



All Aboard!!

Welcome to Scotland's Most Unusual Charity!

Our role at the Seagull Trust is to provide free access to Scotland's inland waterways for disabled people; its something we have been doing since 1978 and we aim to expand our operations to meet the growing need

We operate a fleet of specially adapted vessels through four centres; Ratho, Falkirk, Kirkintilloch and Inverness. To maintain and expand our activities we rely upon a team of volunteers to help us raise funds, crew the boats, maintenance and to administer the Charity. If you would like to help us visit www.seagulltrust.org.uk for more information, we would love to welcome you onboard!

This year we have ensured a record number of passengers have enjoyed what for too many is one of a few excursions they will enjoy throughout the year. We have worked to accommodate as many people as possible.

Looking ahead we have ambitious plans for next year to ensure that even more people can enjoy a unique part of Scotland's industrial heritage.



The Ratho Centre on the Union Canal

A New Addition to the Fleet—The “Barr Seagull”

The new Barr Seagull was officially named on August 1st by Mrs. Caroline Muir, daughter of Robin Barr who through the Robert Barr Charitable Trust provided the money to build her. As befitting the Barr heritage, she was named using a bottle of Barr's Irn Bru! The new

addition to the fleet is based in Falkirk, joining the Marion Seagull and Govan Seagull and has already seen good service across the summer months



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Obituary—Norman Simpson MBE

One of the great joys within the Trust is the opportunity to meet and work with people from a diverse range of backgrounds. Many of our volunteer helpers are retired and willingly share their professional expertise to the benefit of the Trust. Just such a person was Norman Simpson who had been a key member of the Trust and who recently passed away and at the Trust we all wanted to honour his memory by reflecting on his contribution:

In his own words, Norman explained just how he had come to become involved and like many of us it was initially through a casual conversation with another member;

in Norman's case the conversation was in 1978 with our founder the Rev Mackay.

"As soon as I showed an interest I was immediately recruited by the Rev Mackay and invited for lunch at the Overseas Club in Edinburgh. By the time lunch was over I had agreed to become honorary treasurer, it was a decision I never regretted as it allowed me to combine three interests. Firstly helping the disabled, the second was sailing which I had done many years earlier at Fisher Row Harbour and thirdly my life long financial transactions."

Norman became a founder mem-

ber Trust and our first Treasurer until 2001, whereupon he became Honorary Treasurer in charge of gift aid. The Trust was a consuming interest until his death and in the words of his son Murray "He deeply loved the work, and the Trust gained greatly from his expertise and dedication".

Norman was quite rightly recognised with an MBE in 2000, of which he was rightly very proud and we will all miss his input and commitment.

One of our Junior helpers tells his story

The Trust really does engage the help and support of people from all backgrounds and from all ages. Jamie Sime has been one of our youngest helpers this year as he explains:

For part of my Cub Challenge I wanted to raise funds for the Seagull Trust. I asked my Cub Scout Leader if I could have a Cake and Candy Stall for Cubs, helpers and parents.

To organise this event, I had to:

Speak to my Gran and Grandpa

Set a date

Ask friends and family to bake (thanks to everyone who baked)

Make sure the Cubs knew when it was happening

Plan a mixture of cakes etc

Make sure we had tables available in the Scout Hall

Ask a few Cubs to help me

Have change ready

..and the outcome Jamie raised £55.27 - well done!

We welcome help from people of all ages and backgrounds

Introducing our Chairman—Ronnie Rusack MBE

In 1979 Ronnie established the first [Seagull Trust](#) branch at Ratho with founder the Rev. Hugh MacKay. In 1979 the first Seagull Trust canal boat "St. John Crusader", which was presented to the Trust by the Order of St. John carried 470 passengers. Now over 5000 people a year come to enjoy the pleasures of canal cruising from the Seagull Trust Reception Centre at Ratho.

Since then he has been a constant champion for the Trust and for

Scotland's inland waterways; in recognition he was awarded the MBE in 1999 for his service to all aspects of canal restoration and work with The Seagull Trust Charity.

Ronnie took over the Chair of the Trust in 2006 and is now at the helm of ambitious plans to further expand our operations and to ensure we continue to provide canal



Ronnie Rusack our Chair in action!

“90 Years on” - memories form the past & views of the present

Every cruise offers a range of stories from our passengers, but a recent story from a 95 year old resident in an Edinburgh nursing home, whilst on a cruise aboard St John Crusader II touched all our hearts as he recalled an earlier trip on the Union Canal - ninety years previously.

The occasion was his church's Sunday School Picnic. The children and teachers gathered at the Union Canal booking office in Princess Street. The group was conveyed on a horse drawn tramcar to the Leamington Lifting Bridge where they boarded a steam driven barge.

The boat travelled as far as Harrison Park, mooring there to allow the picnickers to use this park for games, races and, of course, eat the contents of their individual 'goodies bags'. After all the festivities the return trip was made - 'many of us particularly the young ones, were quite weary but nevertheless had enjoyed the day immensely'. The gentleman's memory of that day was clear and it was a pleasure to gain a brief glimpse of the past.



Leamington Lift Bridge at Lochrin Basin on the Union Canal in Edinburgh. Built in 1896 and restored in 2002 at its official re-opening

Cruising the Union Canal

Opened in May 1822, the 32 mile long Union Canal is the only *contour canal* in Scotland built at 240 feet (73m). It features Scotland's only canal tunnel, which is 2070' long (630 m) and includes three impressive

The Union Canal as built was 31½ miles long known as the "mathematical river", the canal followed the 240ft (73m) contour throughout its length, so making locks unnecessary

aqueducts: over the Almond; Avon (the longest and highest in Scotland); and the Water of Leith. At the Falkirk end a flight of 11 locks dropped the canal down 110' (33.5m) to connect with

the Forth & Clyde Canal. The new Falkirk Wheel has replaced these locks. At the Edinburgh end the canal leading to Port Hamilton and Port Hope-toun basins have been filled in and developed. Lochrin Basin is now the end of the canal.

Our Industrial Heritage in Action Today

Leamington Lift Bridge was built in 1896 and restored in 2002 as part of the Millennium Link restoration and reopening of the Forth & Clyde and the Union Canal, reconnecting Edinburgh and Glasgow via the new Falkirk Wheel.

The 40 tonne Leamington Lift Bridge was originally constructed by Armstrong and Whitworth of Tyneside in 1896 to allow steam traction engines

to cross the canal at Fountainbridge on the entrance to Port Hope-toun, the bridge relocated to its current location during the 1930s.

Restored in 2002 it takes just 52 seconds to raise the platform 2.75m using a system of pulleys and counter-balances.



The Avon Aquaduct from below

WANTED—YOUR HELP & SUPPORT

Volunteers Needed

The Seagull Trust undertakes a unique service to the local communities in which we operate across Scotland. Everyone who works with the trust does so on an entirely voluntary basis. To help us maintain and expand our work we constantly need new helpers to assist us in maintaining and developing our work. If you would like to help us we would love to hear from you. From running the boats, maintenance, administration, accounting to fund raising we want to use your skills and enthusiasm to make the Seagull Trust bigger and better. If you would like to find out more about how you can help visit our website www.seagulltrust.org.uk for information on local branch contacts or email us at seagulltrust@btinternet.com

Leave a Legacy Help our Future Work - How to leave a bequest to the Seagull Trust

Like all charities we rely upon donations to help us deliver a service to our community. One of the key ways people help us is by remembering The Seagull trust in their wills. It will cost you nothing today, but will make all the difference to the future availability of the services we can provide.

Q) I have already made my Will. Is it too late to leave a bequest to The Seagull Trust?

A) No. You can amend your Will as often as you like. All you need to do is instruct your solicitor to draw up a codicil. It is witnessed in exactly the same way as a Will and the two documents must be stored together.

Q) I have not made a Will yet? What do I have to do?

A) First find a solicitor. They will make sure that your Will reflects your wishes. Making a Will needn't be an expensive business if you do some homework before visiting a solicitor. List your assets and decide who you want to benefit. Start with your family and friends and then think of the charities you would like to help in the future.

Q) I don't have much money to leave. Do I still need to make a Will?

A) You'll probably be surprised by how much you have to leave. By making a Will you can be sure that the things you own go to the people you care about. It will also spare your family a great deal of distress.

Q) How will The Seagull trust use my bequest?

A) Your bequest will help The Seagull Trust continue its work in a wide range of areas to maintain and enhance the fleet of vessels we have to provide waterway access to disabled people.

If you would like to remember The Seagull Trust in your will, there are several kinds of legacy you can leave:

- ✦ A residual legacy - is a bequest of part of, or the remainder of, your estate once your family have been provided for
- ✦ A pecuniary legacy - is a specified sum of money determined when the will or codicil is written
- ✦ A specific legacy - is the gift of a particular item of value

If you are thinking of making a pledge, or have already done so, it would help us enormously to let us know. Please be assured that any statement of intent is not binding. It will however act as a guide for us so we can plan accordingly for our future work.

We're on the web!
www.seagulltrust.org.uk

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The Final Word.....

The Barr Seagull looking less than dignified as she makes her first journey into the Union Canal, her first words .. *"it's a bit cold in here!!"*



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