



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 35th Season is Underway!

Spirit of Freedom II and Leonard Matchan took to the beautiful Gloucester-Sharpness Canal for the first day of our 35th season on the 14th of April 2025.

Both boats have been full each day and bookings are pouring in for the rest of the season. We are all so excited to be on the water again and welcoming our wonderful guests back on board.



Our Team of 80+ Volunteers



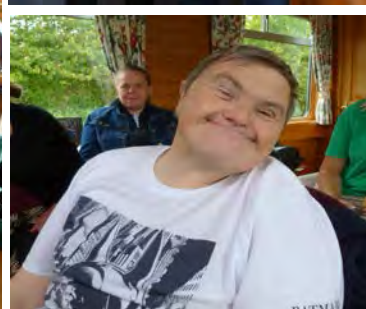
All Willow Trust Volunteer Crew Members take part in mandatory training each year.

This ensures that everyone is well-versed in every aspect vital to providing our guests with a fun and safe day out on the water.

Training took place during February and March and we even managed to avoid the rain.

Our kind sponsors from Something Different gave us all of our Volunteer Clothing.

Our team of volunteers continues to grow, and we are very lucky to have welcomed another 10 people to the team this year. Without the dedication and care of our amazing volunteers, the Willow Trust could quite simply not operate. Thank you all!



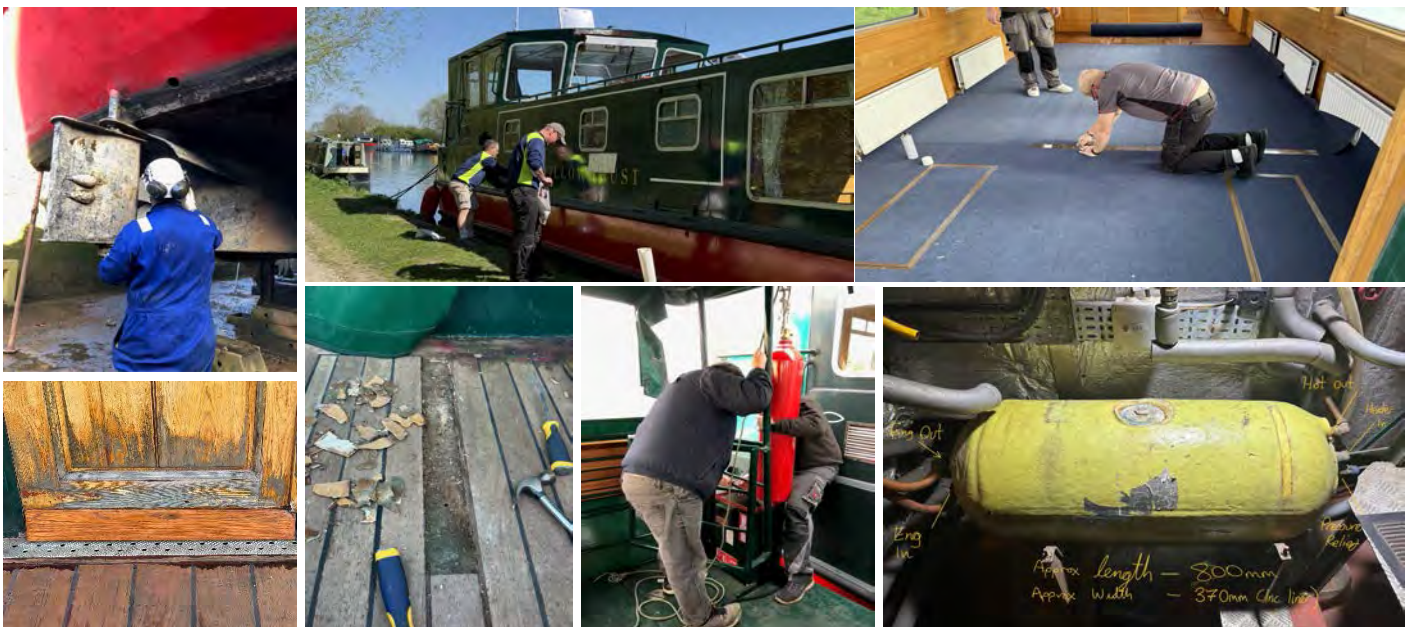


Our grateful thanks are extended to
so many different people, groups and organisations, who work tirelessly to support us in so many different ways. Here are just a few in photo format.



Over the Winter

After a very wet winter and many physical and fiddly jobs later, both boats are finally as good as new – a new carpet for Spirit of Freedom II and sparkling new paintwork and transfers for Leonard Matchan to name but a few. Our skippers, Buzz, John, Nick, Mike and Carl have, once again, undertaken the vast majority of the work themselves.



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

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**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

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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:
.....

Email: Tel:



**Alternatively, please donate
via our QR code.**



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**NB: this will be anonymous. Please let us
know so we can acknowledge your kindness.**



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