

THIS YEAR, 2018, STAFFORD BOAT CLUB ARE SUPPORTING THE RUNNING OF TWO NARROWBOATS OPERATED BY TWO SEPARATE ORGANISATIONS, WHO ORGANISE AND RUN BOATING TRIPS FOR DISABLED, SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS.



New Horizons, the Trust's Canal Boat, was launched by HRH The Prince of Wales in 1981. It is operated as a registered charity, **Stockport Canal Boat Trust for Disabled People (Charity No: 1075844)**, established by the Mayor of Stockport, L Gordon Bayley MBE, in 1980. Gordon Bayley organised the fund raising, design and building of the Boat as he was a keen canal boater as well as having an interest in disabilities. Consequently the facilities are designed to assist disabled people and those with limited mobility.

New Horizons has had only had 4 skippers in more than 30 years of operation. The Charity is managed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for the effective and efficient running of the Charity. The day to day work of the Boat is carried out by a Skipper and a willing band of volunteers.

Over the lifetime of **New Horizons** it is estimated that over 50,000 passengers have been carried by the boat from its base at the junction of the Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals in Marple.

The Trust receives no support from any statutory body so finances have to be arranged via donations, sponsorship, bequests and fund raising activities to cover operating costs. For further details please email the Chairman Sue Woodgate using the contact form below.



New Horizons is 70 feet long and 6 feet 10 inches wide to allow it to pass through the many narrow bridges and locks on the canal system. It is navigated by a skipper and volunteer crew. The boat has a boarding ramp, a lift and wheelchair access throughout its length. There's accommodation for a maximum of 12 passengers on half-day and whole-day trips . There is an open air viewing platform at the front of the boat and for cooler days in April and May the interior lounges are centrally heated. The fully fitted galley has a gas stove, a fridge and a large sink with running hot and cold water. Cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils are

provided. There is a private fully accessible toilet area with flush toilet, large wash basin, and plenty of hot water too!



The Narrowboat “TREBALISA Is Run By Wildside Activity Centre

offers a range of options to excite and interest all age groups and abilities. These are taken up by schools, community groups, youth groups and uniformed organisations, groups for older people, people with disabilities or mental health issues, families and other private bookings, businesses and corporate events, and for training.

The most important message about our activities is that we want to plan a successful visit with you and wherever we can, we will mix and match activities to make the bespoke day or half day session you need. Subject to numbers and availability of staff and room bookings, we can run multi-activity days for most groups and will always try to make activities as accessible as possible for those with special needs. Most of the activities can be provided on an outreach basis, especially if you have a little outdoor space on your own site. Please look through the information on these pages and give us a ring to discuss your aims and requirements.

Broadly our programme centres on adventurous activities and environmental education and we also run [narrowboat trips](#). There is no neat dividing line. For example, some children will find a minibeast hunt more of an adventure than going canoeing and some groups will find a boat trip or cycle ride will open their eyes to the wildlife around us in an unusual way or a sensory walk may lead a class into creative writing. Your choice depends on the aims you want to achieve with your group.

We have excellent access to woodlands, waterside and grassland habitats on site and can lead groups further afield into the Smestow Valley Nature Reserve, Hawthorn Wood or along the towpath. A biodiversity survey in July 2015 identified over 300 species of animals, plants and fungi on our own small site in Hordern Road and we are always taking more steps to attract more wildlife.

All activities are staffed by sessional staff or volunteers with appropriate qualifications and extensive experience in the relevant activity. Risk assessments are available and every session has a short introduction about health and safety on site. All staff with direct contact with children or vulnerable adults have had DBS

checks. For school and youth group activities and vulnerable adults, it is expected that the group is accompanied by school/organisation staff.