

# 2010—Our 25th Anniversary Year (and busiest ever!)

THIS YEAR The Wheelyboat Trust turns 25 years old and what better way to celebrate than with our busiest year so far with 16 new Wheelyboats due to be launched on waters throughout the UK and Ireland. Three have already been delivered (**Lake Windermere**, **Eyebrook Trout Fishery** and **Lough Carrigavantra**) with two more for **Upper Tamar Lake** and **Rudyard Lake** currently at our boatbuilder's. Other projects include **Blithfield Reservoir**, **Grafham Water**, **Bewl Water**, **Hull's East Park Lake**, **Rollesby Broad**, **Creggan Country Park**, **Tiverton Canal**, **River Tay** and **Loch Awe**. There is a good mix of projects, multi-purpose usage as well as angling, concurrent with our Wheelyboats For All aims. The most exciting project underway and a new development for the Trust is the joint-venture with **Bristol Sailability** to provide them with a 21' 12 seater—our new Mk IV and latest Wheelyboat model to join the fleet.



Mk I—1985 to 2000



Mk II—2000 to 2005



Mk III—2006 ▶



Coulam 15 Wheelyboat—2006 ▶



Coulam 16 Wheelyboat—2008 ▶



Mk IV—2010 ▶

Back in 1985 we were *The Handicapped Anglers Trust*, our principal beneficiaries being disabled trout anglers, and our solution to their access difficulties was the original (Mk I) Wheelyboat model. The first ever Wheelyboat venue was Barn Elms Reservoir in London followed soon after by Bewl Water in Kent. Currently, Wheelyboat number 134 (a Mk III for Rudyard Lake) is being built and as well as angling it will be used for pleasure boating and nature watching. This project perfectly illustrates the objectives of the Trust today—open access for disabled people on waters everywhere via a range of Wheelyboat models to meet everyone's needs.

The Mk III is our most versatile Wheelyboat to date and has done more than any other model to help the Trust broaden the use and availability of Wheelyboats beyond the fishing lake. Helping disabled anglers is still a primary aim, however, and to ensure their needs are fully met we developed the Coulam 15 and 16 Wheelyboats for angling on rivers and stillwaters.

We now supply four distinct models of Wheelyboat (as well as refurbished Mk Is and Mk IIs) each suited to different activities and the needs of their users. We have come a very long way since the days of our one-size-fits-all Mk I and, as a result, are helping many more disabled people all over the UK participate in waterborne activities and thus experience the thrill, challenge, adventure and freedom they provide.

# Two more Mk IIIs launched in Cornwall

STITHIANS RESERVOIR, near Redruth, and Golant on the River Fowey each took delivery of new Mk III Wheelyboats at the end of last year with formal launches taking place in March and April. Dick Strawbridge, local celebrity and sustainable living campaigner, launched Golant's Wheelyboat while Gillian Matthews, Regional Environment Agency Committee member launched the Wheelyboat at Stithians. Both boats have a multi-purpose role—nature watching, pleasure boating, angling—and bring the total number of Wheelyboats operating in the south west to thirteen. Stithians' is run by South West Lakes Trust while Golant's is run by Trust supporters Ann and Alan Barker.

Golant's is the first Wheelyboat to operate on tidal waters and will provide local and visiting disabled people with guided access to the river's five miles of navigable estuary between Fowey and Lostwithiel.



Dick Strawbridge and Alan Barker at Golant

However, the project's most exciting feature is the secluded floating bird hide owned by Ann and Alan in Penpoll Creek now made accessible to disabled people by the Wheelyboat.

Neither Wheelyboat could have been supplied without the generosity of the organisations that funded them. Stithians—Environment Agency and Hedley Foundation. Golant—Ann & Alan Barker, Lord Barnby's Foundation, Percy Bilton Charity, Environment Agency, Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust, Marjorie & Geoffrey Jones Charitable Trust, St Austell Brewery Charitable Trust, Cornwell Charitable Trust and Norman Family Charitable Trust. We are extremely grateful to all the funders for their support.

Enquiries/bookings: Stithians—01209 860301, Golant—0845 5195261



L-r: Chris Klee (Chairman, EA's RFERAC committee), Martin Wheeler (EA), Gillian Matthews and Peter Bartlett (Patron, South West Lakes Trust) at Stithians

## Natural England project will help provide four Mk III Wheelyboats

NATURAL ENGLAND'S 'Access to Nature' is a Big Lottery funded scheme that aims to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, particularly those who face social exclusion or lack the ability to get out and enjoy natural places. The South West Countryside Mobility Project has secured an Access to Nature grant to increase the opportunities for disabled people to experience and enjoy the countryside.

Over the next two years the project will supply forty off-road mobility buggies (Trampers) and four Mk III Wheelyboats to venues throughout the south west. Living Options Devon is the project's lead partner and The Wheelyboat Trust is helping with the management of the new Wheelyboats. The project provides funding for 50% of the cost of each Wheelyboat with the Trust and venue finding the rest.

Tamar Lakes, near Bude will be the first venue and the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton the second. The next two are being recruited. If the project proves successful, the plan is to roll it out across the UK.

## Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Magazine

PPA Specialist Consumer Magazine of the year 2009

Accompanying this issue of *Waterwheels* is an extract from Peter Lapsley's article '3 of the best' in May 2010's *FF&FT*. Huge thanks to Mark Bowler for permission to reproduce it and to Peter Lapsley for his informative feature on the work of the Trust.

## Peter Harrison Foundation helps fund six Coulam 16 Wheelyboats

THE TRUST has successfully applied to the Peter Harrison Foundation for a grant to fund 50% of the cost of six Coulam 16 Wheelyboats. They will be supplied to major trout fisheries throughout the UK in 2010 and 2011. The grants effectively bring the price of each boat down to the same as a standard Coulam 16 thus helping us help fisheries acquire these purpose-built wheelchair accessible angling boats for no more cost than a standard model.

## Eyebrook Trout Fishery—AFMA winners 2009

ON BEHALF of the Trust, sportsman and angler Liam Botham presented Andy Miller, Fishery Manager of Eyebrook Trout Fishery, with last year's Alan Faulkner Memorial Award. The presentation took place at the CLA Game Fair, held at Belvoir Castle. The main prize was a 4hp outboard motor provided by the award's sponsors, Suzuki Marine, which was presented by Mark Beeley, Suzuki Marine's Area Manager. Representing the Trust was Danny Peet, Trustee. Eyebrook sets the standard among larger fisheries and the judges are delighted to have conferred the award on such a fine example of a fishery that goes much further than simply meeting the needs of disabled anglers.



L to r: Liam Botham, Danny Peet, Andy Miller, Mark Beeley

# Mk IV Wheelyboat for Bristol Sailability

BRISTOL SAILABILITY and The Wheelyboat Trust have teamed up to identify, supply and equip a 12 seater wheelchair accessible power boat that will enable Bristol Sailability to expand the services and activities they provide. The project will also provide the Trust with a brand new design to add to its portfolio of Wheelyboat models that enable disabled people of all ages to participate in a variety of waterborne activities.

Bristol Sailability is a West of England Schools Sailing Association run activity centre based in Bristol Docks and is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association's charitable arm for disabled people, Sailability. They organise and run activities and courses that enable disabled people (children and young adults in particular) to experience the challenge and adventure of dinghy sailing, power boating and pleasure trips. Their aim is to include disabled people at every level of activity and instruction, a goal they are unable to attain with their current fleet. For example, as well as being wheelchair accessible, the new boat is specially designed to be 'wheelchair operable' so disabled people can helm the boat themselves. This will open up a whole new area of experience, even for those with the most severe disabilities.

The largest Wheelyboat currently available (the Mk III) accommodates a maximum of eight people. This project will add a 12-seater to the Wheelyboat portfolio that will help us expand our role and help similar projects acquire a suitable craft for their needs. For example, on inshore waters where a larger, more robust and stable craft is needed and for groups and organisations such as outward bound centres that need more capacity in a boat than we can currently provide. The use to which Bristol Sailability will be putting their new boat is also a good template for the type of project we are expecting to help.

This project is an important and exciting development for both organisations so much so that both were prepared to invest a substantial sum in a new design. However, an off-the-shelf craft built in the UK has been identified and tested and meets all our needs. It is a 21' Sea Rover with a remote operated electric bow ramp. The package chosen includes an 80hp Suzuki outboard, console, A frame, navigation lights, side rails, wheelchair tracking on the deck, bimini cover and seats for non-wheelchair users.

The project costs £35,000 and with fundraising now complete the boat is about to be ordered. It should be on the water by the summer and a full report on its launch will feature in the next issue. To find out more about Bristol Sailability telephone 0117 968 8244 or visit [www.bristolsailability.org.uk](http://www.bristolsailability.org.uk).



## Wheelyboats supplied 2009/10

SINCE THE last issue of Waterwheels the following venues have been supplied Wheelyboats:

### Mk IIIs

Llandegfedd Reservoir, Pontypool—**T**, 01291 673722  
Stithians Reservoir, Redruth— **T, P, N**, 01209 860301  
River Fowey estuary, Golant—**Sea, P, N**, 0845 5195261

### Coulam 16 Wheelyboats

Llyn Clywedog, Llanidloes—**T**, 01686 412644  
Lake Windermere, Fell Foot Country Park—**T**, 015395 31273  
Eyebrook Trout Fishery, Corby—**T**, 01536 770264  
Lough Carriganvantra, Co Waterford—**T**, 00 353 51 421766

### Refurbished Mk Is

Raith Lake, Kirkcaldy—**T**, 01592 646466  
Fritton Lake, Lowestoft—**C, P, N**, 01502 734901  
Blackdyke Trout Fishery, Lakenheath—**T**, 07525 730447  
Blenheim Estate, Woodstock—**T**, 01993 810520  
Kennick Reservoir, Bovey Tracey—**T**, 01647 277587

**Key:** Fishing **T** (trout), **S** (salmon), **St** (sea-trout), **C** (coarse), **Sea** (sea), **P** - pleasure boating, **N** - bird/nature watching

### **Refurbished Wheelyboats due very soon:**

**Elinor Trout Fishery**, Kettering—**T**, 01832 720786  
**Weir Wood Reservoir**, E. Grinstead—**T, C**, 01342 820650  
**Galley Trout Fishery**, Cannock—**T, C**, 01785 715848



THE TRUST welcomes Lucy Lloyd to the role of Director's assistant in which she is providing invaluable help with project fundraising.

# Tweed Wheelyboats News

**DEVELOPMENT OFFICER appointed**—Bill Quarry, Tweed Commissioner and retired partner with Strutt and Parker, has been appointed Development Officer for the Tweed Wheelyboats and has taken over their day-to-day operation and management from the Tweed Foundation. One of his main roles is increasing awareness of the facility and encouraging greater usage. He has already increased the number of beats that provide Wheelyboats and by far



the majority of those that can offer them now do so. When required, he also acts as boatman further ensuring the boats' availability on beats that are unable to provide a boatman of their own.

**New online booking facility**—thanks to James Leeming, MD of FishPal.com the online booking and information system for anglers, Tweed Wheelyboats can now be booked online. Take the 'disabled access' link at [www.fishpal.com/scotland/tweed](http://www.fishpal.com/scotland/tweed) to the booking service and several pages of information dedicated to Tweed Wheelyboats.

**Carham Disabled Servicemen's week (19th to 24th July)** - Bill has secured a week's fishing on a top Tweed beat to introduce disabled servicemen to salmon and sea-trout fishing and bring the Tweed Wheelyboats to wider public attention. The Royal Regiment of Scotland is helping. Bill can be contacted on 07774 861474.

**Enormous thanks to the following trusts and individuals for their recent generous support:**

Environment Agency, CLA Charitable Trust, Lord Barnby's Foundation, Starfish Trust, Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust, Orrin Charitable Trust, Gerald Micklem Charitable Trust, MacRobert Trust, Truemark Trust, Inchcape Foundation, Fishmongers' Company, CHK Charities Ltd, Suffolk County Council, Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust, Hedley Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, George John & Sheila Livanos Charitable Trust, Percy Bilton Charity, Leonard Laity Stote Charitable Trust, Charles Shorto Charitable Trust, David Laing Foundation, Lynn Foundation, Raymond & Blanche Lawson Charitable Trust, Suzuki Marine, Florence Turner Trust, Scott Eredine Charitable Trust, Alchemy Foundation, Maud Elkington Charitable Trust, Gilbert & Eileen Edgar Foundation, Scobell Charitable Trust, Barbara A Shuttleworth Memorial Trust, Good Neighbours Trust, Eyebrook Trout Fishery, Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust, Lloyd Robinson Family Charitable Trust, John Lewis Community Fund, Lance Nicholson's Dulverton, Lochmaben & District Community Initiative, Trout & Salmon magazine, South West Fishing for Life, Dearnford Lake, Chigboro Trout Fishery, Wessex Water, Leicestershire Police Fly Fishers, Dr & Mrs A Gee, Mrs C Hawkings, Jamie Buchanan, Piers Blewitt, Mr & Mrs P Beadsley, Mrs M MacCabe Mrs P Parker, Mr AR Scrope, Dr HCl Bywater, Mr RJ Prince, Mr R Bomford, Mrs DFD Pulman, Mr AP Corn, Mr D Melhado, Mr FJ Wilson, Mr B Crick, Mr A Faulkner, Mr J McClenaghan, Mr B A W Price, Mr & Mrs A Cruickshank and all contributors to the previous 'Waterwheels' appeal.

## New Coulam 16 Wheelyboat for Eyebrook

EYEBROOK'S LATEST addition to its Wheelyboat fleet is a new Coulam 16 formally launched on May 18th. It joins a Mk I and Mk II already in operation at the popular Leicestershire trout fishery, the venue with the most-used Wheelyboats in the UK. The Coulam 16 Wheelyboat is a purpose-built fishing boat designed and built in partnership with JM Coulam Boatbuilders. It provides disabled anglers with a roll-on, roll-off wheelchair accessible boat that looks and performs exactly the same as a standard fishing boat. Grateful thanks to the following for their generous help funding the new boat: Corus UK Ltd, Wavell Wakefield & Middlesex Sports Foundation, Florence Turner Trust, Leicestershire & Rutland Masonic Association, Maud Elkington Charitable Trust, Aylesford Family Trust, Ormonde Foundation, David Laing Foundation, Ammco Trust. Bookings telephone 01536 770264, web [www.eyebrook.com](http://www.eyebrook.com).



L to r: Jim Coulam (boatbuilder), Andy Miller (Eyebrook's manager), Andy Beadsley, David Carter (Leicestershire & Rutland Masonic Association)

### PLEASE DONATE—IT'S VERY EASY....

*Our work is entirely reliant on income from donations, we receive no statutory funding. Enclosed is a Gift Aid form for single or regular donations, or you can donate online at [www.justgiving.com/wheelyboattrust](http://www.justgiving.com/wheelyboattrust) or from our website, [www.wheelyboats.org](http://www.wheelyboats.org). We welcome legacies, so please remember us when writing your will. Members of clubs/societies/fisheries—please nominate us as your charity to support. If everyone who receives a newsletter made a donation of just £25, it would cover the cost of supplying Wheelyboats for an entire year!*

### THE WHEELYBOAT TRUST

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