

Waterstart Waves

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

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- New Courses
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Educational activities can be fun.

Waterstart has now been operational as a community boat based educational charity since the beginning of the year and has already succeeded in using the waterways as a resource for regeneration and learning. By using a programme of challenging and enjoyable activities specifically designed to build confidence, develop motivation, and encourage worthwhile leisure activities, Waterstart has brought increased prospects to local people. In an area where there is very limited local training, we have acted as the first step on the ladder to employment, volunteering and vocational courses. By using unprecedented support measures to increase young people's confidence and self-esteem, and to help them develop key and transferable skills helps get them into a frame of mind for further learning and future employment. As one of our



Our Water-Safety Course

volunteers put it "It's a great opportunity for local people to take part in a number of teambuilding and educational activities, whilst having a fun day out." By tailoring activities that include flexible timetabling, exciting courses and transport, Waterstart have been able to reach an increasingly diverse section of people and generate real interest. By making best use of the memories and skills of many local residents (whose lives and families have been linked to the waterways), encourages the community to use the canal and support the work of the project. Although water-based courses are the foundation of Waterstart's activities, they have also been successful at identifying other educational needs by providing courses such as: First Aid, Food Hygiene and Digital Media Arts. Following the success of the project to date, Waterstart anticipate another good year will follow.

Boating News

December 17th will see Waterstart's new broad-beam boat being tested out along the canal in Thorne. The new boat (still to be named) will be ready for public use at the beginning of the year. The boat is fully funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and is

being built by local boat builders Louis and Joshua at their Thorne premises. The new craft will be fitted out as a comfortable, modern, spacious training/activities centre as well as offering an exceptional degree of flexibility that will incorporate (DDA accepted) disabled

access facilities. The idea is to create a greater level of participation amongst various community based groups and students. The boat will be based on the canal in Thorne and will be able to cruise the local waterways as well as catering for further expansion.

The Complete Crew Course

The Complete Crew Course (CCC) is accredited by the National Community Boats Association (NCBA) and is our most popular course. The curriculum aims to provide you with all the skills and knowledge needed to act as crew on a community boat. The course is generally delivered over 4 sessions of approximately 5 hours, running at various days of the week. Each module of the course includes blocks of activities all designed to help with team building, dexterity, leadership and responsibility as well as boat handling skills, emer-

gency procedures and on-board safety. This entry-level course addresses the needs and abilities of all ages, but particularly the young and inexperienced. Young people can begin the course as soon as they reach the age of fourteen. Also accredited to the OCN and supported by British Waterways, the course has a substantial profile on the waterways and in schools and colleges. There is a clear progression from the CCC to the next level of training, the Certificate in Community Boat Management (CCBM) which is also offered at Wa-



Skipper Tina guides student Louise through Thorne Lock

terstart. Anyone over the age of seventeen can take the CCBM and successful candidates qualify to operate community boats with a maximum of 12 passengers, on non-tidal inland waterways in the UK

"All courses are offered free to all local residents between the ages of 16 and 24"

Introduction to Digital Arts

A rewarding and enjoyable alternative introduction to ICT leading to Open College Network (OCN) certification. These courses are available in short taster days or as full courses. The courses are designed to introduce the average user to the basics of Photo Editing, Video Editing, Desktop Publishing and Website Design. using the latest Adobe, Microsoft and Macro-

media software in our state-of-the-art Media Lab incorporated into our new boat.



The boat will include Video-Cameras, Digital Still-Cameras and Digital Audio equipment

as well as a brand new laptop suite to encourage users to develop skills through course work that is not available at typical FE colleges. Students will also be given the ability and opportunity to design, build and publish their own projects on a website. By using the latest technology, students will always stay excited about learning, and be well prepared for the future.

Water Safety Course

A one day safety course aimed at those who work in a water based environment. Participants become aware of the dangers involved in deliberate or accidental immersion in water and how to determine appropriate action. This is the chance to take part in a highly acclaimed course in a unique surrounding using a variety of equipment. Training is taken in realistic but controlled and safe conditions. The course is delivered at the Water Safety

and Rescue Training Organization based at the Teesside White Water Course. This is the 'Real Thing' and is the foundation course for the official Water Rescue Course taken by agencies such as the Fire and Rescue Services, Police and Mountain Rescue Teams for carrying out rescues in fast flowing water situations. Even strong swimmers will benefit from this very popular course, as proper training in the dangers,



Ready to take the plunge

and self help techniques of survival can help to eliminate or minimise the potential hazards involved when in close proximity to water.

RYA Diesel Maintenance and VHF Licence

Both these courses are aimed at beginners, assume no prior experience and give the opportunity to achieve an RYA accreditation. The courses are intended to be both enjoyable and informative. The Diesel Engine Maintenance Course is equally suited to both sail, canal boat and powerboat users and aims to help prevent you breaking down on the water. It introduces basic diesel engine operation and care, including the fuel, cooling, lubrication systems, spares and tool requirements and servicing as well as the essential subjects of maintenance,

fault recognition and 'get you home' techniques. The VHF Marine Radio Operators Licence is the ideal course to take, as the VHF radio is often the only method to get help on the water. If you want to protect yourself and your family, you should be a certified operator. If you are operating a boat and have a fixed or portable marine radio, all those who operate the radio are required by law to have a Restricted Operator's Certificate. By obtaining the VHF Certificate you will learn the special phonetic alphabet, correct radio operating procedures, emergency and routine calls. By using a combination of theory, practical and computer simulators the course promotes excellent communication skills.



One of our youngest students gets to try his hand at an emergency simulation

Identifying Student Needs: Food Hygiene

By using student led peer groups at Waterstart we discovered there was a huge demand for tangible qualifications that could help increase our learner's chances of becoming more employable. We identified a large group of single mothers that wanted qualifications, but were unable to attend due to child care constraints. By working with groups such as SureStart, we

have been able provide child care, training and important qualifications. We designed a flexible Basic Food Hygiene



Course to run during crèche hours and attracted over-

whelming response from local single parents. The course is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and meets the legislation and requirements for professional food handling and therefore eases employability. By tailoring the course to overcome traditional learning barriers, we have a 100% pass rate with all our students who accessed the course.

"All courses are offered free to all local residents between the ages of 16 and 24"

Thanks to our Volunteers

Since the first local flyers and advertisements went out in the Thorne/Moorends area, we have been swamped by keen, willing, and committed volunteers. At times, it's been hard to work them into some sort of Rota system and give them all a fair chance to try their hand. We have a very diverse bunch of people ranging from many various backgrounds and all of them have thoroughly enjoyed their involvement with crewing on

the boat and assisting our Skipper Tina with the training. Thanks to our funding we have been able to offer advanced training to many of our own volunteers. Recently, three of our volunteers received their CCBM Skipper's Certificate after many months of intense training. They have since gone on to get First Aid at Work qualifications as well as obtain their CRB checks. Their continued involvement with the project has also suc-

ceeded in improving their former lack of social lives.



Volunteer Colin in training for his Skipper's Certificate

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Can You Think of a Good Name?

The New Year will see the public launching of our new boat. We're looking for a suitable boat name that will invoke the different aspects of



Artist's rendition of the new broad beam boat

the project and our local area. Have you got any good ideas for a name? Please contact us at the office.

Using the waterways as a resource for regeneration and learning

With Special Thanks to:



Late and Breaking News

We're on the web. look for upcoming news

Due to the overwhelming response to our intended 'Digital Media Lab' on the new boat, we have decided to start using the narrow boat *Opportunity*, which has facilities to accommodate computers already built in. *Opportunity* features a 'filtered 240v inverter system' that was specially designed to house a computer suite. This will allow us to start running our

Digital Media workshops without any further delay. The brand new networked laptop suite has already been ordered and is awaiting its first use. The boat will be moved to Thorne in the first week of October ready to fill the gap left by the departure of *Andromeda*. Another huge benefit is the ability to finally offer 'disabled access' on our boat on the Thorne

Canal. Groups were turned down in the past, so we now welcome *Opportunity*.



Opportunity gets ready to come to Thorne, to enable disabled access and further training opportunities