

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.)

Trustees: Rev. Clare Le Marchant-Connell, Mr. Ian Scleater, C.V.O., Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, Bt., Mr. Paul Donert, Sir Francis Le Marchant, Bt., The Rt. Hon. Lord Crawshaw, Mr. Kelvin Robinson, Mrs Serena Richards.

Registered Charity No. 273207

Issue No.7 November 2006.

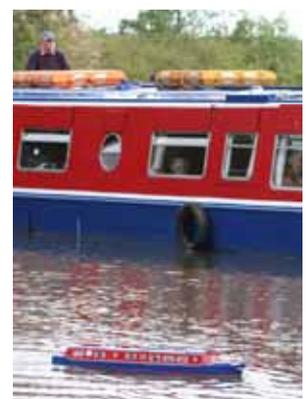
Big Boat, Little Boat



The Trust is always looking for new, imaginative and relevant ways of raising money and is particularly pleased when the activity not only raises money but symbolises what the Trust does. When we discovered that Trevor Allman, one of our Volunteer Skippers, was having a 1:15 scale model of "Symphony" built, we quickly offered to contribute towards the cost on the understanding that he would lend it to us to help in fund-raising, Trevor readily agreed, and only a week after the model was officially launched on 4th October, it was used at a talk to a group at the Salvation Army.

The model is beautifully made right down to the smallest detail (see photographs). It has sliding hatches, a working lift and interior lights, and the galley, shower, toilets and radiators are all faithfully replicated. Even the carpet and curtains are made from the same materials that were used for "Symphony". The model has already been filmed for a programme in ITV's series "Waterworld", which will be screened early in the new year.

Fund-raising is an on-going and essential part of any charity. Our trips are heavily subsidised to make them accessible to all groups and we rely on the generosity of our donors to make up the balance. We are very grateful to Trevor for allowing us to use the model, which will undoubtedly be a great help to raising awareness in what we do and how we do it.



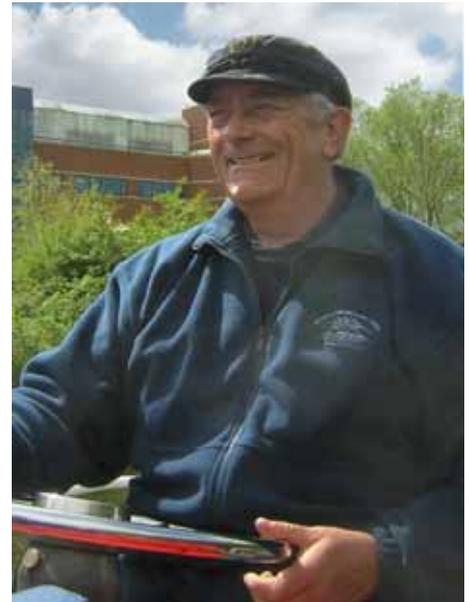
Farewell to Rod Foreman

After eleven years working for the Trust as Skipper of "Serenade", Rod is taking well-earned retirement. His early career as an engineering officer with Caltex Tankers, followed later by his job at a boatyard on Deben River in Suffolk where he obtained his Boatmaster's Licence, made him an ideal Skipper. Throughout the season "Serenade" takes groups on four-day residential holiday trips. Rod has been responsible for providing a secure and happy environment for the many groups from all over the country who choose this holiday, many of whom have returned again and again. His contribution to the Trust is enormous.

He has many happy memories and remembers particularly a letter from one of the children from Woodlands Special School in Plymouth, saying "I liked steering the boat and going to the pub". He also vividly remembers when a carer banged on his cabin door early one morning to say that there was a cow in the canal! The Fire Brigade turned up but were only able to lasso and rescue the beast after it had been cajoled into the nearest lock.

He has derived immense satisfaction from his job. "Where else could you find a job like this?" he says, "I shall miss it and the many friends I have made in the process". It is appropriate that his final trip was with a party from Crocus Fields of Nottingham, - another organisation who have returned frequently for the holiday trip on "Serenade".

The Trustees are very grateful to Rod for his long and faithful service, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.



The Trustees are pleased to announce that they have appointed Chris Morton to succeed Rod Foreman as Skipper of "Serenade". Chris (pictured) will join us early in the New Year, thus giving sufficient time for Rod to show him the ropes and for Chris to take the Boatman's Licence exam before Rod retires at the end of March.

Chris is a jovial character. He is married with two grown-up sons and has had a varied career. For sixteen years he was employed by the Post Office as an engineer. He is familiar with diesel engines and with computers. Since 2004 he has been Licensee of three Public Houses. He now seeks a more settled occupation.

More pictures of the model of "Symphony" Geoff Ward photographing the model by remote control for ITV's "Waterworld".



WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRUSTEE



Serena with her dog Isla at Kensington Palace for about ten years.

On a beautiful early summer's morning, the board of Trustees welcomed the new Trustee, Serena Richards, by treating her to a Trustees' meeting on board "Serenade". They held the meeting on the foredeck and cruised along, causing hardly a ripple on the water. Serena admits to not being a good sailor but the Trust and the canal got the thumbs-up, and Rod Foreman, the Skipper, invited her to take the helm for a few minutes under his watchful eye.

The Trust extends a warm welcome to Serena and feels extremely lucky that she has agreed to join them. She has grown up being involved with charitable activities and throughout her life has supported and contributed to a large variety of different charities. Her family brewing business established the Everard Foundation which funds local Leicestershire organisations of all sizes. She has been a volunteer for PAT (Pets as Therapy) and Riding for the Disabled. She is on the committee for the centenary for the Scouts and has worked with her local village charity for children

What is special about her is that she likes to have an active role in the charities she supports. She likes small to medium-sized charities so that she can be 'hands on' and really contribute to what the charity does. She is also a very active fund-raiser and has independently raised money for her favourite charities in mouth-wateringly imaginative ways. When her husband became Deputy Master of the Royal Household a few years ago and was given an apartment in Kensington Palace she persuaded many of the other residents of the Palace to join in. They have had coffee mornings, charity lunches sharing courses and residences, and chocolate-tasting evenings.

Her passion outside her charity work is silk flowers. Her apartment overflows with peonies, sweet peas, hydrangeas and orchids. On Friday mornings she has a stall selling silk flowers at the Farmers' Market near her home in Leicestershire and a percentage of any profit she makes goes to the charities she supports.

Donations

We are always grateful for all donations, great and small, and would particularly like to thank the following, all of whom have given £1,000 or more since May 2006:-

Four Winds Trust
Beach Capital Ltd.
The Freemasons' Grand Charity
The Henry Smith Charity

Harry Dunn Charitable Trust
Soroptimists, Leicester
Anne Brooks Fairgreen Charitable Trust

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Peter Le Marchant Trust

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Ray Fairbrother, Skipper of "Symphony" accepting a generous cheque from Barbara Goodman, the Immediate Past President of the Soroptimists, Leicester.

Bingo! On a baking hot July day, a group enjoys a session in the welcome shade of the cabin



Left to right, model builder John Rawson with Trevor Allman and Harry Martin of "Towpath Talk".