

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



Patron: H.R.H. The Princess of Hanover

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

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The Rt. Hon. Lord Crawshaw, Mr. Kelvin Robinson, Mrs. Serena Richards, Mr. Tim Rolph, Mrs. Venetia Francklin,
Mr. Charles Moore and Mr. Alexander Nall..

Registered Charity No. 273207

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SERENADE IN VENICE



Pictured during last season, *Serenade* has just passed under the Rialto Bridge, with her Skipper Chris ensuring that he gives the gondola a wide berth!

A voyage of fantasy.....yes. BUT we know that the passengers on this trip, who were some of the 4,000 we carried this season, enjoyed themselves just as much on the River Soar in Leicestershire! *Serenade* carries up to ten people on four-night trips throughout the season.

See inside.....

A VERY SPECIAL HOLIDAY

This summer our holiday boat, Serenade, took out groups from as far afield as Devon (for the sixteenth year running) and Cornwall. Sometimes we have a family with a disabled member, allowing them to have a proper holiday together. Here are some of the messages the passengers and their carers left for Chris:

'Another fantastic week. Chris the skipper is a joy to be around and nothing is ever too much trouble. Our group is very varied in age and ability but all have had a great experience. Chris is excellent at dealing with all our needs and shows wonderful understanding of the issues that many of our group have. Everyone wants to come again next year - that speaks volumes from a group such as ours.'

Lead carer from Tuesday Club, Swadlincote



'Simply the best.' 'My favourite is Chris. Can I come again next year?

Actually I loved it all.'

'Great boat, lovely for fishing.'

'My favourite is working the locks.'

Children from Woodlands School, Plymouth

'To Chris the Skipper. Thank you for helping us all the time. Love Charlotte.'

Crocus Fields

'The guys we brought had a fantastic time, they were chilled out and had loads of smiles. Chris was a great captain and all in all it was a great experience. Would definitely recommend it.'

Lead carer from United Response, Cornwall

'Stewart and I have had a brilliant four days and we would love to come with you again. As you know Pauline has loved this trip and we appreciate your kindness towards her. It has been a lovely family trip, you included Chris.'

Lots of love Stewart and Mary.'

'A big thank you for being such a fantastic skipper and a nice bloke too.'

'You are a great skipper, Chris. Me and Joe have had a great holiday and we can't wait for next year.'

'Thank you for my first big boat holiday.'

Stewart and Mary.....and their family



Our other boats have also had a busy season



Symphony out with a cheerful party in the beautiful countryside. She carries up to twenty-six people each day between April and October



A family cruising on *Melody* during the Summer. She takes a family or group of up to eight people on a self-hire basis.



Melody in a lock. There are lifts at the bow and stern for easy wheelchair access.

Donations

We extend grateful thanks to all our donors and particularly to the following who have given £1,000 or more since May, 2010:-

Provincial Grand Lodge of Nottingham
 Loughborough Magistrates in Memory of John Wilford
 The Everard Foundation
 Dunn Family Charitable Trust
 Anne Brooks Fairgreen Charitable Trust
 The Grey Court Trust
 Beeston Marina
 J N Derbyshire Trust

Howe & Charnwood Lodge
 Four Winds Trust
 The Clothworkers Foundation
 The Forbes Charitable Foundation
 The Charles Littlewood Hill Trust
 The Leeds Building Society
 The Rotary Club of Trent Bridge

We would also like to thank our regular supporters **Don and Diane Sachse** for giving us many items of beautifully-painted canalware to sell in our shop and at rallies. We are very grateful for these and for all other gifts; they help us to provide day trips and holidays at a very low cost to 4,000 people a year who otherwise could not afford it,

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Peter Le Marchant Trust

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Lady Le Marchant (*centre*), mother of Clare, the Trust's founder, came out on *Symphony* with us just after celebrating her 97th birthday. We are very grateful for her steadfast support throughout the thirty four years of the Trust's existence,

Two volunteers waiting to close the lock gates behind *Symphony* (*right*). The lift to the cabin is clearly visible.

Many of our passengers find locks fascinating - some have never seen one before. A number of special needs children's groups have used the trips to teach the children about the history of the canals and the wildlife they see on the trip.



Our narrowboat *Melody* at the Leicester Rally this year. A large number of people visited and admired the boat. We also had a stand at the Loughborough Festival and at several other events, where we were able to publicise the Trust and the services it has provided for the disabled for well over thirty years.

