Welcome to the latest issue of Waterwheels, the annual review that highlights our activities and achievements over the last twelve months

200th Wheelyboat Launched

WHEELEYBOAT NUMBER 200 was officially launched at the Conway Centre on Anglesey in October, the culmination of the project that was featured in BBC1’s Countryfile a few months earlier. The Wheelyboat’s operators, SEAS @ Conway Centre (Supporting Enabling Accessible Sailing), is a group that provides disabled people of all ages in North Wales with accessible sailing and boating opportunities as part of the RYA’s national Sailability programme. Formed in 2018, SEAS @ Conway Centre helps disabled people become more physically active, which in turn improves their health and well-being as well as creating new social opportunities.

Debbie Braden (left) launched the new Wheelyboat in memory of her late husband, Phil, who as RYA Cymru Chief Executive, did so much to support SEAS and the Wheelyboat project.

This significant milestone for the Trust was reached with our brand new Wheelyboat model, the Coulam Wheelyboat V17, launched in June. The V17 is our most versatile Wheelyboat to date; designed to be used with outboards up to 90hp, it is ideal for high-speed powerboating. But, it is also available as a tiller-driven model (see page 5) for outboards up to 15hp for more leisurely boating and angling. Like all Wheelyboat models, the V17 enables disabled people, and wheelchair users in particular, to take part in a myriad waterborne activities. The roll-on, roll-off bow door, large open cockpit and drive-from-wheelchair helm provide a huge amount of freedom and independence. Designed by Andrew Wolstenholme and built by Coulam Ltd, it is a smaller version of its big sister, the Coulam Wheelyboat V20, launched in 2014. Like the V20, the V17 is a craft unique in its class.

Jon Gamon, Chief Instructor of SEAS @ Conway Centre, said: “The arrival of the Coulam Wheelyboat V17 marked an enormous leap forward in the capability of the SEAS group to deliver inclusive activities. Not only does this vessel enable our disabled volunteers to take a more integral role in the delivery of sessions, but it also allows new activities such as paddle sports and fishing to be tried – something we’re very excited about. ‘Phil the Boat’ – as we affectionately call it – is a purpose-built craft that we can use to train and qualify our disabled members as powerboat drivers and instructors. We already have Powerboat Level 2 courses planned for wheelchair users and we’ve been working with and training our volunteers with the view to them becoming instructors themselves. I am so impressed with the V17’s handling and performance; flat out with its Suzuki DF90ATL outboard it will do almost 40mph and never puts a foot wrong even in the toughest of conditions here on the Menai Straits. The capabilities and build quality of the V17 is a milestone in SEAS’ long term sustainability and success and we couldn’t be more thrilled that this boat now operates on our waters.”

Congratulations to Ian Roberts, SEAS founder member and volunteer, who is their first wheelchair user to attain the Powerboat Level 2 qualification in the V17.

SEAS @ Conway Centre and The Wheelyboat Trust are very grateful to Sport Wales, Lord Leverhulme’s Charitable Trust and the Hedley Foundation whose grants provided the funding for ‘Phil the Boat’.

For more information go to Facebook.com/North Wales Sailability: SEAS @ Conway Centre.
Wareham Boat Hire first to operate a Coulam Wheelyboat V17

The first Coulam Wheelyboat V17 off the production line was formally launched in August at Wareham Boat Hire in Dorset. Councillor Hilary Goodinge, the Mayor of Wareham, was guest of honour and Town Crier, Jacquie Hall, loudly drew onlookers’ attention to the proceedings.

Wareham Boat Hire has been operating a Mk III Wheelyboat since 2012. It is immensely popular with up to 500 users per annum but its capability is limited to the sheltered waters of the River Frome. Last year Wareham Boat Hire became an RYA Training Centre and needed a powerboat for training in Poole Harbour. The success they have achieved with their Mk III Wheelyboat and their desire and enthusiasm to ensure disabled people enjoy equality of opportunity in everything they do meant that their latest venture also had to be fully accessible. The design of the V17 does not compromise performance and capability for accessibility. It is a fully-fledged inshore powerboat capable of speeds up to 40mph and has stunning lines and looks too. Yet it has all the necessary features that make it a fully accessible Wheelyboat with roll-on, roll-off access, open level cockpit, drive-from-wheelchair helm and comfortable and stable ride. The design of the V17 means that Wareham Boat Hire need only one craft for its powerboating activities whether the people using it are able-bodied or disabled. The truly multi-purpose nature of the V17 made it their ideal craft.

Speaking at the launch, Matt Jones, Director of Wareham Boat Hire, said: “The design of the V17 accessible Wheelyboat is second to none and is exactly what we have been looking for to provide inclusive access to the water, bringing accessibility to the heart of Wareham. Our Mk III Wheelyboat is one of the most well-used in the UK and we cannot wait to introduce users to the Coulam Wheelyboat V17 as well and the RYA’s Powerability programme. Seeing a community and disabled visitors and holidaymakers truly benefit both physically and mentally from this vessel will be so rewarding and we are very excited to add the V17 to our fleet and expand the services we offer to disabled people here in Dorset.”

Wareham Boat Hire and The Wheelyboat Trust are very grateful to the following trusts and organisations for their tremendous generosity in helping fund the new Wheelyboat: Colin & Anna Frizzell Charitable Trust, Douglas Arter Foundation, Fishmongers’ Company Charitable Fund, The Late Francis Crabtree Charitable Settlement, The Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust, M & P Property Investments Ltd, Talbot Village Trust, The Valentine Charitable Trust.

For more information go to www.warehamboathire.co.uk.
Angling Trust Wheelyboat project—seven Coulam 16 Wheelyboats lined up

WIMBLEBALL FLY Fishery on Exmoor is the first of seven UK fisheries to take delivery of a Coulam 16 Wheelyboat in a joint-venture between the Angling Trust and The Wheelyboat Trust with funds provided by The Peter Harrison Foundation and Lord Barnby’s Fund.

The new Coulam 16 Wheelyboat will enable disabled anglers, and wheelchair users in particular, to fish the clear waters of Wimbleball Lake for top quality rainbow and wild brown trout. Mark Underhill (left), proprietor of Wimbleball Fly Fishery (www.wimbleballflyfishery.co.uk), said: “With our new Wheelyboat, disabled anglers will be able to fish across the 374-acre Wimbleball Lake, exploring the many bays and inlets, all stocked with some of the best and hardest fighting trout in the country. Our new Wheelyboat will join the existing Mk II Wheelyboat, which was launched in 2005, as well as ten other Coulam-built boats already on the lake. It’s fantastic that our growing fleet of Wheelyboats will be able to accommodate more disabled anglers, allowing more people to indulge in their passion for fishing or indeed take up the sport for the first time.”

Coulam 16 Wheelyboats are widely used on fisheries large and small across the country, along with more than 1,000 standard Coulam 15s and 16s that the Wheelyboat model is based on. Access on and off is via a ramp from a pontoon onto a hydraulic platform built into the boat that lowers the angler from gunwale height to floor level. Once on board, the angler can sit at the bow or the stern and is able to operate the boat entirely independently. The Coulam 16 Wheelyboat can accommodate up to three people, uses an outboard motor up to 10hp and is designed primarily for angling on large stillwaters on the drift or at anchor. The smaller Coulam 15 Wheelyboat is designed for angling on rivers, e.g. Tweed, where a boatman rows and the angler fishes from the stern.

Cobbinshaw Loch and Loch Leven fisheries have taken delivery of their Coulam 16 Wheelyboats and the remaining four are currently being built and will be heading to St Andrews Angling Club, Ravensthorpe Reservoir, Farmoor Reservoir and North Uist Angling Club in due course. The Covid-19 restrictions have put angling on hold at all these venues for the time being along with the formal launches of the three boats delivered so far. There will be a full report in the next issue.

Coulam 16 Wheelyboat for Glanmire & District Salmon & Trout Angling Association

A QUICK dash across the Irish Sea ensured the Coulam 16 Wheelyboat for Glanmire DSTAA was delivered before the UK’s Covid-19 restrictions fully took hold. Club member Bob Seward (foreground) raised the funds for the Wheelyboat from an annual programme of funding provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Wheelyboat will be based at Tibbotstown Reservoir near Carrigtohill in Co Cork where it will be used for trout fishing. The club has invested in access and facilities at the small reservoir where it regularly organises tuition and experiences for disabled and disadvantaged children and adults. Bob helps fishing clubs throughout Ireland obtain grant funding through his role in the Angling Council of Ireland.

Coulam 16 Wheelyboat in memory of Bob Church MBE

ANGLING LEGEND, Bob Church, sadly passed away in September. Bob was an angler of enormous skill and influence encompassing coarse, sea and game. He was a renowned angling author, held several records for specimen fish and was a pioneer of reservoir trout fishing, developing flies and techniques that are still used today.

To enable him to continue pursuing his passion for fly fishing as his health deteriorated from Parkinson’s disease, Bob relied on the Wheelyboat at Pitsford Reservoir. To honour Bob’s memory and in recognition of the importance of Pitsford’s Wheelyboat to anglers with health and mobility impairments, donations were requested to provide Pitsford with a brand new Coulam 16 Wheelyboat. The funds have now been raised, the Wheelyboat is on order and will be delivered and launched as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Bob with a phenomenal brown trout from Rutland Water
LIKE THE River Thames, the spirit of 1st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea Scouts was running high for the launch of their Coulam Wheelyboat V17, even though the river was out of bounds to boat traffic. At the beginning of March, scouts young and old gathered to watch their new vessel formally be launched and named ‘Don Everitt’ after the late lead-instructor and well-known member of the sea scout group. The new boat makes a fundamental step change in the group’s ability to provide water-based activities that everybody, irrespective of disability, can participate in fully.

Richard Hunt, Group Scout Leader, said: “Our new Coulam Wheelyboat V17 will ensure that those in the scouts whose mobility is limited can participate in a variety of water-based activities going forward, rather than just spectate from the riverbank. Our new Wheelyboat will challenge our conventional thinking as to what’s now possible for those with limited mobility, which is something we’ve been wanting for a while, so this is a really exciting time for us. Don had a real love for getting children out on the water, so naming our Wheelyboat after him is a very fitting tribute and we’re delighted that his family is with us on this day. This project has been led by three sea scout groups in the area: the 1st Cuddington (Warspite), 4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) and 1st Surbiton (Sealion). With their shared heritage and joint love of activities on the water, all three groups have been working with The Wheelyboat Trust to raise the funds for this vessel. We’re all looking forward to seeing where the Don Everitt takes us”.

The thrill, challenge and exhilaration of water-based activities such as canoeing, kayaking, sailing and powerboating are key features that scouts of all ages and impairments are drawn to. In an age where adventurous exercise and outdoor activities are crucial to the health and development of young people, it is imperative that disabled scouts are not excluded from waterborne fun and learning due to a lack of accessible facilities. The last scout census showed that in Surrey alone there are 1,362 scouts with disabilities, who aren’t able to take part in waterborne activities as easily as their able-bodied peers.

Andy Beadsley, Director of The Wheelyboat Trust, said: “We’re delighted that another accessible vessel is out on UK waters and will be enjoyed by everyone. With their new Wheelyboat, disabled scouts from all over Surrey will be able to train and mentor their junior comrades, demonstrating that a disability need not be a barrier to success and achievement. There are also wider plans for the scouts to work with local SEN schools, charities and youth groups in the area, using their new Wheelyboat to showcase what’s possible for those with disabilities who want to enjoy all that the water has to offer. Providing access, independence and opportunity is what The Wheelyboat Trust is all about, so I’ve no doubt the V17 will be a fantastic asset to the sea scouts and their members”.


For more information go to Facebook.com/thamesscoutwheelyboat.
Kinsale OEC launches first Coulam Wheelyboat V20 in Ireland

LAST AUGUST, Ireland’s first ever Coulam Wheelyboat V20 was launched at Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre, Co Cork, at the third annual Watersports Inclusion Games. The V20 enables disabled children and adults who visit Kinsale OEC to powerboat for the very first time, offering a brand new and inclusive experience for all.

The V20, named ‘Saoirse’, was officially launched by Denis Leamy, CEO of Cork Education and Training Board, the Mayor of County Cork, Councillor Christopher O’Sullivan, and Jon Hynes, Director of Kinsale OEC. The launch took place ahead of the Watersports Inclusion Games which saw over 500 people descend on Kinsale for a water-fuelled weekend of fun, offering attendees the chance to sail, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, surf and, of course, go powerboating in Saoirse.

Jon Hynes said at the launch: “Inclusion and accessibility are two words synonymous with Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre and what we offer our users. We aim to ensure all our programmes and activities are open to all, and this year, a new chapter has unfolded. We’re thrilled that we can now offer our disabled users the chance to powerboat for the first time and we hope that Saoirse will continue to be a positive spirit after the Watersports Inclusion Games spreading our mission and aim to make the waters around Kinsale accessible to all.”

For nearly 40 years, Kinsale OEC has provided a range of programmes and courses enabling the people of Cork and further afield gain access to the great outdoors. Now, the Coulam Wheelyboat V20 offers a new unique selling point and adds to the many other inclusive activities already on offer. It provides users with the opportunity to receive specialist training, allowing them to become qualified to skipper the new boat and others like her, something that’s not been possible until now. In addition, users will be able to go pleasure boating, enjoying tours of Bandon Estuary and Kinsale Harbour, fishing and wildlife watching!

Andy Beadsley, Director of The Wheelyboat Trust, said: “We’re delighted to see the first V20 launched in Ireland. With its Suzuki DF100B, Saoirse has the perfect balance between outboard weight and power, allowing it to hit top speeds of over 30mph, offering a thrilling powerboating experience for those who want it. We already know that Kinsale OEC are keen to ensure a positive legacy results from the Inclusion Games, so we hope that we’ll be able to add to that by providing more Wheelyboats across Ireland enabling more disabled people to experience the joy of being independently out on the water.”

Jon and his team conducted sea trials and staff training in the V20 to be ready for the games. Members of Rebel Wheelers and Irish Wheelchair Association were willing volunteers ahead of the launch.

Jon concluded: “It’s certainly an exciting weekend for watersports in Kinsale, and no doubt all in attendance will enjoy the Watersports Inclusion Games. Once the event has concluded, Saoirse will serve as a reminder to all that there is a place for everyone to enjoy access to the water, especially now in Kinsale with our new Wheelyboat.”

For more information go to www.kinsaleoec.com.
THE HIGHLY versatile V17 can also be powered by outboard motors with tiller controls which makes it ideal for activities that need maximum cockpit space. In the tiller version, the engine well is dispensed with, the transom is raised and the keel is shortened. The first V17 tiller has been purchased by Lough Lene Angling Association in Co Westmeath, Ireland for trout fishing. The open cockpit provides plenty of room for disabled anglers to move around with no console to get in the way. As well as an angling boat, the tiller version makes an excellent slow-speed trip boat, workboat, water taxi and ferry. A Torqeedo Cruise 2 electric outboard was used in sea-trials (left) propelling the boat at up to 6mph. Max hp for the model is 15. Like the standard wheel-steered version, seating is flexible and there is room for four units of folding bench seats for up to eight people. A report on Lough Lene’s launch will be in the next issue.

WALLINGFORD ACCESSIBLE Boat Club (WABC) is a registered charity that has been set up with the specific aim of operating its own Wheelyboat to give disabled people enjoyment of the River Thames. Following a successful fundraising campaign by WABC and The Wheelyboat Trust, a Coulam Wheelyboat V20 has been built and delivered and WABC’s aim is now a reality.

The V20, which has been named ‘WOW-one’, will be based at Oxford University’s Fleming Boathouse in Wallingford where its own store and accessible facilities for users are currently being built.

WABC’s founder, John Jenkins MBE, is a former Paralympian and is currently President of SportsAble, a charity he helped set up in 1975 that is dedicated to changing the lives of disabled people through access to sport. John, who grew up fishing and boating on the river at Wallingford, has brought together a skilled and enthusiastic board of trustees and team of volunteers to run WABC. Speaking on the day of delivery, he said: “The launching of WOW-One is the end of the beginning for our project. Now we need to crack on with Stage 2, the completion of our mooring facilities and training of our volunteer staff team – skippers, crewmen, boatswains and administrators – during October and early November. Stage 3 will be the full ‘service’ offering which we are planning to launch next Spring. I must say that we wouldn’t be where we are today without the amazing support of our growing band of supporters in the local community and I am very thankful to all of them for that.”

Accessible Boating Thames and the V20 they operate at Bisham Abbey Sailing School has been the inspiration for the project. The sailing school has provided a huge amount of support and mentoring to WABC including the training of its skippers and crew. (www.accessibleboatingthames.org)

Once the facilities are all in place a formal launch ceremony will be held. WABC and The Wheelyboat Trust are very grateful to the following donors for their splendid generosity supporting the project: Sport England, Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment, Shanly Foundation, Thames Water Utilities Ltd—Community Investment, Ammco Trust, Doris Field Charitable Trust, Miss DB Simpson Charitable Trust, JA Pye Charitable Trust and many individuals and businesses.

For more information go to www.wabc.org.uk.
Fundraising for new Wheelyboat projects

A Coulam Wheelyboat V17 for Ladybower Fisheries in partnership with Accessible Derbyshire. The Coulam 16 Wheelyboat that already operates on Ladybower for angling has demonstrated the high demand for a larger Wheelyboat to provide accessible pleasure boating and nature watching trips on this most glorious of Peak District reservoirs. To support this project please go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/9835

Operated by Concern Wadebridge, a Coulam Wheelyboat V20 will fill a huge gap in the provision of accessible boating on the River Camel, one of the busiest and most significant estuaries in Cornwall. Disabled users will be able to explore the environment, learn about local history, watch wildlife, enjoy fishing and, for the more adventurous, even go water skiing. Also, they will be able to join the programme of acquiring formal powerboating qualifications allowing them to operate the Wheelyboat independently. To support this project please go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/11825

Since 2015, Castle Semple Centre in the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park has operated a Coulam Wheelyboat V20 but the accessible powerboating, powerboat training and pleasure boating activities are so popular with disabled people the V20 is oversubscribed. A second Wheelyboat is needed and we are helping Castle Semple Centre acquire a V17 to operate alongside their V20. To support this project please go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/11826

The North Norfolk Wheelyboat Project will provide a Coulam Wheelyboat V20 for accessible trips to the famous seal colony at Blakeney Point, powerboating and powerboat training, pleasure boating and angling in one of the most beautiful, natural parts of the Norfolk coastline. To support this project please go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12651

Welcome on board Paul Elgood

WE WELCOME Paul Elgood, our new Fundraising & Communications Manager. Paul brings a wealth of fundraising expertise and experience to the Trust as well as a keen interest in all things maritime. Paul was Head of Fundraising at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. He joined us in November and has made an excellent start. Lucy Lloyd has taken up a customer facing role in a healthcare clinic and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

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.
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH A DONATION

These are difficult times for charity fundraising. As face-to-face fundraising has been significantly curtailed in the Covid-19 restrictions, applications for grant funding, our principal source of income, will increase considerably and the funding available will inevitably be spread far more thinly. Also, the grant-making trusts’ funding pot will be diminished as a result of the steep downturn in the economy so there will be fewer funds to give. You can help us weather the storm and make sure we remain in good shape financially with a donation towards our day-to-day operating costs. That way, when the crisis is over, we will be fighting fit to get disabled people back on the water at new Wheelyboat venues throughout 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.

Patrons & Trustees

Very Sadly, our President, Guy Innes-Ker, The 10th Duke of Roxburghe, passed away in August. Anthony Duckworth-Chad OBE, past Chairman and long-standing Trustee, has retired from the Board. We also said goodbye to Trustees Elizabeth Macdonald Buchanan, Andrew Morgan, Jane Wilson and Katie Hamilton. We thank them all for their hard work and support. We welcome on board new Trustees Marcia Brocklebank, Simon Barrowcliff and, soon-to-be-recruited, Jake Leslie Melville.

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

Our enormous thanks go to the following for their generous support:


NOW IS an excellent time for groups and organisations to plan for the future and enquire about operating their own Wheelyboat and the role the Trust can play in helping bring the project to fruition.

We are operating as normally as we possibly can during the period of restrictions. Both our staff are able to fulfil their roles from their home offices and are continuing to develop, support, manage, fund and deliver Wheelyboat projects. Enquiries from potential new Wheelyboat operators continue to be received and answered. Wheelyboat deliveries, demonstrations and site visits are, however, on hold for the time being. Wheelyboat production at our boatbuilder’s is continuing under strict observance of social distancing guidelines.

Director & Office

Andy Beadsley
North Lodge, Burton Park, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0JT
01798 342222
ab@wheelyboats.org
www.wheelyboats.org

Patrons

Mr Jeremy Paxman, Sir Max Hastings, Sir Matthew Pinsent OBE, Mr Allan Lamb, Mr Charles Jardine, Baroness Golding, Mr Bernard Cribbins OBE, Miss Elizabeth Buchanan CVO, The Lady Anthony Hamilton

Board of Trustees

Chairman: Mr AG Scott, Mrs PV Seligman, Mr GES Seligman,
The Countess of Lichfield, Mr I Thornley OBE, Mrs ME Brocklebank, Mr SD Barrowcliff

Reg Charity No. 292216 Reg Company No. 1872144 Registered in England & Wales Reg Office: 20 Eversley Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1HE

Facebook: @Wheelyboattrust Twitter: @WheelyboatTrust