

Volunteer For the Project

As an expanding organisation, we need to increase our volunteer numbers. As you will know it is very rewarding but what you don't perhaps know is that you will be given access to training to be a fully qualified skipper or member of crew.

We are also looking for other volunteers to help us with a range of activities, such as marketing and fundraising; general admin; simple maintenance as well as taking the boats out as a skipper or crew.

If you are interested then contact us by phone or complete the form on our web site at: <http://canalboat.org.uk/volunteering.php>

For sale - A souvenir of your trip

In response to the many questions our volunteers receive, the Project has produced a 16-page souvenir pack for you to keep and use on your trip. Written for all ages, it explains such things as how locks work and what wildlife and points of interest you will pass on the way. There are puzzles and games too.

The price is £2, which includes a Canal Boat Project badge with all the proceeds going to make your hire even better value. Ask your skipper when you next take out one of our boats, but make sure you get the one for the direction, in which you are travelling.



Canal Boat Project

For more information visit our web site at:
www.canalboat.org.uk

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User Group Newsletter

Spring 2008

We're All Going On A Summer Holiday

The Canal Boat Project has launched its short break and holiday initiative.

Refurbished boats and a new pricing structure will appeal to a wider audience, as you will now have a choice of two boats that can be hired for one to fourteen nights.



Red Watch has been skilfully and expertly refitted, opening up the bow section and making it more suitable for families for longer periods of time. With the addition of an accessible bunk and a new galley you may not recognise it, but we know you will love it!

But we are still a charity and booking is limited to groups or individuals who have physical, mental or sensory impairments and community organisations.

So you are not just able to hire accessible canal boats for day trips, but holidays as well. Book early as we expect a large number of bookings for the more popular dates.

Want to know more? See our new canal boat holiday hire web site:
<http://www.lockviewcanalholidays.org.uk>

or write, email or phone us using the contact details on the back page and ask for a leaflet.



Your Questions Answered About Lock View Holidays

Q Will we be able to self steer?

A The holiday boats are both intended to be self-steer. Our trainers have put together a special package to ensure that even novice hirers feel confident about handling the boat. Don't forget that membership of the River Canal Rescue is also included in your hire charge, and we offer a help-line for emergencies.

Q Can we still hire the holiday boats as a day hire boat?

A We have two boats Stort Daybreak and Dawn Treader that have been specially designed for day hire only and so should initially be requested when booking. If these boats are already booked for the dates you require, then please choose alternative dates. If you are unable to find a suitable booking date, please call us.

Q What extra facilities are available on the holiday boats?

A The galley in each of the holiday boats is fully equipped with everything you need for a comfortable and enjoyable holiday. You will need to supply your own bed linen and pillows, food and other personal items. We offer a range of accessibility aids but please make sure you tell us of any special requirements when booking.

Q How long can I book holiday boats for?

A You can book our holiday boats for one night up to, and including, fourteen nights. There are a range of short break packages and longer hire periods to suit most needs. See the fee structure later in this newsletter or our web site for more detail, or give us a call.

For more of your questions answered go to:
<http://www.lockviewcanalholidays.org.uk>

Reminder of Day Hire Fee Structure

From 31 October 2007 the Project has introduced a new hire rate structure with different charges applying to different boats. For more details see:

<http://canalboat.org.uk/fee.php>

	Low Season '07 - '08 November - March		High Season '08 April - October	
	Dawn Treader	Stort Daybreak	Dawn Treader	Stort Daybreak
to 4hrs	£75	£85	£85	£115
to 6hrs	£100	£115	£120	£145
to 8hrs	£135	£149	£155	£180

Holiday Hire Fee Structure

For further details and/or to book your holiday on-line go to:

<http://www.lockviewcanalholidays.org.uk/book.php>

	Nights	Low Season '07 - '08 November - March		High Season '08 April - October	
		Red Watch	Stort Challenger	Red Watch	Stort Challenger
Mini Mid Week	1	£200	£200	£250	£250
Weekend	2	£290	£290	£375	£375
Mid Week	4	£495	£495	£560	£560
Week	7	£820	£820	£990	£990
Two Week	14	£1500	£1500	£1800	£1800

**Call us about special Bank Holiday hire prices.
 Book early to avoid disappointment!**

Advertise Here

Do you know someone who would want to advertise in our newsletters or have their leaflets distributed? With over 360 user groups and 140 volunteers, your message will be heard by people who are interested in buying & operating canal boats, supporting charities and working with people with disabilities.



Or why not, like Harlow Mill Hotel and Restaurant sponsor our postage costs? The first thing that our user groups see when they receive a letter from us is the envelope. Why not make your organisation the first thing our users read by putting your message and logo on our correspondence to both our volunteers and our user groups? We will print your message/logo on the address label and post it to our clients.

See our web site for more details at:

<http://canalboat.org.uk/sponsors.php>

Christmas Cruises 2007

The cruises proved a great success in 2007, with over 100 people enjoying the canal over the festive period.

The boats were seasonally decorated drawing admiring glances and comments from both users and other boat users.

We will be running Christmas cruises again in December 2008 but book early as, if this years response in anything to go by, we will be fully booked. Watch out for the Autumn 2008 newsletter for more details.



Don't forget that our boats are half price from 6 January to 19 February. What better way to relax, and save money, after your hectic Christmas and New Year than a tranquil cruise along the river Stort.

A Message from the Chair of Trustees

Hello,

The groups who regularly hire our boats will already know that we hire accessible canal boats to people with disabilities and community groups for day-trips and short breaks. What you may not know is that we have two fully equipped holiday boats in Stort Challenger and Red Watch.



Each has sleeping accommodation for up to 12 people, so enough for all the family and a few friends as well. But we know that families and users may not wish to use all the space so we have priced our holiday boats as if they have 6 - 8 berths. Meaning that we, as a charity, can support our target groups by providing specialised boats at greatly reduced prices as compared to commercial organisations.

We do hope you like the changes. We know some of our users already do as we have had a number of bookings already for summer 2008, so you may want to book early to ensure you get the boats you want.

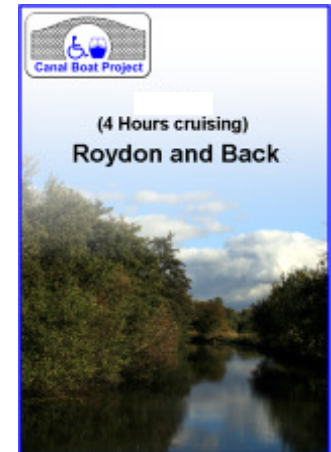
Best Wishes, **Derek Fenny**

The Joy of Canal Boat Holidays

We know that some of you will be new to canal boat holidays so we have put together a number of leaflets to help you to decide what to do and where to go.

You can be in the heart of London within a couple of days, take in a show or two and be back within a week. You will have had an enjoyable and relaxing journey without the hassle of fighting your way through noisy and dirty traffic jams and without the expense of the congestion charge or London hotel prices!

Or you could just take a couple of days quietly exploring the river Stort up to Bishops Stortford or the Lee to Hertford or Ware



The Trefoil Guild - Day Trip

For those of you who don't know or are not sure, the Trefoil Guild is an organisation of over 20,000 members - mostly but not means entirely - made up of women and men connected with Guiding and Scouting.



Starting at 11 a.m. and getting to the New Inn at Roydon for lunch was always going to be challenging. But with the help of the 'always prepared' ex-guides and scouts, and with them 'doing their best' we made it. Just!

The day started overcast with a forecast of heavy rain all afternoon. So to beat the weather we set off promptly as soon as everyone had arrived. The first lock saw three intrepid volunteers - Jose, Iris and David jump to the aid of the overworked crew members.



With four locks between the base at Burnt Mill and Roydon their help and support was most welcome as we headed into a strong wind, making it difficult going at times.

Slowing down travelling through Roydon we passed many houses

right on the river with beautiful gardens. With each one seeming to have some kind of boat outside no matter how large or small, it made for a picture postcard scene.

The chosen pub, for lunch, was within a ten minute easy walk from the

mooring even for those with restricted mobility so wasn't too far for a good meal. Having pre-booked and arriving on time, we were served within a couple of minutes, despite the pub being busy. As we ate our meal, some having three courses, the heavens opened but fortunately the walk back to the boat was rain-free. But as we arrived again at Roydon lock the heavens opened again and the volunteers to their credit didn't give in but got soaking wet for their troubles.



For the rest, the conversation turned to cooking and flowers and a lively debate followed regarding the names of the many wild flowers growing along the bank. At this point I thought it best to keep quiet as each of the group had clearly achieved their 'advanced flower spotting' badges.



The weather changed from winter to summer in a matter of minutes and with the wind behind us and Jose and David sharing the skippering we were soon home with plans being made for the next canal boat hire.

If you want to know more about the Trefoil Guild go to:

<http://www.trefoilguilduk.org.uk>