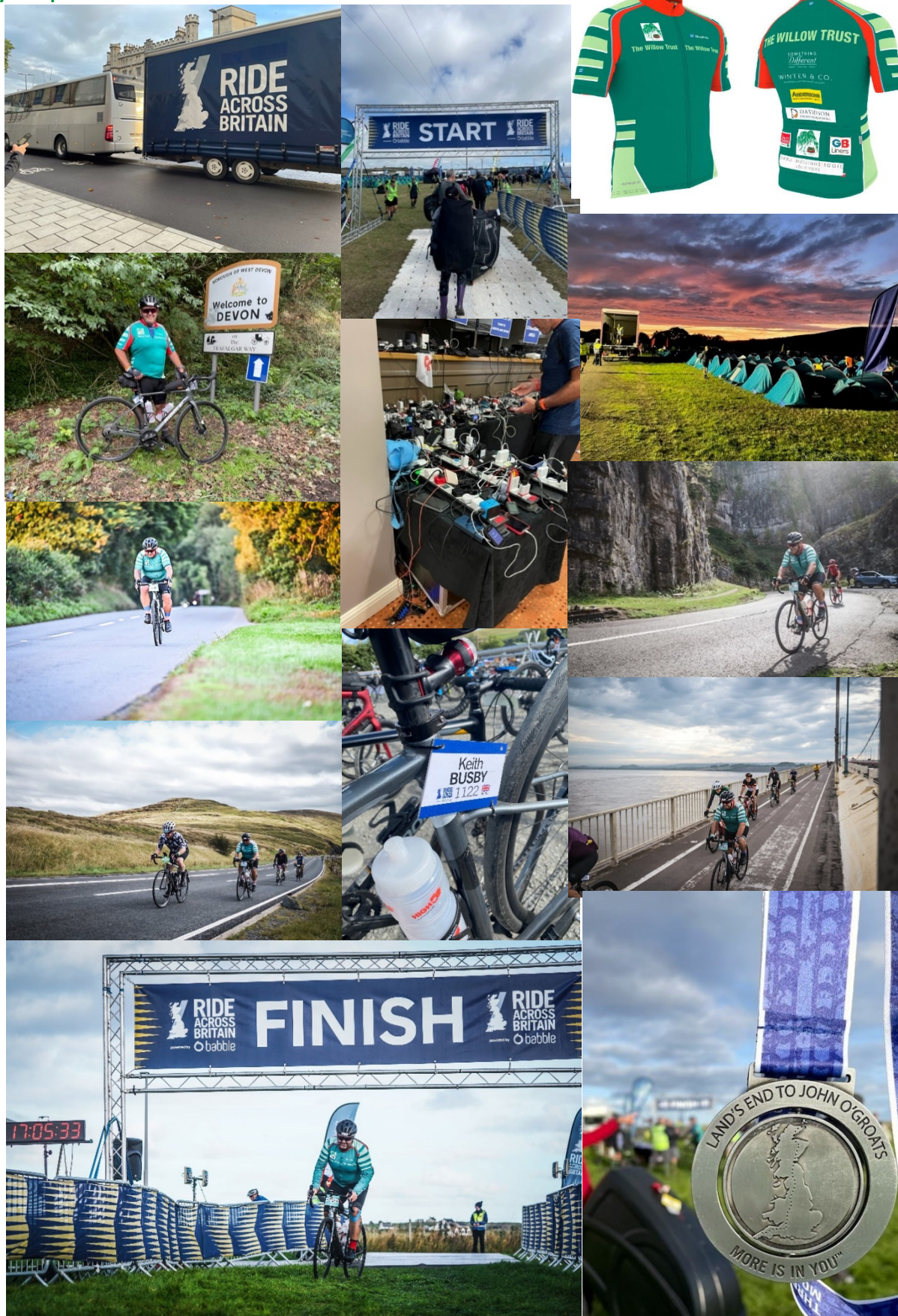
We have had a fantastic day out on the Willow trust canal boat. It was so good to meet up and chat with new people... networking and finding out information, having time to relax with cups of tea brought to you.





# BUZZ'S RIDE ACROSS BRITAIN

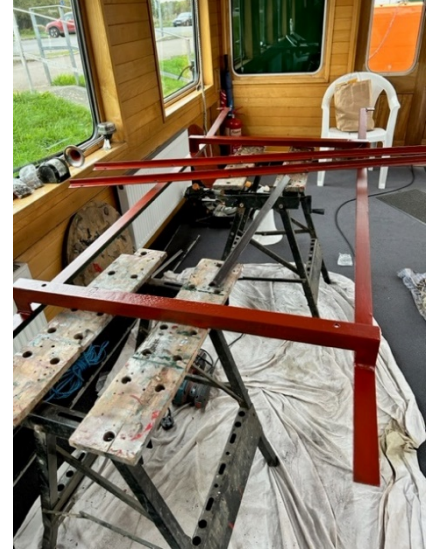
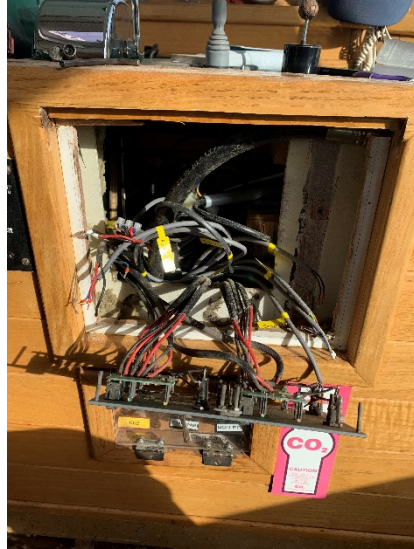
On Friday 9 September, Buzz set off for Land's End to start his epic 982 mile cycle ride to John o'Groats. He accomplished this incredible feat in 9 days. At the time of printing, Buzz has raised the staggering sum of £15,350. Here is his story in photos:





# Winter Work at the Willow Trust

In anticipation of welcoming our guests back in April 2023, both our boats are now undergoing their rigorous winter work programme, carried out by our skippers, Buzz and John. Here is just a taster of what the winter work programme entails:



## 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.

Our grateful thanks also go to our amazing full-time skippers, Buzz & John; our fantastic volunteer skippers, Keith & Carl; our incredible volunteers – all 80 of you without whom we could not offer such joy to so many people; and our esteemed Patron, Dame Janet Trotter DBE, CVO.



# Willow Trust Events

Keep an eye on our website for details and dates of all our events



## Friday 10 March 2023 at Whitminster Village Hall

An evening of sea shanties and sea songs by the acclaimed Harry Browns of Bristol. Rousing choruses and spine-tingling harmonies and plenty of humour are guaranteed. A fine body of singers who perform both accapella and with guitar & fiddle accompaniment.

## Willow Trust PUParazzi Contest in Spring 2023

Enter photos of your dog(s). Category winners will be reviewed by our celebrity panel of judges who will then decide the overall winner. Prizes will be won in each category. The most PUP'd pooch will win a tea cruise for 25 on one of our boats.



## The Willow Trust 2023 Tandem Skydive

After the success and fun of the tandem skydive in 2021, we are aiming to make this even bigger in 2023 and hope that you or somebody you know will join us in this leap.

## Sunday 17 September 2023

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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



**I wish to make a donation of £ .....**

**GIFT AID**

☐

(Please make your cheque payable to The Willow Trust)

Name: ..... Date: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: ..... Tel: .....

**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.



**Alternatively, please donate via our QR code and let us know by email if you would like to Gift Aid the donation - [admin@willowtrust.org](mailto:admin@willowtrust.org)**

**The Willow Trust  
11A Whiteway Court  
Cirencester  
GL7 7BA  
Tel: 01285 651661**

**[www.willowtrust.org](http://www.willowtrust.org)**



Thank you to Facsim, Cirencester  
[www.facsim.co.uk](http://www.facsim.co.uk) for our printing

