

# 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. 8 May 2007.

## New Skipper put to the Test

Chris Morton, who joined the Trust in January 2007 to become the new Skipper of "Serenade", recently became the proud possessor of a Boatmaster's Licence. He was put through his paces by Andy Rudge, a senior Surveyor from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency. The test



Last minute revision

is not just about boat-handling and knowing the boat inside out. It also covers such diverse subjects as fires and survival procedures and what to do in every possible emergency. Chris had three months' hand-over period with his predecessor, who taught him everything about "Serenade". Chris was understandably nervous, but, of course, he passed with flying colours.

Congratulations, Chris! We know that you will be a worthy successor to Rod Foreman, and we wish you many happy years of giving your passengers holidays that they will remember with fondness.



Do I know the answer to this one?



I think I may have passed

# Tuesday Crew

**John Bickley** was, and still is, a carer with Loughborough Lions and makes two trips a year on “Symphony” as a carer. On one of these trips he asked about becoming a Volunteer for the Trust, was invited for a day, and has been a Volunteer ever since. He was a fireman for 32 years rising to the position of Station Officer. He retired in 1994 and then spent 7 years working for the health service, He has found that the work is more responsible and involved than he imagined when he started and as a result has become very attached and committed to his role as a Volunteer and finds it hugely satisfying.

**Denny Stenton** was invited by her friend Mary Bowler to join her on a day out with the day boat, “Symphony”, to help the Volunteers and fill a gap, and two weeks later was asked to join permanently as a Volunteer. That was in 1995. She had never done work like this before and hadn't planned to. 'It just happened.' She had brought up two children and managed a TV rental shop for 13 years. Now she can't imagine life without the weekly trips, and finds it very rewarding to help the passengers relax and enjoy themselves, many of whom would not be able to get out without these trips.

**Mary Bowler** was asked by her mother-in-law to help out on a trip one day 13 years ago. She invited her friend, Denny, to come along as well, and like Denny quickly joined up to become a Volunteer. After she had brought up her two children she ran her own business for 7 years, a pet shop selling pet accessories and food. Since then she has worked for her husband's business and is very involved with her grandchildren. She is a people person and has really enjoyed helping all the different groups and learning to communicate and appreciate everyone who comes on board whatever their disability.

**John Dutton** has been a Volunteer with the Trust for 18 years and has worked with Volunteer crews on Wednesdays and Thursdays as well as Tuesdays. His first wife ran a group that came on the trips and when they both retired they became Volunteers. After she died he continued to volunteer. He was a policeman for 32 years and was a Superintendent when he retired at 52. He then ran the census for Leicestershire in 1991 and was a Ground Safety Officer for Leicester Tigers for 3 years after that. What he loves about working for the Trust is that he is involved directly with what the work is about - the passengers and their safety and enjoyment. His commitment to Tuesdays is sacrosanct.



Mary and Denny in the Galley



John Dutton and John Bickley with the Skipper

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Sue Wilford, one of our Volunteers and her husband, John, took their disabled son, Ian, on “Melody” for a week's holiday late last season.



Sue and Ian in the front cabin (left).

Feeding the swans (right)



# Volunteers' Christmas Party

The Party was again held at Whatton House, by the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Crawshaw. It is a wonderful venue for a party and as before, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Rod and Christine Foreman



Ray and Susan Fairbrother



Lynn Smith handing round mince pies



"Helping hands": Emma Smith (Centre)  
Lynn's daughter with friends

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## Donations

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

Beeston Marina  
Crown Packaging  
Thomas Farr Trust  
Charles Littlewood Hill Trust  
Scots Masonic Lodge No. 2319  
Charlotte Bonham-Carter Trust  
Helen Jean Cope Trust  
Mrs. M. Steeples

J.N. Derbyshire Trust  
Sir John Eastwood Trust  
Longcliffe Golf Club  
Blacksmiths Arms  
Beach Capital  
29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust  
Four Winds Trust  
Harry Dunn Trust

All your donations help us to provide essential holidays at a very low cost to those groups who otherwise would be unable to afford it.

# Back page Round-up

## Peter Le Marchant Trust

*All enquiries to:*

*Canalside Moorings,  
Beeches Road,  
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[www.peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk](http://www.peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 273207



The Captain of the Longcliffe Golf Club nominated the Trust as his Charity of the year. The General Manager, Charles Grace (*centre*) is seen receiving a magnificent cheque for £7,309 from both the Captains at their Annual General Meeting in December 2006.

**Training Day.** Ray Fairbrother (*right*), Skipper of "Symphony", with a happy looking bunch of Volunteers at the start of their annual Crew Training Day in April, 2007.



Left:  
Chris (*left*) receiving  
the keys of "Serenade"  
from Rod, with Charles  
Grace, the General  
Manager, looking on.

Right:  
A group enjoying a  
warm spring day on  
"Symphony".

