

On Board

The Newsletter of the Peter Le Marchant Trust

Providing day outings and holidays on waterways
for people of all ages with any kind of disability or serious illness



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(formerly Her Serene Highness, The Princess Caroline of Monaco.)

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More years than miles - the walkers return....

After braving all sorts of hazards, including some appalling weather, on their Coast-to-Coast Walk from St. Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in Yorkshire, the walkers have returned to their usual "Friday crew" duties. The picture shows them presenting a cheque for £3,200 to the General Manager, Charles Grace. With Gift Aid, they will have raised over £3,500, which is a magnificent effort, and the Trust is very grateful to them all.



Open Day - Saturday 16th May, 2009

We are holding an Open Day at the base on 16th May. Visitors will be able to look round all three boats, and the Skippers and some of our Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. There will be a number of stalls selling a variety of products, with profits going to the Trust. Refreshments will be available as well. All are welcome, and we hope to have the opportunity to show you what we do and how we do it.

WEDNESDAY CREW



Not all these Volunteers are regular Wednesday crew, as some of them were away, but it illustrates the dedication of our Volunteers that they will help out when and where needed. L to R, Ray Fairbrother (Skipper), Vic Lorriman, Deirdre Thompson, Sue Wilford, Kevin Cutts.

Kevin Cutts

Over ten years ago Kevin was appointed by Deirdre Thompson to be Technical Stage Manager at the Civic Centre at Loughborough Town Hall responsible for design of lighting and sound for the shows. It was Deirdre who also introduced him to the work of the Trust and he became a Volunteer. His work with the Civic Centre involves the sound and lighting design of numerous musicals a year, and he also works freelance for other theatres, including the English National Opera at the Coliseum in London. He often works in the evenings, which leaves him free to fill in as a Volunteer crew member on occasional weekdays as well as doing his usual time at weekends. After the artificial lights of the theatre, he loves being outdoors on *Symphony* in daylight and fresh air. He enjoys being able to give 'something back' to the different groups who come on *Symphony* and being part of the Volunteer crew.

Vic Lorriman

Vic has been a Volunteer crew member for two years, and heard about the Trust through Trevor Allman when he recognised him on the television programme, *Water World*, demonstrating the model of the day boat, *Symphony*. After leaving the RAF, Vic went into industrial electronics control systems for many years and Trevor was one of his customers. When his company closed down Vic became an adult education teacher, teaching digital photography and imaging, and it was when he retired that he met up with Trevor again. He loves the canals and being able to help the different groups of people to have a lovely day out and discover the joys of the waterways.

Deirdre Thompson

Deirdre is a weekend volunteer on *Symphony*, but she occasionally works on weekdays as well when there are crew shortages. She has been 'involved with the water' for many years. She was a member of the Loughborough Boat Club where she tried her hand at rowing, owned a cruiser with her husband, and through the Soar Boat Club met Derek Smith, who helped design both *Symphony* and *Serenade*. In 1989 Derek Smith approached Deirdre to help with the weekend crew. Deirdre joined the Trust and later for some time was responsible for organising the weekend crews and bookings. During her twenties she worked in local government in finance and then as a Financial Officer at Loughborough Town Hall, a multi-purpose entertainment and civic centre. She was asked to take on the manager's role temporarily and stayed in the job for fourteen years, meeting many famous entertainers, including Ken Dodd. Over the years she has contributed a huge amount to the trust, not least her culinary skills, including her delicious apple pies! She loves the work and seeing the effect the trips have on their passengers.

WEDNESDAY CREW (Contd.)

Sue Wilford

Sue probably knows more than most people the value of the work of the Trust. Her own son, Ian, has complex problems and is severely visually impaired. Each year for the last ten years he has come with Vista, the charity who looks after him, for a four-day holiday on *Serenade*. As Sue puts it: 'he lives for this trip' and looks forward to it all year; it adds hugely to his quality of life. She got to know about the Trust through her brother, Charles James, and used to bring her sons to the base to help out during the late seventies and early eighties. Sue has worked with volunteers and the visually impaired for many years, and for twelve years was Coordinator for the volunteer reader service to help visually impaired students in their studies at the RNIB Vocational Training College in Loughborough. When she retired she became a permanent Volunteer for the Wednesday crew. She has enormous empathy with people with mental health problems and loves working with the team and meeting all the different groups.

Woodlands School, Plymouth

Every year Woodlands School send a party all the way from Plymouth, and we're glad that they enjoy the trips on *Serenade* so much that they come back time and time again. We're also glad that they picked one of the few weeks that enjoyed good weather, as you can see from the photographs.



Donations

We extend grateful thanks to all our generous donors and particularly to the following who have given £1,000 or more since May 2008:-

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| Rowan Dartington | Everard Foundation |
| Dunn Family Charitable Trust | Ratcliffe College Parents Association |
| Charles Littlewood Hill Charitable Trust | Corah Foundation |
| Boshier Hinton Foundation | Sir Julian S. Hodge Charitable Trust |
| J N Derbyshire Trust | Anne Brooks Fairgreen Charitable Trust |
| Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation | Beeston Marina |

...and last but certainly not least, the intrepid walkers who took part in the Coast-to-Coast Sponsored Walk, and all their supporters.

All your donations, large and small, helped us to provide day trips and holidays in 2008 at a very low cost to a large number of groups and individuals who otherwise would have been unable to afford it. Thank you very much!

Back page Round-up



(Above) Ray Fairbrother, Skipper of *Symphony*, receiving a cheque for £1,000 from Ashby de la Zouch Rotary Club.



(Left) An appropriately dressed Ray thanking Beeston Marina for their generous cheque recently.

(Below) *Melody* being slipped at Pillings Marina for her annual inspection and painting.

**Peter Le Marchant
Trust**

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