Willow Trust News

Charity Number 328386

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 32nd Season

Our 32nd Season has got off to a flying start with Spirit of Freedom II and Leonard Matchan taking to the water in April this year. We are delighted to have already welcomed back almost 2,000 guests this season and the bookings are still coming in thick and fast for the rest of the year.

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-Sharpness Canal each day of the week.

As of 1 August, we hope to be operating at full capacity again, with each boat setting sail with 30 guests on board, so that we can offer as many people as possible the chance to experience a day out on the water and all the benefits that such a day brings to them.

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

May I say, on behalf of all members of Pershore Pathfinders, how much we enjoyed the cruise yesterday. You could not have been more welcoming, nor have looked after the group more kindly and more considerately.

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.

We have so many people to thank but here is a snapshot of just some of those wonderful people:

Clockwise from top left:
Western Active Stroke Group; Rotary Club of Cotswold Tyndale; Cheltenham Rotary Club; The Harry Browns of Bristol; Anderson Waste Management; Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue

Our grateful thanks also go to:

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

The Board of Trustees of the Willow Trust

Christopher Lutton, Jane Peak and Matthew Cass have retired from the Board of Trustees. We would like to thank them for their many years of service, 16 of which Chris served as Chairman.

Simon Fisher has stepped into the role of Chairman and is joined by:

Carl Merry

Carl is a Volunteer Skipper with the Willow Trust and is Senior Pilot for the Port of Sharpness, where he has been for nearly 19 years

George Turvey

George is co-Founder & Artistic Director of the Olivier Award winning Papatango Theatre Company

Jane Davidson

Jane is a volunteer with the Willow Trust and is Financial Adviser at Davidson Financial Planning, Associate Partner Practice of St James's Place Wealth Management

Michele Vesey

Michele is a volunteer with the Willow Trust and is a retired Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, having worked at the Castle School in Thornbury for 26 years

Victoria Marsh

Victoria is a solicitor specialising in Competition and Regulatory Law and an active campaign supporter of Windrush Against Sewage Pollution

Willow Trust Events

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

<u>Sunday 4 September 2022</u>

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.

<u>10-18 September 2022</u>

<u>Land's End to John o'Groats</u>

Buzz, one of our skippers, is taking on the gruelling 970 mile cycle ride from Land's End to John o'Groats. This staggering undertaking will last 9 days and 9 nights (camping). Please go to our website and sponsor Buzz via the Wonderful.org button.

Thank you to Buzz's Corporate Sponsors: Something Different, Winter & Co Marine Insurance, Andersons Waste Management, Davidson Financial Planning, Strutt & Parker, GB Liners & Sewell Mullings Logie Solicitors

Volunteer Skipper, Keith Hadley, will be recounting Tales & Stories of Life on the Water. Keep an eye on our website for the date.

<u>Willow Trust PUParazzi Contest</u>

Enter photos of your dog(s) into various categories. These will be voted for by the public and judged by an independent panel. The owner of the most PUP'd pooch will win a tea cruise for 25 on one of The Willow Trust boats.

Join us for a fun-filled evening & Ploughman's Supper with Henry VIII, aka Tony Strange, a superb mix of actor, historian, lecturer & comedian.

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 for 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 NatWest Bank, Gloucester (Branch Code 60-09-02) **the sum of £.....** to be credited to The Willow Trust (Account# 36662518) 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 tax payer we can claim 25pm 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

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

www.willowtrust.org

Thank you to Facsim, Cirencester
www.facsim.co.uk for our printing