



NEWSLETTER

February 2025

WELCOME TO 2025

The new booking system is working well. The weather last year was a bit up and down but towards the end of the season was reasonable such that the skippers all voted to run some extra trips into October, the first time we have done that but obviously doing that in future is very weather dependant.

The fundraising team are all working very hard, now that the Trustees have taken the decision to purchase a new 'Dolphin' and in fact, I can confirm that we have put an order in for our new boat, once again with Cheetah Marine on the Isle of Wight. The new 'Dolphin' will be similar to our current boat, but will be white in colour as Cheetah do not produce boats now in yellow. We anticipate that the new 'Dolphin' will be ready in time for the 2026 season. So fundraising is going forward at a pace, and all and any help anyone can give will be so very much appreciated.

We always have safety at the forefront both for our passengers and indeed 'Dolphin', and in May 2024 'Dolphin' had another exercise with the two Poole Lifeboats. This was a great success and will be repeated in the future.

Thank you, and here's looking forward to a good and full 2025 season with good weather.

Bob Irwin



THE 'DOLPHIN' APPEAL

At the meeting of The Friends of Dolphin Trustees, held on 19th October 2023, it was decided that after nearly 20 years of stalwart service we should look to replace "Dolphin III" by the 2026/27 season.

The design and specification for "Dolphin IV" has now been completed and we have now put in an order for "Dolphin IV" with Cheetah Marine on the Isle of Wight. We anticipate that the build will take place during 2025 with delivery in time for the 2026 season starting in May.

We continue with our fundraising in which we need to raise an estimated £150,000, match funded from our own savings plus including the sale of "Dolphin III".

Any help which you can give us in terms of donations, time, contacts ideas and fundraising suggestions will be very much appreciated.

www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk



Phil Cox

OPERATIONS REPORT

I've been sailing and kayaking in Poole for over 60 years and hold an RYA Skipper accreditation and an additional power boat qualification. As well as Dolphin I share the role of RNLI Station Visits Officer for Poole. I've been an RNLI volunteer for nearly 20 years, all in roles ashore.

My introduction to Dolphin was as a crew member several years ago. I moved to 1st Mate and on to skipper the following year and I've now been a skipper for just over 4 years. My role changed once again when our previous operations manager and lead skipper left last year and I was asked to take over the role.

Since taking over there's been a lot of activity. As well as the regular day-to-day activity regarding maintenance and manning I've been very involved in the decision to replace Dolphin 3. More on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

I have also been looking at our manning levels for the future as some crew (including me!) approach the age when we need to retire. This is an overlooked but important element which we must plan for and we are bringing our newer volunteers through the system and up to skipper level.

Looking to 2025 and beyond we are now in a more secure position regarding crew and looking towards the new boat in early 2026.



Tony Elgar

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Despite 2024 not being a year to remember weather wise, our efforts on the fundraising front continued with full force and enthusiasm, motivated of course by the decision to replace 'Dolphin 1' with a new boat by the 2026/27 season.

We were again fortunate to secure City Cruise's Solent Scene, free of charge, for a lovely evening cruise with supper in June. I am delighted to say that City Cruises will again allow us an evening cruise with supper on the Solent Scene; a date for your diary please Thursday 19th June starting at 7pm (further information in due course).

As ever we are again very thankful to Barbara Gardener & Margaret Newman for arranging this popular event as well as two very successful quiz nights in April and October; also for all their efforts throughout the year with their team Carol Cox and Janet Gill, liaising with the various supermarkets where we raise money from charity bookstores and tin shaking events. Also for following up possible pathways where we might make applications for funding. We also enjoyed a fun evening with music, shaking our cans on a Poole quay motorbike evening, with Dolphin making an appearance. Finally, the very successful coffee morning at Rick Stein's in Sandbanks and a stall at Parley Place Care Home.

We still get regular donations for which we are ever thankful, including Wareham Lions, Care South and Poole Yacht Club, many of which are highlighted in the 'Thank You Corner' of the annual Newsletter.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORGANISE AN EVENT?

If you would like to organise an event to raise funds for The Friends of Dolphin, or wish to hold a collection bucket for us, then please contact

Carol Cox on thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com or Bob Irwin on 01258 857806.

We are here to be of assistance



Andy Preston

CHAIR REPORT

A Happy New Year to you all.

Although 2024 was a very good year with 1700+ trips and nearly 2000 passengers carried, 2025 promises to be even more exciting.

After a stalwart 18 years, we have decided to replace our current boat. The order has been placed and we expect the new 'Dolphin' to be available for the start of our 2026 season. That being said, we need now to continue our fund raising efforts as we still need to find £150,000 – we have £100,000 available in our reserves and we have raised nearly £50,000 in 2024 thanks to the hard work of Margaret Newman, Barbara Gardner, Janet Gill and Carol Cox, our superb Fundraising Committee.

Anything you can do in terms of physical help, donations, ideas or contacts will be very gratefully received.

The other exciting event in 2025 is that early in our new season we expect to celebrate and welcome on-board 'Dolphin' our 60,000th passenger – another wonderful and brilliant milestone in our 47-year history I'm sure you will agree.

I would like to thank the Skippers, First Mates, Crew, Trustees and Volunteers for all their hard work, guidance and good humour. Judging by the super letters and e-mails we receive; the passengers love the Crews as much as the Trustees do.

We also thank the Fishermen of Poole for our berth and Poole Quay Boat Haven for allowing us to embark and disembark safely.

We step forward into the new season knowing we have the happiest and best trained crews anywhere who are willing to make your trip around Poole Harbour or up the Wareham River the best and most enjoyable it can be. Let's hope for good weather all year.



A BIG PLEA

We are always looking for volunteers to join our Charity, both for crewing but particularly for our fund raising team; without them, we just could not function. None of us are getting any younger, and it is imperative that we get some 'younger blood' to join us and help this worthy Charity to continue far into the future.

Anyone who would be willing to help us or at least give us some of their time, please get in touch with Carol Cox.

If anyone can help us in anyway, do get in touch, we would be most grateful. For any other information, please look at our website.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE IN THREE WAYS:

- 1 On the Friends of Dolphin Website
- 2 On the form at the back of the Newsletter.
- 3 Alternatively, this Year, our Rotary friends have a Just Giving page at: Friends of Dolphin and look for the picture of Dolphin with 'Fund disability support' underneath (by Alasdair Bavister) or www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alasdair-bavister-2

THANK YOU CORNER

There are so many good and helpful people who support us throughout every year with donations and fundraising efforts on our behalf and we sincerely thank them all.

It would be impossible to list them all here but we simply must send special thanks to the following (in no particular order) for their generosity in the past year:

Parkstone Rotary Club
Colemans Insurance
Talbot Village Trust
The Digby Trust
Parkstone Overact
The Breathless Singers
The Highfield Trust
Poole Yacht Club
Wareham Lions
The Bonham Christie
Charitable Trust
Mrs Whittington
Forelle Estate
Professor B. Clarkson
Care South (Poole)
Rockfish (Poole)
Hamworthy Golf Club
(Ladies section)
AND, of course (as ever)
Mr. Ken Mackenzie



We are so grateful to each and every one of them and ALL the other individual donations received, for their invaluable support in every way that you all support us.

Thank
You

DOLPHIN 4 IS ON THE WAY!

Dolphin 3 has done sterling service for many years but is starting to show her age and, after a lot of discussion and cost analysis comparing refurbishment versus new, the trustees have decided on a new boat. Unsurprisingly this will be called 'Dolphin 4'! The boat will come from the same manufacturer, Cheetah Marine.

Our new boat will be delivered pre-season in 2026 ready for crew training. This new vessel will see many innovations mainly around the way it's controlled as we are moving to a fully digital helm and engine control 'drive by wire' system. This will open up the weather envelope we can operate as we will have far better control when berthing in windier conditions. Close to manoeuvrability will be simpler and safer too making coming into the dock much easier

Throughout the selection and ordering of the new boat we have had a small working group of skippers liaising with Cheetah who have been very easy to work with and accommodation of our requirements as have engine manufacturer Yamaha.

Accommodation for passengers will be improved with better quality seating within a little more space than the current boat. For safety reasons we will do away with gas on board and have a fitted hot water system running off electricity. Our crew safety will also be improved with access to the foredeck will be through a door in the wheelhouse; rather better than scrambling up the side from a pontoon.

BOOKING TRIPS

This is in the hands of Carol Cox, who has kindly taken over from Bob. Carol will be only too pleased to answer all your queries and take bookings for this coming season.

You are now able to book online through our website www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk.

However, Carol can still be contacted:

Telephone on 01202 875867 - if Carol is not on the end of the telephone, there is an answer machine for you to leave a message and your telephone number and she will come back to you.

E-Mail through our web site www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk on the page 'How to book'.

It has also become apparent that, because our Newsletters are available at the Haven Boat Marina on Poole Quay from where our trips start and finish, some people think that they are able to book trips on Dolphin there. THIS IS NOT SO, and we would ask everyone who wishes to book a trip to ONLY use the above options.



GIFTS IN WILLS

One of the finest ways to support Dolphin is to leave a gift in your will.

Many people choose their favourite charities to mention in their will, after they have made provision for their nearest and dearest.

It's very simple, when writing your will, to insert a clause with a donation to Dolphin. If you have already made a will, a simple codicil (additional clause) will do the job, but do make sure it is properly drawn up and witnessed.

Solicitors are always happy to draw up new wills or adjust existing ones and they will ensure that all the wording is clear, avoiding any doubts once the will comes into effect.

So do please consider adding Dolphin to your will; it's best to use the full name of the charity, and our charity number. These are 'The Friends of Dolphin' and registered charity number 284692.

Thank you.



DOLPHIN TROPHY

Dolphin was founded as The Dolphin Project in 1979 by Parkstone Rotary Club, becoming The Friends of Dolphin Charity in 1982. The Friends of Dolphin was founded to take disabled people of all ages and disabilities, including those in wheelchairs, on free boat trips around the harbour and up the River Frome to Wareham. Since the first trips, in 1980, nearly 60,000 disabled people with their carers have been taken out around Poole Harbour. The Charity is run entirely by volunteers who give of their time freely. Costs are now approaching £15,000 a year, all of which is raised from voluntary contributions, donations and fundraising.

This unique Trophy, a Dolphin carved out of a single piece of wood was made and presented to The Friends of Dolphin by Harry Moyle (one of our skippers in the early days of Dolphin) in 1990, to be used as the Trustees thought fit. They decided that it should be presented annually to a person or an organisation that has given significant support to the Charity.

This year, 2024, the Trophy was awarded to The Royal Motor Yacht Club who have kindly provided Winter storage and maintenance for Dolphin. Our photo shows our Chair of Trustees Andy Preston presenting the trophy to Commodore Graham Turner of RMYC on 30 th August 2024.

Previous holders of the trophy include the Bournemouth Operatic Society, The Royal Marines (Poole), The Rotary Club of Parkstone, RNLI (Poole), Poole Haven Marina, Salterns Marina, Ken McKenzie, Poole Harbour Commissioners, Poole Yacht Club The Quay Thistle Hotel, Ferndown Golf Club, Rockfish (Poole) and Poole & District Fisherman's Association to just to name but a few.



PLAIN SAILING AS FIRMS TEAM UP ON NEW BOOKING SYSTEM FOR DOLPHIN

A pair of south coast companies joined forces to create a new booking system for The Friends of Dolphin.

Property finance specialist MSP Capital and digital marketing agency Uprated jointly donated expertise and resource to build a new booking system completely free of charge. Both firms understood that The Friends of Dolphin are a small team and all work as volunteers.

The new automated system has made it easier and smoother for people to book a trip online for Dolphin and for the Booking secretary to produce the necessary reports.

It has been a pleasure to work with MSP and Uprated who made the whole process very straight forward, and have also pledged to support the system in the future.





How you can support The Friends of Dolphin

Become a Friend

Becoming a friend and an associate member is a great way of helping us in a small way. As a member you will receive the annual Newsletter.

Set up a Standing Order for regular Donations and Membership Subscriptions

Regular gifts will help by giving The Friends of Dolphin a regular income, and all donations go directly towards the running of Dolphin III and helps us continue to give free trips to all those with disabilities who would not normally be able to go out on Poole Harbour. You would automatically become a Friend of Dolphin and receive our annual Newsletter.

Please complete the Standing Order instruction opposite and return to:

**The Membership Secretary
Warmwell Cottage,
Flowers Drive,
Lytchett Matravers
Dorset
BH16 6BX**

Please complete ALL section 1-5 clearly or write N/A if not applicable

Your bank details

To: The Manager

Bank / Building Society

Address

Postcode

Please pay The Friends of Solphin, Sort Code: 30-96-501, Account: 01645718
Lloyds TSB, Commercial Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH124 0JJ

The Sum of £

monthly quarterly annually (circle as appropriate)

Commencing (date)

Signed

Date

Your Bank Sort Code* - -

Your Account No*

**These numbers can be found in your cheque book*

Make a one-off donation

I wish to make a one-off donation and enclose a cheque payable to The Friends of Dolphin for

£

Annual subscription

☐ I enclose a cheque for my annual subscription of £10 / £15 payable to The Friends of Dolphin

Your details

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Gift aid it - Gift Aid declaration

☐ I am a UK tax payer and wish The Friends of Dolphin to reclaim the tax on all donations made after 6th April 2000 and on all donations I make on or after the date of this donation. Please advise us if you cease to be a taxpayer.

Signed

Date

Data Protection. All personal information you have provided is confidential and protected by the Data Protection Act 1998. We may wish to send you news about The Friends of Dolphin, events and fundraising appeals. If you prefer for us not to contact you in the future please tick this box ☐



SIGN WITH US

We are always looking to increase the associate membership of Friends of Dolphin. Register with us for £10 a year for a single person, or £15 for a couple (a very modest sum). All monies go directly towards the running of Dolphin as the services of all our volunteers are completely free.

Membership and donations can both be paid in conjunction with 'Gift Aid' (provided you are a tax payer) and this then allows us to reclaim the tax on that sum... £1.25 on every £1.00.

All you need to do is to telephone Bob Irwin on 01258 857806 and he will be pleased to send you the correct form for you to complete and return.

However, you are now able to give a donation via the website

www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Dolphin are seeking to compile a register of ANYONE who is able to give help or time. It may be that you can spare us two hours of your valuable time or even longer. If you can, please contact us with details of the help that you could provide and whether it is on fundraising, supermarket collections, as a crew member on 'Dolphin III', or at any other general event that we might organise. We are especially looking for anyone to help us with fundraising events, with time to give for 'bucket rattling' at supermarket collections and events of that nature that usually take place on a Friday or a Saturday. Please help us.

For further details on membership, please telephone BOB IRWIN on 01258 857806.

For those who are able to help by giving some of their time to fundraising for The Friends of Dolphin, please telephone Carol Cox on thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com

CONTACTS

Hon. President Brian Miles

Chair of Trustees

Andy Preston t: 01202 676165

Vice Chair of Trustees,

Membership & Editor (Newsletter)

Bob Irwin t: 01258 857806

Secretary

Norman Hollamby e: nfh975@aol.com

Treasurer

Liz Crew t: 01202 250254

Operations

Phil Cox e: p-c-o-x@outlook.com

**Bookings, Fundraising
& Crew Recruitment**

Carol Cox t: 01202 875867

e: thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com