

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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Registered Charity No. 273207

Issue No. 9 November 2007.

Canadian invasion!

And what an invasion! For two weeks this year, 27 Canadians, all from one family, took a trip on "Melody". Not all at the same time - they hired five boats but 'Melody' was definitely the flagship. On board was Elizabeth Watters, the most important member of the family. She was accompanied by her children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. They were blessed with about the best weather of the year, although even then they had to abandon ship(s), because the river went into flood. They sent some lovely emails afterwards saying how much they had enjoyed themselves, and their smiles tell of a happy time!



Elizabeth Watters,
doyenne of the party
on 'Melody'



Four of the Canadian flotilla in line astern –
'Melody' is the second boat. Note the
Canadian flags!



Two determined youngsters



All twenty seven members of the Canadian party gathered together

3M Health Care Co - Award

We have been lucky enough to have been granted £3,000 by the 3M Health Care Co., in conjunction with the *Loughborough Echo*, in their Annual Awards scheme for local Charities. We had put in a request for funds to help us refit "Serenade", which provides four-night trips for up to ten disabled people and their carers. We only charge £30 per head for these trips, so this money is very important to us. We are spending it on new carpets/lino; non-slip covering for the decks and a refit of the galley, all of which will increase the safety and comfort of our passengers.



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1. The worn carpet in process of being removed from near the lift leading to the front deck. The excessive number of wheelchair anchorage points will be reduced, making it more comfortable for passengers with bare feet.
2. Although the Galley looks neat and tidy, it is badly in need of modernisation to make the best possible use of the available space. This will include more cupboards and a new fridge for the storage of food and medicines.
3. The lino and carpet are both in need of replacement.

“Serenade” at the Leicester Rally

As is customary, Chris Morton took “Serenade” down to Leicester for the Rally over the first weekend in June – mercifully the weather was good. Chris had decorated the boat and put photographs of all three boats along the outside. A lot of people looked round and went away with souvenirs from our shop on board! Chris then cleared everything away in time to welcome his passengers for the next week’s trip, who had agreed to join the boat at Leicester.



A prominent berth at the bottom of the steps leading down to the towpath.



Browsing for souvenirs

Donations

With grateful thanks to all our generous donors and particularly to the following who have given £1,000 or more since May 2007:-

Beeston Marina
Le Marchant Trust
Strangward Trust
Blacksmiths Arms
The Rank Organisation

3M Health Care Co.
Saddlers Company
Mary Potter Convent Trust
Anne Brooks Fairgreen Trust
Mr. Jamie Henderson

All your donations, large and small, helped us to provide essential holidays in 2007 at a very low cost to a large number of groups and individuals who otherwise would have been unable to afford it.

Beeston Marina have their own landing craft, (right) which they use for publicity purposes when collecting money for charity.



Back page Round-up

A letter from a recent passenger on 'Symphony', which is typical of a lot of lovely letters we receive:

"My Father and I would like to say a big thank you to the crew of Friday 3rd August who made a perfect day for us. Having never been on a canal boat before and seeing a programme on TV, we thought it would be something we could dream about. Thanks to yourselves and Volunteers our dream became a reality. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip so much we did not want the day to end. Thank you."



The Skipper and crew members taking it easy (right) whilst awaiting their passengers, The ladies were, of course, below deck making coffee!



Late Autumn; the season is finished and the two 'big boats' await drydock, followed by the regular winter maintenance programme in the wet-dock in the background.

2007

We have had another good year, carrying over 4,000 passengers. Part of the increase is due to our using 'Serenade' as a day boat when she is not out on her four-night trips. We are licensed by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency to take 26 passengers for day trips on both boats and this year we used 'Serenade' even more to ease the demand on 'Symphony', which was nearly fully-booked for the whole season by the middle of February.

Beeston Marina have been strong supporters of the Trust for a good number of years. 'Symphony' Skipper Ray Fairbrother is seen accepting a cheque for £1,427, recently – a magnificent total!



Peter Le Marchant Trust

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