

Welcome to the first post-pandemic issue of Waterwheels. In the two years that have elapsed since the previous issue, we have been extraordinarily busy developing, managing and bringing to fruition new Wheelyboat projects. In the following pages there are reports and photos of the launches of **four** V20 Wheelyboats, **six** V17 Wheelyboats, **eight** Coulam 16 Wheelyboats and **seven** refurbished older Wheelyboats. We hope you enjoy this review of our activities and achievements. None of this could have occurred without the generous funding support of our donors to whom we extend our most grateful thanks.

V20 is First Accessible Boat on the North Norfolk Coast

COULAM WHEELYBOAT V20 'Poppy' became the first wheelchair accessible boat to operate anywhere on the north Norfolk coast when she was officially launched by **The Countess of Leicester** in April.

Poppy has another ground breaking feature—dual fuel propulsion comprising a Torqeedo 4kW (5½hp) electric outboard for silent and eco-friendly cruising and a Suzuki 100hp outboard for strong tides and more adventurous powerboating. Thanks to **boatbuilder Jim Coulam's** ingenuity, one wheel steers both outboards independently.

Operating out of Blakeney and Morston, Poppy provides skippered trips for disabled people, their friends and families to Blakeney Point and beyond for nature watching (the famous seal colony), pleasure and powerboating.

Poppy is operated by **Blakeney, Cley & District Royal British Legion**. For bookings and enquiries visit www.bcdrbl.com/northernorfolkwheelyboat.



Peter Kay Launches Anderton Centre's V17

IN APRIL, in a rare public appearance, comedian, actor and writer **Peter Kay** declared the **Anderton Centre's Coulam Wheelyboat V17** officially launched. He said "It's an honour to be asked to launch this very special



Photo credit: Peter Byrne PA

Wheelyboat and I hope it brings great happiness to all the people who use it. The new boat will give everyone a chance to experience the joy of The Anderton Centre, a place I know well and which I wish every continued success."

Also attending was **Sir Lindsay Hoyle**, neighbouring constituency MP and House of Commons Speaker.

Located on the banks of Lower Rivington Reservoir near Chorley, the Anderton Centre is perfectly placed to host a range of land and water-based activities. The V17 has made a significant difference to The Anderton Centre's ability to provide a fully inclusive programme of activities.

To find out more about the centre and its new Wheelyboat visit www.andertoncentre.co.uk.



Photo credit: Elyssa Germain



Photo credit: Elyssa Germain

V20 for Blackwater Community Barge Project

IN MARCH last year, the **Blackwater Community Barge Project** took delivery of a **Coulam Wheelyboat V20** to provide pleasure trips and excursions that everybody in the community can enjoy. The V20, named 'The Heron', replaced a cruiser the group had been operating since 2017.

The River Blackwater forms the county boundary between Armagh and Tyrone and flows into Lough Neagh. Working with the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, the group are campaigning to de-silt the mouth of the river and provide better access for all river traffic into Ireland's largest freshwater lough. They have helped clean up Coney Island in the lough and installed an access ramp enabling wheelchair users to disembark and explore the island which is rich in history and wildlife.

The principal starting point for trips is adjacent to the National Trust's property, The Argory, who they team up with from time to time to enable visitors to explore the river and learn more about it and the surrounding countryside.

To find out more go to www.facebook.com/blackwaterbarge or phone Conor Mallon on **07831 176520**.



V17 is Ladybower's Second Wheelyboat

IN MAY last year, a small and socially distanced group of guests from Ladybower Fisheries, SHASBAH Sheffield, Accessible Derbyshire and The Wheelyboat Trust, gathered at **Ladybower Reservoir** to see a new **Coulam Wheelyboat V17** set off on her maiden voyage. **Brian Littlejohn**, Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Yorkshire West Riding Freemasons, (a major funder of the project), was the guest of honour and performed the ribbon cutting ceremony after which guests enjoyed trips around the reservoir. The V17 enables Ladybower's disabled visitors and anglers to independently access the clear waters of the reservoir, whether to fish or to simply enjoy power and pleasure boating in a stunning landscape. The V17 Wheelyboat joins an existing Coulam 16 Wheelyboat—a purpose built angling boat that was launched on the reservoir in 2016—and two adapted boats supplied by the British Disabled Angling Association.

Troy Chadwick, Accessibility Coordinator at Ladybower Fisheries, said at the launch "Ladybower Fisheries are proud to be working in partnership with The Wheelyboat Trust. Since the launch of our first Coulam 16 Wheelyboat in 2016 we realised there was a massive demand for people with disabilities who wanted to learn how to fish or continue fishing after a life changing event. Fishing and boating are two of the very few activities in which able-bodied people and people with

seen and unseen disabilities can participate together on equal terms, which is something we celebrate at Ladybower. Our new V17 will make a fantastic addition to the growing fleet of accessible boats we use at Ladybower to make fishing and boating available to everyone." For more information: www.ladybowerfisheries.co.uk.



Second Wheelyboat, a V17, for Castle Semple

CASTLE SEMPLE Centre in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park has been successfully operating a Coulam Wheelyboat V20 since 2015. Activities in the V20 have proved to be very popular and were often oversubscribed (25 people a week were being turned away) so we joined forces once again with the centre to fund and supply a **Coulam Wheelyboat V17** to run alongside the V20. Fitted out with a Suzuki DF100BL outboard, the V17's top speed is in excess of 35mph (faster than the V20!) and provides exhilarating powerboating fun as well as powerboat training and tuition and more leisurely pleasure boating. The V17 supports the centre's Sailability and Powerability activity programmes and is used by a wide variety of groups from schools, youth organisations and care homes, etc. For more information: www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk.



V20 Delivered to Camel Estuary

WE JOINED forces with Cornish charity, **Concern Wadebridge**, to fund and supply a **Coulam Wheelyboat V20** for the Camel Estuary. Named 'Spirit of Wadebridge', the V20 has been delivered and is undergoing sea trials and coding before entering service next year. Spirit will be operated by **Padstow Sealife Safaris** and will provide local and visiting disabled people with exclusive wildlife watching and pleasure boating trips. The Camel estuary is rich in wildlife and history and Padstow Sealife Safaris' 25 years of expertise will ensure users enjoy a unique and first class experience.



V20 for Ramor Watersports Club



RAMOR WATERSPORTS Club realised a dream in June when it launched a **Coulam Wheelyboat V20** on Lough Ramor, Co Cavan. Government minister **Heather Humphreys** declared 'Lady Amanda' officially launched and guests of honour and project ambassadors, Paralympians **Britney Arendse** and **Kerrie Leonard**, each addressed the large crowd of supporters. Club member and wheelchair user, **Jim O'Reilly**, took the helm for the inaugural trip.

The project was part-funded by the Irish Government's Sports Capital Programme. Minister Humphreys said "This programme is all about supporting clubs like this realising their ambition and helping them to purchase equipment that will benefit members young and old and of all abilities. This wonderful asset will give an experience like no other to thousands of people and it will be part of County Cavan for years to come."

Lady Amanda will provide guided trips for the community on the 4½ mile long lough as well as being a support vessel for the club's activities. **John Wilson**, Commodore, thanked the project's donors and the volunteers who run the club for their tireless efforts that ensure it continues to thrive and grow. More information can be found at www.ramorwatersportsclub.ie.



V17s for Projects in Ireland Both Sides of the Border

FUNDING FROM Northern Ireland's Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme has improved accessibility and disability provision at Craigavon's **South Lake Leisure Centre** with a **Coulam Wheelyboat V17**. Funds provided by The Wheelyboat Trust also contributed. The V17 has a 90hp Suzuki outboard and is used for guided powerboating and more leisurely pleasure boating trips. For more info call **07917 833856**.

South of the border in Co Cavan, Lough Brackley is now home to a **Coulam Wheelyboat V17**. The boat is mainly used for angling and is based at **Brackley Fishing Lodges** which are two wheelchair accessible self catering holiday cottages. Its Torqeedo Cruise 3 electric outboard runs very quietly in harmony with the tranquillity of the lough. For more info call Robyn Maggs on **07976 255666**.



South Lake Leisure Centre



Lough Brackley

First Accessible Trip Boat on the Avon at Stratford

THE LATEST Wheelyboat launch took place at **Avon Boating** in Stratford-upon-Avon in September when a **Coulam Wheelyboat V17** formally entered service as the first ever wheelchair accessible hire boat on the Warwickshire Avon. The V17 enables disabled people to access and enjoy the famous waterway that runs through the heart of Shakespeare's birthplace.

Thanks to funding support from Stratford District Council and The Wheelyboat Trust, Avon Boating has now fulfilled its long held ambition of being able to provide an accessible boat for hire by local disabled people, their friends and families, along with the many disabled tourists who visit each year. The V17's roll-on, roll-off access, flexible seating and drive-from-wheelchair helm enable its disabled users to



Photo credit: Jim Coulam



Photo credit: Gullachsen

enjoy the River Avon not only as passengers in the boat but as drivers as well if they wish.

Gerard Walmsley from Avon Boating said "For a long time we have wanted to be able to accommodate wheelchair users or indeed anyone with mobility issues and with the V17 we can now finally offer an accessible service. We can't wait to see locals and visitors alike, including those who have never been out on the river before, enjoying all that this iconic waterway has to offer."

The boat is fully electric and is very easy to drive. Between charges, there is battery capacity for a full day's leisurely boating taking users through the heart of the town and into the countryside beyond. For more information go to www.avon-boating.co.uk.

New Leases of Life for Refurbished Older Wheelyboats

SEVEN RETIRED Wheelyboats have been refurbished and given new leases of life at venues around the UK. The aluminium Mk IIs and Mk IIIs were built between 2003 and 2012 and were used on fisheries that have either upgraded to newer Wheelyboat models or have closed down. (We are very grateful for the help we have received recovering these boats and a special mention goes to **Annandale Sailing Club** and **Red Spinner Angling Society**—the funds raised from the supply of the two boats they helped us recover have enabled us to fund other Wheelyboat projects). The robust design of these models means that once they have been repaired and refurbished they can be expected to provide many more years of service. Their new venues are: **Elinor Trout Fishery**, (fly fishing for trout, www.elinortf.co.uk); **Welton Waters Adventure Centre** (pleasure boating, www.wwac.org.uk); **Toft Newton Reservoir** (fly fishing for trout, www.tofttrout.com); **Wey & Arun Canal Trust** (pleasure boating, www.weyarun.org.uk); **Regents Canal** (pleasure boating, www.walkersquay.com); **Dungannon Park** (fly fishing for trout, www.visitmidulster.com); **St Andrews Angling Club** (fly fishing for trout, www.standrewsanglingclub.co.uk).



Toft Newton—closing the bow door



Regents Canal—a tricky launch from the towpath

Coulam 16 Wheelyboats

DISABLED ANGLERS have eight new **Coulam 16 Wheelyboats** to fish from in England, Scotland and Wales. The Wheelyboat model, based on our boatbuilding partner Jim Coulam's 16' reservoir fishing boat, was developed in 2008 and features a hydraulic platform that lowers to floor level for step-free access on and off. Being a purpose-built angling boat it is identical in looks and handling to the standard non-accessible Coulam boats in a fishery's fleet and with its discreet modifications anyone can use it. This means it can join the fleet as a dual-purpose craft with able-bodied anglers perfectly willing and entitled to use it if there are no disabled anglers fishing. There is no financial disincentive for fisheries to acquire them as we supply this model to fisheries for the same price they can buy the standard Coulam 16. These eight boats bring the total number of this model supplied to 37.



Carsington Water, Derbyshire (www.carsingtonwater.com). Their third Wheelyboat in the fleet and their second Coulam 16 Wheelyboat. This is a popular venue for disabled anglers and demand for two Wheelyboats often outstripped supply so a third was needed. Huge thanks to **Tony Higon** who was the driving force behind this project.

Llyn Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd (www.trawslake.com). Their Coulam 16 Wheelyboat replaces a Mk II supplied in 2003 which has been refurbished and found a new home.

Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire (www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk). This famous midlands trout fishery was the home water of renowned angler Bob Church. The Wheelyboat was funded by donations raised in Bob's memory and is named after him.

Llyn Clywedog, Powys (www.clywedogtroutfishing.co.uk). Their second Coulam 16 Wheelyboat.

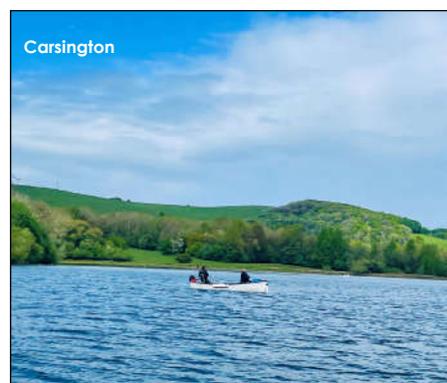
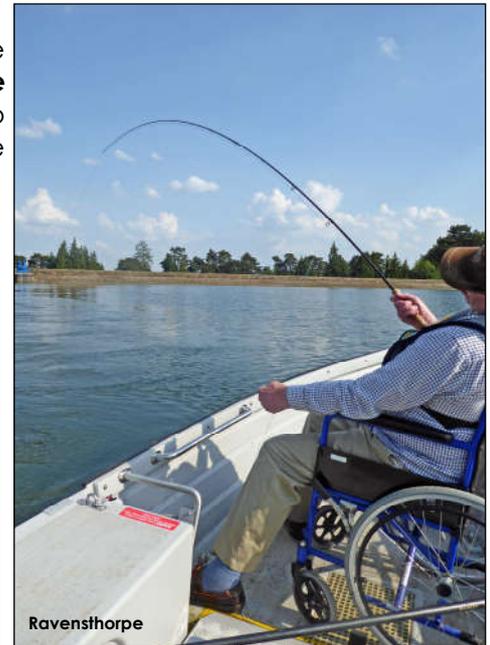
The following boats were supplied in a joint project with the **Angling Trust** and part-funded by the **Peter Harrison Foundation** and **Lord Barnby's Foundation** as initially reported in the Spring 2020 issue:

Farmoor Reservoir, Oxfordshire (www.thameswater.co.uk)

Ravensthorpe Reservoir, Northamptonshire (www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk)

South Uist Angling Club, Western Isles (www.southuistanglingclub.co.uk). The UK's most remote Wheelyboat was also funded by **Loch Duart** and **The Fishmonger's Company Charitable Fund**. Shared with North Uist Angling Club and named in memory of former Trustee **Elizabeth Macdonald-Buchanan** (see page 8).

Loch Earn, Stirlingshire (www.drummondtroutfarm.co.uk)



Wheelyboats Arriving Very Soon

A V17 is in build for **FS Bulwark Navy Cadets**. The boat will be based at their unit's HQ on the River Soar in Leicestershire and will provide disabled children and young cadets with the opportunity to participate in waterborne activities. The Navy Cadet Force promotes adventurous activities for children and young people from all walks of life and is dedicated to providing opportunities to those who might otherwise have difficulty accessing them. Their V17 will give all cadets the same opportunities to experience water sports and outdoor activities.

In build for **Jersey Freshwater Angling Association** is a Coulam 16 Wheelyboat that will provide mobility impaired anglers with access to trout fishing on one of Jersey's two reservoirs. **Lyn Brenig's** Coulam 16 Wheelyboat will follow shortly after and it will join a Coulam 16 Wheelyboat that has been operating there since 2016. Demand for the accessible angling boat exceeds supply and a second one is needed.

A V17 is on order for **Debdale Outdoor Centre**, Manchester, that will enable disabled people of all ages to take part in a wide range of waterborne activities. **East Manchester Community Boat Project** are project partners with Debdale and will use the boat for pleasure boating trips and for teaching boat handling skills to their volunteers. Debdale will also use the V17 on Windermere where they have links with two other centres.

Fundraising for **Loch Venachar Sailability's** V17 has just concluded and the boat is now on order. As well as providing accessible power and pleasure boating activities for their membership, the V17 will also be used by **Ripple Retreat**, a charity that provides respite holidays for young cancer patients and their families.

Fundraising is under way for a V20 for **Hollingworth Outdoor Activity Centre**, Rochdale. Accessible powerboating, powerboat training and pleasure boating will be the project's principal outcomes including trips on the adjacent Rochdale canal.

Helping Organisations Acquire Wheelyboats

WE HAVE been supplying our specially designed and purpose-built Wheelyboats since the mid-1980s. In building the five currently in build/on order, the total has now reached 228. Fundamental to this achievement is the help and support we provide organisations acquiring Wheelyboats and of most benefit is the fundraising we undertake towards individual projects. For those organisations needing our help, we commit to raising funds towards their project so that the cost of the Wheelyboat and its fitting out does not become a barrier that prevents the project from going ahead.



A fund set up in memory of Barney Wilson, a Trustee of ours and retired partner from Slaughter & May, has so far raised more than £45,000 and has enabled us to provide additional support to individual Wheelyboat projects at our discretion. It's been perfect for getting a project over the line if there's a shortfall. Huge thanks to Barney's friends and colleagues for their tremendous generosity.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH A DONATION

PLEASE HELP us provide more Wheelyboats to projects across the UK. Donations can be made online via the **Support Us** button on the home page of our website, www.wheelyboats.org.

We welcome legacies, so please remember us when writing your will. More info and a codicil form can be downloaded at the bottom of our website's Support Us page.

Members of clubs/societies/fisheries—do please nominate us as your charity to support.

Thank you very much indeed

The Wheelyboat Trust Impact Report 2022

OUR **2022 Impact Report** describes what we do and how we do it and the benefits that result. It is available as a download from www.wheelyboats.org (scroll down our home page to find the link) or we can send you a paper copy by post—please email ab@wheelyboats.org or telephone 01798 342222. It makes a most interesting and informative read.



Wheelyboat Insurance

IRCM OFFERS Wheelyboat operators a **bespoke insurance policy**. It is very important that operators of Wheelyboats have the support of a broker who fully understands the role Wheelyboats play, that they are purpose-built for the job and that being mobility impaired should not be a barrier to participating in waterborne activities. Not only are IRCM's policies tailored to fit the needs of Wheelyboat operators but they are also **very competitive**. We are very pleased to be able to recommend a policy we have absolute confidence in regarding its price and the cover provided. Mark Elcocks will provide more information, contact him at markelcocks@ircmsc.co.uk or on **01902 796793**.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926—2022

WE JOIN the nation and Commonwealth in sending our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family on the loss of Her Majesty The Queen. We remember Her Majesty for the kindness and support she gave the Trust over the years through the donations she made towards our work from the Privy Purse Charitable Trust.

Mr Bernard Cribbins 1928—2022

BERNARD WAS a keen angler and joined the Trust as a Patron in 2008. We met him every year at the CLA Game



Fair where he would present the Alan Faulkner Memorial Award on the Trust's behalf to the fishery that provided the best service to disabled anglers. Bernard would also officiate at Wheelyboat launches and, most memorably, narrated the Wheelyboat 'drive past' on the Thames at Bisham Abbey for the Trust's 30th anniversary celebrations in 2014 (left).

Mrs Elizabeth Macdonald-Buchanan 1939—2021

ELIZABETH WAS a Trustee from 2011 to 2019 and was a very generous donor to and fundraiser for the Trust. She was very well connected and guests at our fundraising lunches at Fishmonger's Hall largely comprised her friends and acquaintances! When Elizabeth retired from the Board she agreed to become a Patron and Vice-President. The Coulam 16 Wheelyboat operating on North and South Uist, nearby to Elizabeth's home on Eriskay, has been named in her memory.

New Trustees Join the Board

SINCE OUR last newsletter, **Countess Leonora Lichfield** has retired from the Board. We thank her for all her help and advice since her appointment in 2015 and for her continuing support.

Three new Trustees have joined the Board—**Sarah Buscall**, **Jake Leslie Melville** and **Zoe Benyon**. All three are working very hard and proving to be influential and valuable members of the Trust's management, fundraising and finance committees.

OUR ENORMOUS thanks go to the following for their tremendously generous support:

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, A&S Graham Charitable Trust, ALA Green Charitable Trust, Alpkit Foundation, Amazon, Ardwick Charitable Trust, Army Welfare Fund, Arnold Clark Community Fund, Asda Wadebridge, Ashbourne Gardening Club, Astor of Hever Trust, Aurelia Foundation, Basil Shippam Charitable Trust, Borrows Charitable Trust, Brocklebank Charitable Trust, Bruce Wake Charitable Trust, Burn Valley Catering, Canal & River Trust, Carsington Reservoir Fund, Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust, CHK Foundation, Clarke Charitable Settlement, Co-op Local Community Fund, Creake Abbey Farmers' Market, Dalgleish Trust, David Laing Foundation, Derbyshire Community Foundation, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge, Derwent Lodge Benevolent Fund, Dixon Pitchfork Charitable Trust, Douglas Arter Foundation, Duchy of Lancaster Charitable Foundation, Dunclay Charitable Trust, East Midlands Airport, Edenberg Charitable Trust, Elinor Trout Fishery, Enkalon Foundation, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Fishmongers' Company Charitable Fund, FishPal, Florence Turner Trust, Flyfishers' Lodge, Friarsgate Trust, Frognaal Trust, GE Ellis Foundation, Geoff & Fiona Squire Charitable Trust, Gerald Micklem Charitable Trust, Gilander Foundation, Gilbert & Eileen Edgar Foundation, Gordon Trust, Grace Trust, Grand Charity, Green Hall Foundation, Grimsby Angling Club, Groundwork UK, HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust, Harkness Family Foundation, Harold & Alice Bridges Charity, Helen Jean Cope Charity, Henry Smith Charity, HM Sassoon Charitable Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Hugh Stenhouse Foundation, Ian Askew Charitable Trust, Inchcape Foundation, Ireland Roddan Trust, JR Corah Foundation, JR Gibb Charitable Trust, JTH Charitable Trust, Lance Nicholson's Dulverton, Lawson Trust, Leicestershire & Rutland Masons, Leonard Laity Stoaite Charitable Trust, Localgiving, Lord Barnby's Foundation, Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust, Mansfield Building Society, Marsh Trust, Mary Homfray Charitable Trust, Melton Mowbray Building Society, Meikle Foundation, Merchants House of Glasgow, Mickleham Charitable Trust, Middlesex Sports Foundation, Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, MM Wylie Charitable Trust, Mountbatten Memorial Trust, Muriel Woellwarth Trust, MV Hillhouse Trust, Netherdale Trust, Norfolk Community Foundation Fund, Norman Family Charitable Trust, Orrin Charitable Trust, Pennycrest Trust, Peter Meyer Charitable Trust, Privy Purse Charitable Trust, Provincial Grand Charity, Rank Foundation, RC Snelling Charitable Trust, REF De Pass Charitable Trust, River Bure Angling Club, Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust, Sir James Roll Charitable Trust, St Oswald Lodge, Suzuki Marine GB, Swire Charitable Trust, The Big Give, Thorney Island Sailing Club, Thornton Trust, Timothy Colman Charitable Trust, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, TS Shipman Charitable Trust, Union Lodge No 52, Unity Peace & Concord Lodge, Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Settlement, Valentine Charitable Trust, WA Cargill Fund, Waitrose Storrington, Webb Family Charitable Trust, Wesleyan Foundation, West Riding Masons, Whirlwind Charitable Trust, Willan Charitable Trust, WO Street Charitable Trust, Woodlawn Trust, the friends and family of Alison Butler, the friends and colleagues of Barney Wilson, the friends and family of Bob Church, the friends and family of John Ainsworth, the friends and family of John Grimes, the friends and family of Kevin Adams, the friends and family of Leslie Curry and to everyone who made personal donations.

Your privacy is important to us

GENERAL DATA Protection Regulations require us to obtain your consent to process (e.g. collect, store, retrieve) your personal data. You have a right to withdraw your consent at any time unless processing your data is necessary in the performance of a contract (1) or there is a legal obligation that requires us to process it (2). All you have to do is email Andy Beadsley, our Director, at ab@wheelyboats.org and inform us that your consent has been withdrawn. If conditions (1) and (2) do not apply to your data then we will remove all of it from our records. For a full explanation of how we process your personal data please go to www.wheelyboats.org/privacy.



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