

# The Bruce Trust Newsletter



Canal boat holidays for disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people

[www.brucetrust.org.uk](http://www.brucetrust.org.uk)

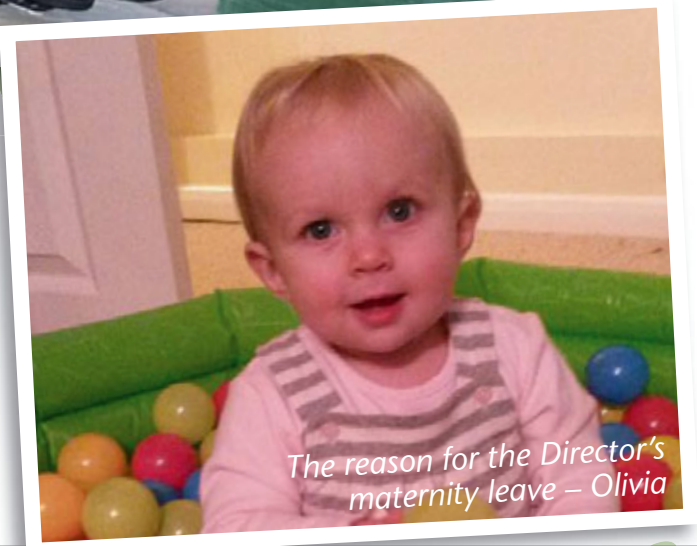
# 2015

## our 26th season



*Kristian taking his turn as Skipper*

Our 26th season has certainly kept the boats and our volunteers as busy as ever. The year began with our Trust Director, Rebecca, taking three months off for maternity leave to welcome the newest member of the team into the world – Olivia. We were overwhelmed with the way so many of our volunteers stepped into the breach to help us during this period but especially Sue George on administration, Alan and Jo on volunteer rotas and Martin Jeffery on finance.



*The reason for the Director's maternity leave – Olivia*

To keep up-to-date with our activities throughout the year visit our website [www.brucetrust.org.uk](http://www.brucetrust.org.uk) or find us on Facebook



The boats were virtually fully booked from the beginning of April to the end of October and we have welcomed a number of new hirers and day trippers so the word is continuing to spread which is fantastic.

The number of call-outs this year has been reduced significantly thanks to the hard work last winter by our engineers, Robert and Tim, especially all they did to improve The Diana's electrics. Tim has now left the Trust but Robert has taken on his workload and has quickly picked up all things "boaty" and become an essential part of the team. The Hannah is due to receive some extra TLC this winter to freshen up her interior and bring her electrics up to date.

Over **19,000** disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people, with their families or carers, have enjoyed holidays or day trips on the boats since our first season.

Of this year's hirers:

- **24%** had physical disabilities
- **10%** had both physical and learning disabilities
- **7%** had learning disabilities
- **27%** were elderly
- **20%** were young people with disabilities
- **12%** were disadvantaged youth

## Voluntary Helpers

An enormous thank you to all our volunteers who have helped with the boats this year – what an amazing team! Following the exciting news in the attached Trustee's letter we are, more than ever now, hoping to continue to welcome new members to our team of volunteers. If you are interested in helping us for a couple of hours on a Friday or Saturday morning at Great Bedwyn Wharf, near Marlborough, as a Team Leader, Engineer, Cleaner, Skipper or Crew members, please do contact us for more information.



Hungerford Hares raised £500 on their fun run

Throughout the year various fundraising events have helped to keep our funds topped up including the local Hungerford Hares donating £500 from their annual Fun Run and James Tomlinson and Chris Symonds raising £2,500 following their 100km sponsored walk along the towpath from Putney to Henley. Thanks also to our volunteer, Mike Lang, for continuing to run the 50/50 Club which this year has raised £2,250 for the Trust. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored those partaking in a fundraising activity, to our 50/50 Club members and to those who have donated directly to the Trust this year.



James and Chris at the start of their walk

## 2016 Season

During the 2016 season all our boats will be operating from Great Bedwyn with The Rachel and The Diana starting on Fridays and The Hannah and The Rebecca starting on Saturdays. The hire charge for The Rachel will be £900 and for The Diana, The Hannah and The Rebecca will be £1150. Day trips will cost £130 per day for up to 12 people. For enquiries and bookings from 4th January 2016 please contact Chris in the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust office:

Bruce Branch, Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Devizes Wharf, Couch Lane, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1EB  
T: 01380 721279 E: [brucebranch@katrust.org.uk](mailto:brucebranch@katrust.org.uk)