Coulam Wheelyboat V20 Takes Off!

THE LAUNCH in 2014 of our latest model, the Coulam Wheelyboat V20, has sparked a huge amount of interest and projects are taking off across the UK and beyond. New V20s have been delivered to Castle Semple Centre, Mylor Sailability, Pershore Riverside Youth and the Accessible Boat Club. Three V20s are currently being built for the Quay Watermen and Randers Natureschool in Denmark. Fundraising is well underway for projects at Priors’ Court/Burghfield Sailability, Young Epilepsy, The Woolverstone Project and QE2 Activity Centre. The V20 has been our most important development since the launch of the original Wheelyboat more than 30 years ago. As well as the most versatile Wheelyboat so far, it is the first high-performance Wheelyboat we have designed capable of speeds in excess of 30mph. Seating up to ten people including six wheelchair users, it is generating a large number of enquiries especially from activity centres and sailing clubs that want to accommodate larger groups of people and offer them more adventurous activities.

V20 Launched At Castle Semple Centre

SHIRLEY ROBERTSON, British sailing’s Olympic double gold medallist, caused a splash at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park’s Castle Semple Centre last May when she launched Scotland’s first Coulam Wheelyboat V20. The project was a joint venture between Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, The Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley and The Wheelyboat Trust who jointly raised the money to supply the vessel. Castle Semple Country Park and Outdoor Centre is part of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Scotland’s largest Regional Park. It is a fully licensed outdoor activity centre that caters for all levels of ability across a wide range of activities including sailing, kayaking, canoeing, hill walking, orienteering and archery. The Centre is especially geared up for accessible watersports and was the first venue in Scotland to be accredited an ‘RYA Sailability Centre of Excellence’. Gryffe Valley Rotary Club’s support has been a key factor in the Centre’s ability to include disabled people in its sailing and boating activities.

The V20 Wheelyboat adds an exciting new range of activities at the Centre, especially for wheelchair users and others with more complex needs. Shirley Robertson said she is passionate about creating opportunities for everyone to get on the water: “With this wonderful initiative - to add to the accessible →
Mylor Sailability’s V20 Wheelyboat was launched at Mylor Sailing School on the River Fal estuary in Cornwall in October. The specially designed Wheelyboat was launched and formally named ‘Odyssey’ by guest of honour Peter Norfolk MBE, twice gold-winning Paralympian tennis player and GB flagbearer at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Sailing and boating are activities that most disabled people can participate in effectively given the right access, facilities and opportunities. Tracey Boyne, owner of Mylor Sailing School, recognised a significant lack of disabled access on local waters in Cornwall and in 2013 Mylor Sailability was established to provide waterborne activities for people with impaired mobility and special educational needs. Congratulations to Steve Paget, the charity’s first wheelchair user to qualify as a powerboat helmsman and gain his Powerboat Level 2 certificate in Odyssey.

Funding for the project was generously provided by The Rotary Club of Gryffe Valley and their supporters, Badenoch Trust, Barcapel Foundation, Barfil Charitable Trust, Bridge of Weir Leather Co Ltd, Mr Russell Fleming, Crerar Hotels Trust, JTH Charitable Trust, Merchants House of Glasgow, Robertson Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, Tesco (Linwood), W A Cargill Fund and W H Malcolm Ltd.

To find out more about Castle Semple and their V20 go to www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk or phone senior instructor David Hill on 01505 842882 ext 21.

V20 Launched at Award-Winning Mylor Sailability

MYLOR SABILITY’S V20 Wheelyboat was launched at Mylor Sailing School on the River Fal estuary in Cornwall in October. The specially designed Wheelyboat was launched and formally named ‘Odyssey’ by guest of honour Peter Norfolk MBE, twice gold-winning Paralympian tennis player and GB flagbearer at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

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Winner of the County Sport England Sportivate Best New Project Award and South West Regional Best New Project of the Year Award, Mylor Sailability has been successful in securing a Sport England Inspired Facilities grant of £48k for a new building, pontoon and hoist, as well as a grant in conjunction with Age UK to encourage people with disabilities over the age of 50 into sailing. The charity now helps hundreds of people from all over Cornwall with a wide range of disabilities take part in sailing and watersports.

Tracey Boyne said: “Mylor Sailability is the only coastal Sailability centre in Cornwall and our new Wheelyboat will give our service users even more opportunities to experience the water and learn new skills. We are very grateful to The Wheelyboat Trust for their help in funding the acquisition of this fantastic boat.”

Since the launch Odyssey has been used in six Sailability sessions (accommodating about 25 people) every week. For more severely disabled members, Odyssey has transformed their ability to participate in watersports and other activities on the water. Their options were quite limited before and some were unable to get on the water at all. As a result, Mylor Sailability’s membership of wheelchair users and others with significant mobility and learning →
difficulties will increase as Tracey and her fellow instructors will be able to accommodate a much broader spectrum of disabilities in the group’s activities. All existing members, irrespective of their disability, have more choice and more opportunities on the water in Odyssey. For most of them Odyssey is the first powerboat they have ever been in and for all of them it is the first one they have been able to drive themselves. Some will simply enjoy the experience of being in the boat or driving it, while others, like Steve Paget, will go on to qualify as powerboat drivers and even instructors. Odyssey enables the group to explore much further afield in the Fal estuary (and out to sea) irrespective of the direction of wind and tide. She has a capacity of eight on inshore waters so the group can get people on the same trip together in larger numbers than before which means more people are able to benefit with the same number of instructors.

Our most grateful thanks go to the following for funding the Wheelyboat project: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales Duke of Cornwall, Claire Milne Trust, Cornwall Charitable Trust, Douglas Arter Foundation, Elmgrant Charitable Trust, Hedley Foundation, Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust, Norman Family Charitable Trust, St Austell Brewery Charitable Trust, Sterry Family Fund, Suzuki GB, Whirlwind Charitable Trust.

For more information go to www.mylorsailing.co.uk/mylor-sailability or phone Tracey Boyne on 07971 520257.

WHEELOYBOATS AND the work of the Trust have featured several times on TV and radio this year. Mylor Sailability’s Wheelyboat launch was reported on BBC Radio Cornwall’s breakfast programme on the morning of the launch with Tracey Boyne from Mylor Sailability and Andy Beadsley, Wheelyboat Trust Director, being interviewed live in the studio. The launch and a boat trip in Odyssey into the Fal estuary also featured in a news item on BBC TV Points West that evening. The presentation of a cheque for £10,000 by Lorraine and Graham Male to the QE2 Activity Centre (see page 4) towards a V20 Wheelyboat in memory of their son James featured in a report by BBC TV South Today. The presentation took place on the Trust’s stand at the Southampton Boat Show in September and the report included footage of the V20 Wheelyboat in action. In August, the Overwater Wheelyboat project (see page 5) was featured on BBC Radio 4’s Farming Today in a report that encompassed disabled access to the countryside, rural tourism and farm diversification. All this excellent publicity and numerous reports in printed and online media came about thanks to the hard work and dedication of our PR partners, Firebird PR. Based in Oxfordshire they are a small team that pack an enormous punch. For more information contact Jane Bevan on 01235 835297 or visit their website www.firebirdpr.co.uk.

LAST YEAR an oversight led to a batch of Waterwheels being posted unfranked. Our sincere apologies if you were one of the unlucky recipients.

THE WHEELOYBOAT Trust welcomes five new Trustees adding a wealth of experience to its Board in the fields of finance, law, media and charities. They are Katie Hamilton, Leonora Lichfield, Andrew Morgan, George Seligman and Jane Wilson. Our huge thanks for their years of service go to Danny Peet and Jonathan Midgley who have retired from the Board.
WHEELYBOATS AND the work of the Trust transform the opportunities for mobility impaired people all over the UK to participate fully in waterborne activities. The following is a summary of the Wheelyboat projects we are currently raising funds to help bring to fruition. Contributions would be very much appreciated and can be made online on the Donate page at www.wheelboats.org or by cheque sent to the Trust’s office (see back page for address). Please stipulate a project unless you are happy for us to apply the funds at our discretion.

**Prior’s Court/Burghfield Sailability, Berkshire**—Prior’s Court is a charity offering education and residential care for young people aged from 5 to 25 years severely challenged by their autism. Their students have been participating in Sailability at Burghfield Sailing Club near Reading for the past ten years and it has developed into an important part of their curriculum. A V20 will substantially increase the number of students able to participate in Sailability. Budget £36,583—funds raised to date £12,904. Donations can also be made at www.findmeagrant.org/wberks/browse.aspx (for Keyword use WB11324) where they will be matched by the Greenham Common Trust up to £5,000.

**The Woolverstone Project, Suffolk**—a registered charity that organises year round sailing activities for people of any age who have a disability. However, people with more complex and severe disabilities cannot be accommodated and miss out. A V20 will enable even the most severely disabled to take part alongside everybody else. Budget £34,448—funds raised to date £22,500.

**Young Epilepsy, Surrey**—YE is the national charity working exclusively on behalf of the 112,000 young people under the age of 25 in the UK with epilepsy. Water based activities provide students with a valuable sensory experience away from the classroom in a unique and stimulating environment. The PE department finds it very difficult to replicate these experiences in any other physical activity. The V20 will take larger groups than existing craft as well as offering a more adventurous experience. Budget £38,597—funds raised to date £13,541.

**QE2 Activity Centre, Hampshire**—provides day services, holidays and activity sessions for people of all ages with special needs including learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities and sensory impairment. They offer their service users an extensive range of water-based activities. As well as enhancing access to boating, the V20 will enable users to experience driving a boat themselves. A donation of £10,000 at the Southampton Boat Show from Lorraine and Graham Male, parents of James who was one of four sailors lost in the Cheeki Rafiki tragedy in the Atlantic last year, has enabled this project to get underway. Budget £27,586—funds raised to date £10,000.

**Draycote and Ladybower Reservoirs**—each of these well known trout fisheries require a Coulam 16 Wheelyboat to provide access to the fishing for disabled anglers costing £8,800 each. C16Wbts have a hydraulic platform that lowers the angler to floor level. We have offered to support both projects by raising 50% of the Wheelyboat’s cost.

**Indirect project costs**—Wheelyboats are valuable items of equipment being specially designed craft individually built and fitted out to order. To keep the costs of each Wheelyboat project as low as possible we do not operate a policy of full cost recovery. Instead we raise funds separately to help cover the cost of running our charity. We therefore need to raise funds to cover the balance of indirect costs of bringing Wheelyboat projects to fruition (comprising management and office costs) which for the year to December 2016 are budgeted at £32,600.
MK III WHEELYBOAT ‘The Maughan Lass’ was launched with great ceremony and in beautiful sunshine in June at Overwater Marina near Audlem, Cheshire. Rodney Cottrell, Chairman of the project, thanked everybody who had contributed whether financially or in kind. Key grants for the £20,000 project came from Ableworld, Cheshire East Council, Comic Relief, Cheshire Community Foundation, Awards for All and the Alchemy Foundation. Overwater Marina supports the project by providing a secure berth free of charge and has built an access ramp for roll-on, roll-off boarding.

Angus Maughan, marina owner, conducted the naming ceremony after which the 120 guests were entertained by the Cheshire Constabulary Corps of Drums and The Maughan Lass had her inaugural trip.

The Maughan Lass is a free service to people with mobility difficulties and operates scheduled trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays with other bookings available by arrangement. The project is closely associated with The Audlem Lass, a trip boat operating between the marina and the nearby town of Audlem that raises funds for the RNLI. She carries 4,000 passengers annually but is inaccessible to people with mobility difficulties and her founder, Rodney Cottrell, has long seen the need to operate a Wheelyboat alongside her. This year Rodney’s plans came to fruition and since her launch The Maughan Lass has taken over 300 disabled people out on scheduled and bespoke trips. To book phone Rodney Cottrell on 01270 811454 or visit www.overwaterwheelyboat.co.uk.

The Maughan Lass operates from the award winning Overwater Marina on the Shropshire Canal in Cheshire.

Cheshire Constabulary Corps of Drums provided rousing entertainment.

Mk III Wheelyboat on Permanent Standby for Humanitarian Relief on the Somerset Levels

THE SUCCESSFUL operation of a Mk III Wheelyboat in providing humanitarian relief in the floods of 2014 has led Somerset County Council to purchase one for permanent standby should flooding occur again. At all other times the boat will be run and maintained by a community group at the Maunsel Lock Canal Centre near North Newton. The Wheelyboat is fully accessible for wheelchair users so its main role will be to provide access to the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal for groups of disabled people and those with limited mobility. The community boat, complete with engine and trailer, has been funded by Somerset County Council with support from South Somerset District Council and supplied by the Wheelyboat Trust. Cllr David Hall, Somerset County Council’s Cabinet Member for Business, Inward Investment and Policy, said: “I am pleased we have been able to purchase this boat which we will be able to mobilise almost instantly in an emergency. At other times this boat will provide a wonderful resource for charities, schools and other groups and is particularly suited for providing boat trips for disabled people. This means it also ticks a lot of other boxes by helping to attract visitors and providing an economic benefit to Somerset.” As reported in last year’s issue, during the severe flooding of 2014 the village of Muchelney was cut off for 10 weeks and the only access in and out was provided by a Mk III Wheelyboat operated by Maunsel Lock Canal Centre since 2013, one of four Wheelyboats supplied in a project organised by Countryside Mobility (www.countrysidemobility.org) and supported by The Wheelyboat Trust. www.maunsellock.co.uk.

The Mk III Wheelyboat will operate from Maunsel Lock Canal Centre where it will be on permanent standby in case of flooding.

www.maunsellock.co.uk.
PERSHORE RIVERSIDE Youth Centre has taken delivery of a V20 Wheelyboat for its centre on the River Avon in Worcestershire. The project has been funded by a grant from Worcestershire County Council. The Trust helped the project garner local support by taking its V20 demonstrator to the Pershore River Festival in July. PRYC is a charity with a firm focus on helping young people. The acquisition of a Wheelyboat will help it extend its activities to young people with special needs. The Wheelyboat’s formal launch will take place in the spring. Watch this space! In the meantime for more information about PRYC’s work go to www.pershoreriversidecentre.org or phone centre manager, Alex Mellor, on 01386 554713.

New Lease of Life for Mk II Wheelyboats

REFURBISHED MK II Wheelyboats have been delivered to Creggan Country Park in Northern Ireland and Lechlade Trout Fishery in Gloucestershire. Creggan Country Park is a charity that occupies an old reservoir site on the outskirts of Derry/Londonderry where it organises a wide variety of watersports. The Wheelyboat will enable wheelchair users and people with limited mobility to take to the water at Creggan for the first time for pleasure boating, nature tours and angling. Karen Healy, Environmental Officer at Creggn, said: “I am delighted that we are now able to open up our lakes to all abilities. There are other Wheelyboats in Northern Ireland but this is the first in the north west and it will bring so many benefits to people in the city who have never taken part in water-based activities before. We will also use the Wheelyboat as part of our environmental education programme ‘Nature’s Classroom’ so that groups can take part in bird watching, pond dipping, wildlife art and nature treasure hunts. It will show everyone that being on the water is a really special experience and will enhance learning.”

A grant from The Bruce Wake Charitable Trust funded the supply of Creggan’s Wheelyboat and our most grateful thanks go to their Trustees. For Wheelyboat enquiries and bookings phone 028 7136 3133 or go to www.creggancountrypark.com.

Lechlade Trout Fishery is the UK’s leading big-fish water and their Wheelyboat will enable anglers of all ages with impaired mobility the opportunity of catching specimen fish. Lechlade is partnered with Bushyleaze Trout Fishery where a Wheelyboat has operated for the last ten years and is very popular with anglers. Last year Bushyleaze won the Alan Faulkner Memorial Award sponsored by Suzuki GB in recognition of the service and access it provides disabled anglers. Tim Small, who owns both fisheries, said: “Providing suitable access that enables everybody to fish is an important feature of Bushyleaze and I am thrilled we can now offer the same service and facilities at Lechlade. This is the first Wheelyboat to operate on a big-fish water! It not only will help disabled anglers but elderly and less mobile anglers who find it hard work walking the bank or using the rowing boats.”

Lechlade’s Wheelyboat was originally one of two that were supplied to a fishery in Wales. When it became spare it was thoroughly overhauled and given at least another ten years of useful life at a fraction of the cost of building a new Wheelyboat. A grant from the Environment Agency from Rod Licence funding helped with the cost of refurbishment, the balance being met by Tim Small. The project was also supported by NatWest with competitive funding enabling construction of the bankside structures facilitating easy access on and off the Wheelyboat. Judith Hann, who presented Tomorrow’s World on BBC TV, was guest of honour at the launch.

For enquiries and bookings phone 01367 253266 or go to www.lechaladetrout.co.uk.
New V20 Demonstrator Launched

OUR COULAM V20 Wheelyboat demonstrator (named ‘The Anchorite’ after a grant towards it from the eponymous group whose members have an interest in all things maritime) has been busy demonstrating the V20’s exceptional capabilities to groups and organisations. In recent weeks she has been out in the Solent from Lymington (in quite rough seas), in Salford Quays, Milton Keynes and near Chorley. Powered by a Suzuki DF115ATL outboard she was clocked at 39mph on Rivington Reservoir! Demonstrations are an important part of the project process as they provide potential new operators and venues with hands-on experience of the Wheelyboat in action. The V20 project is a joint-venture between the Trust and J M Coulam Boatbuilders (www.coulam.co.uk) and we are tremendously grateful to Jim for the dedication, hard work and expertise he has brought to the project. To arrange a demo of a V20 or one of the other Wheelyboat models contact Trust Director, Andy Beadsley, on 01798 342222 or info@wheelyboats.org.

Accessible Boat Club

THE ACCESSIBLE Boat Club at Bisham Abbey Sailing School took delivery of their new V20 Wheelyboat, Rivertime II, in September (left). Formerly Boatability (they changed their name to avoid confusion with another organisation), the club has operated a V20 since July 2014 when one was launched as part of the Trust’s 30th anniversary celebrations. A new V20 has been built to the very latest spec enabling the club to operate the Wheelyboat to its full potential on its home water, the River Thames near Marlow. Additional features include front steps and non-slip top decks providing easy access on and off when negotiating locks along with fenders at the waterline to protect the hull. There is an emergency horn and a removable pole with navigation light. Rivertime II is the first powerboat to operate on the Thames in which wheelchair users are trained as powerboat operators enabling them to use her independently. As members of the club they can organise their own trips and take out friends and families on the river. For more information and some excellent videos of Rivertime II in action visit the club’s pages on www.facebook.com or phone Peter May at the sailing school on 01628 474960.

Coulam 16 Wheelyboats for Ireland

TWO C16WBTS have been launched in Ireland on fishing lakes in Co Donegal for Creeslough & District Angling Club and in Co Waterford for St Paul’s Fishing Club. There are now eight Wheelyboats operating in the Irish Republic. For more information speak to Paddy Boyle (Creeslough) on 00 353 85 2292420 and Der Casey (St Paul’s) on 00 353 86 0568430. Tight lines!

New Mk III for Frampton on Severn Sailability

A GRANT from Sport England has helped Frampton Sailability purchase a Mk III Wheelyboat following a trial run with the Trust’s demonstrator last year. Kingsholm Rotary Club and individual donors also contributed. As reported in Stroud Life (right), the Mk III was launched last July and named ‘Frank Hall’ after the club’s late Commodore. The club has 40 members and the Wheelyboat will enable it to broaden the scope of its activities as well as providing pleasure trips on the water for wheelchair users and others who are unable to use the club’s sailing dinghies. For more information about the club and its new Wheelyboat contact David Greenfield on 01452 740126.
Tweed Book Raises Funds for Wheelyboats

REVIEWS DESCRIBE Bill Quarry’s new book ‘Salmon Fishing and the story of the River Tweed’ as one of the best fishing books written in a long time. The culmination of eight years of research, the book is a masterpiece that encompasses the complete history of the river and the Border’s violent past. It ensures a fascinating read for anyone interested in the river and especially those who fish for salmon in its world-famous waters. Bill Quarry lives in Kelso and has fished Tweed for 60 years. He helps the Tweed Foundation look after the two Wheelyboats that operate on the river (which he writes about in the book) and will donate £10 from every sale towards their upkeep. The book is published by Medlar Press (01691 623225) and costs £55 + p&p. For more information on his book and for enquiries about the Tweed Wheelyboats contact Bill on 07774 861474 or at billquarry@gmail.com.

CONSERVATIONIST AND film maker, Monty Halls (far left), popped his head around the V20’s bow door at the Southampton Boat Show in September. He was there in his capacity as Ambassador for Suzuki GB who sponsored our stand there and at Seawork in June. Our grateful thanks go to Suzuki GB for their support. In 2016 come and see us at the RYA Dinghy Show in March and again at Seawork in June and the Southampton Boat Show in September. www.suzuki-marine.co.uk

Boat Shows

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 donations can be made online via the Donate page on our website 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.

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